



The Gospel News

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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!

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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 pardoning 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 everyone's 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

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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-

vocated from Modesto, Detroit, Imperial, Rochester, Kent, Warren, and Youngstown. Brother Joe Ciarolla from Modesto, California introduced our service using Romans 13:10 and Ephesians 5:17-21 for his text. He expounded on the fidelity of the promise that each of us made at the water's edge to work for the Lord. Brother Joe said that love is the fulfilling of the law and that we should exhibit integrity in our dealings with the world. Brother Joe is very involved in the Mexican missionary work, and he shared with us the manifold blessings he has received in laboring both naturally and spiritually in that part of God's vineyard. The brothers and sisters have very little materialistically, but what they do have they are willing to share with each other. One of our chief responsibilities in the Gospel is to help and assist others.

Brother Bob Buffington from Imperial, Pennsylvania was the next speaker. Brother Bob recounted the events of the week that culminated in the tragic death of his son, Mark. How his employer requested that he work the afternoon shift that week which enabled him to spend more time with his son. He presented an analogy of how some students in school will consistently copy off their friends and consequently find themselves unprepared for the final exam. We must read, study, and do all of the things that the Lord requires of us so that we will not be caught unprepared on judgment day.

Brother Jim Moore introduced our afternoon service by asking Sister Arlene Buffington to share her latest hymn with us. This hymn stressed the fact that God will surely take care of His people. Brother Jim spoke of the priesthood and the power that is vested within it. He said that the Gentile nations must be brought down before they will acknowledge God. He also spoke of many of the forthcoming joys to be found in Zion.

The testimonies of the saints were invigorating and uplifting. There were several anointings for sickness and spiritual strength commingled with the evidence of God's spirit. Reluctantly, the meeting was brought to a close and it was reiterated that once again it was good to be assembled with God's wonderful people.

Quincy, FL

The following children were blessed

in the Quincy, Florida Mission by Evangelist Cleveland Baldwin:

Jimmy Lee Mason, son of Jimmy Lee and Cheryl L. Wiley Mason;

Sierra, Leroy Jr., and Victoria Conyers, children of Leroy and Sarah Wiley Conyers;

Iris, child of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Carrol.

Cincinnati, OH

By Joe Furnari

On October 30, 1983 Sister Rose Licata was ordained a deaconess at the Cincinnati Mission. Our sister was ordained by Brother Vince Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio and her feet were washed by Sister Syl Gibson. Also in attendance were Brother Russ and Sister Lena Martorana, Brother Al and Sister Nancy Mahyer, and Brother Tony Lombardo.

Our sister has been an inspiration and example to all of us at the Mission. She has shown us that we must be patient and willing to do the Lord's work. We all felt a great blessing at the ordination. It is our prayer that the Lord will bless our sister as she begins her new duties.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Anthony J. Scolaro

This past fall has been one filled with the blessings of God for the members of Detroit, Branch 1. We were joined on October 30 by the members of the Sterling Heights Branch, a number of whom were sharing with some of our own members the observance of twenty-five years in the Gospel.

Before the Sterling Heights Branch was formed twelve or thirteen years ago, many of its members were part of Branch 1, and as they walked through the doors this Sunday afternoon, our hearts were filled to see them assembled in our midst once again. In many ways it was a kind of family reunion; more special, though, because it was the Family of God.

Three of the brothers baptized at that time, Lou Pietrangelo, Lou Vitto, and Spencer Everett, expressed themselves

from the rostrum, giving God all the honor and glory for their lot in the Gospel. Brother Peter Scolaro then read all the names of those who were baptized on that Sunday twenty-five years ago, when Brother Fred D'Amico and Brother Nick Pietrangelo were preaching the message of Salvation.

After we sang *The Longer I Serve Him*, we heard from a number of those whose names were mentioned. They each testified to the goodness of God, and to the joy and deep peace they have come to know in serving Him. A quartet made up of brothers from Branch 1 and Sterling Heights sang *What a Day That Will Be* and *In the Upper Room*, after which we heard many testimonies from the large congregation gathered there.

As we reluctantly brought the meeting to a close after the Lord's Supper, we formed a huge circle inside the church building, and we all felt the Lord's Spirit flow among us as Brother Nick Pietrangelo offered the closing prayer.

We had occasion to rejoice once again the following Sunday, November 6, as we drove to our baptismal site on Lake St. Clair to see Sister Michelle Benyola make her covenant with the Lord. Earlier that day she testified how she felt the Lord's Spirit move upon her heart while at school the preceding Monday morning. Her heart had been filled to overflowing for an entire week as she waited for Sunday to come, when her father, Brother Gerry Benyola, would baptize her.

Little did we suspect, as we watched the baptism, that one of the local residents was receiving a vision from the Lord wherein he saw a bright light break through the clouds above the lake and illuminate the water surrounding Brother Gerry and Michelle! He later related what he had seen to Brother Lou Pietrangelo and Brother Frank DiDonato, two of our District trustees, who have come to know this man's family through their involvement with our waterfront property. Our continued prayer is that the Lord might use us to help reveal His True Gospel to souls everywhere.

That evening we met once again at Branch 1 with many visiting brothers, sisters, and friends from Michigan and Ontario. Sister Michelle was confirmed by her uncle, Brother Jack Pontillo, and we heard testimonies from four of the

(Continued on Page 11)

OBITUARIES

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

PHILIP (SCOTTY) ESCOTO

Mr. Philip (Scotty) Escoto died on September 2, 1983 of injuries sustained in an accident. He was born on October 16, 1962.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by two brothers and a sister.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Anthony Ross.

JAMES STUART CONRAD

Mr. James Stuart Conrads died on September 24, 1983

in a swimming accident. He was born on August 21, 1964.

He is survived by his parents, one brother and three stepbrothers.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul Palmieri.

New Arrivals

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

Rachel Jean to Jim and Celia LaPinta of Detroit, Michigan;

Deena to Anthony and Kathleen Randazzo of Detroit, Michigan;

Gina Danielle to Daniel and Mary Bertolo of Detroit, Michigan.

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
004	Cassette Tape—November, 1983 GMBA Program	\$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

1/2 inch 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

BRANCH 1 continued . . .

five brothers and sisters who joined the Family of God at our Branch in the past year. Our Brother Jack Apollonio was with the saints in Harrison and couldn't be with us, but Sister Lisa DiFalco gave her testimony, followed by Brother Keith and Sister Johnna Lesperance, who were baptized earlier this year. After Sister Michelle testified, we had the Lord's Supper, and it was very special to share this Communion with brothers and sisters from every Branch in the District. After our meeting was dismissed, we had a time of fellowship in the back room, enjoying one another's company and the blessings God has given us.

Priceless Gift

*A new year brings its burdens
And rugged hills to climb,
But from its treasury there spills
The priceless gift of time.*

*And from the measured portions,
The days and weeks and years,
You weave your tapestry of life
In smiles and toil and tears.*

*Then make the colors splendid,
The texture firm and true,
For precious sweet the recompense
That God has planned for you.*

Edna Atkin Pepper

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The Gospel News

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

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February, 1984

Volume 40, No. 2

Message to the Saints

By George Frank Arthur

Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:14

My dear copartners of the faith in Christ,

Let us examine and refresh our knowledge of what we must do to keep our friendship with Christ going, for we must labor throughout every day of our lives to accomplish those things wherein we have been instructed by the Gospel of our Lord. In John 15:12, Jesus says, "This is my commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you." He shows His greatest devotion to the love He gives us by laying down His life. In John 15:13, Jesus calls us friends, for He has made known unto us those things He has heard of His Father. John 15:15.

From common knowledge it is understood that the word, **friend**, implies a person with whom one has a pleasant relationship, and we can cite some passages from the **Bible** that relate to this:

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother." Proverbs 18:24.

"And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: And he was called the Friend of God." James 2:23.

"... know ye not that the friendship with the world is enmity with God?

Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." James 4:4.

The story of the friendly relationship between Abraham and God beginning from Genesis, Chapter 12 until his death in Chapter 25 is very illustrative and practical. In order for friendship to exist, the two parties must agree to a common purpose, one being of use to the other. Abraham was very obedient and carried out all that God had commanded him. He became a very good friend of God. God's covenant with Abraham was fulfilled.

In the New Testament, Jesus Christ is the mediator between God and man. I Timothy 2:5. He is our Redeemer. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive." I Corinthians 15:22.

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:23-24. Through Jesus Christ we have hope for eternal life.

"And, behold a certain lawyer stood up and tempted him, saying master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? He said unto him, what is written in the law? How readest thou? And he answering said, thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself." Luke 10:25-27.

"And he said unto him, thou hast answered right: this do and thou shalt

live." Luke 10:28.

Now that we have accepted to be friends with Jesus, it is our duty to do whatever Christ has urged or commanded us. The commandment from the Lord is that we love our neighbor as Christ Himself loves us. But we must realize that the love we have from Christ is not comparable with what He wants us to offer to others. He had already given up Himself and died on the cross as a lamb of sacrifice to pay for all our sins before God. Thus, we become free from the bondage of Satan. Again, He gives us the promise of eternal life. On the other hand, He wants us to love others as He loves us. This is the measurement or qualification which is necessary to keep our friendship with Christ going. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have showed towards his name, in that ye have ministered to the Saints and do minister." Hebrews 6:10.

Christ wants us to love our enemies. "But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you and persecute you." Matthew 5:44.

According to the Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians, Chapter 5:6, it is written, "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and

(Continued on Page 2)

MESSAGE continued . . .

pierced themselves through with many sorrows." 1 Timothy 6:10.

Therefore, my friends in Christ, may I draw your attention to the message in Romans 14:12 which is written, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Christ has given us the examples of love, and we have been instructed in the works of love. It is the individual's responsibility to examine himself or herself to question whether or not the individual's works conform to the message that Christ gives us. If, therefore, our faith in Christ works by love, we have subscribed to the friendship with the Lord.

Let us pray that the Lord should help us sustain our friendship with Him forever. Amen.

Fear God, Not Man

By Vicki Morningstar

I had this experience concerning the bombing of the U.S. soldiers over in Beirut. When the news brought it to our attention, we all felt so terrible and what a tragedy it was, but I mostly felt a fear of what was to come of it, that there were people so cruel and mean on the face of this earth that someday our friends and families would have to deal face to face with such a situation. The news continued to report it, to the extent where it was constantly on our minds and it stirred revenge in many people. A fear of war was very real once again.

Then while this was going on, there was an earthquake in Turkey, which killed thousands and injured many. It received barely one day's coverage on the news and in newspapers. When I heard of the earthquake I immediately was given how man fears man and how with a blink of an eye God could wipe out as many of us as He chooses. For, whenever God shows His wrath on people we will all know it's from Him and no one else. It brings to mind of what I was taught, "Better a few should perish than a whole nation . . ."

Let us pray for His continued mercies and blessings toward us, and most importantly to prove faithful to the end. May God bless you and keep you in His care.

Faces

By Donald Ross

This prophet was a mighty preacher. His gifts were numerous and his brother captured several of his sermons in great length. He provides us his commentary on Isaiah's writings. He taught many subjects in a few chapters. For example: Christ's death and resurrection, the infinite atonement, polygamy is forbidden, how to handle wealth, and the tame olive tree—a parable that is almost incomparable. His name—Jacob.

Jacob could not be shaken from his faith in Jesus Christ. He encountered a man named Sherem, an apostate Nephite who was a clever speaker. Sherem was the first person in the *Book of Mormon* to deny that Jesus Christ would come to redeem mankind. For Sherem, it would have been better if he never met Jacob. He tried to shake Jacob from his faith and righteousness. But Jacob could not be swayed in his testimony of the Savior: ". . . for I had truly seen angels and they had ministered unto me. And also, I had heard the voice of the Lord speaking unto me in very word, from time to time; wherefore, I could not be shaken." Sherem **demand**ed a sign. He got one. Sherem was struck down. Soon after, Sherem acknowledged his wrong and died.

A direct result of Jacob's demonstration of the power of God was the Nephites repented of their wicked and evil ways. And "peace and the love of God was restored again among the people, and they searched the scriptures, and hearkened no more to the words of this wicked man."

Jacob quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. For various reasons it is an important sermon. It proves that the latter part of Isaiah, which some scholars like to consider as the work of a "second" Isaiah, was accepted as genuine at the time of Jacob, as it was in the days of our Lord. It shows and proves the Nephites held meetings for worship and instruction, as we do, and that they based their addresses on the Holy Scriptures, as we do.

Charged by Nephi at his death to be the spiritual leader of the people, Jacob was sober and humble. He shrank from testifying to the people about their wickedness, because he might offend the ears of the righteous. Jacob was full of love and compassion. Consider his

statement on the proper use of wealth and the attitude we should have toward the less fortunate: "Think of your brethren like unto yourselves, and be familiar with all and free with your substance, that they may be rich like unto you. But before ye seek for riches, seek ye for the kingdom of God."

We are indebted to Jacob for many outstanding teachings of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Jacob was valiant in his testimony of the Gospel. He was a powerful spiritual character, sincere and diligent in teaching the truth. He was worthy of his forefather's name (Jacob) to whom God gave this wonderful land, the promised land (America) where he preached. And Jacob, the son of Lehi, was a "mighty preacher."

A Christmas Giving Experience

By Pam Cole

Our culture has gotten so far away from the true meaning of Christmas through commercialism and all the money-making schemes. I was recently blessed and reminded that Christmas is giving and loving unconditionally—the way Christ would give and love.

On Saturday, December 17, 1983, I shared in a wonderful giving experience along with several others from the Anaheim Branch. That day has made a deep impression on my heart. A group of us caravanned down to the Mexicali Mission bringing a truck load (an actual **truck load**) of stuffed animals, toys, candy, food, and clothes to our brothers, sisters, friends, and children there. The main purpose of this trip was to bring toys to children and give them a Christmas. There are many in the Anaheim Branch who worked very hard in collecting all the toys, and since I personally did not play a big part in accomplishing this, I was feeling very unworthy even to pass out these toys to the children. These people have virtually nothing material. When we arrived they insisted on serving us a meal—allowing us to eat first. They gave all they had. People from all around the area gathered with us and we gave toys to all. As long as I live, I will never forget what it was like to give Christmas presents to children who have never received them before.

(Continued on Page 11)

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

QUESTION: What is sin?

The answer is very obvious. Sin is the breaking of God's commandments and the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ. King Benjamin, in his address to the people, told them, "And finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin; for there are divers ways and means, even so many that I cannot number them." (Mosiah 4:29)

Even if one could number the many ways of sinning, it would not erase the fact it is transgression of the commandments of God. Those who have been truly "born of God" cannot look upon sin except with abhorrence. The saint of God shrinks from the very thought of committing sin. It is written that the Lamanites who were brought to a knowledge of the Lord would "suffer even unto death rather than commit sin." (Alma 24:19) These Lamanites did exactly that; they would not fight their brethren, but laid down their weapons and stood before the enemy without arms of war and were cut down mercilessly until, seeing that they would not defend themselves, even the enemy was made to repent for their savagery. How many people would rather die than commit sin? That is a question that every individual must answer for himself. There is no excuse for sinning. One may theorize and/or rationalize for transgressing, but it is sin nonetheless.

One cannot blame the media—television, radio, newspapers—for their sinning. In spite of the fact that the media does glorify sin—living together as husband and wife without the benefit of the marriage ceremony, pre-marital carnal affairs, having children out of wedlock, stealing, cheating, and many other forms of sin—the person who has accepted Jesus Christ cannot allow the media to influence him/her to indulge in the same things just because it has become the "accepted" thing in the world. The people of God have made a covenant with Him, to serve Him in spirit and in truth, and have made a covenant with His Son, Jesus Christ, at the rivershore to obey His commandments and keep them until death. No matter what the excuse may be, it is written that "the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance." (Alma 45:16) Paul, the Apostle, exhorts the Thessalonians to

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thessalonians 5:22)

The people of God have a commitment to absolute obedience to Him—to be like a city built on a hill that cannot be hid, to let their light so shine before men that they seeing their good works will glorify the Father which is in heaven. How can the world see or know that His people have this sacred commitment if they indulge in the same things of a carnal and sinful nature? Just because the world has accepted the sinful way of living, calling that which God condemns as evil, good, and the good, evil, does not make it right. It is mandatory that the people of God, especially the ministers, rise up and condemn sin and transgression and teach, instruct, and exhort each other to remain steadfast in keeping the commandments of Jesus Christ and abstaining from even the appearance of evil.

In this world of permissiveness, the saints must shine as a beacon light to those who are breaking the commandments of our Lord. Don't let anyone attempt to persuade you that there are degrees of sin, that some are greater or lesser. Sin is sin, no matter what the transgression is. To the single and unmarried persons, I exhort in the name of Christ, don't let anyone persuade you that pre-marital cohabitation is all right as long as you are planning to marry each other. "Thou shalt not commit adultery" applies both to the married and unmarried persons. Getting married to the person with whom you have had pre-marital carnal relations does not wipe out the sin that has been committed. Whether you are engaged to be married or not, save yourselves for the nuptial day. If you are truly "born of God", you will respond to my exhortation. There are always regrets and remorse when sin is committed. There are no regrets nor remorse when the commandments of our Lord are kept and executed. Self-respect and honor before all else must be the motto of the saints if we desire the world to come to the Lord.

When Israel sinned, God took away His spirit and protection from them. The enemy then came and almost destroyed them. When they put away their sins, the Lord blessed them in basket and store. He is the same today. God will bless us with His Holy Spirit and with His gifts as we live righteously and keep His commandments. Christ gave His life for us that we might have life and that more abundantly. How

much are we willing to give for Him? All He asks is that we serve Him. He said, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." If we sin, the answer is obvious—we do not love Him.

This world of permissiveness that we live in is, I admit, not an easy one to abide in. But, Jesus did not say that it would be easy or simple to follow Him on our own. He did say, though, that "without me ye cannot do anything", which simply means that as long as we abide in Him, the true vine, we can do anything and live righteously. In conclusion, I quote the words of the poet:

*Live closer to Jesus,
draw nearer each day,
Abide in His presence,
ne'er from Him to stray;
Why thoughtlessly linger,
why wander afar,
While yet He is calling,
"Come just as you are."*

Thus it is written.

A Testimony

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to ask an interest in your prayers. My wife and I were not born and raised in the Church and have only been baptized 3½ years. Those first three years in the branch of Niles, Ohio gave us the opportunity to grow spiritually as fast as we wanted, to visit many of the brothers and sisters throughout the Church, and to plant our roots firm and deep in the love of Jesus Christ. Naturally, we wanted to some how pay back the Lord for His mercy and kindness—we had the desire to be used of God.

Seeking the Lord's council in matters such as marriage and employment, He granted us our heart's desire. Through our prayers for a job, He has directed us to the small mission of Rochester, New York. He has placed us in a mission of only a handful of faithful brothers and sisters. He has given us the opportunity to be used, not to sit back and wait for others. We have found ourselves in prayer much more often, and we **now** can see the importance of giving our testimony. There are times when we miss our family and brothers and sisters that we were "raised with in the Gospel", but the Lord has sent us to Rochester for a purpose.

(Continued on Page 4)

TESTIMONY continued . . .

We ask an interest in your prayers for our mission of Rochester, for Brother Ansel (Sam) D'Amico our elder, and for us, that we would continue to grow and be strengthened in the Lord.

May God richly bless you.

Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Natoli
126 D Windsorshire Drive
Rochester, New York 14624
(Telephone) (716) 594-9321

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank all of our brothers and sisters for their prayers during our recent misfortunes.

In October of last year, Brother Bill was taking our son, Louis, to work. Just about 1½ miles from our home, Bill and Louis were involved in an accident when another car going in the opposite direction hit into them. Although Brother Bill had a loss of memory and Louis suffered a broken leg, we thank God that their lives were spared.

In November I, Sister Evelyn Crall, was hospitalized twice. Thank God I am doing much better now.

In December our daughter, Sara, was feeding her three-month-old son, Matthew. It being 6:30 a.m., she laid the baby next to her to sleep again when she was finished feeding him. After some time, Sara wondered why the infant was not stirring at all. When she looked closer, Sara discovered that Matthew had passed away. Only the prayers of the saints could sustain us through a time of sorrow such as this.

Our special thanks and gratitude go to Brother George Benyola of Allen, Texas. Brother George is some distance from us yet he was always here during our time of need. Also, we wish to thank the Dallas Mission for their prayers and support. Most of all, we thank our Lord for the wonderful brothers and sisters He has blessed us with. We can truly say that we share one another's burdens.

God bless you all,
Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall

Note of Thanks

I wish to express my thanks to all my brothers and sisters for their kindness and thoughtfulness during my companion's illness and passing. All of the cards and letters were a source of strength to our family.

May God Bless You All,
Brother Bob Collison and Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all of you for your concern and many cards and telephone calls. Most of all I am grateful for your prayers on my behalf when I recently fell and broke my ankle. May God bless you all for your thoughtfulness.

Mrs. Helen Nolfi,
Glassport Branch

A Poem of Thanks

*Thanks go out to the many who gave
Contributions to the Racz family because of the blaze.
Although fire has destroyed our home,
Something good came out of all that was done.*

*Donations and pledges came our way,
And I know that many knelt to pray
That God would restore and help us to see
That only a miracle could have set us free.*

*In the weeks that followed our faith was tested,
To prove that His servants never rested.
But I felt that a messenger brought me peace,
I awake refreshed and completely at ease.*

*The brightest testimony that came through the test
Were the Bible and Book of Mormon still neatly at rest.
The Lord provided that they should not perish,
To be read forever and eternally cherished.*

*Another experience that stands out to me
Is a visit to a center where donations are free.
An unknown man left money for us,
That teaches that only in God we should trust.*

*A phone call followed and immediately, you see,
The spirit discerned as they spoke to me.
I knew it could only possibly be
One of the Nephites, one of the three.*

*So when you come upon a day
When you're feeling down, just stop and pray.
For our Lord is mighty to save and to keep,
And His love for His children runs so very deep.*

*Remember how He helped this family through,
His promises are great, for me AND FOR YOU!*

By Sister Barbara Racz and Family
Muncey Mission, Ontario, Canada

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Some Highlights of 1983

As the Christmas Season closed out the old year (1982), two new converts were received into the Church. Arturo Tostada, a Spanish gentleman, was baptized in San Diego, California; while in Muncey, Ontario, Shirley Grosbeck was also baptized.

In the Ohio District Conference in February, Brother Vince Gibson noted that their missionary efforts have reached Omaha/Bedford, Nebraska; South Bend, Indiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; the Carolinas; and that visits to Alabama were also anticipated.

The February Michigan-Ontario Conference was climaxed by the baptisms of three new converts.

In the July issue of the Gospel News, Brother Mark Randy reported that a new work had begun in Oakland, California with the baptisms of four new converts in Modesto. He noted that the services in Oakland over which he and Brother Joseph Lovalvo preside are conducted entirely in the Spanish language.

In April, Brother Paul and Sister Thressa Carr accompanied by three of their five children, Paul, Jr., age 15, Cheryl Ann, age 13, and John Edward, age 12, departed for Nigeria. This marked Brother Carr's second tour of missionary activity in Nigeria, having accompanied Brothers Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, and Michael Hildenbrand on a journey there in November, 1980.

After affording Brother Carr several weeks of orientation, Brother Nephi DeMercurio, together with his wife, Lorraine, and their two young sons, Jared and Nephi, Jr., departed Nigeria for their return trip to their home in America. This marked the conclusion of another extended tour of missionary activity by Brother Nephi and his family.

During a fasting and prayer meeting Saturday morning (day before Easter) the Modesto Branch experienced a generous outpouring of God's blessings. Additionally, in a vision, Brother Joseph Lovalvo saw two funnels in the shape of a cone moving towards the church building. The small ends were in heaven and the large ends, about ten feet in diameter, then came to rest in the church building. Many angels robed in white then stepped into the auditorium and, " . . . without a question or a doubt, heaven came down in our midst and glory filled our souls." The next day, Easter Sunday, was climaxed by the baptisms of five new converts.

Another remarkable highlight was the World Missionary Conference that convened August 20-26 in the Eagle Eyrie Conference Center in Lynchburg, Virginia. More than 700 brothers, sisters and friends were in attendance. Also notable was the presence of missionaries from Africa, Canada, India, Italy, and Mexico and domestic outposts in the United States. Preaching, seminars, exhibits, testimony and fellowship proved edifying and reviving. As a special blessing, nine souls requested baptism, seven being baptized at the camp and two in their home branches later.

PRAISE GOD FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF BLESSINGS AND PROSPERITY.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



God Sends An Angel

Dear Girls and Boys,

Young King Hezekiah ruled the country of Judah many years after King David. By the time he took over, his little country was under control of a powerful nation named Assyria. Every year the people of Judah had to send gifts of gold, silver, and products, or Assyria would attack them again.

Judah also was full of idol worshippers, and the temple Solomon built was in sad disrepair. One of the first things that twenty-five year old Hezekiah did was to stop idol worshipping. He closed down all the temples of false gods. The people began to serve God again, and God began blessing them with great abundance and riches. Soon plans were made to restore the temple so all Jewish people from the surrounding countries could also come and worship as they had in the years gone by.

King Hezekiah began a new way of collecting taxes; the people paid with crops of grain and animals. Huge storehouses and stables were built to hold everything.

Hezekiah stopped sending his country's tribute money to Assyria and spent the money rebuilding the great protective walls around the major cities of his country. He began making shields and weapons of war.

In those days there were no such things as bombs or airplanes. The best way for people to fight was to trap their enemies inside city walls and just wait until their food and especially water ran out. King Hezekiah realized this and came up with a wonderful plan of how to hide their water supply from the Assyrians yet have it close for the people of Judah inside the city walls.

Hezekiah had his engineers dig a huge

tunnel under the city wall, through the rocky hills, and to the waters of the Spring of Gerson. This water flowed from a cave and was Jerusalem's only supply of water. The plan worked! A beautiful stream of water flowed back under the city walls where it would be needed, and in case of war the original cave opening was well hidden under rocks and dirt. (This tunnel is still there, over 2,000 years later.)

Now the city of Jerusalem was ready for war. But King Hezekiah's enemies, the Assyrians, instead went and devastated the other large city of Judah called Lachish. For his people's sake, Hezekiah gave up and agreed to again send the tribute the Assyrians demanded.

But the angry Assyrians came to the gates of Jerusalem and demanded to be let in. With a loud voice they called to Hezekiah saying, "Why do you think **your** God will deliver you? None of the other countries we've attacked have been saved by their gods and neither will you!"

The people panicked while Hezekiah called upon God, praying, "Lord, hear me. Hear what the Assyrians are saying. It is true that they have destroyed so many countries before us, and their gods. But their gods were just statues made by men out of stone or metals. We serve the one true, living God. I beg You O God to save us so that all the earth will know that You, and You only, art the Lord God."

The Lord sent the prophet, Isaiah, to the King with this answer: "I will defend this city to save it for My own sake and for the sake of King David (the first who made the city great and who loved God mightily). The Assyrians will go back the way they came and not enter this city."

That night the Lord sent an angel out to smite the troops outside the gates. In the morning, one hundred eighty-five thousand Assyrians were dead.

There was something different about this God, the God worshipped by the people of Jerusalem. When these people called on their God, He protected and delivered them.

The Assyrian King packed up what troops were left and departed Jerusalem. The one, most high God had indeed saved His people then, just as He is able to hear the cries of those who love and serve Him today, and save them.

Our Women Today

By Rose Palacios, Lorain, Ohio

Because He Lives, I Can Face Tomorrow. These words are truly alive for me and my family because of the wonderful experiences God has given us.

I want to share with others some experiences that took place with my youngest son who is now serving in the Marines. I pray that it will be uplifting and encouragement to all who will read this.

It all began in September of 1963. I had been baptized into the Church only one week. I received the Gospel with such joy that I wanted to share it with my family in Texas. My son, Richard, was only three months old at the time. While at the home of my mother in Texas one day, my son needed some water to drink. There were two baby bottles in the refrigerator, and I took one to give to him. Both bottles had clear liquid in them, but I did not know that one of them had acid in it. My brother-in-law had been working on his boat and had put the bottle of acid in the refrigerator and the bottle was the same color as my son's. As soon as my son drank from the bottle (filled with acid), he began crying very hard and became very sick. We rushed him to the hospital in Fort Worth and immediately they began treating him for the acid which he had drunk. They advised me to get hold of my minister or priest to administer the last rites because he was not going to live. I had faith in my God that He would take care of Richard. I

(Continued on Page 7)

called my husband in Lorain, Ohio (which is a thousand miles away) and told him to have a handkerchief anointed and send it to me. Within two hours the handkerchief was there. My brother-in-law came to the hospital and he didn't know what was taking place. He was directed to bring me the handkerchief. The handkerchief went to my husband's brother's house, and he did not know where to bring it, but to the hospital where I was. As soon as he gave me the handkerchief, I placed it on my son's stomach and immediately he threw up all the acid that he had swallowed and it came out in the shape of a ball. Praise the Lord for His great power. That was over 20 years ago, and I know that the Lord had his eye on Richard then and up to this present time.

In January of 1983, my son joined the Marines. I was concerned as any parent would be. In one of our fast and prayer services, the Lord spoke and said He would take care of him. This was so uplifting. In April I had an experience where I saw a General walking with my son along a railroad track and He had his arm around Richard and was telling him, "I'm going to show you what I'm going to protect you from." They came to a small building, and the General opened the door to this building and inside was stacks of dynamite which were stored there. He pointed to the dynamite and said, "Richard, this is what I am going to protect you from." They continued walking along the railroad tracks and the General was telling him other things that he would be protected from. I then awoke from my dream, grateful to know that God would be with him.

On October 23, 1983, we heard about the news of the terrible destruction of the building that housed the U.S. Marines in Beirut, Lebanon and also the great loss of lives. My son was concerned because some of his buddies who went in with him were in the explosion and many were lost. He wanted to do something to show his concern of the terrible loss and also because he felt it his patriotic duty as a Marine. He called me to ask my opinion on what to do because he could volunteer to go but he wanted to know what I thought. I didn't want to disappoint him, but my heart was heavy knowing of the situation that existed.

I told my son that the best way to help his buddies now was to get on his knees and pray for them. I told him that if it was God's Will that he should go to

Beirut, let God's Will be done. After talking to Richard, I went to the Lord in prayer and asked the Lord to please have something for me to say the next time he would call home. I heard a voice say to me, "Tell him about the dynamite." After I had finished praying, the Lord by His Spirit reminded me of the dream I had seven months before, about the General showing Richard the dynamite He would protect him from.

The telephone lines had been very busy, but the Lord allowed Richard's call to get through and he was satisfied after remembering it. He then told me that he wouldn't press the issue and just wait on the Lord. It was very clear now what the Lord was showing him in the dream of the dynamite. It was the dynamite and explosives that blew up the building in which over 200 Marines had been killed. You see, after Richard had completed basic training, it was up to the Marine Corps as to where he should be stationed, either in the states or overseas. If he went overseas, he would go to Beirut, if not he would be stationed in North Carolina. Through much prayer, Richard was stationed in the States. The Lord prevented him from being there when the building exploded.

When the experience was told in Imperial a week later, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation was, "It is true! It is true! saith the Lord."

I can never thank my Lord enough for His protection and wonderful promises that He has given to those that love and serve Him. I saw in the news of the many mothers crying for the sons they lost, and it broke my heart because I knew that I could have been one of those mothers whose son would not be coming home. But my gratefulness to our God will always be there, for Jesus never fails.

Evils of Self-Justification

(Reprint from *The Life and Works of Brother James Heaps*)

Isaiah, ch. 1, verse 4 reads: "Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Lord, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away

backward." After Israel had forsaken the Lord and was in a back-slidden condition, the Lord said, "Come, let us reason together." There is not much reason in a carnal, back-sliding people; but you will notice the exhortation of Isaiah when he says, "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil. Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow." If we are washed and made clean through the blood of the Lamb, and retain the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can reason out anything and settle any problem that may arise.

Tolerance is also a wonderful virtue. Luke 9:49 reads, "And John answered and said, Master, we saw one casting out devils in Thy name; and we forbade him, because he followeth not with us. And Jesus said unto him, Forbid him not; for he that is not against us is for us." We see how tolerant the Lord was with someone who was not of their own group. Ill temper takes away all reasoning power, and we cannot tolerate another's views. When a man is filled with the Holy Ghost he is the most reasonable man on earth and can tolerate another man's opinion, but when he is carnal he has to have his own way. The brother of the prodigal son shows us what ill temper will do. He was supposed to be the example. He stayed home and worked on the farm; he did not spend his money on riotous living; he was a good moral boy. But he had no reason and no tolerance, no love for his brother who had done wrong to him. Ill temper leaves sins unnamed.

We have no balance to weigh sins; to enable us to decide which are coarser or finer, but only words of our own. I think I would rather reason with the prodigal than with his brother. Self-righteousness is a terrible sin. It caused the brother to justify himself in his good works instead of loving his brother who had done wrong but had humbled himself to the extreme when he said, "I will arise and go to my father and will say unto him, I have sinned." When is a man greater than when he acknowledges that he has sinned? "And I am no longer worthy to be called thy son; make me as one of thy hired servants." A man filled with the Holy Spirit would say, "I love him." He would kill the fatted calf; he would put a ring on his finger; he would dance and be merry.

(Continued on Page 8)

JUSTIFICATION continued . . .

Let us look at the one who was supposed to be a good example. When he was told that his brother was home he was angry. Perhaps many would judge the sin of the older brother to be a mere trifle—only a bit of ill temper and scarcely worth recording. Now what was this little bit of temper that Christ saw fit to record? The elder brother was hard-working and dutiful; let him have full credit for his virtues which came from his long day's work in the field. Every night for years he had come home like this. But too often a man's sense of responsibility for his character ends with a day's work, and he often meets the temptation which is to expose him when he least expects it. He heard music and the sounds of dancing; a novel sound for a farm. "Thy brother is come," the servants said, "And they have killed the fatted calf." How glad the father was to see him approaching from afar! He ran to meet him but there was no joy on the elder brother's face. His thoughts were probably something like this; "Killed the fatted calf, have they? That's more than they ever did for

me. I would tell them what I think of all this merry making for this young scoundrell!" He was angry and would not go in.

How many times have we seen manifested that spirit of jealousy, anger, pride, cruelty, self-righteousness, sulkiness, touchiness, and doggedness. These are the staple ingredients of ill temper, and yet men laugh about it. Only temper, they say! It may be only a moment of ruffling the surface, a mere passing cloud; but the passing cloud is composed of drops. The drops, foul and rancorous, and seething with energy, find their way into the ocean; an ocean made up of the things that destroy the man who harbors them, and become a raging storm. It is not the outward show of temper that is significant, but what is revealed. It is like the intermittent fever which tells of the disease, or the bubble coming to the surface betraying the rottenness underneath. The older brother had the same opportunity as the younger brother, but he stayed home. To the servant he became a pattern of industry; to the neighbors an example.

Temper is the vice of the virtuous. Darwin said a man of ill temper will sometimes invent imaginary offenses for the sake of invigorating himself. However, when temper interferes with the intellect, it affects all matters of judgment. Decisions may be struck off at a white heat, without time to consider circumstances or explanations. It takes a humble person to correct these mistakes once they are made. No doubt the elder brother confessed to himself that he was a fool after he cooled down, but he had taken his stand and would not go in. "I don't have to kill the fatted calf for you," his father said. "All that I have is thine." The weak, who are the victims of this ill temper, have to stand the brunt of the storm. How do you think the prodigal felt when his brother would not come in, spoiling the evening for all who were in the house because of his anger? How often does our sulkiness spoil other people's lives?

The curtain drops on the prodigal, leaving him in, but the elder brother out. He would spoil heaven for all that would be there. To get to heaven we must take it with us.

Branch and Mission News

Sterling, MI

By Hazel Zoltek, Branch Editor

Sunday, November 6, the Sterling Branch had planned to host the entire Muncey Mission; however, due to car trouble and their inability to obtain a bus, only one family made it, Brother and Sister Clayton, their daughter and two grandchildren.

Also, Brother Sam and Sister Theresa Palermo were honored. They are taking their transfer to Cape Coral where they will be living in the future. They have been with the Sterling Branch since its inception, and we will surely miss them.

Our service opened with several anointings. Brother Steve Champine and Sister Diane Hawkins sang *The Lord's Prayer*, and Brother Louis Vito offered prayer. The Champine Brothers sang *He Touched Me*.

Brother Sam requested Brother and Sister Palermo to join him on the

rostrum. He told of the many things they had done for the church and of the spaghetti dinner they prepared one time for the Muncey Mission. There were many more present than they had expected, and they feared they wouldn't have enough to feed them all. They offered prayer and began serving, and it seemed the spaghetti grew and grew and there was an abundance, and every one was filled.

Sister Theresa gave her testimony, telling of the dream she had concerning where our church would be located. It seemed that her son directed her to this church, and they came in and looked it over. Then a couple of weeks later, Brother Louis told us of a church they had looked at and he wanted us all to go there the following Sunday and we would hold our service there. When Sister Theresa walked into the building, it was exactly as she had seen in her dream. Brother Sam also gave his testimony.

Brother Spencer Everett read a passage in which praises were sung un-

to the Lord. We sang *How Great Thou Art*, and the meeting was left open for testimony. Sister Clayton, of the seed of Joseph, told of a visit to her home by a young man she had never seen before. He asked to use her telephone. As he left, she looked out the window and he had completely disappeared. She felt this was one of the Nephites. She and Brother Clayton sang *Blessed Assurance*, and Brother Clayton then gave his testimony.

Brother Sam said that even though all those from Muncey did not get here, we can still give glory to the Lord. We have to go to the Lord for everything and we thank Him for His love. The Lord changes us all and gives us love for people of all nationalities. He said that working in Muncey helped him in his life as he went there to do the Lord's work. If we give our all to the Lord, give to the poor, He will give it back to us twofold.

We were dismissed by Brother Spencer and adjourned to the basement. The sisters of the church prepared a delicious dinner, including spaghetti, fried chicken and numerous desserts. There was a special cake for the Palermos, inscribed with God's blessing for their new life in Florida. It was a beautiful day and was fully enjoyed by us all.

Anadarko, OK

By Evelyn Crall

February 17, 1974 we began our journey to a strange land. It is now 10 years since we began making our home in Oklahoma. We have never regretted making this move. God has blessed us so many times. God has provided all of our needs and more.

Our first meeting in Anadarko, Oklahoma was August 11, 1974. The saints from Dallas were here and our two Indian friends, Russel and Nancy Ann Russel, were in attendance. Brother George Benyola spoke on James 1:5. After the service all fellowshiped in dinner. Attending from Dallas was Brother George Benyola and family, Brother Doug McLellan and Brother Keith White. In these 10 years we have made many friends with many tribes.

Recently, I had some of our friends sign a book and in three months I had over 200 names and 22 different tribes. The land in and around Anadarko, Oklahoma is rich with the Seed of Joseph. We travel a radius of 70 to 80 miles to attend services at the various Indian churches. We are invited to many of the Indian affairs. I am called upon to play the piano or organ at many funerals. Also, I play the piano in almost all of the churches we attend. We see many of our friends while shopping or the like. It is not only a handshake; they really hug us. We count it a privilege to be able to tell them of our Church. Usually this is done daily that we can witness for our Church. We have had many meetings in our home. We have had many elders stop by. We get on the phone, when we know someone will be here, telling our friends about our meeting. We have had as many as 30 in our home for a meeting. We belong to the Dallas Mission. We attend services there in Texas, and we try to make special services. Brother George Benyola, Evangelist, has made many trips to Anadarko to hold meetings. Our attendance now has been averaging 15. Brother George says each time he comes here he meets someone new.

We are thankful to the Urban Indian Committee for providing the necessities for us to attend the World Missionary Conference in Lynchburg, Virginia. We were so thrilled to see so many of our brothers and sisters.

When you live in a state where you

have no church of your own we know God will carry us through many blessings and a few difficulties. Brothers and sisters, appreciate your Church around the corner; appreciate the telephone where you can call a brother or a sister. We do get lonesome, and when we do we reach for the phone and call a brother or a sister no matter where in the United States they live.

We are thankful to all of the Ladies' Circles. From the first year we have lived here they have sent many baby layettes. Some have sent money. This money has been placed in a Ladies' Circle Savings Account. Sometimes when I run out I purchase clothes at garage sales and then I buy the powders, oils, bottles, diapers and needed articles for baby layettes. We get a 15% discount.

I attended an Indian affair where I saw the little girl that received the first layette. She is now 9½ years old. I also saw the newest baby and it was a month old. As we make up layettes we put 7 to 10 pieces of Church literature in each box, along with our name and address. The most favorite piece of literature is the *Jew and the American Indian*.

We have received song books and Books of Mormon for our meetings from many churches.

We transferred here from Warren, Ohio. We are so thankful for the many prayers that have been offered on our behalf. May God bless each of you as God has blessed us.

Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall
Post Office Box 1028
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005

Quincy, FL

By Sister M. Martin

For some time now, the saints at Quincy Mission have been spiritually entertained. Brother Charles Smith, Apostle Joseph Bittinger, Brothers Mike Radd, Sam Costarella from Fort Pierce Branch, also Brother John D'Orazio from Lake Worth, Florida Branch and their wives have enriched our souls with inspiring words, adding to our lives the mystery of that truth which sprang out of the earth and has been revealed to the saints.

October 9, 1983 Brother Charles Smith expounded on that truth, paint-

ing the picture of the all-seeing Eye of God upon man. God saw his people Israel in Esther 1 and meted out just judgment. God's eye caught the sincere heart of Joseph Smith, then that hidden mystery that sprang out of the earth was revealed, and the Gospel was restored.

Longing for the gathering became the intense desire, as Brother Charles and Sister Ilene departed that afternoon.

October 23, 1983, Brother John D'Orazio so ably gave us instructions as well as the correct formula and ingredients to mix spiritual mortar, tempered with love. This was that mixture of truth that sprang up out of the earth. Speaking from Ezekiel 22:23-30, Brother John expressed that laws and ordinances could not successfully make the mixture, therefore Israel went far wrong. In the year 1820, the mortar tempered by love with all the ingredients sprang up out of the earth. This truth so perfectly tempered that grievous wolves will not be able to enter and destroy again. Brother Mike Radd challenged that truth that sprang up out of the earth as he sent forth the question, "How strong is our foundation? Have we utilized the proper ingredients that would make us true?" Then Brother Cleveland Baldwin drew our attention to III Nephi 9, reminding us in a few words, "The more righteous were spared."

"Dig deep saints," he said, "and utilize the proper ingredients and be tempered with love."

October 29, 30, and November 1, we tried to capture all the words and experiences of Brother Joseph Bittinger and Sister Edna. Brother Joseph utilized Mark 12:30 and Alma 26 instructing us to set goals that we might see men obey this truth which has sprung up out of the earth. He related the great concern of the Apostles and the great work that is before this Church, for this is the organization that will be used to establish Zion.

We had a special meeting Monday, October 30, which was the climax to us as Brother Joseph read and expounded on Revelation 14:6, 7. Truth sprang up out of the earth. The evil tried to frustrate this truth but this is the truth, the Gospel that God intends for us to take to the world, therefore, we must learn how to defend the restoration. This was the Gospel that was carried to Nigeria. He pleaded for the young peo-

(Continued on Page 10)

QUINCY, FL continued . . .

ple to prepare themselves that God might use them in this great latter day work.

Sunday, November 13, 1983 we witnessed the impact of that everlasting truth which sprang up out of the earth take hold of a soul. Over a year ago, Mr. Leroy Walker signed out the book entitled, *It Is Written, Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth*, from the Gadsden County Public Library. Around May of this year, one of the saints visited the library as a follow-up to see if the book had been signed out. The *Book of Mormon*, Salt Lake City edition, was situated next to the book, *It Is Written Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth*, written by Apostle V. James Loyalvo. It was noted that Mr. Walker had signed both books out. A telephone call was made to Mr. Walker. He was invited to meet with our elder, Brother Cleveland Baldwin and visit the meetings. Mr. Walker attended the very next scheduled meeting spending the entire day conversing with the saints concerning this truth that has sprung up out of the earth. On November 13, this Mr. Walker became Brother Leroy Walker. He was baptized by Brother Sam Costarella who was visiting the mission that Sunday from the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch. Our new brother was confirmed into the Church by Brother Cleveland Baldwin.

We pray, the everlasting truth that sprang out of the earth and enveloped our new brother's heart will linger and develop within him even as everlasting as the truth which the saints rejoice in.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Anthony J. Scolaro

On December 4, 1983, we were privileged to mark fifty years in the Gospel for our Brother Paul Vitto, who was baptized on November 26, 1933.

After being presented with a flower, Brother Paul expressed to us how the Lord has blessed him with fifty years of joy and peace, during which He has never left our brother's side. Brother Paul related how he came to America from a remote village in Italy when he was a boy, and how God was in the matter even then. Our brother's desire is to

remain under the Lord's direction for the rest of his life.

Two weeks later, on December 18, our Sister Catherine Vivona observed fifty years in the Gospel, having been baptized on December 17, 1933.

Her sister, Rose DiDonato, pinned a corsage on her and she testified how before her family met the Church, her mother was very afflicted. After being anointed by our priesthood, however, the illness left her. Sister Catherine gave God all the honor and glory for keeping her thus far and expressed her desire to continue on in His service.

We sang *Sweeter As the Years Go By*, after which we heard from Brother Dominic Thomas, who was visiting our branch this morning. He covered a variety of topics relating to various passages in the scriptures, but the main thrust of his message this morning was that the Church, being made up of individual people, becomes whatever we as individuals make it. When we are all hard-working, generous, righteous, prayerful, and progressing spiritually, it is reflected in the state of the Church. Brother Dominic impressed upon us how we are each responsible for the Church's spiritual well-being through our own spiritual well-being. He pointed out to us that when we are dissatisfied with the way things are going, we must look at our individual selves, where we can always find room for improvement.

We were blessed with many more visitors that afternoon as we made ready to ordain two of our brothers into the priesthood. As the meeting got under way, a trio sang *So Send I You*. Brother Carl Frammolino directed his remarks to our two candidates, exhorting them to accept their calling on faith and to trust in God's presence and strength. He cited the promise that Jesus made to all His servants: "Lo, I am with you."

Brother Peter Scolaro and Brother Nick Pietrangelo followed, each pointing out the responsibilities that rest upon the brothers in the priesthood. Brother Nick used a variation on the advertising slogan for the old Packard Motor Car Company, "Ask the man who owns one," to make his point. "Many people look upon the priesthood," Brother Nick observed, "as a position of power and prestige. But if you ask one of the brothers what it's like to be an elder," he continued, "you'll understand things more clearly. Elders are the servants of the brothers

and sisters, and they are responsible to a large extent for the spiritual well-being of the saints."

We proceeded with the ordinations as Brother Dick Christman washed Brother Thomas Everett's feet, while those of Brother Richard Thomas were washed by Brother Sam DiFalco. As the twenty elders present formed a circle around our two brothers, Brother Paul Vitto called upon God to send His Spirit down as this calling was sealed upon the brothers. Brother Richard Thomas was ordained by Brother Nick Pietrangelo, and Brother Spencer Everett ordained his son, Brother Tom. We sang *His Name Is Wonderful* as our two new elders were greeted by the members of the priesthood.

After hearing briefly from Brother Dick Christman, who traveled many miles to be with us today, and Brother Frank Calabrese, who was also visiting from out of town, our meeting was brought to a close. Our continued prayer is that our two new elders would be used according to the calling that God has placed upon them. May He bless them and all of His priesthood with the strength and power to bring souls to repentance.



Brother Paul Vitto

(Continued on Page 11)



Sister Catherine Vivona

Tse Bonito, AZ

By Candace Genaro

We would like to introduce you to the Tse Bonito Branch, formerly Red Lake. The words Tse Bonito (SAY-BO-NEE-TO) come from the Navajo language meaning, "water coming out of the rock".

The final phases of construction are taking place on our Church building located on the Arizona-New Mexico borders of the Navajo Indian Reservation. Progress on our building has increased enthusiasm within ourselves and our community. We were blessed to have over seventy (70) people in attendance at our annual watch service, of which over twenty-five (25) are our Navajo friends. With this community response, we realize the enormous potential here and our completed Church building will play a great part.

We wish to thank all those who have contributed and supported our building endeavors thus far. Your continued financial and prayerful assistance through the completion of this building is humbly requested. Many long hours of hard work are being given to our building so that we may dedicate it to the Lord's work on May 27, 1984.

CHRISTMAS continued . . .

After all the candy, toys, and stuffed animals, etc. were passed out, my sister, Ruth, and I began playing games with the children. Neither of us speak Spanish, but communicating was hardly a problem.

As we were leaving, we were hugging and kissing the children goodbye and two different children gave me two pieces of candy. Remember, these children don't ever have the opportunity to have candy in their possession, yet they had so much love and so much of the **true spirit** of Christmas, that they wanted me to have theirs. That touched my heart so deeply, and I will treasure the memories I have of the grout outpouring of love I received that day. We gave to them, but I feel like I received so much more. What a wonderful Christmas present I have been given.

A Missionary's Prayer

*As a missionary walked through the streets,
Watching all the helpless souls suffering at his feet
He turned his eyes toward heaven and said,
"Lord, why must the meek suffer so?
Their heads are always bowed down low,
They are so humble and kind.
Lord, if there is a way that I can find,
To help them out of this mortal bind.
Lord, I know what I can do, I'll preach to them
From the highest hill, from the tallest tree,
I'll carry the Love of God with me.
And all that I plead is that You will help me Lo
And let these people see a brighter day,
In Jesus name I pray," AMEN.*

Brother Paul Carr, Jr.
Nigeria, West Africa



* **WEDDINGS** *

YONKEE-COLE

Second Lieutenant Eric Bickerton Yonkee (USMC) and Miss Dawn Elizabeth Cole were joined in holy matrimony on July 9, 1983 in the College Hill Presbyterian Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania.

Rev. James Donnell officiated at the ceremony.

Following their wedding trip, the newlyweds are living at the United States Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton, California, where Lt. Yonkee is stationed.

JOSEPH-COLLINS

Mr. Paul Scott Joseph and Miss Cynthia Collins were joined in matrimony on August 6, 1983 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, PA.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. officiated at the wedding ceremony.

PASQUALE-PEZZENTI

Mr. John Kenneth Pasquale and Miss Denise Estelle Pezzenti were married on Saturday, October 15, 1983 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Anthony A. Corrado.

Musical selections were presented by the organist, Sister Betty Gennaro.

The newlyweds are residing in Boardman, Ohio.

PIETRANGELO-QUIGLEY

Mr. Robert Quigley and Miss Laura Pietrangelo were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, November 26, 1983 at Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1 by Brother Louis Pietrangelo. Brother Peter A. Scolaro assisted in the ceremony.

Musical selections were provided by Sister Kathie Perkins, with Sister Marilyn Scolaro as soloist.

The Quigley's will live in Detroit, Michigan.

New Arrivals

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

Alexandra Rhea to Mark Leslie and Valerie Jean Dunathan Collison of Fort Pierce, Florida;

Stephen Edward to Joseph and Anita Znoy of Detroit, Michigan.

Andrea Marie to Mark and Delinda Santilli of Eatontown, New Jersey;

Robert William, Jr. to Robert and LuAnne Taylor of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Brandon Spencer to Dennis and Doreen Everett of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Paula Marie to Dennis and Angela Colpitts of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Angela Marie to Frank and Dolores Coppi of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Angela Marie to Jeffrey and Darlene Scarsella Mellinger of Youngstown, Ohio;

Angela Lauren to William and Robin Costarella Speece of Youngstown, Ohio;

Valerie Lynn to Dennis and Sandra Santilli D'Orazio of Youngstown, Ohio.

OBITUARIES

MATTHEW ALBERT FOX

Matthew Fox, infant son of Dave and Sara Crall Fox of Anadarko, Oklahoma, passed away from this life on December 30, 1983 at the age of three months. He was born on September 29, 1983.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother George Benyola of Allen, Texas.

Matthew is survived by his parents and grandparents, Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall.

CLARA E. MORT

Mrs. Clara E. Mort passed away on January 7, 1984. She was born on May 1, 1904.

Brothers David and Alma Nolfi conducted the funeral services in Glassport, Pennsylvania.

Mrs. Mort is survived by two sons, one daughter, eleven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

JOHN STEVEN CAPONE

Mr. John Steven Capone of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on November 27, 1983. He was born on June 9, 1939.

Funeral services were officiated by Brothers Leonard Lovalvo and Vincent Scalise.

John is survived by his wife, Connie, three children, and two stepchildren.

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Drawing Closer to God

By Dominic Moraca, Evangelist

(Taken from a Seminar at the World Missionary Conference)

Draw nigh unto God and He will draw nigh unto you. James

But it is good for me to draw near to God. David

We live in an age when everyone and everything around us seems to demand most of our time and energy. For example, we are bombarded by the mass media to purchase every new gadget on the market. Millions of books, magazines, and periodicals roll off the presses daily challenging us to read more and more. Electronic games, exotic travel packages, and every form of entertainment are available to us as never before. Moreover, our families make many demands upon us, our homes must be maintained, and our jobs are becoming more complex and demanding. Thus we seem to be caught in a vicious circle.

All of these forces tend to draw us away from God, unless we are willing to take time to be holy. That is what **Drawing Closer to God** is all about.

WAYS AND MEANS OF DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD

The following are some suggestions which we can employ in our daily lives to help us draw closer to God, and more important, remain closer to God:

1. Setting aside time each day for meditation and prayer.

2. Fasting.
3. Reverence for Communion and Ordinances.
4. Seek to know and understand God's will in your life.
5. Study Scriptures prayerfully.
6. Being led by the Spirit and be able to know the difference between the Spirit of God and the flesh.
7. Go to Church regularly.
8. Give your testimony to others.
9. Give alms to the poor.
10. Visit the sick.
11. Live righteously every day.
12. Pray without ceasing.
13. Sing unto yourselves hymns of praise.
14. Be willing to forgive others.
15. Love your enemies.
16. Speak not evil of one another.
17. Love one another as Christ loved us.
18. Deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus.
19. Be the Light of the World at all times and in all places.
20. Give generously to the Church so the Gospel may be brought to others.
21. Seek first the Kingdom of God.
22. Be willing to make personal sacrifices for the Gospel's sake.
23. Exercise your faith—live by faith.

Time will not permit us to address each of these items; therefore, a few have been chosen for discussion.

FASTING AND PRAYER

Jesus showed the importance of Fasting by devoting forty consecutive days and nights to prayer and fasting.

For the purpose of discussion, let us assume that we have decided to fast because we want to **draw closer to God**.

Questions:

1. When is the best time to start our fast?
2. Should we eat or drink during the fast?
3. I am on medication which I must take daily. Can I still fast?
4. How long should I fast?
5. I am offended at a member. May I still fast?

Scriptural References on Fasting:

Alma 3:17, 6:6
Matthew 4:2
Luke 2:37
Acts 2:37, 10:30
I Corinthians 7:5
II Corinthians 6:5

Follow-Up After the Fast:

You have fasted because you wanted to draw yourself closer to God. Now you must implement the things mentioned earlier such as visiting the sick, studying the Scriptures, etc., or else your fast is in vain.

REVERENCE FOR COMMUNION AND OTHER ORDINANCES

If you wish to draw closer to God you

(Continued on Page 2)

DRAWING CLOSER continued . . .

must treat all Gospel ordinances with respect and reverence. Communion represents the body and blood of Christ, and He commanded us to partake of it often in remembrance of Him.

Questions:

1. I feel unworthy because of something I did. Should I take Communion?
2. How long should I refrain from Sacrament?
3. What will those sitting around me think if they see me refuse?
4. I am offended at another member. Can I take Sacrament?
5. What are the consequences of taking Sacrament unworthily?

SEEK TO KNOW AND
UNDERSTAND GOD'S WILL
IN YOUR LIFE

If we want God to use us in His service, we must know and accept His Will. Often we venture out on our own not knowing God's Will. The results are failure, disappointment, and discouragement.

Questions:

1. How can I be sure what God's Will is for me?
2. How can I learn to accept God's Will?

STUDYING THE SCRIPTURES

God has preserved the Holy Scriptures (Bible and Book of Mormon) throughout the centuries. No books have been mistreated more than these two books. Millions of Bibles have been burned in an attempt to destroy the work of God. But God loves us so much that He has kept His Word from extinction. If we really wish to draw closer to God, we must study His word prayerfully.

How to Study:

The following is one suggested method of studying the Word of God.

1. Select a subject such as Faith.
2. Research the Scriptures on Faith and make notes as you go along.
3. Try to learn the following about Faith:

Its importance in your life.

How to exercise it and increase your

Faith.

What relationship does Faith have with works?

Can you please God without Faith?

How to live by Faith.

How to be healed by Faith.

How to draw closer to God by Faith.

Scriptures on Faith: Moroni 7; Alma 32; Hebrews 11; James 2; Romans 12:3; I Peter 1.

There are hundreds of references on Faith. Look them up and you will draw closer to God.

WHAT IS FLESH AND
WHAT IS SPIRIT?

If you wish to draw closer to God you must know how to distinguish the difference between the flesh and the Spirit of God.

John tells us: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God . . ." I John 4:1

Paul said: "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." Romans 8:6

We can be sure of the difference if we live close to God and allow the Holy Ghost to lead, guide, and direct us.

It has and will always be the guiding light that is given to man who has received it at the time of laying on of hands.

The Holy Ghost will give to you the fruits that have been promised and it will also give to each person and to the Church some or all of the gifts. These gifts and fruits will never cease if we seek and do the will of the Father.

GIFTS AND FUNCTIONS OF
THE HOLY GHOST

John 14:15-18

"And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter . . . Even the Spirit of truth."

John 14:26

The Holy Ghost a comforter and teacher.

John 15:26

The Comforter to testify of Jesus.

John 16:13-14

To guide unto all truths and show things to come.

I Corinthians 12:4-11

Diversities of the Spirit:

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Gifts of healings
4. Faith
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Diverse kinds of tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

Galatians 5:22-26

1. Love
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Longsuffering
5. Gentleness
6. Goodness
7. Faith
8. Meekness
9. Temperance

Romans 8:16

"The spirit . . . beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God."

II Peter 1:20-21

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

II Nephi 32:8-9

It teaches man how to pray.

II Nephi 33:1

Holy Ghost opens up hearts of men.

Moroni 10:4-19

Gifts of the Holy Ghost.

(This Seminar material can be obtained from the Print House in booklet form.)

A Miracle

By Brother B. J. Martin

In appreciation of your loving prayers, I write to you of this miracle of God as accepted even by the doctors of this world. I have so much faith in your prayers and feel your prayers have moved the arm of the Lord.

The doctors said that I had to have an operation on my leg or I would lose it, yet they knew I had a heart condition and didn't know if my heart could stand the operation. They performed a heart catheterization and found the main

artery to my heart was blocked completely and the other two arteries were partially blocked. They reasoned that the operation would be no greater shock to my heart than the amputation of my leg, which would have to be done without the operation, so they operated on my leg, plus other operations. My heart stopped twice, and I was in the coronary unit twenty-nine days.

During this time, my condition became very critical and the doctors and nurses had given up and told my wife to call in the family, which she did. All expected that this was the end, and I myself prayed to the Lord if I wasn't going to get well to please take me home quickly, for I was in so much pain.

About this time, my brother, Idris, asked the doctor what would happen if they turned the breathing machine off, and the doctor said that I would stop breathing. (I was on this machine for approximately two weeks.) Idris then said, "If there is no hope then turn the machine off, for I know my brother wouldn't want to live this way." The doctor, with tears upon his face, said to my wife, "Please give me another forty-eight hours, for I love him too. He's like family to me."

So my brother, Idris, went to his branch on that prayer meeting night and asked the brothers and sisters to not pray for me to get well, as they had been, but to pray that if the Lord wasn't going to heal me to take me quickly. The next day I showed improvement, and one day soon after that I heard one of the doctors say, "You're going to make it, you're going to live."

On my visit to the doctor before Thanksgiving, he told me, "You have a lot to be thankful for. We never thought you would see these holidays, so enjoy it."

I told him, "I didn't tell you before doctor, but our Church was praying for you also that you would make the right decision." I could see he was touched visibly. He pointed upward and said, "It wasn't me, but God, and He must like you very much and has something for you to do yet."

I am recovering slowly, and I still need your prayers that I may regain my strength and do what God has for me to do.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Anyone who had any contact with Brother Bud or his family during this ordeal knows that the

Lord was with him as he passed through the valley of the shadow of death and can testify a miracle was performed. We thank God that our brother is now able to attend church services and for the wonderful testimony God has given him. He still is recovering and needs our prayers.

Cape Coral, FL

By Bertha Constantine

The Cape Coral Mission thanks God for the increase of membership in 1983. We also praise the Lord for we now have an MBA, which was organized November 19, 1983. Brother John D'Orazio and Brother Joe Catone, Sr. came from the east coast of Florida to direct the organization of the MBA. We thank God for the large number of young people in our Mission and the interest shown at our meetings.

Brother Bert Sheffler and Sister Leda are now transferred from the Miami Mission and have been very helpful in putting on seminars on the Restored Gospel, which are very interesting and helpful to the saints.

Brother and Sister Eutsey, Sr. and family of Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania, have been transferred to our Mission and are helpful also with the MBA. A Thanksgiving play, given by the young brother and sister, was a blessing to all who attended.

Brother and Sister J. Hickman and family of New Bern, North Carolina, visited the Mission for a few days and attended the Thanksgiving meeting. All were glad to see them.

It was a beautiful Sunday, November 20, 1983, the day after our MBA Organization Meeting, to see eight elders on the rostrum. Brother John D'Orazio from Lake Worth, Florida, opened the meeting; Brother Joe Catone, Sr. followed and both talked on faith, a very interesting sermon and many beautiful words spoken. Many brothers and sisters visiting from Miami, Ft. Pierce and Hollywood attended. We could all say the Lord surely blessed us and our cup runneth over and it was good to be there. Praise His name, because He lives.

We had a new young brother baptized on January 1, 1984—Gerald Hildenbrand, son of Brother and Sister

Mike Hildenbrand. Brother Mike baptized his son. We are happy to begin the New Year with a new candidate. Brother Gerald made his decision at the New Years Eve Watch Meeting, where brothers and sisters meet for a covered dish supper and have a meeting of singing and praising God for His goodness toward each and every one of us. May God bless our new convert and keep him under the shadow of His wing, as we know they will be the Church of tomorrow.

Brother Ray and Sister Mary Cosetti are with us for the winter months. We always look forward to seeing our visiting brothers and sisters.

Remember us in prayer as there is much affliction among us in Cape Coral. Our prayers are for all of you.

In Memory of My Brother, James Curry

By Esther Andrews

The last time I talked to my brother, James Curry, he related a dream he had many years ago:

He was carrying a beautiful basket of grapes and going from house to house to give them away. But to no avail; no one wanted them. He stood in the middle of the street, head down in sorrow because no one wanted the grapes. He looked up the street and saw an elderly woman. Her hair and clothes were in disarray. She grabbed the basket of grapes and ran away.

After he had this dream, his one desire was to see Israel have the Gospel. He likened the woman as being Israel.

Just before he passed away, Sister Cindy Onorato, my granddaughter, had a dream that he crossed a bridge carrying an amethyst (a precious, purple stone of crystallized quartz).

At Christmas time, he sent me a card and said, "I'm thinking of the dream Cindy had. Read Revelations 21:19":

And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of

(Continued on Page 4)

IN MEMORY continued . . .

precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; . . . the twelfth, an amethyst."

Many wonderful things he told me of the things of the Lord are still on my mind.

A Tribute to Brother Andrew Hertneky

By Brother Joseph Perri

Brother Andrew Hertneky, born April 8, 1894, passed on to his eternal reward on November 25, 1983. He would have been 90 years young on April 8, 1984.

Brother Andrew met the Church in a miraculous way (described later in this article). He was baptized by Brother Louis Mazzeo on June 25, 1933, and having embraced the Gospel with his total energies, he was called and ordained into the office of deacon, in which office he has served the Hopelawn Branch until his recent illness. June 25, 1983 was his fiftieth year (Golden Anniversary) as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To have had the opportunity to serve in the same branch with him was indeed a blessing, and I am sure every member of the Hopelawn Branch feels the same as I do.

As stated earlier in this article, it was indeed a miraculous way in which Brother Andrew met the Church, although at that time Sister Anna (his wife) was very ill. It was indeed very sad at the time for Brother Andrew to experience his wife being very sick. Doctors gave little or no chance for her recovery.

One day Sister Anna's brother, who was a member of the Church, came to their home to visit his sister, and seeing her so sick mentioned that he was attending the true Church of Jesus Christ and that miracles were performed there. Brother Andrew, upon hearing this from his brother-in-law said, "You see your sister so seriously ill and you have waited until now to tell us of such a Church?" Plans were made

to attend the next meeting, which was on a Wednesday night. Brother Andrew's wife had to be carried into the meeting because she could no longer walk. It was at this meeting place (a converted car garage) that God did show His love and His mighty healing power. After a prayer request, she was anointed, and praise be to God, she was healed. She no longer had to be carried but walked home under her own strength. Very shortly thereafter, Sister Anna was baptized with Brother Andrew being baptized a week or so later. We can quote the words of the hymn we often sing, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way, His Wonders to Perform."

As time passed, the Hopelawn Mission began to grow and plans were made to erect a church building where it presently stands. Brother Andrew, along with a group of brothers, many of whom have gone on to their reward, dug a foundation, poured the footing, erected the walls, roof, etc. and completed the building in which we presently worship God. Our brother labored many hours, days, weeks, months, and also contributed of his money from the start to the finish of the building. This does not take away from others who also labored to erect the House of God.

Being unemployed at the time, Brother Andrew did not look for work purposely so he could labor to finish the church building. He was encouraged by his wife to do so, to remain until its completion and that God would provide. On the very day the building was completed, someone came to the home of Brother and Sister Hertneky stating that work was being provided for Brother Andrew. God certainly did provide in a very rewarding way because Brother Andrew was able to be employed until his retirement. He was an electrician by trade.

Brother Andrew was present at every meeting—to open our church building and to greet the saints as they entered. He stood to testify on Sunday afternoons of God's blessings in his life. Many times being ill, his strong desire was to be in attendance at church services. His most recent illness proved to be a trial for him as well as for his family, but through it all they did not give up but continued to say, "God's will be done." When we would visit him at his bedside at home or in the hospital, he expressed his desire to want to be with the saints and that he was ready to meet his God anytime he would be called from this life. It could be said of him, and

without reservation, that he was a true saint of God.

The Hopelawn Branch, together with his family, will miss him very much. Someday there will be a great reunion in heaven because Jesus Christ made it possible. "What a joy will be there at the great resurrection when the saints meet in air with their robes of perfection." The poet has put these words together very beautifully.

To his family we extend our deepest sympathy and express that we shall not forget you in our prayers. I conclude this tribute to Brother Andrew with the following dream had by Brother Ron Kepics of San Diego, California on the night of November 22, 1983:

I dreamed that my mother and I were going to visit the Hertneky family. In my dream we had just gotten out of the car and were standing on the sidewalk a ways down from the house. We began to walk up to the house, and as we were walking we saw Brother Andrew Hertneky walking towards us. As he drew closer to us he began to wave and greet us. He was walking in the direction of Pennsylvania Avenue, away from the Hertneky home.

I asked him how he felt. He replied that he was very tired. Then my mom, Sister Grace Kepics, asked if she could give him a ride to wherever he was going. Brother Andrew replied, 'No, I'm going home now.' My mom and I looked at each other in a very confused way because he was walking away from his home. We both turned around and saw Brother Andrew walk into a dense white cloud. A bright light appeared in the cloud as if the sun were trying to burn through it. The cloud then disappeared and Brother Andrew was gone. I then awoke from my dream.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank the saints that contributed pajamas for our work in the Bowery. You do not know how much you have done in showing these men that have been forgotten by everyone, that some one cares. It has shown that our concern is not only from our lips, but from our hearts. The authorities have expressed their thanks to us and

(Continued on Page 6)

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As the time of year comes upon us when much of the world observes and celebrates the crucifixion and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, we who have the knowledge of the Restoration have even more reason to rejoice.

Truly the *Book of Mormon* offers us a more complete understanding of the plan of God, revealed to us in the plain words that were given to Joseph Smith by the gift and power of the Holy Ghost.

While the rest of the Christian world acknowledges and understands to some extent the significance of Christ's atonement on the cross, they cannot, without the *Book of Mormon*, read as we do of God's Will being carried out even in the transgression of Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden.

God's divine purpose in driving our first parents from the garden, and that early event's relationship to the death and resurrection of Christ some 4,000 years later, along with the related balance between mercy and justice and the understanding of the need for repentance, are subjects that were understood and written about by Lehi, King Benjamin, Alma, and Moroni, among others. Taken together, their accounts of the plan of redemption form a clear picture which has no equal in the Old and New Testaments of the *Bible*. As the privileged recipients of this deeper understanding of God's plan, it behooves us to make ourselves thoroughly familiar with these scriptures.

An example of the added understanding we are afforded through reading the *Book of Mormon* lies in the answer to a question that has been asked many times, I'm sure, by many different people. That question is: "Wouldn't it have been better if Adam and Eve had never partaken of the forbidden fruit? Wouldn't mankind have lived happily in the garden of Eden forever?"

Through our knowledge of the *Book of Mormon*, we in The Church of Jesus Christ can answer that question with a passage of scripture which clarifies the matter for us in a plain, straightforward manner. In the second chapter of II Nephi, we read in verses 22-26:

And now, behold, if Adam had not transgressed he would not have fallen, but he would have remained in the garden of Eden. And all things which were created must have remained in the same state in which they were after they were created; and they must have remained forever, and had no end.

And they would have had no children; wherefore they would have remained in a state of innocence, having no joy, for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin.

But behold, all things have been done in the wisdom of him who knoweth all things.

Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.

And the Messiah cometh in the fulness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall they have become free forever, knowing good from evil; to act for themselves and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the law at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given.

Truly, we cannot help but rejoice and give all thanks to God for the many mysteries He has caused to be unfolded in the pages of the *Book of Mormon*. Putting all mysteries aside, however, the underlying theme of the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon* are the same, as spoken by Jesus Christ: "I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live." (John 11:25) Let us put our faith and trust in that Resurrection, and apply ourselves more diligently to the task before us.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The King Who Cried

Dear Girls and Boys,

Hezekiah was one of the three most perfect kings of Judah. Although he was only twenty-five years old when he came to power, he led his people firmly and wisely.

He cleaned out idol-worshipping from his country, and God blessed the nation of Judah. They grew an abundance of crops and livestock, and God also protected the little country from being destroyed by the Assyrians.

Yet trouble struck even this good king. He became very ill, and none of his doctors could cure him.

The prophet Isaiah came with this message from God: "Set your house (life) in order, for you are going to die, and not live."

Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed unto the Lord, weeping terribly. He told the Lord, "I beg you Lord, remember how I have walked before you in truth with a perfect heart, and done that which is good in your sight."

Isaiah was not even out of the palace from delivering his first message when God ordered him to go back to Hezekiah's sick bed and tell him, "I have heard your prayers and seen your tears: behold I will heal you. On the third day you will be able to get up and go unto the house of God."

Then God added, "I will defend and deliver this city from the Assyrians and give you fifteen more years to live."

Isaiah gave Hezekiah the Lord's message and told him to treat his terribly infected sore (a boil) with figs.

But Hezekiah asked Isaiah what sign

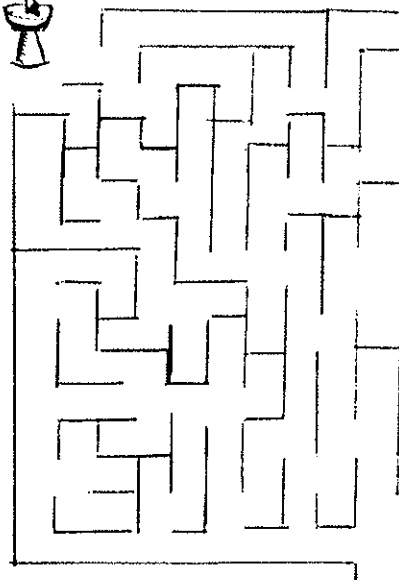
he had from God that he would be healed and able to go to the temple on the third day.

Isaiah looked at the sundial there in the courtyard and replied, "This sign you will have that the Lord will do as he said; do you want time, the shadow, to go forward ten degrees or backwards ten degrees?"

Hezekiah answered, "It's easy for time to go forward ten degrees, it always goes forward. Let my sign be that the shadow will go backwards!"

Isaiah the prophet cried unto the Lord and the shadow of time went backwards for ten degrees.

This then is what God did for his servants in the days gone by. This is the same God we serve today and let us all remember, as the scriptures teach us, "God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow."



Help King Hezekiah find the sundial.

NOTE OF THANKS continued . . .

have gone out of their way to make us welcome and needed.

Our meetings average from ten to twenty men who show the greatest interest in listening and knowing that the Church cares. It has given them something to grasp hold of—a hope in calling on their God.

However, this week our hearts are saddened in the passing of our beloved Brother Frank Zaher, whose testimony was an inspiration to the men there. His dedication to the Church has left a void that we will not be able to fill easily.

Brother Frank came to Brooklyn in 1955, a broken and destitute man, and his brother-in-law, Brother John Onorato said, "This man is going to die in my house if he keeps drinking the way he is."

However, as the brothers from the Church came around, a few at a time, he began to be drawn to the Church. His niece, Sister Dorothy, would invite him to Church and something caused him to investigate. One day while walking home from the bar, he heard a voice, "Frank, today you will stop drinking." And he said, "Yes." He said that he would lie in bed crying himself to sleep.

We could write many things here in reference to our brother's dedication to Brooklyn, the Bowery, and also the Maine Mission, but the Lord is the One who will give to every man their just reward.

There is a light that lightens every man that has come to his Redeemer, a light that lightens the inner soul and is eternal. The beauty of the Gospel has a way of touching every one who comes to that light. Oh, the wonder of God is all amazing!

We are continuing on in the work, a little saddened, but not discouraged. To the saints that have given to the work we do say, "Thank you and God bless you."

We are accepting men's used pajamas of all sizes.

Brother Matthew Rogolino



MBA Highlights

November GMBA 1983

November 12, 1983 featured cold weather but a nice turnout for Saturday's GMBA business meeting. Areas represented included the Atlantic Coast, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio and Pennsylvania. After introductory remarks by GMBA President, John Griffith, and Chaplain, Mark Kovacic, the roll call of officers was taken, and the minutes of the May 21, 1983 conference were read. Several items of unfinished business that were discussed included the GMBA letterhead selection, menu suggestions for improving attendance at conference cafeteria meals, procurement of audio visual equipment, and an update on the "Religious Awareness Pamphlet". Also, a letter of thanks to the GMBA for its support of the World Missionary Conference from the General Church was presented to the GMBA Conference body.

Officers' reports from the librarian, financial secretary, treasurer, historian, relief committee and activities committee were presented. All the details are included in the GMBA minutes (which should be read aloud in **your** local MBA during the next six months!).

Area Presidents from Florida, Pennsylvania, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio and

the Atlantic Coast gave encouraging reports of good activity in their respective areas. For example, Brother Jim Miller from Florida (attending his first GMBA Conference) reported that "Sunshine State" activities included singspirations, seminars, area picnics and special open discussion meetings for teenagers only to answer their questions. Activity was the "Keystone" for a successful year in the Pennsylvania Area, according to Area President, Brother David DeLuca. Support for the missionary work in Ghana was given to Brother Ford Boadu in the form of a portable P. A. system. A hayride at the Griffith farms turned out to be quite enjoyable, as a large group of young and old enjoyed hearty refreshments, a warm bonfire, and riding in trailers of hay while singing hymns and socializing!

Atlantic Coast Area Organizer, Brother Domenick Rose, reported that their group had a ski outing, an area campout, and a singspiration in Hopelawn. Ohio Area Organizer, Brother Stacey Light, reported a successful 4th of July retreat weekend in Perry. Our MBA members of the "Buckeye State" are active supporters of the work among the American Indians, holding a Thanksgiving dinner at the Akron Indian Center and supporting weekly meetings at the Kilvert Indian Center.

The Michigan-Ontario Area recently shipped several parcels of basic medical supplies to India. Area President, Brother John Buffa, also reported that their area hosted a visit from the GMBA President and enjoyed a healthy turnout

at a hot dog roast and visit to the Saline Mission.

Campout for 1984 will be held at Massanetta Springs (Harrisonburg, Virginia) on July 1 (Sunday) through July 7 (Saturday), 1984, as selected by the Conference body from a group of five possible choices. A letter signed by 80-90 members from Florida requesting a central location proved to be a strong influence in this decision.

Newly elected officers of the GMBA are as follows:

Chaplain	—Paul Ciotti (Pennsylvania)
Financial Sec.	—Brian Martorana (Ohio)
Area Organizer	—Joseph Catone, Sr. (Florida)
Area Organizer	—Mark Kovacic (Florida)
Area Organizer	—Steve Champine (Michigan-Ontario)
Area Organizer	—James Alessio (Ohio)
Area Organizer	—Brian Martorana (Ohio)

The Saturday evening program was presented by the Pennsylvania Area MBA Choir under the direction of Sister Nina DiCenzo. The theme of the program was "GMBA Campout Blessings". Highlighting memories of campouts from their beginnings in the mid-1960's up to Campout 1982, the Choir presented medleys of camp theme songs. The joy in recalling past blessings at our GMBA Campouts brought smiles to the faces of all those in attendance!

A tentative schedule* for the rotation for GMBA Conference responsibilities was established through November, 1986 as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Kitchen Help</u>	<u>Program</u>
May, 1984	Michigan-Ontario	Pennsylvania	Ohio
November, 1984	Pennsylvania	Michigan-Ontario	Atlantic Coast
May, 1985	Ohio	Atlantic Coast	Michigan-Ontario
November, 1985	Pennsylvania	Ohio	Pennsylvania
May, 1986	Atlantic Coast	Pennsylvania	Ohio
November, 1986	Pennsylvania	Michigan-Ontario	Atlantic Coast

*Other Areas' requests to participate would be honored if presented in sufficient time to reschedule.

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Inner-City

"I felt a responsibility to the Indian nation . . . that maybe if I made my commitment to the Lord, others would follow. Also my singing . . . that maybe my singing would inspire others to follow the Lord too."

Linda Cross . . . I mean . . . **Sister** Linda, had been attending the Detroit, Inner-City Branch for the past five years and finally made her covenant with the Lord on September 11, 1983.

Just two weeks later, our new sister and her friend, Ken, who had been attending services for about a year, were enjoying the service, listening to testimonies of the brothers and sisters. Linda said that during the testimonies she was **begging** the Lord to touch Ken

and inspire him to ask for his baptism.

Ken said, "I was affected by something so powerful that I couldn't stop it."

Praise the Lord! (I say those words sincerely.) Before the testimony service was over, Floyd Kenneth Bevins arose calmly (at least exteriorly), but with a true sincerity and an unwavering determination in his voice, and stated his desire for baptism.

A new sister!!! and a new brother!!! That's two more to adorn the beautiful family of the Lord. And it is the desire and prayer of the brothers and sisters here in the Inner-City Branch, along with all of you saints throughout, that the Lord would send more, for "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."



Brother Joe Milantoni baptizing Linda Cross.



A very happy Sister Linda.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Michele Davella, Branch Editor

It was Sunday, September 16, 6:00 a.m. when the brothers and sisters boarded the bus at the Hopelawn Branch, New Jersey to arrive at our destination—Herndon, Virginia. Every seat was filled with brothers and sisters from Hopelawn, Metuchen, Bronx and Levittown. We enjoyed ourselves very much singing *The Songs of Zion*. They are a great inspiration to us; and what added to this beautiful journey, Brother Nick Davella was the driver of the bus.

We finally arrived at our destination, where we were greeted by the brothers and sisters of Herndon.

We opened with Hymn No. 8, *How Happy Are They*.

Brother Chatman Young of Herndon, Virginia, opened the meeting in prayer. Brother Julius Kovacs of the Hopelawn Branch introduced the meeting with Mosiah 15 and also on Colossians. Brother Chatman and Brother Paul Benyola of Levittown were inspired to continue the words that were spoken.

The brothers and sisters were inspired by a beautiful testimony meeting. Brother Paul Benyola closed in prayer. The sisters of the Herndon Branch prepared a delicious lunch before our departure. We truly enjoyed ourselves with the brothers and sisters of the Herndon Branch. May God bless them and always be with them.

P.S. Brother Paul Carr, his wife, Tressa, and three children are in Nigeria, West Africa. May we remember them in prayer.

We all enjoyed a beautiful day on Sunday, September 18, 1983, at the Atlantic Coast District Conference. We were privileged to have in our meeting Brother Frank Calabrese and Brother Russell Cadman. It was also the day Brother Leonard Benyola of the Hopelawn Branch was ordained into the ministry.

Brother Julius Kovacs washed Brother Leonard's feet and Brother Russell Cadman ordained him into the ministry.

We could surely say a beautiful spirit was felt in the prayers that were offered

for our ordained brother.

Brother Leonard Benyola commented on how good it is to belong to the family of Christ and related some of the beautiful experiences that God gave him to come into the ministry.

We can all say that it is good to be in the house of the Lord.

God's spirit was present in Hopelawn, New Jersey as three brothers were ordained October 30, 1983, into spiritual offices of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Ralph Mercurio was ordained a teacher, Brother Scott Wolfe was ordained a deacon, and Brother Kevin Perri was also ordained a deacon. We can surely say the Lord has been very gracious to His people. We have been blessed with many beautiful meetings, but our meeting on October 30 was outstanding.

The ordinations of our three brothers took place as follows:

Brother Ralph Mercurio—His feet were washed by Brother Leonard Benyola, and he was ordained by Brother Paul Benyola.

Brother Kevin Perri—His feet were washed by Brother Paul Benyola, and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Faragasso.

Brother Scott Wolfe—His feet were washed by Brother Jim Speck, and he was ordained by Brother Joseph Perri.

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

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

On November 7, 1983, Donna Giles Rossi felt the spirit of repentance upon her and called Brother Paul Palmieri and requested baptism. Her desire was fulfilled as she was baptized at the Imperial baptismal site on November 9, 1983. A good representation of members and friends alike from both the Aliquippa and Imperial Branches were on hand to witness the baptism.

The confirmation was held that evening at our Wednesday evening service.

Brother Chuck Jumper introduced the service by thanking God that another soul had been added to the fold. He also read from III Nephi, making reference to the disciples bearing record of the Holy Ghost. After the elders knelt in a circle and prayer was offered by Brother Tom Ross, Brother Joe Ross confirmed Sister Donna. The highlight of the evening was Sister Donna's first testimony. She bore witness of how the Lord had been working with her since her husband, Brother Darrell Rossi, had introduced her to the Gospel 4½ years earlier. Many others expressed their gratefulness unto God for being a part of their lives.

All that were present received a special blessing witnessing a manifestation of the spirit of God upon yet another soul. May God bless our new sister as she grows in this wonderful Gospel.

Tucson, AZ

By Grace Brutz

We greet you all in the love of Christ. We also pray that God might bless each one of you and fill your lives with His wonderful love and grace.

This past year has been a most difficult one for our small Branch. Brother Anthony Brutz, who has had a by-pass operation, has experienced other problems which made it difficult for him. Brother Paul Francione also suffered a great deal with problems of the pancreas and gall bladder. Also, Sister Grace Francione, who is now 89 years old, is failing in body and is now confined to her home and bed. She has been a wonderful and very faithful sister, a true servant of God, and a great example to us all. We ask for your prayers for the sick and the families that care for them.

While this past year had its trials, etc. we also experienced many wonderful blessings. Thank God for the brothers who spoke to us and taught us from the holy scriptures and filled us with joy and hope, even though many times we were just a few. God also blessed us with two new converts. First, Richard Roach, Debbie Christman Roach's husband, surrendered himself to the Lord. Even before he was baptized, he had a great desire to attend church on Sundays, but because of work he could not attend. So he prayed and asked us all to pray that

God would somehow grant him his wish. Not long after, he testified that God answered our prayers because now they were giving him Sunday off. Soon after this experience he asked for his baptism. Not long ago, we had our first baptism performed in Tucson. A young man from Ohio, Steve Espenschied, came and visited with us for a while before asking for his baptism. The Lord poured out His spirit that day and filled his heart with joy and happiness. Please pray for our new brothers.

There are a number of the children of the saints from throughout the country who live and work or go to school in Tucson. We try to keep in touch and encourage them to attend, but not too successfully. Please pray to God in their behalf, that their hearts might be changed and that they might be convinced of the truth of the Gospel. What a big difference this would be to our Branch.

As we start the new year, a new beginning, we thank God for His goodness, and we pray that God might manifest Himself in the hearts of men that His peace might reign on the earth. God bless you all and we love you all.

Roscoe, PA

By Bertha Jean Bilskey

On January 5, 1984, we had a special meeting during our regular MBA night to have an evening of fellowship with Brother Jerry and Sister Carol Rao and family in mind. Brother Jerry found work in Virginia, and Sister Carol and the children were going to leave that weekend to make their home there with him. Many were in attendance, with some coming from Monongahela to bid them God's blessing.

Some special selections were sung, along with one of Sister Carol's favorite hymns, *The Sea So Great Lord, My Boat So Small*. We felt that this is somewhat how they must feel as they venture out to Virginia and their new home there. There were several testimonies and God's spirit prevailed among us. Refreshments were served afterwards.

They will be greatly missed at our Branch in Roscoe, as they had a great part in our services and activities here. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless them in their new home in Woodridge, Virginia, and that they will be a great blessing in that part of the vineyard.

Miami, FL

By Eileen Katsaras

Miami Mission was pleased to have visiting with us Brother Mark Randy from Modesto, California. He arrived the last week in December and was present at our New Year's Watch Meeting. We enjoyed his inspiring talks to us. We also had visiting Miami Brother Dominic Moraca and his family, and we enjoyed his words also. We missed Brother Alvin Swanson because he was too sick to attend our meeting.

Brother Mark Randy visited us in our homes as well as our meetings. He was a great inspiration to us and encouraged each one of us as he visited each one of our members. He traveled around Florida and came back to Miami, and we enjoyed one last meeting with him where he asked each of us to give our testimony. We also had visiting with us Sister Betty Gennaro from Youngstown, Ohio, and we enjoyed hearing her testimony. We were thrilled to hear our newly-baptized brother's testimony, Brother Armando Barreiro, and how touched he was and thankful to God for what he has found. He wants to help all those in the world who are in the darkness because he knows he has now found the Light. As we joined hands in closing prayer and Brother Mark Randy prayed for us, we too prayed for his safe return to California.

Since January 1, Brother Alvin Swanson has had his life renewed, and we are thankful that he is once again in our midst and his desire is to continue laboring for the Church, which is an inspiration to us all.

We were pleased to start off the New Year with a baptism in Miami. Brother Armando Barreiro, Jr., our young brother, was baptized in the Atlantic Ocean on Miami Beach on January 15, 1984. Brother Mark Kovacic baptized him, and he was confirmed by Brother Alvin Swanson.

Brother Armando has just recently come in contact with the Gospel. Sister Diana Salinas had asked us to pray for him a few months ago, since she knew he was searching for the truth. He has quickly understood the doctrine of the Church and with sincerity asked questions and was touched at our Wednesday night MBA and said he had wanted to complete reading the *Bible* and *Book*

of *Mormon* before making a decision, but the Lord touched him and he knows he found the Truth.

Brother Armando was born in Havana, Cuba and came to this country at a young age. His parents visited our Church and were happy for their son's baptism. We are hopeful that the Lord will start moving on the Spanish people in Miami. We ask your continued prayers on behalf of our little Mission.

Glassport, PA

By Eileen Nolfi, Branch Editor

On January 1, 1984, the Glassport Branch had visiting its Sunday morning service Brother Ken, Sister Sharon and Cameron Staley from the Aliquippa Branch. We were also privileged to have in our midst visitors who have been attending our meetings throughout the past year.

Brother Alma Nolfi introduced the meeting using for his text II Samuel 9. During the course of his preaching, he extended the invitation to our visitors to "come and dine" at the King's table. At the conclusion of Brother Alma's sermon, Brother Ken Staley stood and stated that he felt moved upon to sing a hymn. Brother David Nolfi, the Presiding Elder, said that we should follow the direction of the Spirit of God and invited our brother to come forward and sing. With his wife accompanying him, Brother Ken sang number 99 in the Saints Hymnal, *The Twenty-Third Psalm*. We could feel the Spirit of God being made manifest as Brother Ken was singing. At the conclusion of the solo, Brother Ken's natural brother, Tommy Staley, stood upon his feet and asked to be baptized. Tommy stated that he had fought this calling for quite a long time but admitted that he could not put it off any longer.

Many that were present, including our visitors, shed tears of joy for the blessing that was evident in Brother Tommy's calling. At the termination of our morning meeting, I related the following experience:

"As I was showering, around 9:30 a.m. this morning, I began to cry. I became so filled with the Spirit of God that my heart began to pound within my chest. I have never experienced anything like this before in my life. It was given to me that Brother Ken would sing a hymn and that Tommy

then would break down and cry. I understood that when Brother Ken would finish singing that Tommy would stand and ask for his baptism. I thank God for this beautiful experience."

We dismissed and our entire congregation, including those we had telephoned to come and witness the baptism, came to the river's edge. Although the temperature was below freezing and the shoreline was caked with ice, our desire to see a soul born again was undaunted. Brother David Nolfi used a pick to break through the five or so inches of ice. Once Tommy had been led out into the water, it became evident that more ice had to be cleared away before the baptism could be performed. Both Brother David and Tommy removed several chunks of ice before Tommy was immersed into the watery grave. It was a chilling experience, but the Spirit of God (like a fire) warmed our hearts. We bravely bore the elements to witness the surrendering of a soul to Jesus Christ.

The first order of business at our afternoon service was the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. One and all shed tears of joy as Brother John Ali confirmed Brother Tommy into The Church of Jesus Christ. The remainder of our afternoon meeting was taken up with the many testimonies of the brothers, sisters and friends who all gave thanks for having enjoyed such an outpouring of the Spirit of God throughout the day. Each extended their prayers and support to our new brother as he starts out on this new path of life. We also enjoyed Brother Tommy's first testimony—broken-hearted, tearful and filled with the utmost praise unto God.

We give all thanks to God for a wonderful day spent in His service. Our prayer is that in the not too distant future we will soon return to the river's edge to see another soul render obedience to Jesus Christ. God bless you all!

Monongahela, PA

On Sunday, July 3, 1983, the members and friends of the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ welcomed a new sister into the fold. Sister Holly Crosier was baptized by Brother John Griffith and later confirmed by Brother James Moore, Jr. who was visiting from the Imperial Branch.

Sister Holly is the daughter of Brother Jim and Sister Ethel Crosier. It is always a blessing to witness one of the children of the saints renderring obedience to the Gospel. Our sincere prayer is that Sister Holly will be richly blessed in her new endeavor of life.

On December 6 the Monongahela Ladies' Circle held a papoose shower. Those attending were asked to bring gifts which could be used in layettes to send to needy Indian mothers. For more than fifteen years our Circle has been sending the layettes to native Americans in Pittsburgh, Arizona, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. The baby gifts are usually donated by Circle members. But the shower gave others an opportunity to help with the layettes and also provided us with an evening of fellowship. Many gifts, including blankets, sleepers, booties, and other necessary baby items, were received.

The layettes are much appreciated by the mothers, and they give our Circle a chance to do missionary work for the Church.

In order to spread a little Christmas spirit, the Monongahela Branch went caroling on December 18. Visits were made to Haven Crest, an area nursing home, and to many shut-ins from the Branch. Gifts of fruit baskets and a grocery basket were given to the shut-ins. After singing, we met at a sister's home to enjoy the fellowship of the brothers and sisters. It was a time enjoyed by all, and we felt blessed in bringing to others some Christmas cheer.

A going-away dinner was held for Brother Fred, Sister Charlotte, and Jason Olexa at the Monongahela Branch on December 10. Plenty of food and fellowship were available as over 80 people gathered in honor of the Olexa family, who will be leaving for Ohio soon. There was much reminiscing of past events and best wishes for the future. Sister Charlotte said that wherever they go in the Church they will be at home. May God bless the Olexas in their new location. They will be greatly missed.

Hollywood, FL

The manner which the disciples, who were called the elders of the church, ordained priests and teachers . . . Moroni 3:1

On November 5, 1983, the status of the Hollywood Branch reflected three elders, three deacons, and three deaconesses (although all three elders were teachers). On November 6, 1983, the status of the Branch underwent an uplift as Brother Paul DiNardo and Brother Doug Obradovich were ordained into the office of teacher.

In an article submitted earlier by Hollywood, it was learned that the ministry of the local had petitioned the Lord for the purpose of filling vacant offices. Soon afterwards, this merciful God answered the priesthood and called Brother Johnny Catone to the office of deacon. The elders have continued in their fasting and praying and have again moved the Hand of God and He has called these young brothers to serve His saints as teachers.

On this beautiful Sunday afternoon, Hollywood witnessed its small building flourish with saints from visiting branches, such as Miami, Lake Worth, Fort Pierce, and even Cape Coral and Tampa. Just to see all of these brothers and sisters would have filled everyones cups, but the afternoon was a feast of blessings.

Brother Frank Rogolino, visiting from Ft. Pierce, opened the meeting by expressing the joy he has felt in serving God. He told many experiences and highlighted one especially. When he was serving as a teacher years ago, he felt he had too much to do and he was so alone and he prayed in this manner. This is when God spoke to him and told Brother Frank that He was with him. How soothing to hear such wonderful words of our Comforter.

Following Brother Frank was another visitor, Brother Duane Lowe of the Tampa Branch. He told of his relationship with both of the two young brothers. He also told of the excitement he has experienced in watching them grow. His sermon was encouraging, not only for our two brothers, but also for all who were present.

Brother Mark Kovacic of Miami then read from II Timothy 2:24, 25 and explained this office of teacher. He told all present to utilize these brothers in their

callings, as this was the blessing he had received in this office. He also told Brother Paul and Brother Doug that this calling can often be difficult, but it is always rewarding. His "gentle" words of instruction were edifying to all.

Brother Dennis Moraco, the Presiding Elder, then called Brothers Paul and Doug forward to participate in the ordinance of feet washing. Saints and friends felt the pleasant spirit of humility as Brother Joe Catone, Sr. washed Brother Paul's feet and Brother Joey Catone, Jr. washed Brother Doug's feet.

And after they had prayed unto the Father in the name of Christ, they laid their hands upon them. . . Moroni 3:2

Brother Alvin Swanson laid hands on Brother Paul and Brother Duane Lowe laid hands on Brother Doug in the same manner the elders had done on this land some nineteen hundred years ago. And they were ordained.

Brother Dennis opened the meeting for testimony, and the brothers and sisters expressed themselves. Many told experiences concerning the two brothers and their callings. It was inspiring to hear that God still calls and assuring to know that His Holy Priesthood still listens.

In the name of Jesus Christ I ordain you to be a priest, (or if he be a teacher) I ordain you to be a teacher, to preach repentance and remission of sins through Jesus Christ, by the endurance of faith on his name to the end . . . Moroni 3:3

The Hollywood Branch has plans to "utilize" these brothers and allow them the freedom to obey this prayer and commandment. We also pray for continued growth, both spiritually and temporally. The Hollywood Branch celebrates this growth as it begins another new journey towards Zion. Again, the beach sand is swept off the "Welcome Mat" and the Branch extends itself to all who are ready and willing to work towards this Zion along with them . . . and enjoy the comfort of the Sonshine.

Amen.

New Arrivals

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

Jocelynn Nicole to Albert and Cindy Giannetti of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Alyssa Marie to Frank and Janice Rossi of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania;

Kari Lynn to Dan and Paulette Griesbaum of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1;

Mario to Frank and Mary Lopez of Detroit, Michigan, Inner-City Branch;

Christopher Michael to Larry and Michele (Batalucco) Hoelscher of Ypsilanti, Michigan;

Andrea Marie to Mark and DeLinda Santilli of Eatontown, New Jersey.

OBITUARIES

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

WILDA JANE COLLISON

Sister Wilda Jane Collison passed away on October 12, 1983. A native of Finleyville, Pennsylvania, she came to Fort Pierce, Florida from Windsor, Canada eight years ago. She was born on November 4, 1932 and was baptized on September 6, 1951.

Brothers Charles E. Smith and Alvin Swanson officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Collison is survived by her husband, Robert, five sons, two daughters, two sisters, two brothers, and three grandchildren.

DOUGLAS DRAKE

Mr. Douglas Drake, son of Sister Norma and Steve Drake, passed away on June 19, 1983. He was born on August 22, 1956.

He is also survived by his grandparents, Brother George and Sister Martha Ondrasik.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Bob Buffington.

JOSEPH PANDONE

Brother Joseph Pandone passed away from this life on

March 18, 1983. Born on October 12, 1900, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on April 14, 1922.

Brothers T. D. Bucci and Donald Pandone of the Youngstown Branch officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Pandone is survived by his wife, Sister Antoinette, five daughters, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, one brother and one sister.

JOSEPH BERARDINO

Mr. Joseph Berardino of Youngstown, Ohio, passed away on March 20, 1983. He is survived by his wife, stepchildren, two brothers and six sisters.

Brother Henry Cardillo conducted the funeral services and was assisted by Brother Joseph Genaro.

NILDA BUOSCIO

Sister Nilda Buoscio, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio, passed away on May 8, 1983. She was born on July 25, 1914 and baptized on November 6, 1932.

Brothers A. A. Corrado and Ralph Berardino conducted the funeral service.

Sister Nilda is survived by her husband, Ronald, one son, three daughters, seven grandchildren, two brothers and one sister.

GRACE D'ANGELO

Sister Grace D'Angelo of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1, passed away on January 6, 1984. She was born on April 13, 1890 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 29, 1935.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo officiated at the funeral, assisted by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

Sister Grace leaves to mourn her passing four children, eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

EDITH LEASURE

Sister Edith Leasure of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on January 11, 1984. She was born on January 1, 1903 and baptized on May 4, 1969.

She is survived by two daughters, two sons, fifteen grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, three sisters and one brother.

Brother Matthew Laktash officiated at the funeral service.

The Gospel News

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

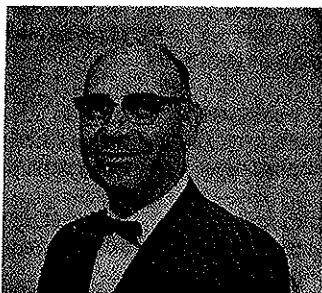
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April, 1984

Volume 40, No. 4

Let Love Prevail

By Mark Randy, Evangelist



Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Hebrews 11:3

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6

The above words of life are effectual and monumental.

In this life we must have a cross to bear because without a cross there will be no crown. Blessed are those who bear theirs with patience, for they shall be called the children of God. They shall be delivered from all adversities, and one day they shall sing a new song of redeeming grace.

Once I was lamenting for our infirmities; today I praise our living Redeemer for each day and find something that is joyous, yes, something good that I see and hear—

something that is praiseworthy. And do you know? I always manage to enjoy something, because I look for it.

One day when I could hardly breathe in the hospital, the oxygen in my nostril, there was one particular nurse who made up her mind to be mostly by my bedside. When her shift was over she came to reassure me and carefully instructed her next assigned nurse that I would have the special care I needed. One Sunday she came to me and said, "There is a special choir program I know you will enjoy." She turned it on and made sure the sound was just right. As she watched me she said, "I know you are going to be all right."

Was she God-sent or just an affectionate young nurse? Whichever, she made my healing process much easier. Even in old age, Jacob, blind and helpless, felt something beautiful in his heart as his son, whom he thought dead, brought the two young grandsons, and in the usual manner placed the older one on the right side of his father and the younger on the left side. Jacob said to Joseph, "I had not thought to see your face, and lo, God has shown me also your children." His mind was yet alert, and his heart full of praise. What an ecstasy that must have been in his soul. There are joys for us each day; let us look for them. We will find them because they are there.

I love you very much in Christ. Our life is very beautiful. Let us enjoy it in fullness. Yes, let us not waste our precious time on that which has not much value. Rather look for something good today. It is there. We will see it when we diligently look for it. Above all of this, let us look inside of ourselves; there is something precious there.

When we find the precious jewel inside of us, nurture it, watch it grow as it becomes more beautiful. God gave each one of us a talent, yes, a precious gift. Magnify it and it will surprise you.

We raised a little girl, Callene Culwell, and her sister, Suzette. They were both very sick when we got them. Their eardrums were perforated, and we had them operated on. But our beautiful Callene was epileptic. Yes, we prayed. She would become very discouraged, especially when children would make fun of them. She would go silent for days. That hurt me inside. One day I said, "Callene, you must fight from inside."

She asked, "From inside? How?"

I answered, "We have strength inside of us. The greatest reservoir is inside of us. Fight, Callene, fight not with your fists, but with your spirit. You will win my dear. Learn to fight back with your spirit. We have so much power inside of us as to move mountains. It is locked; you must learn how to unlock it. God will help you, believe it."

"How do you know Dad, how do you know?" she asked.

"I know honey; yes, I know. You see I am hard of hearing—I have been all of my life. I used to fight with my fists, but it did not work. My father was far away, and my mother was too busy raising five children. Besides, I did not want people to know that I was hard of hearing. I suffered in silence. I also prayed, and one day I dreamed that Jesus held me by the hand, smiled and blessed me, and said, 'I love you, Marco.' I thought

(Continued on Page 2)

LET LOVE PREVAIL continued . . .

for sure that my hearing would be opened, but it didn't. But what was unlocked was the reservoir of power within me. I could speak poetry and could make things. Greater than that, I loved people and helped them. And when others would call me deaf, I would still feel sad, and I felt also sad for them because now I felt they didn't understand."

"I will fight from inside like you. I will fight and unlock the power within me, Dad," she said. We embraced and cried together. Callene changed her name to Rose because she loved Rose Lovalvo, who was her Sunday School teacher. She is now married, has a little boy and lives in North Carolina.

Whatever the problem or whoever might cause the problem, fight not the problem; rather find a solution against it. But never forget to find the reservoir of power within you. It is there; everyone has one.

And when you do, what a beautiful life that will be. You are the most wonderful person that ever lived because you are one of a kind, precious, beyond your understanding—yes, you.

Today, we went shopping and saw a most beautiful woman seated in a wheel chair. What looked like her upper thighs were twisted, but her hair was so beautifully set, her face was radiant and an air of happiness seemed to overwhelm her. I think she was the happiest person in the whole crowd as she was wheeled forth. How about you? How do you feel today?

The Unseen

*A tiny favor I did today,
Then I quickly ran away;
'Twas hastily done, with none to see—
Yet, with passing hours:—feeling good:—
my soul so free—
Had someone seen? Then speeding back
o'er the rocky terrace:
Lo! There sprouted fresh, budding flow-
ers:—Nature's fairest.*

Walter Scott Simpson

"It Is Written"

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle



TOPIC: The Consequences of Sin.

In the letter to the Galatians, Paul the Apostle writes, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, so shall he reap." (Galatians 6:7)

From the beginning God has urged His people to keep His commandments and reap the benefits thereof; but, if they did not observe His commandments, the consequences were to be dire ones indeed. Thus said the Lord to Israel, "If ye walk in My statutes and keep My commandments, and do them; then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield its increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit." The Lord then goes on to tell them of the wonderful things that He would do for them. (Leviticus 26:3-13) Then He gives them a warning: "But if ye will not hearken unto Me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that ye will not do all My commandments, but that ye shall break My covenant; I will also do this unto you; I will appoint over you terror, consumption and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart, and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it." He then continues to tell them the dire consequences that shall befall them for not keeping His commandments. (Leviticus 26:14-39) Even though that they should subsequently confess their sins and humble themselves before God, He will remember the covenant He made with Jacob, and Isaac, and Abraham, **providing they accept the punishment of their iniquity.** (Leviticus 26:40-43)

Every student of the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* knows that sin has always

brought a punishment upon both the individual and the collective people or nation.

Adam and Eve disobeyed the commandment of God by eating of the forbidden fruit; their punishment was banishment from Eden and subsequent death. (Genesis 2 and 3)

Cain slew his brother, Abel. His punishment was banishment, to be a fugitive and vagabond all his life. Also, a mark was placed upon him so that all who saw him would not kill him, making the guilt of his sin a thousandfold more hideous.

Reuben sinned against his father. His punishment was the taking away of his birthright and given to the sons of Joseph. (I Chronicles 5:1)

Miriam sinned against her brother, Moses. Her punishment was the affliction of leprosy. (Numbers 12) Even though Moses prayed to God for her healing, she had to be separated from the camp seven days.

The world which God had created with such love sinned against Him. Its punishment was total destruction.

Sodom and Gomorrah sinned against the Lord. Their punishment was also total destruction.

Achan sinned against the direct commandment of the Lord. His punishment was destruction of his whole family. (Joshua 7:25)

Saul, the king of Israel, sinned against God's commandment. His punishment was the taking away of his kingdom and God's rejection of him as a king. (I Samuel 16:26-28) Although Saul was still physically a king, God did not recognize him as such any more.

Gehazi, the servant of the prophet Elisha, sinned against God by lying and greed. His punishment was leprosy for the rest of his life. (II Kings 5:27)

Ananias and Sapphira lied against the Holy Spirit. Their punishment was death. (Acts 5:5)

David sinned against God by committing adultery and murder. His punishment was that the sword would never leave his house. (II Samuel 11 and 12)

There are also many instances in the

(Continued on Page 3)

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

Book of Mormon where sinning against God has resulted in very dire consequences.

Laman and Lemuel sinned against God and their father. Their punishment was a dark skin and indolence and a total hatred against their brethren, the Nephites. (1 Nephi 12:23)

Korihor sinned against God and Alma. His punishment was to be struck dumb and eventually to be trodden underfoot until he died. (Alma 30:50-60)

I could enumerate many, many other instances of the punishments which have followed the sinning against God by breaking His commandments, but I believe that I have given you, the reader, sufficient material to show that sin carries its own punishments. The resounding hue and cry that shall probably arise after reading this will be mostly the rebuttal that "when there is repentance, there also will be the forgiveness of God." I do not deny this, however, the slate is cleansed where there has been no knowledge of God or His commandments. But where there is a knowledge of God and His Son Jesus Christ and an individual (or people) sin against His commandments, there will be a punishment as a consequence of that sinning. David repented and the prophet Nathan told him that God had forgiven him, but he told him that because of his sin, "the sword will never leave your house."

It is analogous to a person who receives a wound; although it heals, the scar will always be there. It is also analogous to the immutable law of nature. When we abuse our bodies with indiscriminate eating, we suffer the consequence of affliction; when people abuse their bodies by the intake of drugs and alcohol, the result is disastrous. And even if one is able to quit that abuse, it has nevertheless taken its toll of body and mind. When one sins against God and His Holy Spirit, especially where there is willful knowledge, Paul says, "There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries . . . of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be worthy, who hath trodden underfoot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the

Spirit of Grace?" (Hebrews 10:26-29)

I exhort, therefore, everyone of the members and non-members of the Church to live a righteous life before God Almighty and eschew even the appearance of evil so that the blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ will be with all of us, and when we call upon His Name He will answer us; when we pray for the sick, He will heal them; when we pray for the sinner who knows not the Lord, He will bring him to repentance; when we pray for the Seed of Joseph, He will bring them into the fold by the thousands; when we pray that the Choice Seer may not be long in coming, He will hasten the day of his appearing; when we pray for the Kingdom of God (Peaceful Reign) to be established on earth, He will also hasten the day of Zion's establishment.

(Continued in May Issue)

An Address

(Written to the Nigeria Conference 21 years ago by Brother John Ross)

My dear brethren assembled in Conference:

Greetings to you in the name of the Lord and I trust and pray that God will bless you in all your deliberations at this Conference. It gives me great pleasure to write to you and to address you via this letter. I deem it an honor to do so, in the meantime I had hopes of addressing you in person, but as you all know the fault is not mine, but it is due to circumstances beyond our control which deprives me to be with you at this time.

I urge each and all of you to be reminded of the great honor God had bestowed upon you in calling you to be ministers of Jesus Christ, and it is only proper that we imitate our Lord in all our activities and obey His every command as we find them recorded in His word, which is the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*.

My dear brethren, let me also remind you that there is a spirit prevailing in the world today which teaches that what Jesus taught while He was here on earth was only for men and women to obey in that day and age, and that those teachings are not for us today. (Many churches also teach this.) This spirit we must reject and combat for it is evil or of the devil. Jesus said,

"Heaven and earth shall pass away but my words shall not pass away." (Matthew 25:35) Then again in John 14:15 Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." In verse 23 He says, "If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." From this language I gather that the Spirit of God the Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord will **only** dwell within those that keep or obey the words of Jesus. When I say the words of Jesus, it is not meant **only some words** but **all of His words** are to be kept or obeyed.

In the *Book of Mormon*, III Nephi 27, Jesus Christ said:

Verse 7—"Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name, and ye shall call upon the Father in my name that he will bless the church for my sake."

Verse 8—"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 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.**"

Verse 10—"And if it so be that the church is built upon my Gospel then will the Father show forth His own works in it."

Verse 11—"But if it be not built upon my Gospel, and is built upon the works of men, or upon the works of the devil, verily I say unto you they have joy in their works for a season, and by and by the end cometh, and they are hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence there is no return.

Verse 12—"For their works do follow them, for it is because of their works that they are hewn down: Therefore remember the things that I have told you."

My dear brethren, from what I have quoted herein, or because of what Jesus said, it is essential that all men everywhere give heed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and let no man, or nations, or peoples say that the words of Jesus are not for us today. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His Gospel or His word is the same forever. His church is the same yesterday, today,

(Continued on Page 7)

50th Anniversary

BROTHER MIKE DRAGONETTI

By Hazel E. Zoltek, Branch Editor

On Sunday, January 29, the Sterling Branch helped Brother Mike Dragonetti celebrate his fiftieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Mike was born in Italy November 19, 1894. He was baptized January 28, 1934 by Brother Patsy DiBattista and confirmed by Brother Joe Johnson. He was ordained a deacon April 9, 1938 by Brother Johnson and was ordained a teacher on July 15, 1946 by Brother Ausillio.

Brother Mike was a member of Branch 3 before transferring to Sterling on June 24, 1977. Brother Sam DiFalco remarked that Branch 3's loss was Sterling's gain. Brother Mike is a very dedicated, faithful member and has steadied this Branch in many ways. He is a true soldier of the cross, a grand disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Several members of Brother Mike's family came to witness his fiftieth plateau. Also, there were many members from Branch 3 here, remembering the influence Brother Mike had in their lives. His grandson,

Brother Mark Mancinelli, pinned the white flower on Brother Mike's lapel and stood alongside him as he gave his testimony. He spoke in his native tongue, and Brother Louis Vitto later interpreted what he said. He told of many experiences, one of which was during the war in Italy in 1916, a bomb exploded on either side of the tent in which he was sleeping. He thanked God for protecting his life. God knew better things awaited this dear brother as he migrated to this country. He told of a man approaching him with a chain as he walked to church in 1971. He began praying and the man stopped directly in front of him and stood as if frozen, then he turned and ran. We know the man saw something provided by God. Brother Mike has been a true pillar of the Church, and we are looking forward to seeing him here for many more years.

We had feet washing on this day, and it was a great blessing to see Brother Mike and Brother Mark performing this ordinance for one another.

This picture was sent to me by Brother Mark. He said that when he took the picture, the sunlight was streaming through the window and Brother Mike was looking towards the light, that Light from whence cometh our help.

SISTER FRANCIS CECE SISTER LENA PONTILLO BROTHER MIKE PIACENTINO

By Lynne Munger, Branch Editor

On December 11, 1983, the brothers and sisters of Branch 3 enjoyed a wonderful day in honor of three dedicated members who had been in the service of the Lord for 50 years. Sister Francis Cece, Sister Lena Pontillo, and Brother Mike Piacentino were presented with pretty carnations, and a small talk of their backgrounds was given.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio reflected upon Sister Lena (Antoinette) Pontillo's life. She was born on February 6, 1921. She was baptized and confirmed by Brother Patsy DiBattista on December 10, 1933. She was ordained a deaconess on November 24, 1957. During these years she has contributed much as a pianist and choir director. Brother Nephi thanked her and showed his gratitude for her much appreciated service and wished her well in the years to come in the Church. Brother Nephi asked all those who were in the choir when Sister Lena was directing to come up and sing a song. They sang *Blessed*

(Continued on Page 9)



Brother Mike Dragonetti



Sister Lena Pontillo, Brother Mike Piacentino and Sister Francis Cece

*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***Mothers***By James King, Guest Editorialist*

Mothers have been the subject of many writings, poems, songs, and works of art. Nothing touches the heart as the recollections of childhood do. Much has been said of "Mother love" and certainly those bonds are ties that remain even when the child is separated from the mother. Let us look at some of the comparisons of the characteristics of the natural mother with the characteristics of our spiritual mother, the Church.

Natural mothers give birth and life to the child. The child is conceived in passion, desire, and emotion. He is born in pain and agony, but a mother forgets the pain in the joy of the birth.

In the Church, our spiritual mother, we are born again. The new life is conceived when the spirit of God (our Father) touches our hearts and we are born of the water and the spirit. The pained heart of the repentant sinner is the pain of our spiritual birth. The joy of delivery in baptism cancels the pain of repentance and the pain is remembered no more.

During childhood, a mother looks out for the dangers that may be in the pathway of her young. She shields and protects, warns of dangers, and is always concerned with her child's welfare.

The Church also tries to protect the young from the snares of Satan. She provides the full armour of God, as described in Ephesians 6:11-17. She feeds her children on the good Word of God, through which we grow and gain strength. She warns us of the temptations of the evil one, encouraging us to gain strength through knowledge and the spirit of God that we might not be overcome. She teaches us that the spiritual life is the most important concern, that we must put the natural things under subjection.

A mother heals. She uses everything at her disposal to make her child well again when he falls victim to disease or accident. She acquires the best medicines, the best physicians, attends to every comfort and need. She watches through the long hours of the night until the crisis is past. All other things are secondary when her child is ill.

The spiritual mother heals also. She, too, uses all available tools and methods. The child is anointed, fasting and prayer is called for, the entire Church is there to pray, to comfort, to lift up and encourage, until the sickness is overcome.

A mother teaches her child those things necessary to sustain life—how to take care of himself that life may be long and full of joy.

What can we say more than this . . . that our mother, the Church, has the secrets of eternal life, the way to gain eternal happiness at the throne of God. This is what our life is all about—to prepare ourselves for the great day when we may surround the throne of God, singing His praises, worshipping Him for all eternity.

A loving mother will adopt and care for other children not her own. We have seen many times a foster parent giving the same love, care, tenderness, concern, and guidance that she gives her own children.

The spiritual mother is anxious to adopt children into the family of God. The invitation is to all to come and be a part of this wonderful family.

Don't be an orphan any longer.

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



He Has Risen

Dear Girls and Boys,

Mary Magdalene was heart broken. A mob of temple guards and officers had come and taken her Lord, Jesus Christ, away. No one knew what would happen next. All of the Lord's followers were terribly upset and afraid. They forgot that Jesus had told them that this was going to happen.

Jesus told them in plain words that He would be crucified. He also told them in story form, saying that the "temple" would be destroyed and then rebuilt in three days. His followers forgot that Jesus had taught them their body was a temple for the Holy Spirit to live in. They only knew that the man they loved and had followed was being treated horribly, first by the temple guards, then by King Herod and finally by the chief ruler of the land, Pilate.

How they must have wept and prayed. Finally rumor had it that Pilate tried to persuade the temple priests to let Jesus free. It was a special feast day and one prisoner would be let go. But the enemies of Jesus screamed, "No! No! Crucify Jesus! Let the robber Barabbas free!"

Pilate turned Jesus over to his enemies to be whipped and taken to the place where criminals were hung on a cross to die. Still full of doubts, Pilate wrote a sign in three languages to be placed on the cross for all to read saying, "Jesus of Nazareth the King of the Jews". He refused to change it, even though the chief priests did not like it.

Pilate threw a purple robe around Jesus' shoulders, and the guards wove a crown from a thorn bush and pushed it on his head. Then the Lord was led out to pick up his heavy cross and drag it to the hill Golgotha where he would be put to death. Jesus, the One who had

all power, allowed the soldiers to tie his arms and nail his body horribly to the cross.

His beloved friends stayed with him as he suffered there. His mother, Mary, their friend, Mary Magdalene, and many others were there when he asked for something to drink and the soldiers gave him vinegar.

At the sixth hour darkness came over the whole earth. The veil in the temple was ripped in two. In Jerusalem the sun was darkened until the ninth hour. In the Americas a great destruction occurred. The Savior of the world had completed His task.

Now a certain man named Joseph of Arimathea, who was also a high priest of the temple (but who had not agreed to the murder of Jesus) went to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. Joseph took it to a new burial place cut out of stone. He wrapped Jesus' body in linen and left to prepare the herbs and spices used for burying.

Jesus' family and friends had to wait until after the Sabbath day to return and prepare the body. Very early in the morning, they came unto the burial site. There they found the stone rolled away from the opening! When they entered, they could not find the body. As they stood there, two men stood by them in shining clothes. They were much astonished and bowed their faces to the ground.

The angel spoke to them saying, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen. Remember how he told you before . . . on the third day He would rise again?"

Joyfully the loved ones of the Lord rose to their feet and rushed to tell the

wonderful news to the apostles. Peter ran back to the tomb to see for himself that the body of Jesus was gone.

Now the news spread quickly, and a few short days later Christ appeared to his followers walking down a road then to the whole gathering of his apostles in Jerusalem.

Mankind began to understand that the words Jesus had taught were true and worth following. The man who healed the lepers, caused the dead to rise, and calmed the wild seas, the man who could have easily saved himself from dying on the cross, was real. His kingdom, the kingdom where our souls go to live eternally, was real. There was a reward for a good life even after death; there was power beyond the grave.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Notice

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Any new operation will experience some problems so please be patient with us for a few months.

Your Editor
Ken Staley

Notice

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Mrs. Thelma Petrosky
Box 228
Perryopolis, PA 15476

A Letter of Appreciation

Dear Parent Church,

Greetings to you all and families in Jesus name.

I am glad to inform you that the Annual Conference held on 11th-13th of November 83, was peaceful and successful. The news of your not receiving the previous Semi-annual minutes also came to the floor of the Conference.

In the Conference the Nigerian President of The Church of Jesus Christ, Pastor E. U. A. Arthur, narrated on his mission to the World Conference in the U.S.A. to the members. On hearing the good news about the Parent Church's kind gestures, the Priesthood unanimously resolved that the Executive Secretary should write a letter of appreciation to the Parent Church for their kind and good gestures of inviting our President and his wife to attend the World Missionary Conference in the U.S.A., also for the pious care rendered them while in the United States of America.

The Priesthood cannot ignore above all the humanitarian services of sustaining our brother's life, Dr. M. E. Akpan, by expert medical care given him.

The Priesthood also extends their right hands of fellowship, especially to Brothers John Ross and Nephi DeMercurio, for making the invitation to a man of 100 years possible.

We thank everyone in the United States of America who had made personal contributions, deeds and actions for the success of their August visitors.

We would wish more invitations in the near future.

God bless all of you.

Yours Faithfully

U. U. Umoeno, Executive Secretary
for the Nigerian Priesthood

AN ADDRESS continued . . .

and forever, and it can only be His church if it is called by His name and built upon His Gospel and governed by His Spirit.

The Lord promised to be with the church always, even to the end of the world on condition that they teach and observe all things as He commanded them. (Matthew 28:20) When men ceased teaching and observing what He commanded them, then it was only right that He withdraw His Spirit from the church and the church was no more His church.

The Lord also promised to build His church upon the Rock (the Revelation of God) and what He taught men to obey. If the church continued to abide, or depend, upon the revealed will of God (the rock that cannot be shaken) the gates of hell would not prevail against it. But if the church did not obey, or rely upon the revealed will of God (Rock) the gates of hell would prevail against

it. In fact, the gates of hell did prevail against the church established by Christ and His Apostles and it overcame the church, thus fulfilling the words of Christ in Matthew 11:12: "From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven (or church) suffereth violence and the violent take it by force." Yes, the evil power who was violent against Christ and His Apostles, who is the enemy of all that is good, finally took control of the church as is recorded in Revelations 13: "It is given him (evil power) to make war with the saints and to **overcome them** and power was given him over all kindreds, tongues, and nations." The Apostle Paul in II Thessalonians 2:2-4 predicted the falling away of the Gospel, "and the 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, showing himself that he is God." Again in I Timothy 4:1, the spirit of God in Paul was speaking to him expressly telling him that in latter times some would

depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron, forbidding to marry (celibacy of the ministry) and commanding to abstain from meats, etc. Again in II Timothy 4:3-4, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears, and they shall turn their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables."

My dear brethren, from the foregoing scriptures and other scriptures I have quoted and from what we see today with our own eyes, it is evident that the Lord withdrew His Spirit from the church that had gone astray, and what remained was only a form of godliness, that denied the power thereof.

Yes, The Church of Jesus Christ was overcome by the power of evil because men departed from the faith.

Thus the church fell away, or ceased to be the church as set up by Jesus Christ and His Apostles. We give much credit to all the reformers for trying to reestablish that which did not exist anymore, The Church of Jesus Christ. They broke away from Catholicism and did all they could to combat evil. Many lost their lives in doing so, but sorry to say they could not bring back to earth again the Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation. They failed to set up the church again as Christ had done, for only God could restore or bring back to earth again the church as was originally set up by Christ.

Therefore, it is written in Revelation 14:6-7: "And I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto all 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 sea, and the fountains of waters." From this we learn that before God sends His judgments upon the earth He will cause the Everlasting Gospel to be preached to the world.

This is proof that the world did not anymore have the Gospel, because it had fallen away or retrogressed. If the world did have the Gospel (as some say) why would God send the angel with the

(Continued on Page 8)

AN ADDRESS continued . . .

Gospel to be preached to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people again? The world can only make claim to the written word, or the *Bible*, but the written word without the power of God, or authority for men to minister in the name of Christ, is like a corpse without the spirit.

Therefore, God sent His Angel to Joseph Smith and brought back to earth the Gospel as taught by Jesus Christ. The Priesthood, or power for men to minister in the name of Christ, was restored again by their ordination under the hands of an angel. The *Book of Mormon*, which is a record of God's dealings with a branch of the House of Israel, namely Joseph, was given to us in fulfillment of prophecy. It came forth out of the ground and it is a record of a people who are speaking to us from the dust, or the writings of those people who were favored of God (as were the people in Palestine, or Jews) and are now dead, or as the dust. This people who were a portion of the tribe of Joseph were brought to this western hemisphere by God, so that He could preserve the seed of Joseph as He preserved the seed of Judah. No doubt God has brought other portions of the other tribes elsewhere throughout the world so that a portion of the twelve tribes of Israel could be preserved and to be gathered home to the lands of their inheritance again in the latter days, or after the Gospel shall be preached to them and they accept it. And by the preaching of the Gospel this will come about for God has spoken it by the mouths of His prophets.

And now let us return to the *Book of Mormon* again . . .

It is the stick of Joseph which was to be united with the stick of Judah (or *Bible*), the two becoming one in God's hands, thus fulfilling the prophecy in Ezekiel 37. It came forth (stick of Joseph) to us Gentiles so that the Gentiles would not stumble any more. The Gentiles stumbled because of what that great and abominable church had done that it might pervert the right way of the Lord. (1 Nephi 13:24-27) Furthermore, in this record the Lord reveals to us the many plain and precious things pertaining to the doctrine of Christ plus the plan of God in the Restoration of the House of Israel, and eventually the Kingdom of Christ to be established on the earth wherein the will of God will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This will be the time that men will not learn

war anymore, for men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks, the wolf shall dwell with the lamb and the lion shall eat straw like the ox, etc. for nothing shall hurt or destroy in all God's holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of God as the waters cover the seas, and every man shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree and none shall make him afraid; for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it.

My dear brethren, these are the things God is going to accomplish in these last days by the preaching of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ which was brought back to earth by His Angel. And these conditions spoken of above will come to mankind while they are still in the flesh, or mortal beings. The Gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation, shall affect mortals to the extent that the devil shall not have power over them because of the righteousness among the children of men. These conditions shall continue for a long time, or until evil appears among men again. And when evil appears again, then shall the day and hour come that no man knoweth, neither the angels, but God only. Wherein the Son of God shall appear in glory and the earth shall melt with fervent heat and be rolled together as a scroll. Those that are alive (righteous) shall be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and those that are in the graves (righteous) shall come forth in the first resurrection to dwell with God and Christ eternally. There shall be a new heaven and a new earth, and we shall walk in the Holy City and God's Kingdom forever, for we are heirs of all these things by obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though we are poor here, we shall be rich in heaven.

And now, if all these things belong to us by the grace of God, may I ask, "What manner of men ought we to be?" In answer I say, "Let us be men of God and let us labor with all our might for Christ. Yes, let us bring souls to Him. Let us try with all our might for Christ. Yes, let us bring souls to Him. Let us try with all our might to imitate our Lord in all our actions." The Lord who created all things left His glory and came to earth to become a servant to all and even gave His life a ransom so as to satisfy the demands of justice so that man could be brought back to the presence of God.

I ask God to bless each and all of you and your families, and I want to encourage and compliment you on the good work you are doing for the Lord.

Surely your reward is sure, for God has promised it and He does not lie. I praise God for the Restored Gospel and that by obedience to same the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts and we have become brethren in Christ, and I together with you want to spend and be spent for The Church of Jesus Christ which we represent. For the church is the means of saving the souls of all men everywhere.

So, my dear brethren, in conclusion, fight the good fight of faith and may God grant you all the power and the strength you need is my prayer for you. Together with you I remember that some of our brother elders have left us and have gone to the Paradise of God to reap the reward of their labors. May God comfort their families and may we all realize that they have only gone a little time before us, and one day we shall follow them.

May the Lord bless you and may this letter be accepted as if I were there with you. It is an expression of our faith and doctrine and for your encouragement as Ministers of Jesus Christ.

I am your brother and servant in Christ.

John Ross

A Mother's Love

*When I've faltered, tried and failed,
I know who abides still, a mother.
I may not excel above others,
Yet I know who cares still, a mother.
Though I may not be good looking,
Yet one thinks that I am, a mother.
I may not live to expectation,
But there's one who loves still, a mother.
A wondrous thing this is God gave,
When He gave to us each, a mother.*

Mark Randy

Happy Mother's Day to all of our mothers. We love you!

P.S. Some no longer have their mothers to love. For those of you who still do, let her know how much you appreciate "A MOTHER'S LOVE".

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

Assurance, and everyone felt a beautiful spirit.

Brother Gary Coppa then reflected on the life of Sister Francis Cece, who was born on October 12, 1917. She was baptized on December 10, 1933 by Brother Patsy DiBattista and confirmed by Brother Sam Carrado. She was married to Mr. John Cece on September 3, 1943 by Brother Rocco Meo, and they have three girls—Diane, Carolyn, and Shireen. Her many years in the Church were well spent in a valuable position as a Sunday School teacher. She started teaching when she was only 15 years old, and just a few years ago she passed the pleasure on to someone else. She is now very involved in craft sales and raising funds. She is very well known for her "Lady Bug" rock paper weights. Brother Gary mentioned how important it is to honor someone while they are still living rather than when they have passed on. All the people who were ever in her Sunday School class went up and sang *What a Friend*. It was heart-warming to see everyone, who had learned from her, singing and putting their heart and soul into honoring Sister Cece with this hymn.

Brother Paul Whitton introduced Brother Mike Piacentino's 50 years by saying that Brother Mike was born on December 3, 1918. He married Sister Theresa Conti on March 15, 1941. Brother Patsy DiBattista performed the ceremony. They have two children—Joe and Patty. Brother Dominic Moraca then spoke on how Brother Mike has been very beneficial in many ways. His long-term commitment as treasurer of Branch 3 since 1956 and assistant secretary of the General Church since 1947 has been greatly appreciated. He has written extremely detailed reports and papers for the General Church that took great patience. He has also written the hymn, *He May Never Pass Your Way Again*. Brother Dominic mentioned that when Brother Mike had come down with a serious illness he said, "God doesn't owe me a thing. He's given me everything." We all then sang the song that he wrote. It was touching to all.

The three members being honored were given the opportunity to testify. They were all very humble and grateful for the privilege of serving the Lord and said, in their own way, how wonderful the prayers of the brothers and sisters have been. They thanked us immense-

ly and asked us to continue to remember to pray for them for the rest of their years in the Church. It is important to remember each and every member as much as we can in prayer because, as we all know, prayer moves the hand of God.

To My Mother

*When Jesus decided to send me
From heaven's skies of blue,
He searched the wide world over
For a woman kind and true.
Someone to love me always,
Someone to keep me spotlessly new.
One who would really want me,
He thought his own mother might do.*

*Then, at last, my Jesus found one,
One as good as could be.
She had been so patiently waiting,
Just for a baby like me.
So He wrapped me in a fluffy cloud
Tied with a ribbon anew,
And slid me down the rainbow, Mom,
Just to earth and YOU.*

By D.P.

Branch and Mission News

Youngstown, OH

By Annette Corrado, Branch Editor

As we reflect on the year that has passed, 1983 will be remembered for the many blessings we felt during the year.

On January 7, Apostle Anthony Corrado celebrated his 60th spiritual birthday in The Church of Jesus Christ, and on July 15, 60 years in the Ministry. Knowing that Brother Corrado doesn't go for long tributes, I just would like to say, "Dad, may God bless and keep you in His service for many more years to come."

On Sunday, March 13, we welcomed Brother Elmer Santilli, Ohio District President (also former Youngstown) and Brother Mario Milano in our midst as we witnessed the ordination of Brother Martin Klein, Jr. to the office of teacher. Brother Klein's feet were washed by Brother Travis Perry, and he was ordained by Brother T. D. Bucci.

May God bless and direct Brother Martin in his new office. I'm sure he will be a blessing to the saints of the Kent Mission where he and his family attend.

We had a season of rejoicing on Sunday, April 10, as Paul and Karen Pezzenti asked for their baptisms. Those present truly felt an outpouring of God's Spirit. Brother Paul and Sister Karen were baptized by Brother Henry Cardillo. Brother Paul was confirmed by Brother Donald Pandone. Sister Karen was confirmed by Brother A. A. Corrado. May God bless them as they strive to serve Him.

During the year we received visits from various brothers from other parts of the vineyard. On Tuesday, September 27, we were privileged to have Apostle Joseph Lovalvo in our midst. Brother Joe spoke to us on the many beautiful experiences that he has witnessed among the saints in Mexico. Brother Lovalvo's talk was quite edifying.

The following week, Brother Nephi DeMercurio, here for Ladies' Circle Conference, held a question and answer session about what he and his family experienced in Nigeria. It was quite informative and was well received by those present.

On Sunday, December 11, we were happy to have Apostle Frank and Sister Romy Calabrese and Brother Frank and Sister Rose Palacios of Lorain, Brother Ron Genaro and family of Niles and Brother Raymond and Sister Mary Cosetti in our Branch. Prior to the opening of the service, Terri Stanley asked for her baptism. What a blessing was felt among those who were present. Brother Calabrese used for his text the book of Enos, which tells of how Enos prayed mightily to gain a remission of his sins. While Brother Frank was reading from the *Book of Mormon*, Sister Annabel Santilli saw a bright light over Brother Frank's right shoulder. Sister Santilli saw this light before, when Brother Corrado was referring to the *Book of Mormon* recently.

(Continued on Page 10)

YOUNGSTOWN, OH continued . . .

Sister Terri was baptized by her father, Brother Richard Santilli, and confirmed by Brother Ralph Berardino. May God bless you and may I say that it's wonderful that we can call you sister.

May God continue to increase our number not only in our Branch but throughout His Church.

Clairton, PA

By Diane Robinson, Branch Editor

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! The brothers and sisters of the Clairton Branch, along with you, are still holding fast to the rod of iron.

The past few months have been highlighted with many spiritual meetings and assemblies together in which the oneness is manifest in the spirit's flow—in prayer, testimony, preaching and singing.

We were especially blessed in a Sunday meeting shortly after the World Missionary Conference, with a visit by our Church President from Nigeria, Africa, Brother E. A. U. Arthur, Sister Rachel, his wife, and their son, Brother Joseph. Brother E. A. U. Arthur exhorted unto us many encouraging words of truth from the Word of God. Brother Joseph expressed himself by continuing in agreement with his father's message and adding the affirmation of being the people of God. Truly, the Lord knows how to bless His saints and always when we need it. During the afternoon, Sister Rachel greeted all with a word of testimony and thanksgiving.

A visitor, Alfred, who is a native of China, related an unusual testimony of how the Lord spared his life from scarlet fever as a Christian school instructor in China. Living now in Pennsylvania, may the Lord establish all his goings—even in the Gospel of truth—in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We thank God for the wonderful words of life that build us up in the faith of our Lord and encourage us to move forward in our walk in the Gospel of truth in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The fellowship with the saints from other areas of the District, including our

visiting elders, is always a blessing. We welcome all to come and visit the saints in Clairton.

As Brother Joseph Austin is our Presiding Elder and has been experiencing uncertain health, the Lord blessed our Branch with the return of Brother English Webb, who was truly missed and needed here as well as in the missionary field of Omaha, Nebraska.

Please remember our Branch in your prayers. There are several young adults and children of the saints who fellowship and lift their voices in praise to the Lord. We desire to see their lots cast for Jesus in their lives as well.

Edison, NJ

By Ruth Arcuri, Branch Editor

On November 27, 1983, the brothers and sisters of Edison, New Jersey, were once again blessed to witness another baptism. Our new sister's name is Carol Racz. She was baptized by Brother Don Ross and was confirmed by Brother Art Searcy.

For a number of months, Sister Carol had been searching among the churches of our area for the right church to join. It was a difficult decision for her to make, and we prayed that the Lord might guide her. The strangeness of the *Book of Mormon* was one of the obstacles which caused her hesitation. But the Lord blessed her with a beautiful experience and she was baptized without further hesitation. In her own words, Sister Carol relates her dream to us:

My mother and I were seated in a beautiful church. Everything seemed white and aglow with a brilliant light that filled the room as well as our inner beings. We were dressed all in white and were together holding the Book of Mormon. The book was open, and I was trying to read from it to my mother. But I couldn't make out the words. Then a sister appeared and approached us. She said not a word but reflected a feeling of warmth and love towards us. Gently she took the Book of Mormon, turned it around and handed it back to my mother to give to me. Now I looked upon the page and could read the words and understand them. Now the Book of Mormon was made clear.

Sister Carol has two young boys who frequently attend church with her.

(What a blessing the Lord has given to us in all these children who some day will carry on this beautiful Gospel. Some Sundays we are blessed with over 20 children ranging in ages from a few weeks to teenagers. Our small Branch is filled with life!) Our prayer is that Sister Carol will be blessed for her decision and that her family might soon follow her example.

Also, we would like to take this opportunity to ask for prayer for a relatively new brother in our Branch. Brother John Cantamessa was baptized about a year and a half ago. Since very early childhood, Brother Johnny has been confined to a wheel chair due to polio. He has only been able to attend a very few meetings since his baptism because Brother John now also has cancer. He is at home where he lives alone. He is cared for completely by his sisters, who lovingly and unfailingly give him many hours of their days providing the extensive and time-consuming care he requires. Our request is that you might join with us in asking to have Brother John restored to the point that he might once again be a part of our meetings and also for strength, patience, and endurance for his family as well. The burden they all bear is a heavy one.

As we hear of the trials and burdens of all our brothers and sisters, we continue to remember you. We are most thankful for the blessings and gifts God showers on us all.

Brooklyn, NY

By Joan Rogolino, Branch Editor

On November 28, 1983, we had an attendance of 44 in our Sunday meeting. Prior to our meeting, early in the morning hour, we met by the shore of Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn, where Brother Dominick Rose baptized Nathan Peterkin, Jr., our first convert from the mission work at the Men's Shelter at the Bowery in New York City.

We were privileged to have visiting us Brother Mitchell, Sister Vera, and Sister Michelle Edwards and Sister Eleanor Martin from Warren, Ohio. Brother Edwards opened the meeting with *We Have an Anchor*, and prayer was offered by Brother Dominick Rose. After we sang a hymn, Brother Nathan

(Continued on Page 11)

BROOKLYN, NY continued . . .

Peterkin, Jr. was confirmed by the laying on of hands by Brother Matthew Rogolino.

Brother Edwards spoke on "Truth" and what it means to us. He compared truth with Hymn No. 65 in *The Songs of Zion*. Once the truth is in you, then you are rooted deep like a tall mountain tree that is planted deep. Once the truth is planted deeply in a person, you are anchored firmly and tied tightly with God's love.

We sang *Then Jesus Came*. Brother Matthew Rogolino then followed, speaking on the greatness of truth. He also stressed on the importance of renewing, as it were, our covenant with the Lord. After singing *I Will Serve Thee*, Brother Dominick Rose was our next speaker and reflected back to the day he was baptized in 1932. He also touched on the subject of truth and grace coming by Jesus Christ.

After singing *Amazing Grace*, Brother Jim Crudup spoke a few words thanking God that through all our walks of life God brought us by His love and grace to where we are.

We enjoyed a wonderful testimony meeting—everyone thanking the Lord for His blessings. Brother Frank Zaher, Presiding Elder of Brooklyn Branch, in giving his testimony praised the Lord for the glorious day when he met the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the change that took place in his life.

We thank God for the visiting brothers and sisters from the Freehold Branch who came to worship with us on this day. We all felt the spirit of God in our midst.

Sister Lisa Rogolino stated that she saw a light throughout the rostrum while our brothers spoke.

We thank God for a wonderful meeting.

We invite you to come and visit and worship with us in Brooklyn.

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

On Sunday, December 4, 1983, the

Aliquippa Branch had the pleasure of witnessing another soul surrender to Jesus Christ. Between the Sunday School and morning service, the young people were asked to assemble at the piano to sing a few hymns. During the course of the hymn, *I Surrender All*, the spirit of repentance fell upon Jeffrey Giannetti, and following the song, Jeffrey exclaimed his desire to be baptized.

Proceeding into the morning meeting, Brother John Ross used for his text Revelations 22:1-5. Brother Chuck Jumper followed, relating how he had experienced a strong feeling earlier in the morning that there would be a baptism today. Also, Brother Fred D'Antonio related the following experience:

"On Saturday before retiring for the night, I knelt down to pray. When I did, I immediately found myself praying for Jeffrey. I began to pray for the welfare of his soul, that if he was struggling that the Lord would call him. When I finished my prayer, I realized that my whole prayer was in his behalf. The Lord allowed me to understand that tomorrow Jeff would ask for his baptism.

"On Sunday morning as I got out of my car, the first person who I saw coming out of the church building was Jeff, which reassured me that he was going to be baptized. I thank the Lord for the personal contact that we share together from day to day. I am sure that we all share the same prayer with the Lord, that some day all might come to Christ."

Brother Paul Palmieri made some concluding remarks, inviting those who have not yet obeyed the Gospel to consider the invitation. Immediately following the meeting, we, along with many of the brothers, sisters and friends of the Imperial Branch, met at our usual baptismal site to witness this beautiful ordinance. Following a short recess for lunch, we convened back at the Aliquippa Branch, with the anticipation of enjoying another season of blessings.

Brother Jim Gibson introduced the service, recalling the day he made his commitment to serve the Lord. Brother Paul Palmieri preceded the confirmation by reading an appropriate passage of scripture from the book of Moroni. Afterwards, the congregation sang *Behold Thy Sons and Daughters Lord*. The Priesthood formed a circle and knelt around Brother Jeffrey, as Brother Gibson offered the prayer. Brother Tony Ross confirmed Brother Jeffrey as a member in The Church of

Jesus Christ.

Following the passing of the Lord's Supper, Brother Jeffrey bore a beautiful testimony. He thanked the brothers and sisters for their prayers on his behalf, but was most thankful for the goodness of God, that He continued to knock at the door of his heart until this day. Brother Jeffrey concluded his praise by stating that he was so very thankful to be numbered among the people of God.

A few closing remarks reminiscing the day's events were made as we brought our services to an end. We thank God for such a wonderful day. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to call more souls into this glorious Gospel.

ARTICLES OF FAITH OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

1. We believe in God, the Eternal Father, and in His Son, Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.
2. We believe that man will be punished for his own transgressions, and not for Adam's.
3. We believe that through the Atonement of Jesus Christ, all people may be saved, through obedience to the ordinances of the Gospel.
4. We believe in the principles of the Gospel as taught by the Saviour: faith in Jesus Christ, repentance, and then baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.
5. We believe in Feet Washing. John 13:5.
6. We believe the angel has flown. Rev. 14:6,7.
7. We believe that a man must be called by God, by His Holy Spirit and by the laying on of hands, by those in authority to preach the Gospel and administer in the Holy Ordinances thereof.
8. We believe in the same organization as was instituted by Jesus Christ, namely apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.
9. We believe in the various gifts of the Gospel such as the gifts of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.
10. We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is correctly translated, and we also believe the Book of Mormon to be the word of God.
11. We believe what God has revealed, and what He may yet reveal. We believe that He will reveal much pertaining to the building up of His Kingdom upon the earth.
12. We believe in the literal gathering of Israel, including the Ten lost Tribes, also the Seed of Joseph (American Indians) on this land of America; and that Christ will eventually come and reign on the earth one thousand years, between the First and Second Resurrections. See Rev. 20:1 & 6 inclusive.
13. We believe in, and claim the privilege of, worshipping God according to the dictates of our own conscience. We concede and allow all others the same right.
14. We believe in being subject to Kings, Queens, Presidents, Rulers and Magistrates in obeying, honoring and sustaining the Laws.
15. In conclusion, we say "whatever things are true, and honest, and just, and pure, and lovely, and of good report," we seek to uphold and maintain; for the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance; "against such there is no law." The apostle Paul says to "prove all things, and hold fast to that which is good," Amen.

"CHARITY NEVER FAILETH"

New Arrivals

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

Stefanie Lorraine to James and Alice Suska of Bronx, New York;

Domenique Gia to Michael and Kathy Massari of Bronx, New York;

Jacob Vincent to Brian and Patti Gibson McCullough of Cleveland, Ohio;

Daniel Joseph to Robert and Linda Pizzaia of Edison, New Jersey;

Nickolas Timothy to Timothy and Becky Tarbuck of Imperial, Pennsylvania;

Nicholas Aaron to Kevin and Denise Naro of Lorain, Ohio;

Aaron James to Richard and Cynthia Onorato of Maine;

Adam Wyatt to Arthur and Bonnie Landrey of Phoenix, Arizona.

CHILDREN BLESSED

The following children were blessed on January 1, 1984 at the Inner-City Branch in Detroit, Michigan:

Matthew Michael Mancinelli, blessed by Brother Joseph Milantoni;

Antonio Michael Wessels, blessed by Brother Eugene Amormino.

OBITUARIES

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

FRANK ZAHER

Brother Frank Zaher, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Brooklyn, New York, passed away from this life on December 30, 1983. He was born on February 5, 1917, baptized into the Church on July 17, 1955, and ordained into the Ministry on October 13, 1963.

Brother Zaher is survived by two sisters, one brother, and nieces and nephews.

Brother Matthew Rogolino conducted the funeral service and was assisted by Brother Domenick Rose.

LUIGI DiLUCA

Brother Luigi DiLuca passed away on January 24, 1984.

A member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, he was born on June 26, 1901.

Brothers Paul Palmieri, Donald Ross and John Ross conducted the funeral services.

Surviving Brother Luigi are his wife, Sister Filomena, four daughters, two sons, thirteen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Brother DiLuca was preceded in death by his daughter, Deborah, in 1972.

ANDREW HERTNEKY

Brother Andrew Hertneky of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch died on November 25, 1983. He was born April 8, 1894 and was baptized June 25, 1933. He served in the office of deacon, being ordained July 10, 1949.

He is survived by his wife and four daughters and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother James Benyola.

EFFIE M. FOXALL

Mrs. Effie M. Foxall, age 95, died January 11, 1984. She was born June 5, 1888.

She was preceded in death by her husband, our beloved Brother Benjamin G. Foxall, September 22, 1967.

She is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren, and will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

Funeral services were conducted by Elders Thomas and John Ross.

BENJAMIN R. FOXALL

Mr. Benjamin R. Foxall died January 29, 1984, only 18 days after the death of his mother as noted in the foregoing obituary. He was born August 20, 1916.

He is survived by his wife, one son, one daughter, one grandson, and a brother, and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Funeral services were conducted by Elders Thomas and John Ross.

GERTRUDE L. MOORE

Mrs. Gertrude L. Moore died April 14, 1983. She was born on August 13, 1907.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Moore, and a daughter, Charlotte Reed.

She is survived by a daughter, two sons, and 10 grandchildren.

Officiating at the funeral services were Elders John Ross and James Gibson.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

May, 1984

Volume 40, No. 5



The Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ

Front Row: V. James Lovalvo, Russell Cadman, Dominic Thomas, Gorie Ciaravino, Joseph Bittinger, Nicholas Pietrangelo

Back Row: Frank Calabrese, Anthony Corrado, Rocco Biscotti, Robert Watson, Joseph Lovalvo, Paul D'Amico

TWELVE APOSTLES continued...

V. JAMES LOVALVO

Brother V. James Lovalvo was born on November 5, 1911 in Corleone, Sicily, Italy. He was baptized on July 16, 1933 at Detroit, Branch 1, ordained an elder on April 4, 1935, and ordained an apostle on July 20, 1941. Brother Lovalvo now resides in Fresno, California.

RUSSELL CADMAN

Brother Russell Cadman was born on September 23, 1916 in Hirvasse, Kansas. He was baptized on May 5, 1946 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, ordained an elder on January 18, 1948, and ordained an apostle on April 29, 1956. Brother Cadman is now living in Fredonia, Pennsylvania.

DOMINIC THOMAS

Brother Dominic Thomas was born on September 11, 1924 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. He was baptized on February 28, 1943 in Detroit, Michigan. In the fall of 1950, he was ordained an elder. On April 19, 1964 he was ordained an apostle by Brother Rocco Biscotti. Brother Dominic now resides in Dearborn, Michigan, and attends Branch 2.

GORIE CIARAVINO

Brother Gorie Ciaravino was born on July 5, 1911 in Detroit, Michigan. On January 17, 1932, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. He was ordained an elder on January 12, 1936 and an apostle on April 15, 1956. Brother Gorie is now living in Westland,

Michigan and attends Branch 4.

JOSEPH BITTINGER

Brother Joseph Bittinger was born on August 20, 1902 in Swanton, Maryland. He was baptized on August 10, 1920 in Bitner, Pennsylvania. On April 11, 1931, he was ordained an elder by Brother William H. Cadman, and on April 19, 1953, he was ordained an apostle by Brother Sam Kirshner. Brother Bittinger now resides in Vero Beach, Florida.

NICHOLAS PIETRANGELO

Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo was born on April 23, 1915 in Detroit, Michigan. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 13, 1935 at Detroit, Branch 1. On August 4, 1946, he was ordained an elder, and on May 5, 1974, he was ordained an apostle. Brother Pietrangelo now lives in Mt. Clemens, Michigan and attends Branch 1.

FRANK CALABRESE

Brother Frank Calabrese was born on September 30, 1921 in Lorain, Ohio. He was baptized on October 13, 1946 in Lorain, Ohio, ordained an elder on October 16, 1955, and ordained an apostle on April 19, 1964. Brother Calabrese now resides in Lorain, Ohio.

ANTHONY CORRADO

Brother Anthony Corrado was born on July 26, 1903 in Bugnara, L'Aquila, Italy. On February 7, 1923, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Glassport, Pennsylvania. He was ordained an elder on July 15, 1923 by Brother Joe Corrado and an apostle on

July 20, 1941 by Brother William H. Cadman. Brother Corrado is now living in Youngstown, Ohio.

ROCCO BISCOTTI

Brother Rocco Biscotti was born on February 11, 1903 in Peschici, Foggia, Italy. He was baptized on August 27, 1922 in Cleveland, Ohio, ordained an elder in April of 1923, and ordained an apostle on July 2, 1939. Brother Biscotti resides in Cleveland, Ohio.

ROBERT WATSON

Brother Robert Watson was born on September 5, 1922 in Wigan, England. He was baptized on February 12, 1938 in Windsor, Canada, ordained an elder on January 22, 1944, and ordained an apostle on April 22, 1979. Brother Watson is now living in Red Lake, Arizona.

JOSEPH LOVALVO

Brother Joseph Lovalvo was born on March 1, 1910 in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. He was baptized on July 16, 1933 at Detroit, Branch 1. On January 12, 1936, he was ordained an elder, and on July 9, 1939, he was ordained an apostle. Brother Lovalvo now resides in Modesto, California.

PAUL D'AMICO

Brother Paul D'Amico was born on June 26, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan. On October 9, 1938, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Rochester, New York. He was ordained an elder on July 14, 1946, and he was ordained an apostle in May of 1953. Brother D'Amico is now living in Lockport, New York.

Michigan-Ontario District Conference

By Cathy Mulla

On February 12, 1984, the Michigan-Ontario District held its conference at Detroit, Branch 1. Nearly 350 brothers, sisters and friends attended. In addition to visitors from the immediate area, we enjoyed the company of our visitors from Muncey and Meaford, Ontario, as well as Brother Adam and Sister Mary Coppa from Harrison, Michigan. Soon we would all experience the spiritual beauty that the day would bring.

After a season of singing, Brother

Dominic Moraca, our District President, addressed the congregation with some opening remarks. He instructed us to leave all our worries behind this day and make Christ the center of our attention. Brother Ken Wright, the Presiding Elder of the Windsor Branch, opened the service with a glorious prayer. He expressed in this prayer the desire in our hearts that we need to serve God, especially in the face of sufferings, afflictions and challenges that surround us each day.

Brother Moraca then asked Sister Diane Hawkins to present us with a song entitled *The Love of God*. The meeting was just beginning and already the building was filled with the Spirit of God. Brother Moraca remarked on the organization of our District in 1959 and its origin in 1921. He then read a letter written by Brother Frank Morle, who expressed a desire to be here, but due to his affliction, was unable to attend. Brother Morle further expressed in his letter what an influence Brother Carl and Sister Joanne Frammolino had been to him in his hour of need and that we must all remain united in prayer.

(Continued on Page 3)

CONFERENCE continued . . .

We then were honored and blessed with a precious sermon by Brother Nephi DeMercurio. Brother Nephi expressed that he felt the Spirit of God upon entering the building and that we should have the desire in our hearts to love and serve God. An unyielding dedication is needed in order for God to bestow His goodness upon us, for the need around us is great and awesome. There are diseases that we have to face, and more importantly, there is mocking by the devil who dares us to pray to God.

Brother Nephi continued by reading portions of Matthew 5. He emphasized verse 20, which states, "That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." Brother Nephi then related, through experience, how one's choice of words can easily offend someone. In verse 22, Christ warns that we must be careful of what we say. Brother Nephi then directed our attention to Luke 18:10-14, and mentioned that blessings are given to us to give honor and glory to God. The Pharisees, supposedly the keepers of law and faith, did not possess love and meekness as proven in Luke. Therefore, if we possess love and meekness and avoid following the way of the scribes and Pharisees, we are blessed. For **we** are the **light** of the world and the **salt** of the earth. Therefore, we have to be different—better—than the scribes and Pharisees.

Brother Nephi related another touching experience that concerned a troubled man that was causing great difficulty for Brother Nephi. It is a custom to give gifts in Nigeria, however, the receiver of the gift does not have to accept it if he feels it is not good enough or soiled in some way. Brother Nephi thought and prayed about how he would approach this man and deal with him. After reading Matthew 5:23, 24, it occurred to him to present this man with the gift of a beautiful yam. Upon receiving the yam, the man promptly returned it and exclaimed to Brother Nephi, "This gift is too good for me." The man felt he did not deserve such a fine gift. As such, we must present the Lord with our best. We have to be meek and righteous.

What makes us special is our giving ourselves to God! Let us bring our gift to the altar—not a soiled gift, but one that is extremely white! Let us give God

what we have and more. As Brother Nephi spoke these words to us he left us with another experience in which he concluded, "God has promised to bless us when we give even the littlest amount. Let us give good gifts to one another to show our love!" Along with this concluding remark, many of us, including Brother Nephi, could not contain ourselves.

Brother Dominic Thomas addressed the congregation with emphasis on our striving to have total dedication to God. He proposed that we cannot love and labor for the Lord if we hold something against our brother or sister. We must strive to be meek and humble servants! We must also give without the expectation that God will give something back. To continue on Brother Nephi's note, Brother Thomas stressed that we have to care more for one another by giving more of ourselves to others. It is important to be dynamic people and maintain a passion for The Church of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, Brother Thomas concluded, "Prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

In closing, Brother Moraca mentioned that prior to the meeting he had jotted down topics that he desired to be covered at this conference, and that all of the topics were brought out without his mentioning a word about them. Today, without a doubt, we felt God's wonderful Spirit. Brother Nephi provided us with much to think about. Surely, his words will not be forgotten.

Faces

By Donald Ross

Hardness of heart means, unyielding, stubborn, "stiffnecked". "Stiffnecked!" There is no other word that more accurately describes this man. His actions created a great deal of anguish and sorrow for his parents. His father made an eloquent appeal to his senses, "O that thou mightest be like unto this river, continually running into the fountain of all righteousness!" His name—Laman.

Laman appeared to be a troublemaker. Undoubtedly, he is the supreme example of a troublemaker. He was stubborn, unbelieving and desperate. He was void of faith in the revelations of his father. Laman was the leader of all the contentions and troubles in the wilderness. Unbelievably, he conspired and proposed to murder his brother, Nephi, and his father, Lehi. What an in-

credible proposal! All of this despite instructions to the contrary by angels of God.

He placed no credence in his father's prophecies that Jerusalem would be destroyed. Laman did not want to leave the city of Jerusalem. His heart focused on the possessions and riches of his father. He loved money! As he advanced in years, it appears his cruel and rebellious nature deepened.

Laman's greatest complaint was that Nephi, contrary to tradition, became the leader of the company and expedition. He rejected heavenly instruction outlining the divine role of his brother.

Laman married one of Ishmael's daughters. This union created the royal house of the "Lamanites". Shortly after arriving in the Western Hemisphere, his father died. Laman immediately conspired again to murder Nephi and take charge of the colony. But the Lord warned Nephi and he, plus his followers, separated themselves from Laman and his supporters.

The Lamanites were left without the Priesthood, sacred records, and presence of God. They quickly sank into a barbaric state. The nomadic habits acquired in the wilderness remained and dominated their lives. Laman and his followers became cruel, degenerate, dark-skinned and a loathsome people.

Laman was a terrible leader. Why? Because he led his family and supporters away from the Spirit of the Lord. What a sad commentary. What a troublemaker.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: This is indeed a sad story. But, thank God for His love and grace. His Divine Plan includes the recovery of His people, the Lamanites, direct descendants of Joseph from the House of Israel.

That Man Is Strong

*who has fears, as all men do,
but who can conquer those fears
and go on to greater challenges;*

*Who refuses to bow to circumstances
or to blame them,
and who fashions opportunities
out of obstacles;*

*Who is not only willing
to speak out for his ideals
but willing to live his life
according to what he believes is right.*

"It Is Written"



By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle

TOPIC: The Consequences of Sin

(Continued from April Issue)

Sin brings its punishments, but righteousness brings the blessings of God and the abundance of His gifts upon us.

The Holy Spirit has compelled me to write these last two articles. There is no need for dreams or visions to arouse us to indignation toward sin and transgression; the Scriptures are before us; they teach about the consequences that sin brings as well as the blessings which God will bestow upon the individual as well as the entire Church when "righteousness is the girdle of our loins", and we have put on the "whole armor of God". I exhort all the saints to arise in righteous anger against sin and let righteousness reign in our hearts so that Satan will have no power over us.

I suggest that the saints meet together often to read the Scriptures, pray together, and praise the Lord together. Form small groups and meet once a week in someone's home and speak of righteous living and how you can get closer to God. Teach each other to resist the temptations that beset the human family, and cry out to the Lord, even as Nephi did when he said, "Rejoice, O my heart, and cry unto the Lord, and say: O Lord, I will praise Thee forever; Yea, my soul will rejoice in Thee, my God, and the rock of my salvation . . . May the gates of hell be continually shut before me, because that my heart is broken and my spirit is contrite." (II Nephi 4:30, 32) Nephi, in his beautiful psalm, asks God not to shut the gates of His righteousness before him, that he could walk in the path of

the low valley and be **strict** in the plain road. (Read the entire 4th chapter of II Nephi. It is a beautiful Psalm.)

I exhort the saints to keep His commandments, for in so doing, we confess that we know Him. It is written, "But whoso keepeth His word, in him verily is the love of God perfected; hereby know we that we are in Him." (I John 1:5) The same writer continues, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." (I John 3:2)

I, like John, write to all the saints that we may all purify ourselves daily in order to present "our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is our **reasonable** service." (Romans 12:1)

I write also because I know that it is possible to keep the commandments of God and to overcome the evil one. The Scripture says, "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are **not**

grievous. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? (I John 5:3-5)

All Scripture is clear that sin can be defeated and overcome by faith in the Son of God and in keeping His commandments. We sing of the Peaceful Reign (Zion), we preach of the Kingdom of God coming on earth, and we hope for its establishment to be in our day. But even if it does not happen in our lifetime, I believe that we can live in the spirit of the Kingdom of God, and by righteousness enjoy the blessings of that kingdom as though it were a reality here and now. Remember this: There is remorse and fear in breaking the commandments of God, but as John says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out all fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love Him because He first loved us." (I John 4:18, 19)

(Continued on Page 8)

Do You Give Jesus Your Best?

*Does coming to church come first with you,
Or do you attend for lack of something to do?
Do you feel badly when you hear what you've missed,
Or does your favorite time come after church is dismissed?*

*Do you worship with all of your might,
Or just sit back and try to keep out of sight?
When someone is needed to volunteer,
Do you raise up your hand, or make it disappear?*

*Do you reach in your pocket for a generous gift,
Or just give the dollars and cents that are left?
Are all of your talents put fully to use,
Or do you consistently find an excuse?*

*Do you give Jesus your best,
Or does He just get the rest?
Do you live daily for Him,
Or take a break on a whim?
Does church or pleasure come first?
Is this your best or your worst?
When you are put to the test—
Do you give Jesus your best?*

Kathleen (Scolaro) Perkins

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Honoring Fathers

The annual observance of Father's Day does not seem to evoke the same widespread and intense feeling as that surrounding the observance of Mother's Day. However, fathers merit and deserve the honor and esteem of their children to an immeasurable degree, perhaps far more than is usually accorded them.

The role of fathers in the family circle differs in various ways from that of mothers, but it also involves a vital and important part in the proper rearing of children.

HEAVY RESPONSIBILITY

For example, may we note the heavy responsibility that is involved in a father's daily pursuits, in whatever field of occupation, in order to provide sufficient income to satisfy the normal everyday requirements of a household.

Additionally, some fathers, in the pursuit of a given occupation, are exposed daily to physical dangers and hazards, while others may endure exposure to extremes of weather or conditions.

In spite of all this, fathers endeavor to fulfill with devotion, self-sacrifice and tenacity their special and important role as the breadwinner in the family circle.

The love and affection of fathers for their children at any age level is also manifested in many other ways too numerous and varied to single out or point up.

Who can measure the time that fathers devote to their children, beginning early in childhood on up to adulthood?

Who can count a father's many tender acts of service, courtesy and encouragement?

Who can discern a father's innermost thoughts and heartfelt desires for the welfare, safety and goodly counseling of his children?

Who would dare underestimate the importance and gravity of a father's role in the proper rearing of his children?

Who can deny that fatherhood is not only the most important duty, but also a most sacred duty in the proper and wholesome raising of children?

APPROPRIATE AND FITTING

While endeavoring to pen an appropriate and fitting tribute to fathers, there comes the realization of a lack of consideration at times for fathers among busy, adult children, the neglect of home ties and the absence of thoughtful consideration brought on by the pressures of everyday living.

The annual observance of Father's Day serves as a timely reminder of fathers, whether living or dead.

It is also a time of reflections from many mirrors of the love, devotion, trust, happiness and experiences to be discovered in the unique feelings between fathers and their children.

May we follow their good examples. GOD BLESS THEM!

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Judges 13

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many years after Gideon was Judge, the people of Israel turned away from God again. For forty years they were to be under the control of their enemies, the Philistines.

At this time, a good man named Manoah and his wife also lived in Israel. They were very sad because they could not have any children.

One day as the wife was alone, a stranger appeared to her and told her, "Now you can't have children, but soon you will have a son. Do not drink any wine or strong drink, or eat any unclean foods, for this child is special. As a sign that he is special, you must never cut his hair. He shall begin to deliver this nation of Israel from their enemies, the Philistines."

When Manoah's wife went to tell him about this stranger and his amazing message, Manoah pray to God. He asked, "O Lord, let the man of God you sent come again to us and teach us what we should do with this special child that shall be born."

God heard Manoah and sent the angel again. He appeared to Manoah's wife as she sat alone in the field. Immediately she ran to get her husband.

Manoah didn't realize this visitor was an angel at first. He asked the stranger, "Are you the man of God that spoke to my wife?"

The angel replied, "I am."

And Manoah said, "Now, let everything you said happen. What shall we do?"

The angel told Manoah, "All the

things I told your wife she should do. Don't eat anything that comes from a vine, or anything that is unclean. Never cut the child's hair."

Manoah answered, "Please, will you wait while we take a kid (young goat), kill it as an offering and say prayers too?"

The angel told Manoah, "Though you want me to stay, I will not eat your bread, and if you offer a burnt offering, you must offer it not to me, but to the Lord."

Since Manoah didn't know he was talking to an angel he said, "What is your name so that when these things do happen we can praise you?"

The angel's answer must have puzzled them, because he said, "Why are you asking my name which is secret?"

Manoah never answered, but took the meat and placed it on a rock in the fire while he offered prayers. To the shock of both husband and wife, when the fire flamed high towards heaven the angel stepped inside. He rose to the sky far out of sight.

Both Manoah and his wife fell on their faces to the ground. Manoah exclaimed in fear, "We shall surely die because we've seen God!"

But his wife said to him, "If we were going to die, God wouldn't have accepted our burnt offering, or showed us this angel or told us these things."

They never saw the angel again, and all went well. After a time, Manoah's wife became pregnant, and she was careful to do all the things the angel had instructed her to do.

A beautiful baby boy was born to them, and they called his name Samson. As Samson grew, his family kept his hair uncut, as a sign he was set aside by God. At times the Spirit of God would move in him. And, as he grew, people were astounded by the awesome strength he possessed, a strength God planned to use in his own time to free the nation of Israel from their enemies, the Philistines.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Our Women Today

Lake Worth, FL

By Marilyn Carradi

Our Ladies Circle had a wonderful guest on January 3, 1984—Brother Marco Randy from Modesto, California. We were all so anxious to hear our brother speak to us. He carries such a beautiful spirit with him which we know to be the love of God.

Brother Marco decided to talk to us about "LOVE" and pointed out many demonstrations of the different kinds of love as portrayed by several women in the Scripture. He spoke of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the great love she had for her son. As mothers ourselves we should exercise the same love for our own children. He told us about Mary Magdalene's great love for Jesus because her sins were forgiven and how Jesus had loved her even prior to her repentance, as He loves all mankind.

Our brother stressed the importance of the love we show one another: how we should love our husbands, children, parents, brothers and sisters (both naturally and spiritually), but most of all, and above everything, **love God!** If we come closer to God, He will be pleased with us and perhaps give us more of His great love. We talked about the wonderful love of John Divine and how because of it, Jesus commissioned John to take charge of His mother. What a great honor that must have been.

Toward the end of our meeting, our president, Sister Nancy DiFede, asked

(Continued on Page 7)

OUR WOMEN TODAY continued...

if someone felt to offer a special prayer for those in need. Brother Marco said a beautiful prayer, crying out to the Lord for His help in our daily lives. As our brother prayed, we all surely felt the spirit of God and His presence with us.

Sister Nancy sat in her chair facing all of us and said she saw a man standing in the back of the church. Brother Marco said that he had seen this man during the whole evening and thought it to be a brother, as he was wearing a suit. Brother Ron Carradi went to the back of the church but said there was no one there, yet Sister Nancy continued to see him standing there. We then knew he was a messenger from God, and what a beautiful blessing we received!

Later that night, Brother Marco inquired of the Lord as to why the messenger was there. What was the message he was trying to tell us? During the night, the same messenger appeared to our brother and told him that God was pleased with what he was telling the sisters about **love**.

I felt a great blessing from our brother's visit. It truly lifted me, and I am sure many others felt this also. God always seems to know just what we need. I hope that we continue to receive and enjoy such beautiful blessings!

MBA Highlights

Michigan-Ontario Area MBA Annual Winter Retreat

*By Richard Bologna and
Lisa Champine*

For the past 20 years the area MBA activities committee has developed activities for our young people that would bring them closer to each other, provide an opportunity for them to do something for other people, and to study about God and His word.

The weekend of February 24-26, at Camp Hi-Scope, was such an activity. A group of about 55 young men and women, ranging in age from 12 to over 30, met together with Chaplain, Brother

Louis Vitto, Brother Alex Gentile, and the Area President, Brother John Bufa. Our camp theme this year was LOVE, and everything we did throughout the entire weekend reflected that love.

In preparation for our retreat, the young people of our area had a fast and prayer meeting. Many of the young people expressed their concern that Brother Frank Morle would not be able to attend the retreat because of his illness. Brother Lou Vitto suggested that we have a special prayer on Brother Frank's behalf. Brother Lou said, "We are praying for a miracle, and he will be there." We as a Church believe in miracles, but we as the young people didn't expect what was to come.

Saturday morning seminars focused on the many aspects of love, the spiritual and the natural sides of love, and the fine line that separates them. There were also discussions on the many definitions of love, and how we as a Church must show our love to the world.

The afternoon was spent in recreation. Although we normally look forward to ice skating, tobogganing and snow balling, an unexpected spring thaw left us with no snow or ice! Many took advantage of the mild weather to play football or tour the campsite.

Brother Louis Vitto opened Saturday night's meeting with prayer and song. He then asked all who could kneel to get on their knees and pray for Brother Frank Morle. Brother Flip Palacios offered a very moving prayer, and we continued with more song. Shortly into the meeting, Brother Frank Morle walked in along with his wife, Sister Mary, and his son, Brother Jerry. It was a surprise to most of the young people, and they responded with comments of gratitude to God for giving him the strength to attend the meeting and statements of hope that Brother Frank would continue to gain strength and defeat the disease that has gripped his body. Several young people testified their deepest feelings about Brother Frank and their love and concern for him. One sister said she was so happy to see him there because she had been afraid we were going to lose him and that we still needed him, so she was pleading with the Lord that He would not take him from us. Another expressed her love for Brother Frank by saying she wished we could share in Brother Frank's pain and suffering by each of us taking a small amount of it, thus, freeing him of this

burden. She was sure we would gladly bear our brother's burden if we could.

So many prayers have been offered up on behalf of Brother Frank and so many weeks of bad news had been forthcoming to the point that many brothers and sisters despaired that God was not answering their prayers. Brother Mike Coppa told of how he had felt this way until the Lord came to him and asked him to pray for Brother Frank. While working he heard the Spirit of the Lord telling him to pray for Brother Frank. "I hesitated, and the Spirit spoke again. I looked up and saw a closet near me. I went into the closet and prayed for our brother. I felt a beautiful spirit of prayer and felt encouraged that the Lord was going to heal Brother Frank. This was the first time I felt I was going to hear good news. On February 18, at a prayer meeting in preparation for the retreat, Brother Lou said we were going to ask for a miracle. While he was talking, I saw a white light shining on his head and a beam of light shining around that. At this time I remembered the prayer and my closet. I asked the Lord to give me the strength if I should reveal my experience. Later in the meeting, when I stood up I wasn't sure what I was going to say, but I said I know the Lord is going to heal our brother and I know he is going to be there this weekend."

Brother Frank spoke briefly, thanking God for the strength to be at the retreat and giving the young people a glimpse into the pain and horror that he had been through. During one of his surgeries he had been near death due to an accident made in the surgery, but the Lord brought him through it and when he awoke from the anesthesia, he was singing the hymn, *God's Still On His Throne*.

There was a tremendous outpouring of love directed at Brother Frank and it culminated in Brother Lou inviting all the young people up to shake Brother Frank's hand before he left for the evening.

For the remainder of the meeting, the three seminar classes performed skits that depicted some aspect of love. The skits were very well done, exhibiting the talent and creativity of our young people but also their understanding of the love of God and how we should live our lives as disciples of Christ.

Camp closed with our Sunday morning service highlighted by visits from

(Continued on Page 8)

WINTER RETREAT continued . . .

Brothers John Griffith and Peter Scolaro, and Sisters Carolyn Griffith and Marilyn Scolaro. The Lord's Supper was administered, which is unique for a retreat but as always very fulfilling.

With reluctance, the young people packed up and left for home after a very full and satisfying weekend.

53rd Anniversary

Brother Dominick Calabro was born on February 7, 1892 in Reggio, Calabria, Italy, and just celebrated his 92nd birthday. He is nearing his 53rd birthday as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in the Hopelawn Branch, Hopelawn, New Jersey. He experienced many wonderful blessings and revelations from God during his life in the Church.

Brother Dominick served in the American Army in World War I in France. Two men were put in each fox-hole, one to keep watch while the other slept. One day while he was asleep, he felt a hand on his shoulder that shook him three times until he awoke. Then he saw in a vision a woman who said, "Don't be afraid, you are saved." Later that night, the Germans left the line and soon after the armistice was signed and the war was over. He experienced many difficult months as a soldier but the Lord had kept him safe through this time. From a full company of 260 men, only 35 came home alive, one of whom was Brother Dominick.

On May 1, 1921, he married Catherine Benyola. The late Sister Catherine was the daughter of Sister Mary and Brother Paul Benyola, Sr. and also a sister of Brother Joseph Benyola, Evangelist, from the Hopelawn Branch. They became acquainted with The Church of Jesus Christ through Brother Louis Mazzeo of New Brunswick, New Jersey, who preached the Gospel to them many times. They did not care to change their religion, but Brother Louis told them to pray and ask God whether The Church of Jesus Christ was the true Church. One night as they were preparing for bed, the room lit up and a voice said, "Read the *Bible*, believe in the *Bible*, and be baptized." On October 4, 1931, they were baptized by Brother Louis, through the revelation of God.

The saints in Hopelawn were few in

number at the time, and they would meet in a small garage, but soon his father-in-law, Brother Paul Benyola, bought property for our Church to be built on and later bought property for a Church cemetery also. Together with other brothers, Brother Dominick helped build the church building we now worship in at the Hopelawn Branch.

God has blessed Brother Dominick with many dreams and revelations, and has surely answered many of his prayers. His grandchildren often refer to him as having a direct line to God when he prays. He always says in his testimonies to pray one for another as he prays always for each and everyone of us. He also is remembered as saying, "It is better to give than to receive."

Brother Dominick and his wife had five (5) children, all baptized, and one of whom has written three beautiful hymns that are printed in our hymn books. They have nine (9) grandchildren and three (3) great-grandchildren, all of whom love him very much.

He loves to work in his garden in the summer months where you will find him from early morning until the late evening hours. He loves to watch how wonderfully God blesses his garden with a bountiful supply of vegetables. He also enjoys helping his neighbors with their gardens, especially those who cannot help themselves. He would go early before they would rise and would dig their ground and plant vegetables for them, then take care of them daily. When he is not in his garden, he spends many hours, especially in the winter months, with the *Bible* on his lap and he reads the Word of God. When you visit him, you can surely expect to hear and talk of God and the Scriptures. He truly lives the role as Christ would want us to.

Brother Dominick has written a poem which we would like to share with you.

Paradise of Love

*Paradise of love, reign in our hearts
joyfully;
When we meet the Saints on that
beautiful shore,
We'll praise God and give Him glory.*

*The Saviour will be there to lead us
in prayer,
And the Saints all around
Will sing hymns of beautiful sound.*

*We have all been baptized
To gain the kingdom of Paradise,
And the Father of Hosts
Delivered us the Holy Ghost.*

*Now, brothers and sisters, we'll rejoice,
Living together in the Gospel of Love;
We want to follow the Lord
And hear His story until He comes
back and raises us in glory.*

Note of Thanks

We wish to thank all the saints who prayed in our behalf, and for the many beautiful cards and phone calls. The concern of the saints during our recent illness is greatly appreciated.

Continue to pray for our family. We are still in need of prayer.

God bless you all; our sincere thanks to everyone. We remain your brother and sister in Christ.

Brother James and Sister Lucy
Lombardo
Brookpark, Ohio

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

A further suggestion that I have for the saints is to take time each day to meditate upon the Lord. It could be a few moments in your study or bedroom where in solitude you may ponder upon the blessings which God has promised to His people. Many times, there is a blessing in silent meditation, letting your heart and mind reach out to Him, believing that He will commune with you by His Holy Spirit. In this manner of quietude, let the Lord speak to you and fill you with His love, for it is written, "Be still, and know that I am God . . ." (Psalm 46:10) In these quiet moments, let your minds ponder upon the words of Jesus Christ, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory. Amen."

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
he will gather the lambs in his arms, he
will carry them in his bosom, and
gently lead those that are with young.*

Isaiah 40:11

Branch and Mission News

Monongahela, PA

By LuAnn Scaglione

The Monongahela Branch enjoyed preaching, singing and fellowship on Sunday, February 19. Brother Fred Olexa opened the meeting, as it was his last Sunday in Monongahela before the Olexa family moves to Ohio. The topic of his sermon was "Be a Hero for the Lord". He asked, "What makes some people excel, be just average, or fail?" Reflecting on the Olympics, he pointed out how long and hard the participants worked for that one short performance. Their persistence and determination made them heroes of our country. In our spiritual lives, we too must strive to excel. Brother Fred spoke about Zaccheus, who made that extra effort so that the Lord would recognize him. Every one of us could be a hero of the Church if we apply ourselves, responding to God's calling.

Brother Fred chose Judges 6 and 7 for his text and related the story of Gideon. In this scripture, Israel was in bondage to the Midianites. Their bondage and persecutions brought Israel to their knees, and finally God promised to free them. Their prayers were to be answered. An angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and said, "The Lord is with thee. Go in thy might; thou shalt save Israel." Gideon questioned the angel and responded, "My family is poor and I am the least in my family." Finally, Gideon tried God by asking for signs, which he received. Brother Fred compared Israel's bondage to the Church's bondage today, which is sickness and complacency from which we must be delivered. The promise that God made to deliver Israel was also made to the Church: We will be delivered from our oppression. We, just as Israel, are God's people. When the Lord called Gideon, he was reluctant, just as we sometimes are today. We must listen for our calling and then step out on faith. God gave Gideon a job to do—tear down the altar of Baal, the Midianites' god. He took ten men and did this at night when nobody could see him. Do we lack the confidence to stand up plainly for what we believe, or do we try to work in the night when no one can see us? We should never be ashamed of what God has told us to do, but we should do it with spiritual pride. When

the Midianites saw what Gideon had done, they wanted to kill him. But Gideon's father said, "Let Baal do something if he is a god." Now Gideon was ready to do God's work. He gathered thousands of men to fight the Midianites, but God had other plans. If Gideon won with his great numbers, then Israel would take the credit for the victory. So the army of Gideon was reduced from many thousands to just 300 men to go into battle. God delivered Israel from the Midianites and Gideon was successful.

Each of us, just like Gideon, has a job to do and a place in God's work. He will be our strength now as He was in days of old. However, we must step out and put forth that effort, and we too will be heroes for the Lord.

Brother Fred closed by saying how much he enjoyed being a part of the Monongahela Branch. He exhorted us to stay close to each other and to the Lord. We in Monongahela will miss Brother Fred, Sister Charlotte, and Jason very much. Our prayers go with them to their new home.

San Diego, CA

By Violet Thomas

The Lord has been so wonderful to us in the year, 1983! I'm late in reporting, but the year was alive and vibrant with the blessings of God. We started the year with our young brother, Bob Womack, ordained as a teacher. We are happy when the Lord uses our young brothers in His Gospel.

One of our elderly brothers who lives alone related how God protected him. He had gone to bed and fell asleep. He heard someone come into the house and thought it was his son. Then someone came into his bedroom and turned on the lights and began rummaging through the drawers and the desk. The intruder did not notice anyone in the room. Our brother shouted out, "What are you doing here?" The individual was so shocked that he dropped everything and ran. The intruder could have hurt our brother, but he didn't lay a hand on him. God truly protects his own.

We had the pleasure of having the General Church Mission Board meeting in San Diego, and it was a blessing to have our visiting brothers speak to us. It was inspiring and reviving.

God performed a miracle on one of our young couples. Brother Greg and Sister Shelli Baer had wanted to have a child for some time and were unable to. After doctoring for some time and going through much discouragement, she was anointed, and the Lord granted this young couple's wish. They now have a young daughter! What man cannot do, God can.

Many young people have transferred to our Branch. Sister Kathleen Biddle from the Lindsay Branch and Brother Andre Francione from Arizona are now here with us, as well as Brother Ralph and Sister Jean Frammolino, formerly of Dallas, Texas.

Brother Ralph Frammolino performed his first baptism here in San Diego, baptizing Brother John Soriano. Our new convert was then confirmed by Brother Tom Liberto. Also on this special day, January 8, 1984, all the ordinances of the Church were performed—a baptism, a confirmation, the blessing of a baby, feet washing, anointing of the sick, and the administering of the Lord's Supper. It was such a beautiful day in the Lord! The preaching that day was on "walking with Jesus" and keeping our hand in His. When one holds hands, one feels the connection. When one disengages in holding hands, there is no connection.

Sister Alyse Genaro then sang a beautiful solo entitled, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*. Also visiting with us were Brother Sam Molisani of the San Fernando Valley Branch and Sister Lydia Lombardo of Detroit, Michigan.

We thank God for the Gospel, and we pray that God will bless each of you in your walk with Him.

(Continued on Page 10)

Among the many acts of gratitude we owe to God, it may be accounted one to study and contemplate the perfections and beauties of his work of creation. Every new discovery must necessarily raise in us a fresh sense of the greatness, wisdom, and power of God.

Jonathan Edwards

SAN DIEGO continued . . .



Brother Nick and Sister Lena Liberto of the San Diego, California Branch recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception hosted by their children.

They were married in Glassport, Pennsylvania in 1933 and have three children, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.



The Ciccati Family had a family reunion in celebration of their mother's 80th birthday! The Lord has blessed her with a beautiful family of 12 children. She and her late husband, Brother Guildo, had moved to San Diego from Lorain, Ohio and were always a blessing to us. Our sister is a wonderful example; she is cheerful and dedicated.



Brother Jim Aquilino was recently honored on his 95th birthday at a birthday reception held by his family. Friends, family and the brothers and sisters paid respect and tribute to our brother on this very special occasion.

Brother Jim lived and raised his family in Lorain, Ohio, then moved to Detroit, Michigan and attended Branch 4. He later moved his residence to San Diego, California.

Our brother is a God-fearing man who is very dedicated to the Lord. He was presented with a recorder and tapes of the entire *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, and he spends most of his days listening to the Word of God. He has many tapes of the testimonies of the brothers and sisters, and this is his joy, the Gospel. God has given him a multitude of experiences, and he has left many imprints in the sands of time.

Detroit, Branch 4

By Josephine Pepper

On January 22, 1984, the members of Branch 4 were blessed with many visiting brothers and sisters to witness a beautiful occasion as we anticipated the ordination of Sister Rosalie Campitelle as Deaconess.

We opened our service with Brother John Romano leading us in prayer, after which we sang *There Is Sunshine in My Soul Today*.

As our minds focused on Brother Carl

Frammolino's remarks he reminded us that the calling of an ordained office is something that is spiritual and meaningful. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is established with offices as we read in the Book of Ephesians. It says, "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." He went on to say how the criterion for an ordained office is to live a good life.

Sister Rosalie held the following offices at Branch 1: She was secretary of the MBA, Sunday School and Ladies Circle. Continuing on, she was assistant teacher of Sunday School for ages eight to ten, teacher of an elementary Sunday School class, president of the Area Ladies Circle for one year, and typed many hours on the *Book of Sermons*. For a number of years, she, along with her husband, Brother Norman Campitelle, traveled to the Six Nations Mission in Canada where she taught Sunday School and did other various works. Sister Rosalie was baptized July 31, 1955 by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo and confirmed by Brother Matthew T. Miller.

Brother Carl then directed his remarks to all. The call is out—the Lord needs workers in The Church of Jesus Christ. It can only grow and perpetuate itself through the people of God. We should turn our lives over to Christ 100% and be ready for the call when it comes. Prepare yourselves to serve the Lord. We must go forward today and we cannot do it without this full Body working together for the perfecting of the saints.

In honor of Sister Rosalie, Sisters Denise Campitelle and Lisa DiFalco sang so beautifully, *Jesus Use Me*.

Brother Carl then read the duties of a deaconess, referring to Romans 16:1. Proceeding with the ordination, we sang *Holy Spirit* and *He Touched Me* as Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo washed Sister Rosalie's feet. Brother Tullio LaCivita then lead us in prayer. As the elders formed a circle around our sister, Brother Nick Pietrangelo, who ordained Sister Rosalie, called upon God to bless her life as she undertakes this calling and this work before her, that He would bless her with His Holy Spirit, that she might be a blessing wherever she might

(Continued on Page 11)

BRANCH 4 continued . . .

go, that she may be able to perform the work that He has called her to do and to serve His people well. As this calling was sealed upon our sister, Brother Nick asked the Holy Spirit to be with her to lead, guide, and direct her to greater heights, to be a person that would be loved by all, and that the honor and glory would be given to God.

Sister Marie Fera of Branch 4 then related an experience she had on the morning of the day it was announced that Sister Rosalie would be ordained.

Brother Peter Scolaro remarked that we are thankful for the calling, and we must look to the Lord to provide the strength and wisdom and whatever it takes. He felt that Sister Rosalie knew where to look for her strength.

Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino then sang *Wave the Flag of Zion*. We as a Church, as a Body of Christ fitly joined together, know that some day we will plant our flags all over the world and we are seeing the beginning of that even in our day. As Moroni said, "If it not be in my day, then in my children's day." Brother Eugene felt this song most appropriate for this day. He asked us to pay particular attention to the first two lines, "It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country," and "It's time for young women who love the Lord to stand."

Following this, Brother Nick Pietrangelo pointed out that the Lord has some kind of work for each and every one whatever it is, and His vineyard is so great. The Lord knows where He can use us. He said always count it as a blessing and an honor when He calls you. Man's calling is failure but God's calling is a success. We have much to do and we must be prayerful about it. Everything we do in the Church is important and when we work for the Lord, it is a great blessing and it pays off in great dividends.

Brother Norman Campitelle then spoke briefly on an experience pertaining to the calling of Sister Rosalie as deaconess.

Our meeting was then closed in prayer by Brother Concetto Alessandro. We are so thankful to God for this beautiful day. Our prayer is that the Lord will lead our sister and bless her as she takes on her duties as deaconess.

May the blessings of our Heavenly Father abide with all of you.

Windsor, Ontario

Brother Richard Elzby was ordained as an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ on Sunday, December 4, 1983. His feet were washed by Brother Frank Calabrese, and he was ordained by Brother Don Collison.

Brother Elzby will be the first elder living and working in the Meaford Mission in Meaford, Ontario, Canada. May God bless him in his calling.

Cleveland, OH

The Cleveland, Ohio Branch was blessed with the following recent baptisms:

On January 22, 1984 Steven Lyle Ross was baptized by Brother Vince Gibson and confirmed by Brother Elmer Santilli. Also, Rebecca Murphy was baptized by Brother Bill Hufnagle and confirmed by Brother Joseph Calabrese. Our new sister is an American Indian who was introduced to the Gospel by Brother and Sister Hufnagle.

On February 26, 1984, Patti Gibson McCullough was baptized by Brother Vince Gibson and confirmed by Brother Mario Milano.

May God continue to bless our new brothers and sisters as they endeavor to serve Him to the best of their ability.

Erie, PA

By George Kovacic

On Saturday, February 18, the saints and friends of the Erie Branch feasted on various Mexican style foods. The dinner, which was sponsored by the Erie Sunday School, was a true success with 32 members of the Branch attending. And along with the regulars there were 18 visitors, many of whom were American Indians living in the Erie area.

After spending an hour and a half eating, a short film was shown concerning the Maya civilization of Central America. After the film, literature was distributed to the visitors explaining not only the link between the Mayas and the *Book of Mormon* but also the work of The Church of Jesus Christ in South America. We thank the Lord and all those that helped to make those few hours enjoyable enough for the visitors to have a desire to return.

Hollywood, FL

By Candace Obradovich

Missionary: a person commissioned by a church to propagate its faith or carry on humanitarian work.

Recently our Branch had the pleasure of enjoying the company of a man commissioned by God and The Church of Jesus Christ to propagate our faith and carry on this humanitarian work. Our Branch was visited by a missionary. Brother Jesse Carr, along with his wife, Sister Ruth, attended our MBA, leaving us with a zeal to learn more about this life as a missionary.

Brother Jesse began by relating an experience which prompted his venture into this foreign land known as Africa—a land quite different from his native homeland, Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Having been assured by God that the road was paved and after running into minor complications at customs, Brother Jesse reached his destination. It was a joyous reunion when Brother Jesse met with his son, Paul, daughter-in-law Thressa, and his three grandchildren, also missionaries. Brother Jesse expressed the love and warmth he received from our brothers and sisters in Christ in Africa. Also, he told of their enthusiasm and joy that they share in serving our Saviour. For many, each day begins with fasting and prayer. Brother Jesse described the honor of being able to serve the Lord's Supper to over one thousand of our brothers and sisters. What unity was felt during this moment of remembrance. Sacrament is served only once a month due to the high rate of inflation and so this ordinance is greatly appreciated.

Brother Jesse preached, taught, inspired, labored, encouraged, baptized—he was a missionary. He left behind many of the luxuries and conveniences of the United States, but he took one luxury with him, this gem known as the Gospel, and he shared it with others!

Brother George Arthur quoted at the World Missionary Conference that "the harvest is plenty, the laborers are few, pray ye therefore the Lord of harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." Brother Jesse has been laboring for the Lord, and he encouraged all to labor for the Lord—young, middle-aged, and old. There is plenty to harvest, and we should prepare ourselves for the season of reaping.

New Arrivals

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

Allyson Lee to Ralph and Jean Frammolino of San Diego, California;

Melanie Ruth to Timothy and Brenda Capone of Branch 3, Detroit, Michigan;

Ryan William to Robert Deane and Diane Elaine McDonnell of Bell, California;

Jamie Lynn to Marietta and Roger Schroeder of St. John, Kansas.

Casandra Nicole to Greg and Shelli Baer of San Diego, California;

Joshua David to Bob and Lynn Womack of San Diego, California;

Nathan William to Robert and Brenda Turley of Windsor, Ontario;

OBITUARIES

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

ANDREW HERTNECKY

Brother Andrew Hertnecky, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey, passed away from this life on November 25, 1983. He was born on April 8, 1894, baptized on June 25, 1933, and was ordained into the office of a deacon on July 10, 1949.

Brother James Benyola officiated at the funeral services.

Brother Andrew is survived by his wife, Sister Anna, five daughters (all members of the Church), four (4) grandchildren, and four (4) great-grandchildren.

DOMENICO MORLE

Brother Domenico Morle passed away on February 14, 1984. He was born on November 27, 1895 and baptized in 1933 at the age of 38 by Brother Patsy DiBattista. He was a faithful member of the San Fernando Valley Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Domenico leaves to mourn his loss one son, Brother Frank Morle of Saline, Michigan, and one daughter, Sister Virginia Suprenaut of Los Angeles, California, and six grandchildren.

Brother John Azzinaro conducted the funeral services and was assisted by Brothers Vincent Scalise and Edmond Buccellato.

LOUISE LLOYD

Sister Louise Lloyd of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of the Church passed away on February 29, 1984. She was born on January 26, 1907 and was baptized on February 12, 1922.

Brother Mike Radd officiated at the funeral service, assisted by Brothers John D'Orazio and Eugene Perri.

Sister Lloyd is survived by three sisters, four brothers and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, the late Brother and Sister DeCarlucci.

HERTA TIEDKE

Sister Herta Tiedke passed away from this life on February 24, 1984. A member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3, she was born on March 27, 1903.

She is survived by two daughters, one son and six grandchildren.

Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Paul Whitton conducted the funeral services.

Oh Glorious Nature

*Oh glorious nature wonderful thing, without thy God,
thou would never have been.*

*In thy virginity, pure and good, from the hand of God,
behold thou stood.*

*Fair and bright, no sin in sight, angels sang of thy glorious
might. No death, no decay, no sin within to vex thy
God when He walked therein.*

*But after His presence, in grief and in sin. Man and
the woman a strange life begin.*

*Angels will praise thee in ages to come. Of the glorious
creation from His hand it came.*

*In the Garden of Eden, with flowers so bright. The man
and the woman glorious in His sight.*

*When man and woman began to repent, Angels from
heaven to earth were sent. Revealing to them the
redemption plan. The atoning blood, Christ the
infinite man.*

Alma B. Cadman

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

June, 1984

Volume 40, No. 6

News of India

By Joseph Ross, Secretary, Foreign Missions Committee

Tadepalligudem

A few months ago, a serious flood situation struck that area of India where Brother David Livingston and our Church people are located. These floods resulted from the heavy monsoon rain storms that occur periodically in India. Many people lost their homes and belongings during this period.

The Indian government assisted the people to a certain extent, but in times of crises such as this, there is never enough. Brother Livingston contacted Brother Joe Calabrese, Chairman of the work in India, requesting some form of relief from the Church to assist those unfortunate people.

Fortunately, The Church of Jesus Christ does have a General Church Welfare/Relief Fund under the General Mission Board. Funds are donated to this fund by individuals, organizations and auxiliaries of the Church. Requests for funds are made available to a missionary work by an appropriate Church Committee or Board requesting welfare/relief aid via the General Church Mission Board. Such was this case in India!

Immediately, \$750 was sent to Brother Livingston by the General Missionary Benevolent Association (G.M.B.A.) through this Welfare/Relief Fund. With the money, our brother purchased countless bed sheets and distributed them among people in those villages affected by the floods. Bed sheets are important to these people as

they are used for making clothing, sleeping material, etc. They were distributed to **all needy persons**, regardless of caste or creed, and whether a member of our Church or not. They were distributed in the name of our Church. (See pictures on Page 2.)

Any person or others desiring to contribute to this Welfare/Relief Fund for situations such as this, please send your contribution to:

Anthony Ensana
1921 S. E. Erwin Road
Port St. Lucie, Florida 33452

The Foreign Missions Committee thanks the G.M.B.A. and their members for their generosity in a time of need.

Brother Livingston services five (5) villages in his area, traveling approximately 75 miles weekly, holding meetings on Sunday and weekdays.

Tamil Nadu

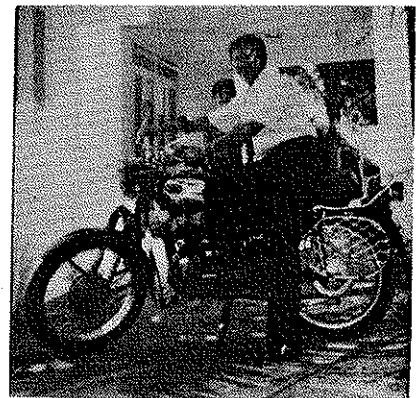
Located 350 miles south of Brother Livingston is Brother Devanandam (Dev). Brother Dev services four (4) villages spread out in his area, traveling 350 miles weekly, holding meetings on Sunday, Wednesday and Saturday. To service these villages, Brother Dev requires good transportation. Previously he pedaled a bicycle on rough terrain. Picture yourself pedaling a bicycle 50 miles a day! As usual, some brothers and sisters heard of Brother Dev's plight and generously came to his rescue. Because of their donations

specifically to this cause, the Foreign Missions Committee managed to purchase a motorbike for Dev. (See picture)

The Foreign Missions Committee extends thanks again to the following people for their contributions for Brother Dev's motorbike:

Mamie Funkhouser
George and Mary Lou Funkhouser
Anthony Micale
Robert Womack and Mother
San Diego Ladies' Circle

Brothers Joseph Calabrese and John Ross recently returned from a missionary trip to India. A detailed account of their trip will appear in a future issue of *The Gospel News*.



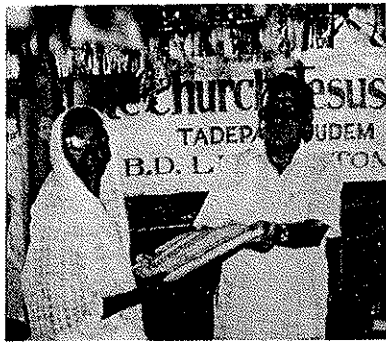
Brother Dev and his motorbike.

(Continued on Page 2)

INDIA continued . . .



Dr. Livingston with the bed sheets.



Dr. Livingston distributing the bed sheets.



Female flood victims of Arulla and Gandhinagar. All of them received bed sheets.



Male flood victims of Arulla and Gandhinagar.

Ohio District Conference

Our service was opened with Brother Bob Batson singing, *He's Taken My Blindness*. Brother George Kovacic (Erie, PA) opened with Matthew 16:17, "... Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven . . . " Just as flesh and blood had not revealed this unto Peter, so it was with Joseph Smith, as he looked unto the Father for direction concerning which church to join. And likewise with William Bickerton as he was shown that great chasm by the Lord. All of this was performed by the Father above through His Holy Spirit. Today we must also seek the divine guidance so that we do not fall into temptations of the flesh.

Brother Travis Perry (Youngstown) followed with a thankful heart unto the Lord. (This was the first time Brother Travis had been in a morning service since his heart attack last April 7, 1983.) He thanked the Lord for sparing his life and thanked the saints for their prayers. It was only through the prayers of the saints that his life was spared.

Brother Joe Genaro (Carolinas) was also thankful for the sound of the Gospel. He said that, "Upon this rock, upon the gifts and power, I will build my Church." We should be grateful for the angel which broke through the darkness.

Brother Mitchell Edwards (Warren) continued stating that "the gates of hell shall not prevail" against our testimonies, against our love, against this authority, nor against what has been given to you and me. Do we realize and understand this? Do we recognize the seriousness of living by the Word of God? We must abide by the written word.

Brother Henry Cardillo (Youngstown) followed, telling us that many people in the world have fallen from this written word into an apostasy. And we as a Church cannot afford to let this happen. We must get excited about the Church and the Gospel Restored.

Brother Russ Martorana (Niles) then related an experience he had not long ago. He was shaken one night by a hand while asleep. A voice spoke to him and

(Continued on Page 3)

CONFERENCE continued . . .

said, "Hallelujah, the Gospel is Restored." He fell asleep again and the hand shook him even more with the voice declaring, "Hallelujah, the Gospel is Restored." We should praise God today and every day for the fact that the Gospel has been restored in our day and time.

Brother Ron Genaro (Niles) told us that the Gospel is greater than all things. Yes, the evil power has always sought to destroy, yet we see that our God has always overcome and always will. Never will the Lord's power be overcome. We must not let the evil one discourage us.

Brother Frank Calabrese (Lorain) stated that the Gospel is to be preached in power. We must accept nothing else but the message of the Angel Moroni. We must believe that the ministry has power, and through this power we will convince the world. God is the same, His power is the same, His Church is the same. We must bring deliverance to all people. We must forsake the things of this world and lift up The Church of Jesus Christ to all people.

Brother Jerry Giovannone (Warren) related many beautiful experiences concerning his father and also both of his children. As he cried with joy, expressing his thankfulness and the power of our Lord, he told us of how the Lord has spared his children and how they are strong and healthy today. When Brother Jerry said that it was through the power of Jesus Christ that his children were healed, the Word of the Lord came forth, "Blessed are my people, if they will stand upon that rock. I shall show greater signs saith the Lord. If my people leave the vain things of this world and come unto me I will open the gates of heaven and surely I will bless my people whenever they stand in need saith the Lord."

Sister Kathy Natoli sang *The Storehouse of the Lord* as our deaconess sisters set the sacrament table. A peaceful spirit was felt as the bread and wine were passed in remembrance of Christ.

Brother Elmer Santilli (Perry) made some closing remarks as District President and concluded our day with many encouraging words.

An Experience to Remember

By Brother Frank Natoli

We of the Ohio District would like to take this opportunity to reproduce an experience found in the *History of The Church of Jesus Christ*. There is no doubt that we must depend on the Lord just as our brothers and sisters did in days of old.

A THANKSGIVING EXPERIENCE OF SISTER HELEN CAMPITELLE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

It was in the year 1928. My husband was out of work because of sickness. As it was the night before Thanksgiving, my children wanted me to go to the store to buy food for a Thanksgiving dinner. I did not have any food in the house except beans. I told my children I was very sorry that I was unable to make a dinner for them as their father was out of work, and they would have the beans which I had in the house. It was seven o'clock in the evening and my children were discouraged. I told them not to be discouraged as the Lord could bless us just the same with beans. At seven-thirty we heard some one knocking and my oldest daughter, Rose, went to answer the door. She found a man there and he asked for Mrs. Campitelle. While my daughter was talking to him, she saw a white car in front of the door and he said to me, "Mrs. Campitelle, what is the reason you don't want to give a Thanksgiving dinner to your children?" I told him the truth, that I wanted to, but as my husband was out of work I was unable to do so.

He looked at my face and smiled; then he said, "Mrs. Campitelle, I have brought a Thanksgiving dinner for your children." He then went into the car (which I did not see) and brought out all kinds of groceries; fruit which looked like it had just been picked, fresh dressed chicken, which was still warm, and many other things. When I saw all the groceries and food he had brought, I asked him his name and address, as I wanted to remember him for what he had done for us. But he said "Mrs. Campitelle, you don't need my name or address now." He looked at my children and said, "You have wonderful children and a wonderful family." Then he left.

The next day at dinner time, all the food was prepared, and we were seated around the table. Brother and Sister

Frammolino were with us. While Brother Frammolino was asking the blessing on the food he saw the same man come in and stand near the table and he said, "I fed my people in the time of Moses and I will feed them today too."

We all felt the presence of God with us so that we could hardly eat the food because of the great blessings. Every time I testify of this experience, the Lord is my witness.

Mini-Conference in Omaha

Under the leadership of the Ohio District Mission Board, the Omaha-Bedford Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ will hold their Annual Mini-Conference on July 20, 21, and 22, 1984 in Omaha, Nebraska.

The theme of our Mini-Conference will center around "The Role of the Woman", with program and seminars. We cordially invite all who are interested to come and share God's blessings with us in fellowship, song and praise.

The members of our Mission will assist in accommodations for all who can attend.

For further information, contact:

Sister Dorothy Miller
111 Crestridge Drive
Bellevue, NE 68005
Phone (402) 291-6595

Request for Prayer

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We would like to take this opportunity, through the communications of *The Gospel News*, to solicit your prayers on behalf of Sister Evelyn.

On March 29, 1984, Sister Evelyn fell and crushed her lower back. Please be mindful of us, especially Sister Evelyn, when you approach the Lord in prayer as we are in much need at this time.

Our love through Jesus Christ,
Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall

Greetings in Christ,

God has no more precious gift to the Church than a man who lives as the embodiment of His will and inspires those around him with the faith of what grace can do. The humble local pastor is such a man.

I returned from a most inspiring visit to the state of Florida and there found such inspiring pastors in each local branch.

My first visit was in Miami where I was met by Sister Viola Swanson and her son, Skip. On seeing Brother Alvin, it was such an unusual type of meeting—joyous to see him whom I have loved and his family, and sad to see him so sick.

At this writing, he has some good days and some not so good. He has such a positive spirit in him to still want to be an active missionary. Those who know him cannot help but love him.

I spent New Year's Eve at Miami. The folks from the Hollywood Mission joined us, and it was a truly great night of praise, singing and testimony. The Catone family took me to their home, and Sunday I attended services with them. They have a fine group of young people. Elders Joseph Catone, Sr. and his young son, Joseph, Jr. assist Brother Dennis Moraco who presides over the Hollywood Mission. Brother Joseph Catone, Sr. drove me to Lake Worth on Monday.

That night, a group of people met in the home of Elder John D'Orazio in whose home I stayed. It was a good meeting of praises and testimony, and I was surprised to see so many new people whom I never met in each branch. On Tuesday night we met at the Church building with the Ladies Uplift Circle. After speaking of the women of the *Bible*, I proceeded to speak of the love that was very much a part of our early families, the love between husband and wife, parents and children, between neighbors and Church members. It was this kind of love, the love of God, that nurtured us and made us the kind of adults we became. Would it not be beautiful to renew our minds and return to that self-same love?

What made me marvel above what I was saying was not only the blessing that we shared upon reminding ourselves of the first love between ourselves and our God, but mostly



because there was a young man standing behind the front entry of the Church. He constantly seemed to approve of what I was saying, but why didn't he come in the chapel? Upon ending my speech, Sister Nancy DiFede, the president of the local Ladies Uplift Circle, came forward, and as she sat down, she saw the same person. Nancy said, "Go tell that brother to come in." Brother Ronald Corradi went to ask the brother who had stayed behind the doors to come into the chapel, but he was not to be found. We were filled with blessing!

I had said nothing of the brother I saw, because it was not a vision. It was real to me, and so he was to Sister DiFede. But who was he? And where did he go? That night I prayed and asked the Lord, "Who was that man?" The same man appeared in my dream, "Marco, the Lord was pleased that you were teaching God's children to love one another and to display their love within the families and the Church." I have found it difficult to express my joy in the fact that God was pleased—all my life I have desired to please our Lord.

I felt good in talking about great women of the past, but felt much better to talk of our needs of today. It was then that the man appeared. The Lord knows that His children are slowly drifting into isolation from each other. Love became the theme of my visit in each Branch.

My fourth visit was in Fort Pierce. Brother Al Coney came to get me. I stayed with Charles and Ilene Smith. I have known Charles over fifty years, but I did not truly know him until this visit. Saturday night was an elder's and teacher's meeting for the state, and there I met most of the ministers. Again, I knew Brother Michael Radd, but not the real leader that he is. Sunday it was truly refreshing to see so many, some whom I knew and others whom I had never met.

Brother Sam Risola, Jr. and his wife, Arline, drove me to Tampa. I stayed in their home one night, then moved to Meredith and Irene Griffith's. I stayed also one night at Duane and Betty Lowe's. Their son-in-law, Isaac Smith, drove me to Orlando for a brief visit with Bertha Sommerville and her mother. It was very touching, especially that we may not see each other again in this life.

I went back to Tampa, only to find that we had to leave for Cape Coral, as the saints there had prepared a pot-luck dinner. I was tired when I arrived, but upon seeing their love, many of whom I did not know, I was moved almost to tears.

We held a brief service, and the next day being Sunday, we had another great day of praise. I must say that I stayed one night at the Eutseys, such a family of love. Back to Miami, I was tired, but joyous to see Brother Swanson feeling better, although he is not completely well, as I stated earlier.

I must say that in each locality I visited two or three families a day and was treated royally by everyone. In Miami I stayed two nights with the Ritz's. Their daughter Betty Genaro was visiting. If I missed mentioning some of you, please forgive me.

It was a quick trip, but full of great memories for years to come. Brother Cleve, I beg you to forgive me for not coming to Quincy. May grace abound. I love you in Christ!

Brother Mark Randy

50th Wedding Anniversary

Brother Lou and Sister Ann Benyola of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on January 7, 1984 at a surprise party given by their children—Brother Jerry Benyola of Michigan; Sister Mary J. Cervone of Trenton, New Jersey; Brother Louis Benyola of Hanell Township, New Jersey; Ray Benyola of California; and Denny Benyola of Hopelawn, New Jersey.

The Benyolas have six grandchildren.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

GMBA Campout 1984

It is with pleasure and anticipation that this page is dedicated to the encouragement of our Gospel News readers everywhere, as well as others who might be interested, to seriously and prayerfully consider attending the annual General Missionary Benevolent Association Campout (GMBA Campout 1984) to be held from Sunday, July 1, through Saturday, July 7, 1984 in the Massanetta Springs Conference Center near Harrisonburg, Virginia.

We are indebted to the Massanetta Springs staff for their continuing generosity as manifested in their willingness to graciously accommodate our annual GMBA Campout this summer. We are also gratified by the staff's confidence in the overall direction and conduct of the five previous campouts we held there in the summers of 1978 through 1982. This surely speaks well of the wholesome and proper behavior of our people.

PURPOSE AND OBJECT

The purpose and object of the annual GMBA Campout is primarily to provide an opportunity for many of our people to get together for a season of fellowship at a convenient time when so many are on summer vacation from either work or school.

A COMFORTABLE CAMPSITE

The campsite is nestled in the broad, fertile and beautiful Shenandoah Valley, bordered on the west by the Shenandoah Mountains and on the east by the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Massanetta Springs is owned and operated by the Virginia, West Virginia Synod of the Presbyterian Church and serves as a center for their official functions and conferences. It was founded shortly after the turn of the century, beginning with a modest hotel and some acreage. Over the years, it has been enlarged greatly, and today it comprises a sprawling complex, including modern dormitories, a spacious dining hall, an assembly room, a spacious auditorium, a book store and canteen.

On the outer perimeter of the complex there are numerous cabins, including a sizable pad to accommodate trailers and campers. Included in the more than two hundred acre tract of fields and rolling hills is a beautiful, good-sized lake. These comfortable facilities, including food service, have been made available to the GMBA at nominal fees.

WONDERFUL TIME AND PLACE

GMBA Campout 1984 should prove to be another wonderful time and place to renew acquaintances and to make new ones. Where, but at a campout, could so many of the saints, their children, loved ones, friends and visitors share a week-long round of getting better acquainted, dining together, engaging in, as well as witnessing various recreational activities, participating in the arts and crafts, camp choir, chapel, seminars, and last, but by no means least, worshipping together.

Finally, as in past campouts, let us pray that God will favor us with extra blessings in witnessing the baptisms of new converts in the beautiful camp lake.

Come and enjoy GMBA Campout 1984. Come and help make it more enjoyable!

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

From the Other Side Remembering Africa

Dear Girls and Boys,

Jared and Nephi DiMercurio are in the seventh and eighth grade this year in Clinton Township, Michigan. One year ago they were living on the other side of the world in Nigeria, Africa. The Children's Corner decided to interview them to learn about the five years they and their missionary parents lived on "the other side".

Cross River State, Nigeria is almost smack dab on the equator. This means that for the most part of the day, the sun is powerfully hot. Around six-thirty it rises, and promptly twelve hours later, it drops behind the jungle and trees. There are no cool, long evenings or gradual dawns like we are used to.

It is smart then to stay inside closed houses during the hottest hours of mid-day. This meant activities and school would begin early in the morning and end by one thirty so that the hot part of the day could be spent quietly resting, doing homework, or reading.

The boys' mother, Sister Lorraine, taught them from lessons by mail. They did their homework and sent it across the ocean to be graded and recorded. That way their studies there were close enough to their studies here, so when they returned to the U.S.A. they would be with their grade level. For years there was only the two of them in their classes. Finally another missionary family from the U.S.A. and a family from Scandinavia moved into the area and joined their classes. There were five students, all in different grades, learning together. The different mothers traded off teaching so each family enjoyed learning from someone else.

Imagine living where there is not a single cartoon on television any day of



the week, or hardly any programs in your language. What would you do day in and day out without a few hours of television thrown in. Probably you'd do what Nephi and Jared did: they made friends with other children and played outside a lot.

Both boys had pet dogs. They also shared the care and raising of a pet sheep and her lamb. Here we see wild raccoons and rabbits and sometimes small garter snakes. In Africa (further north) they saw wild monkeys and at home huge, silver cassava snakes taller than a man and thicker than a softball. There are also millions of marching "soldier ants" to observe. If the patio wasn't swept every day, huge ant hills would begin to be built.

Their family lived in the Church's mission house, a modern house built much like ours here. Yet there was no air-conditioning, and the first year and a half there was no electricity. When the sun dropped out of sight, the hot kerosene lanterns were brought out and the family worked around their flickering light. A large patio was built outside, and many hours would be spent out there to catch any wind that might come their way. Many times Jared and Nephi were bit by mosquitos carrying malaria, and they were hospitalized with dangerously high fevers.

But sickness aside, most of their memories are really good ones. Jared said he missed the deep green of the jungle trees, and both boys miss the people there. They listed the best things in America as being around their family and enjoying fast-food places. The best thing in Nigeria is the wonderful openness and friendliness of the people. Would the boys go back? Would they go back to a place without video games, fast food places, and designer jeans?

Their answer was an unhesitating "Yes". Someday they hope to return to "the other side".

Sincerely
Sister Jan

Our Women Today

Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Aliquippa and Imperial, Pennsylvania Circles hosted the General Ladies' Circle Conference at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, on April 7, 1984. The sisters in attendance were from Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The two Circles presented a program entitled, "Working Together". They brought to attention some of the projects the Circles had done through the years from 1920 to the present date—Memorial Fund, layette project, Africa work, etc. These things were accomplished by working together. The Scripture was read from the Bible, I Corinthians 12:12-27. The group sang *Family of God, Too Small for Great Things*, and *Let It Shine*.

The President, Sister Mabel Bickerton, told us of how the Lord has blessed the Circle by working together. To this date there are forty-five Circles.

The business part of the Conference began by the roll call of officers. The minutes of the last Conference held at Youngstown, Ohio were read. The delegates' reports of the local Circles and Districts in the Atlantic Coast, California and Michigan were read. The question assigned last Conference was, "Was the sword of Laban ever used in battle?" The question was found in *The Book of Mormon*, Words of Mormon, 13th verse.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of John Barresi, Sr., Anthony Bisacquino, Marie Buseemi, William H. Cadman, Sadie Cadman, Elizabeth Davidson, Josephine

(Continued on Page 7)

WOMEN continued . . .

D'Amico, Charles Fair, Marietta Giovannone, Margaret Heaps, Jennie Scolaro, Charles Fair, Marietta Giovannone, Margaret Heaps, Jennie Scolaro, Charles Smith, Mary Ann Surace, Florence Tonachella, Paul and Katie Vancik, and Marie and Daniel Vernia.

A motion was made that 1000 by-laws be printed. Monies were donated towards the India and Africa work.

A vote of thanks was given to the Aliquippa and Imperial Circles for their hospitality. The next General Circle Conference will be held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1984.

The remainder of the Conference was spent in singing and a few of the brothers present spoke to the sisters.

50th Anniversary

By Catherine Mulla
and Rose Mary Ausilio



Sunday, February 26, 1984, was a special day for all at Detroit, Branch 3 and especially for Sister Frances Cannavo. Fifty years ago, on this day, Sister Frances made a commitment to serve God and joined The Church of Jesus Christ.

The service began with a prayer offered by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, which followed the hymn *Jesus Is All the World to Me*. Brother Peter H. Capone introduced the service and acknowledged Sister Cannavo's fifty years in the Church. Brother Paul Whitton, our

Presiding Elder, presented a brief synopsis of Sister Cannavo's life and years spent in the Church.

Sister Cannavo was born on July 6, 1905. She was baptized in Detroit on February 23, 1934 by Brother Joe Johnson (Gianzante) and hands were laid on her the same day by Brother Johnson for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Brother Frank Cannavo chose Sister Frances to be his wife and they had three children: Antoinette, Katherine, and Sam, who were all present with her at this service along with their spouses.

Brother Paul also commented that Sister Cannavo had worshipped in Port Huron for many years. She and Brother Frank were of great help to the elders who served the mission and, in addition, their home was always open and there was always room at the table for everyone. Sister Frances has always given her testimony to whomever would listen.

Brother Capone followed by pointing out scriptures in Revelation 2:2-11 and James 1. He emphasized the attributes of patience in serving God. It makes no difference whether we serve one year or fifty years in the Church; the blessings of God do not change. Brother Capone then read from II Timothy 1:5-6, in which he likened Sister Cannavo to Timothy's grandmother and mother. Her example of living faithfully in this Gospel is what we should try to emulate.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio continued by conveying our thanks to Sister Cannavo for being a mother to all, a friend to all and loving us all. He told of his father's meeting and becoming friends with Brother Frank Cannavo, and through the influence of Brother and Sister Cannavo's testimonies, Brother Joe and Sister Jenny DeMercurio eventually met the Gospel and joined the Church. Sister Cannavo showed a simple faith and joy in the Gospel. Brother Nephi went on to say that she has had a hard life and has survived eight surgeries, but has maintained her faith in the Gospel. He commented on how beautiful she appeared this day and that her radiance filled the room. Brother Nephi concluded that it was Sister Cannavo's faith, sharing and caring that brought his family to Church.

At this time, Sister Frances Capone, our Presiding Deaconess, presented our sister with a corsage on behalf of Branch 3. Brother Paul Whitton then

invited all those who have served in the Gospel fifty years or more to honor us with singing *Gently He Leads Us*, followed by *No Never Alone*. Those present included: Sister Vienna Carrabia, Sister Frances Cannavo, Sister Rose Impastato, Brother Michael Piacentino, Sister Lena Pontillo, Sister Domenica Tamburrino, and our two visitors, Sister Catherine Vivona from Branch 1 and Brother Carlo Saragosa from Branch 4. Afterward, Sister Cannavo expressed her joy in serving the Lord all these years. The meeting was then held open for testimony.

In closing, Brother Whitton remarked that we give honor and thanks to God for being with Sister Frances these fifty years. Through God's strength she has remained steadfast unto her calling and her good example will not be forgotten. Brother Jack Pontillo then closed in prayer.

Sister Frances, our prayer is that God's Spirit will stay with you the remainder of your days here on earth.

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

Brother Lou has been a member of the Church for 51 years, and his wife, Sister Ann, has been in the Church for 35 years.

May God continue to bless them throughout all the years ahead!



Branch and Mission News

Brooklyn, NY

By Philip Benyola, Branch Editor

Sunday, March 4, 1984, marked a very special Sabbath Day for the Brooklyn, New York Branch. An immediate warmth surrounded the typically quiet building on Bath Avenue, as loving greetings were exchanged between the many brothers and sisters, who traveled from New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, to witness two ordinations. There was standing-room-only when the meeting finally got underway.

Brother Tony Valenti was ordained a teacher, and Brother Tom Rogolino, a deacon. From the start, the Lord's Spirit manifested itself as the ministry joined hands in prayer in preparation for the ordinations. It was Brother Frank Banyascki of Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, who washed Brother Tony's feet. This was a special blessing to Brother Frank, who testified of an experience concerning himself and Brother Tony's father (Brother Salvatore Valenti) many years prior. In his testimony, he praised God for the Holy Spirit which overcame him on the day he was introduced to Brother Salvatore. He said that this was the first time he was kissed by a man. We should never minimize the importance of this gesture, as Jesus instructed us. Brother Matthew Rogolino laid hands on Brother Tony, and he became an ordained teacher for The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit prevailed in the washing of Brother Tom's feet as Brother Tom Gamble of the Freehold Branch came forward to administer. Anointing Brother Tom was Brother Paul Benyola, Atlantic Coast District President. Brother Tom's parents, Brother Matthew and Sister Joan Rogolino, have been blessed with a loving and devoted son. Sister Joan testified that it was Brother Paul who also blessed Brother Tom as an infant. Praise God for his growth, especially in the Lord. May God bless our young brother in his new calling.

Brother Jerry Valenti, visiting elder from Levittown, Pennsylvania, and natural brother to Brother Tony, opened the preaching portion of the service. For his text he selected I Corinthians,

excerpts from Chapters 2 and 6, and the entire Chapter 12. The theme was "Spiritual Gifts", which was very appropriate for the occasion. Brother Jerry confirmed those inspired teachings of the Apostle Paul when he encouraged us to seek, use, and be satisfied with any "gifts" or talents the Lord chooses to give us. To paraphrase Brother Jim Link, of Bronx, who reiterated later: "We all have these gifts available to us, if we but ask for them." God knows our hearts. What we ask of God, we must ask sincerely.

To all those who have spent time on their knees on behalf of our Brother Joe Faragasso, also of Hopelawn, it was a special blessing to see him before us on the pulpit once again. Brother Joe is still recuperating from recent heart surgery. He also felt particularly blessed, as he expressed himself, in that today was the first time since September, 1983, that he was afforded the opportunity to distribute the Lord's Supper, due to his absence because of illness. Again we must thank God for His mercy and His love.

Vocal selections were presented by Sisters Lydia Link and Alice Suska (*Sea So Great, Lord, My Boat So Small*) and Sister Linda Gomes (*Trust and Obey*), each contributing much to the Spirit we felt; yet, in speaking with Sister Linda later, she insisted all glory be to God.

Afterward, we gathered in the basement for lunch and for that social interchange we enjoy most with our brothers and sisters. Surely, it is good to be a saint of latter days.

Niles, OH

By Ron Genaro, Branch Editor

We of the Niles Branch would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt greetings to our brothers and sisters throughout God's vineyard. It is a privilege to use *The Gospel News* as a medium of exchange to share the marvelous manifestations of God's Spirit.

On Sunday, February 5, God's Hand of Providence was once again extended in our direction. Brother Ron Genaro introduced the service on the theme of "freedom", using Luke 4:18 as his text.

Freedom is such a precious commodity which is sometimes taken for granted by its possessors. History is an agonizing reminder of the blemish of slavery on the face of humanity. Man has enslaved his fellow man for political, economic, social, and psychological reasons which has left a denigrating and demoralizing effect upon its subjects. Mankind has been in spiritual bondage since the transgression of Adam and Eve and could only be freed by the redemptive power of Jesus Christ. Jesus espoused the greatest "Emancipation Proclamation" which encompasses not only time but eternity. Today there are countless millions still enslaved by their passions, lusts, and pride. We that have been extricated must proclaim that deliverance is available to all who will yield their will and their lives to Jesus Christ.

Brother Joe Genaro followed, furthering the theme of freedom.

Our testimony service was enriched by a display of some of the gifts of the Spirit. Sister Joyce Petrilla, who has been very afflicted, asked to be anointed. Brother Joe Genaro felt inspired to call the house to prayer before the anointing and while praying, spoke in the gift of tongues. While Brother Joe was praying, Brother Russ Martorana heard the words, "The Lord loves you Sister Joyce." Several others asked to be anointed and prior to the anointings, Brother Russ saw a vision of a room that was all white. Saints were entering the room carrying a cross. There was a personage there telling the saints to put their crosses on the pile and to leave without them. This is a confirmation that we must take our cares, worries, anxieties, and afflictions to the Lord and commit them to His care and keeping. This is in conjunction with I Peter 5:7—"Casting all of your care on him; for he careth for you." The spirit of prayer and humility prevailed through the subsequent anointings. We thank God for a day well spent.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Lisa DiFalco

On March 11, a beautiful spirit was felt by all as the saints of Branch 4 gathered with the saints of Branch 1. Among our guests were Sister Joann Frammolino, Brother Ralph and Sister Jean Frammolino with their new addition, Allyson Lee.

Brother Carl Frammolino opened the meeting by expressing his joy for his granddaughter, and a thank you was extended to all those who came to witness the blessing of Allyson Lee.

Brother Carl spoke from the New Testament and the Book of Moroni. When Jesus walked the earth he exhorted his people to become as children. If as saints we become as little children, Jesus will not turn us away. Jesus said, "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." Christ wanted little children to inherit heaven, and if we follow Jesus with this same innocence we will inherit it too. Because of a child's innocence, the Book of Moroni states that children have no need of repentance. It further says that repentance and baptism can only be preached to those who are capable of committing sin, excluding children.

After Allyson Lee was blessed, the congregation sang *The Child of A King*. Brother Ralph Frammolino proceeded to speak about the children of God. Why are members in the congregation of God's children not trading in rags for robes that protect against worldly winds? To be a child of a king, we must be in the apparel of a king's child.

With love we strive daily to please our Father and to become worthy to wear the white robe of righteousness. With diligence we not only become worthy of our robes but become heirs to God's inheritance as well. Our inheritance in the life to come is a treasure that cannot be stolen.

Brother Ralph was followed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo. The hand of God could be felt throughout the service and was closed in prayer by Brother Norman Campitelle.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Catherine Mulla, Branch Editor

Rejoice in the Lord! On March 4, 1984, the brothers and sisters of Detroit, Branch 3 were delighted to have our District President, Brother Dominic Moraca, in our Sunday morning service. After acknowledging that our desire this day was to be filled with the Holy Spirit so that we may receive a blessing, Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened in prayer. Brother Dominic introduced the service by reflecting upon events that affected his life.

Brother Dominic told us how, at the tender age of ten when his mother passed away, he met the Church, and as a result, the course of his life changed dramatically. More and more he was prompted to rely on the Lord. In April of the year 1937, after hearing the words of Christ spoken by Brother Joe Lovalvo, Brother Dominic asked for his baptism. From that day forward, he has received much joy and satisfaction in serving the Lord. Thus, Brother Dominic's message today pertained to the plan of salvation which Christ set up for us to follow.

In making our covenant to the Lord, there is a tremendous amount of joy gained. Brother Dominic noted the baptisms of Saul and Christ, and through their examples, we have the opportunity to rejoice in the Lord! Brother Dominic then reflected upon the life of our dear Sister Herta Tiedtke who passed away this week. She always spoke words of kindness and expressions of faith to whomever she met. It is well known that little, if any, communication gap occurred between Sister Tiedtke and the young people of our area. She, as well as many of our brothers and sisters from the past, have given us a goal to achieve. We will greatly miss our dearly loved sister.

Brother Dominic emphasized the fact that the scriptures provide an answer to everything. The question of why we need baptism is often asked. People tend to think that virtuous people can do without it. Brother Dominic cited that we are all the sons and daughters of Adam and Eve. He then quoted the literary artist, Montague, who once said that under the skin we all contain the same blood, and this is the basis of our natural relationship in which we all will perish as a result of the fall of Adam. Yet, by the blood of Christ that was shed upon the cross for you and me, we form a more permanent relationship, if we follow His plan of salvation by repenting and being baptized!

Following this wonderful sermon, the meeting was held open for testimony. Brother Paul Whitton, our Presiding Elder, asked us to designate the time in reminiscing back to each of our own baptisms. Many of the testimonies that we heard were very beautiful and unique. Brother Paul then asked Brother Sam Taormina to honor us in singing a hymn. Brother Sam, who has been baptized in the Church for over 48 years, chose *He's a Wonderful Savior to Me* as his selection.

In closing, Brother Paul remarked that most of us often devise excuses to thwart the Spirit of God. Instead, we should heed the Spirit of God and put aside our conditions or ultimatums. We must follow the plan of salvation and prepare ourselves, as our brothers and sisters before us did. Certainly, the benefits resulting will bring us eternal joy!

We enjoyed the message that Brother Dominic delivered, and as Christ came so that we may have joy, we must never forget that He died to give us salvation.

Cleveland, OH

By Margaret Abbot, Branch Editor

On Sunday, February 26, 1984, a cold, sunny day in Cleveland, we had the pleasure of going to the water with Patti (Gibson) McCullough.

Patti had received a dream a few weeks ago. It seems she was at a camp-out with her small son. There appeared a red cloud descending on her, and all the saints were kneeling by a wall, but there was no room for Patti. Her sister, Cindy, took in her arms the small boy, but still there was no room for Patti, and the red cloud that seemed to be on fire came closer and Patti found no shelter. At this point she awoke. After numerous prayers, Patti was convinced that the Lord was telling her to come unto Him.

This day was special to all of us. We had set this day aside for feet washing.

An inspiring message was brought to us by our visiting Brother Russ Martorana of Niles. He spoke of names written in the Lamb's Book of Life, promises and joys received from God who is everlasting. Brother Mario Milano continued on the same theme, how we become a new person after baptism. Because of faith we become new.

After a light lunch, we met at Simms Park in Euclid, Ohio. Our sister was then baptized with her father, Brother Vince Gibson, officiating. She was confirmed at the branch by Brother Mario Milano.

Feet washing service was especially wonderful. This was the first feet washing service that our newly-baptized Brother Steve Ross, Sister Becky Murphy and Sister Patti McCullough have

participated in. The presence of the Lord was greatly felt this day with many inspiring testimonies, and a great blessing was received by all.

We would at this time ask the saints for prayer in behalf of our young Sister Linda Jewett, who at this time is living in Turkey. Sister Linda's husband, Tony, is stationed there with the Army.

Tony is now hospitalized in Turkey with hepatitis, and their small child is ill with infected ears. Sister Linda needs spiritual strength during her recent burdens. Pray for this family, that in her small way, Sister Linda may have strength and the words to help spread the Gospel in this far-away land. May the Lord heal her family and may this be a living testimony unto the Lord.

Also remember the elderly and afflicted of our Branch. May God bless you all is our sincere prayer.

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi, Branch Editor

On Wednesday, March 21, 1984, the Aliquippa Branch held a farewell meeting and social for Brother John Ross, who was departing with Brother Joseph Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio on the following day for a visit to our Church in India.

After the meeting was introduced, Brother Thomas Ross recapped our Brother's previous eight missionary trips to Nigeria, Ghana and Italy, the first trip being in 1960 to Nigeria, Africa. Brother Paul Palmieri then spoke briefly, wishing our brothers a safe and successful journey.

Brother David DeLuca then presented Brother John with a gift from the Aliquippa Branch, after which Brother Ross expressed his gratitude to all.

At the close of the meeting, everyone met for refreshments and socializing. We trust that God will be with our brothers as they endeavor to reach those who have a desire to be a part of this wonderful Gospel.

Lake Worth, FL

By Josephine Jasmin

Sunday, March 11, 1984

It was a pleasure to have with us this day Brother Jesse and Sister Ruth Carr of Greensburg, PA and Sister Ruth Akerman of Glassport, PA, as well as many other visitors and friends, including the Mercurio's from Hopelawn, NJ.

Brother Carr opened our service with the hymn, *God's Still on His Throne*. Needless to say, it brings us much joy to sing *The Songs of Zion*.

Brother Jesse said he was very grateful to have had the opportunity to visit Nigeria. He is also excited to be able to return there soon. He told how the saints in Nigeria are learning *The Songs of Zion*, and when they sing *God's Still on His Throne*, it is done with such a love and full of the spirit of God. This left a great impression within our brother's heart.

Brother Jesse used Mark 2 as his text, expounding on the determination of the man with palsy and those who brought him to Jesus, the great physician. The Lord not only healed the palsy, but forgave the man of his sins. How beautiful is the Son of God that He will go to all extremes to intercede for us if we but only exercise our faith.

Brothers Eugene Perri and John D'Orazio followed, continuing on the theme, emphasizing that we must be optimists and that we must exercise towards one another the same love as Christ has shown towards each of us.

Sunday, March 18, 1984

We were very happy and blessed to fellowship this day with Brothers Nick Pietrangelo, Paul Palmieri, Silver Copp and their wives.

Brother Paul opened our service with the hymn, *To See the Morning Light*. Prayer was offered by Brother Dennis Moraco, visiting from the Hollywood Mission, and the choir sang *Sing Hallelujah*.

Brother Paul exhorted to us many beautiful words. He told of his conversion. He used John 15:8-15 as his text, and stressed our great responsibility as members of the Church. We must love and always bear good fruit. We must be a dedicated people and always be good witnesses for the Lord.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo then followed, reminding us to count our blessings and to put our priorities in order, for God has been good to us. We must

prove ourselves as the true friends of Christ by loving our neighbors, friends and co-workers.

The Lord is surely telling us something, because many of our services of late have been based on the theme of **love**! Let each of us ponder on this . . . there must be a great need.

We were truly blessed this day on this beautiful subject. There were other visitors in our midst from Miami and Hollywood. Brother Silver Copp offered a beautiful closing prayer. All honor and glory to God for a well spent day!

Mexico

By Brother and Sister Perdue

Thought you might be interested in some of the many experiences that were had regarding Oaxaca. We are planning on leaving some time after April 14. We are very happy to be of service to the Lord and the Church, and we thank God for our lot in the Gospel. The Oaxacan people do not intermarry with any other tribes, and they also have their own dialect. We have many of them on Wednesdays and Sundays, and the Gospel is being preached in their own tongue by our Oaxacan minister. There will be two ministers and families going from Tijuana. One minister, Jose Alvarado, is originally from Oaxaca and the other is Ysidro Gonzalez, whom we have known since he was about three or four years of age and was raised in the Church. Our Church in Tijuana is filling up with young people who will be able to carry on the work, for which we are thankful.

In the month of February or March of 1981, Brother Zavala had the following dream. He dreamed he was in Oaxaca and close to him was an Oaxacan woman. He asked her, "Is The Church of Jesus Christ here?" She replied, "Yes." He then asked her where it was and she said, "Walk up and down the streets."

On January 15, Gloria Rivas had an experience as follows: During the feet washing service she heard a voice say, "It is not man taking the Church to Oaxaca, it is the Lord Jesus Christ." Later on in the service she heard the same voice saying the same words.

On July 29, 1983, Angelina Alvarado had the following experience: I dreamed that Brother Joe Lovalvo said to me,

"Come Angelina, I am going to show you something." I got close to him and he brought out a glass box and out of it he took a pair of huaraches (shoes worn in Oaxaca) that were made up of leather straps and rubber soles. He said, "Look, these huaraches are for Brother Eddy when he goes to Oaxaca." He also took out a skirt and blouse with embroidered flowers and huaraches and said, "These are for Sister Evelyn when she goes to Oaxaca. They do not know when. You are the first that I have told. (I hadn't planned on going, but after this experience I decided I must go.)"

Several weeks later on, Brother Sam Randy called us and when we told him about this experience he said, "I know when and I have everything prepared." He also said that he wanted Brother Ysidro to drive his motor home to Oaxaca taking his family and also the family of Brother Alvarado. Now seems to be the time.

A sister in Tijuana had a dream a long time ago that Brother Ysidro was baptizing in Oaxaca which struck us as rather strange as we could not imagine what he would be doing in Oaxaca. We were surprised when Brother Sam said he wanted Brother Ysidro to drive the motor home.

Experience had by Ricardo Nava of Santa Ana Mission on October 30, 1983: "When Brother Perdue was preaching I saw a bright light over his head. He was preaching about Oaxaca and also on Tijuana when I heard a voice saying, 'He will take the light of the Gospel to a fearful people in Oaxaca.' " This brother did not tell this in Santa Ana because he felt a power holding him back, but he felt that he had to tell it as he knows it is from God. He told it in Tijuana.

When Brother Perdue went to Oaxaca about two years ago a baptized Oaxacan sister had a dream where I, Sister Perdue, came to her house with the Lord. She asked the Lord to leave me there. He told her "not yet." (I represent the Church.)

We have some baptized people in Oaxaca. We are going to use the home of our Oaxacan minister to hold meetings. It is built out of block and a steep roof that makes it look like a church. We have already been offered two homes for some of us to stay.

Remember us in your prayers that we might accomplish our mission to

Oaxaca.

P.S. We have had 15 baptisms the first three months of this year.

Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise

Sunday, March 4, 1984, was a day to remember in Bell Branch. We welcomed the brothers and sisters from the Anaheim Branch, San Fernando Valley Branch, Santa Ana Mission and the San Diego Branch.

Each of us anticipated God's blessings as we met together in His house to observe the ordinations of four brothers, one into the ministry and the other three as teachers and deacons.

After a season of community singing, the meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Henry Cardillo from Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother George Heaps, President of the California District, was our opening speaker. He took his text from I Samuel 4, speaking on Eli the priest and his two sons. Brother George's talk was directed toward the brothers to be ordained, not to be as Eli the priest who was a little too lenient toward his sons who had committed sins. Now that you are to be ordained take hold of your stewardships and execute your duties as a man of God.

Brother Henry Cardillo was our next speaker and he took his thoughts from Acts 4, combining his thoughts with those of Brother George. He spoke of the boldness of Peter and John who had been brought to trial because of the healing of the impotent man. This, Brother Hank said, was done by the power of God and the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Our meeting continued—Brother Robert McDonnell's feet were washed by Brother Vincent Scalise. Brother Bob was then encircled by the ministry and was ordained an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Thomas Jones.

At this juncture of our meeting, we had four babies blessed. The first baby was Anthony Wayne Paine, parents Mike and Debbie Paine, blessing asked by Brother Otto Henderson. The second baby was Andrea Marie Meo, parents

Craig and Vickie Meo. Both of these babies are from the Anaheim Branch. Our third baby was Ryan William McDonnell. God's blessing was asked by his father, Brother Bob, who was just ordained into the ministry. The last baby was Felix Campos, and the blessing was asked by Brother Harry Marshall. Both of these babies are from Bell Branch.

Brother Jim Huttenburger then spoke on the subject of being a teacher in the Church. His thoughts were centered mainly on the Apostle Paul and Moroni, who were great teachers in their day.

We continued our ordination service by washing the feet of Brother Paul Gray of the Anaheim Branch by Brother Floyd Hemp. Brother Paul was then ordained in the office of a teacher by Brother Thomas Liberto. Then Brother Efrain Luna's feet were washed by Brother Galindo Ramirez and ordained into the office of deacon by Brother Isidro Dominguez. Brother Luna is a member of Bell Branch. Our last ordination, in the office of a deacon, was Brother David Arreola, who had his feet washed by Brother Anthony Cardinelli and was ordained by Brother Walt Jankowski.

We all prayed silently for the Lord's spirit to accompany these four brothers as they take on this added responsibility in God's service.

Next, Sister Diane McDonnell was asked to come forward to have hands laid on her so that she may be a helpmate to her husband as a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Harry Marshall said a few words about the work he is doing among the Spanish members in Bell Branch.

Brother Tom Liberto then added a few words about the meeting.

In closing, Bell Branch's Spanish members were asked to sing the closing hymn.

Brother Paul Liberto closed our meeting in prayer. Afterwards we all adjourned to the kitchen for a wonderful lunch and to enjoy the fellowship with the saints.

And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. I Corinthians 14:13

Miami, FL

By Kelly Kovacic

A faithful sister for over 60 years, Sister Pauline Ritz was ordained a deaconess on February 19, 1984, to serve the Miami, Florida Mission.

The ordination was preceded by Brother Nicholas Ritz, Sister Pauline's husband, reading the duties of a deaconess to her, and after singing the hymn *Ready*, Sister Viola Swanson washed Sister Pauline's feet to set her apart.

Brother Mark Kovacic, in the absence of Brother Swanson, anointed her with the blessed oil and ordained her into the office of deaconess.

A blessing was felt by all present, as the ordination completed a link of three generations serving the Church in Sister Pauline's family. We pray that God will bless and use our sister in her new office.

Detroit, Branch 2

By Leona Buffa

Our New Year's Eve service was more special than usual, for one more soul came to Christ. During testimony, Sister Cindy Parravano expressed her desire to begin the New Year right by asking to be baptized. There was a gentle, sweet spirit present at the service that evening.

Early the next morning (Sunday),

some of the deacons of Branch 2 went down to the baptism site to cut through a foot of ice. Needless to say, it was a bitterly cold day, but Sister Cindy's heart and soul were warmed with love and repentance. Brother Dan Parravano baptized his daughter.

We gathered back at the Branch to begin our meeting. The baptism itself filled the cups of the saints to overflowing.

A special prayer was offered by the ministry before the confirmation. Brother Leonard Lovalvo laid hands on Sister Cindy for the reception of the Holy Ghost. He was filled with the sweet spirit of God as he prayed for our sister.

May God bless Sister Cindy with all she needs in life, and Sister Cindy, stay close to God all the days of your life!

OBITUARIES

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

DOROTHY B. CHRYSLER

Mrs. Dorothy B. Chrysler passed away very peacefully on March 12, 1984 at the age of 50. She was born on February 23, 1934 in Ohsweken, Ontario, Canada (Six Nations Reservation).

She is survived by her mother, Sister Sadie Jamieson, two sons, four daughters, and one brother.

The services were conducted by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo and Norman Campitelle.

ROBERT RAYMOND JENKINS

Mr. Robert Raymond Jenkins, brother of Sister Joyce Azzinaro of the San Fernando Valley, California Branch, passed away on March 25, 1984. He was born on January 25, 1954.

He is survived by his parents, two daughters, two sisters, and two brothers.

Brothers John Azzinaro and Emmett Hood officiated at the funeral services.

ANITA HOPKINS

Sister Anita Hopkins, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in San Carlos, Arizona, passed away on December 9, 1983. She was born on July 7, 1930 and was baptized on February 9, 1964. Sister Anita was ordained into the

office of deaconess on November 14, 1971.

Brothers Clarence Kirkpatrick and Dan Picciuto conducted the funeral services.

Sister Hopkins is survived by ten children and sixteen grandchildren.

* WEDDINGS *

MITCHELL-CIOTTI

Randy Mitchell and Monica Ciotti were united in holy matrimony on February 14, 1984 by Brother Bill Colangelo, the bride's grandfather, who was assisted by Brother Paul Ciotti, the bride's uncle.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Nina DiCenzo.

The newlyweds are residing in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania and attend the McKees Rocks Branch of the Church. May God richly bless them as they begin their new life together.

New Arrivals

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

Dean Thomas to Thomas and Nancy McGuire Whitney of Lake Worth, Florida;

Panfilo Angelo to Panfilo and Patricia DiCenzo of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

The Gospel News

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

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America

Oh, beautiful . . .

This land that was once a wilderness when other lands were filled with cities, people and history!

For spacious skies . . .

skies that crown a land of unbounded opportunities—where one can live, work, travel and pray—freely, gratefully, and without fear!

For amber waves of grain . . .

grain from the bounty of a land of such abundance that it feeds, not only its own, but millions of others as well!

For purple mountain's majesty . . .

mountains filled with many gifts of God—forests, minerals, water and living things—a land of ten thousand Edens!

Above the fruited plains . . .

vast, rich plains, where men still have room to reach out—even for a star—and then set foot on it!

America . . .

Land of people with a hundred national origins and colors—all blending into a single rainbow three thousand miles wide!

America . . .

mighty in war, gentle in peace, awesome in productivity—a land where *anyone* can be someone if he is willing to share his dreams with others!

God shed His grace on thee . . .

many times over. And because of this communion of God with man and man with God, America has been blessed as no other land has ever been!

And crowned thy good—

and America is good—sharing generously with others, yet asking little in return . . . always willing to help the weak, the impoverished, the hungry and the hurt . . . America, whose door and heart have always been open to the poor, the oppressed and the homeless who sought a new life on its shores.

With brotherhood . . .

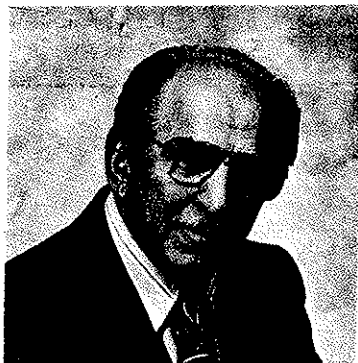
a brotherhood that is unique in all of man's recorded history—an incomparable fusing of every color on earth, every tongue, and every religion, into *one* magnificent nation!

From sea to shining sea . . .

America is as it was, and will always be—one nation, under God—*indivisible!*

Martin Buxbaum

"It Is Written"



By V. James Loyalvo, Apostle

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)

This morning as the sun was shining brightly, and I heard the birds singing in the trees so happily and so beautifully, I began to ponder upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In an analagous fashion, the lights of heaven must have lit up brilliantly and the angels' singing must have rung throughout the heavens as Christ arose triumphantly from the grave. His first desire was to go and see His Heavenly Father and receive (I firmly believe) the accolades and the honor belonging to Him, the victor over death and the grave. As there was great joy in heaven at the triumphant return of Jesus so must there have been a hellish grief and anger in the black soul of Satan for the defeat he had suffered at not being able to keep Christ in the grave.

No doubt, there has been a lot of speculation as to why Christ had to die such an ignoble death on the cross. Some say that He could have died at a very old age through natural causes and still maintain His divinity. If that would have happened, it would have denied the prophecies relative to His hanging on the tree, and His betrayal by Judas. It would have also erased completely the types and shadows of the "sprinkling of the blood" on the altar under the Law of Moses, or the sacrifice of the Lamb and the sprinkling of its blood on the lintels of the houses on the eve of Israel's departure from Egypt. All of these, and more, testified that Jesus should die for the sins of the world.

If Christ would have lived to a ripe old age and died of natural causes, there

would have been no impact such as His sufferings at the hands of men and His crucifixion brought upon mankind. Who would have remembered Him as the "Saviour of the world"—as the "Redeemer of mankind"? His name would have been obliterated in a few years. Another thing! Who would have gladly given their lives for an old man regardless how good He was? Jesus had to die, a sacrificial Lamb, in order to overcome death and resurrect in order to vanquish the grave. Both the victory over death and the vanquishing of the grave were necessary so that mankind could also be victorious over death and the grave. Without the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, man would have remained as dust of the earth forever without the glory of arising from the grave (no matter where the body found its last resting place: deep in the earth, drowned in the sea, burned by fire, or eaten by wild beasts) and being reunited with his soul (or spirit) as the Scriptures say, both in the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*.

Jesus once told His disciples, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." (John 12:24) Paul the Apostle, in writing to the Corinthian Church said, "Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened except it die; And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain; but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body." Then the Apostle goes on to explain the differences between the flesh of men and the flesh of the various kinds of beasts:

"All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. (Let the reader remember this difference as now Paul is going to make an analogy of the celestial bodies, the terrestrial bodies, and their various glories, as compared to the glory of the resurrection of mankind.) He continues:

"There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is the glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: it is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory: it is sown

in weakness; it is raised in power: it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

The differences and the analogies written by Paul are very plain. He cites that the flesh of man is different than that of the beasts, fish, or fowls of the air. He also argues very eloquently that there is a difference between celestial bodies (sun, moon, and stars and the differences between the stars also) and the terrestrial bodies (man, and the various beasts, etc.).

The differences between the heavenly (celestial) and the earthly (terrestrial) and their glory (size and beauty of reflection) is merely a preface to Paul's analogy of the resurrection of mankind. The differences between the glory of the sun, moon and different glories of the stars is not to be understood that there shall be differences between resurrected beings in heaven (as some religions have implied), but to show the reality of the resurrection of the dead. Man's body is buried as mere flesh and blood; but it shall be resurrected as a glorious, immortal and perfect being. No matter how beautiful or not the flesh of man is here on earth, in the resurrection it shall put on incorruption and glory; it shall be more glorious than that of the sun, moon, or stars. In paraphrase, it simply means: As the sun, moon and stars are glorious, so is the resurrection of the dead. The body of man is buried and deteriorates to nothing, but through the power of the resurrection of the Risen Christ, it takes on an incomparable beauty and glory of an eternal immortality.

I wish to state some comments of a Jewish professor of Scripture. Citing various corroborating points, he (Professor Pinchas Lapide) says the sudden rise and worldwide spread of the church itself could not have been "the result of blind happenstance, or human error," but only of a galvanizing, factual event. He criticizes modern Christian theologians for sometimes seeming ashamed of "the material facticity of the resurrection." Lapide concludes that, "Without the resurrection of Jesus after Golgotha, there would not have been any Christianity." I want to point out here that while Professor Lapide is not a Christian himself, he defends and with certainty expounds the reality of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave as recorded in the New Testament.

(Continued on Page 3)

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

As I contemplate on Christ's resurrection on this Easter Sunday, I am filled with joy unspeakable at the wonderful opportunity and privilege the Lord Jesus has given me and all others who have and will accept Him as the Saviour of the world. He suffered that we may have joy, He suffered pain that we might have release from it, He was nailed to the cross that our burden might be made light. He was crowned with thorns; we shall be crowned with glory in the resurrection. He suffered death that we might live, He gave Himself as a ransom for our freedom, He spilled His blood that our cup might be filled with gladness. How wonderful it is to know that we are washed in the blood of the Lamb.

The impact of His death, when just a young man, and the manner in which He suffered and died, was etched indelibly in the hearts of His followers, so that death, no matter in which form it came, held no terror for them. Throughout the ages, the name of Jesus Christ has caused men and women to reach heroic heights of faith. Neither fire, nor wild beasts, nor persecution, nor nakedness could ever make them forget the resurrected Christ; not even death could separate them from the love of God through Christ, our Lord. Could we stand that kind of persecution? I believe that we could if His name was as indelibly written in our hearts as was in the hearts of those valiant men of old.

An unknown poet wrote the following verses:

*They borrowed a bed to lay His head
When Christ the Lord came down;
They borrowed the ass in the mountain
pass
For Him to ride to town;
But the crown that He wore and the
Cross He bore
Were His own—The Cross was His own.*

*He borrowed the bread when the crowd
He fed
On the grassy mountain side,
He borrowed the dish of the broken fish
With which He satisfied;
But the Crown that He wore and the
Cross He bore
Were His own—The Cross was His own.*

*He borrowed the ship in which to sit
To teach the multitude,
He borrowed a nest in which to rest—
He had never a home so rude;
But the Crown that He wore and the*

*Cross He bore
Were His own—The Cross was His own.*

*He borrowed a room on His way to
the tomb*

*The Passover Lamb to eat;
They borrowed a cave for Him a grave,
They borrowed a winding sheet.*

*But the Crown that He wore and the
Cross He bore
Were His own—The Cross was His own.*

On this Easter Sunday morning, I feel that it is apropos to sing with the poet:

*Low in the grave He lay—
Jesus my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day—
Jesus my Lord!
Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints
to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah!
CHRIST AROSE.*

God bless all of you, my brothers and sisters, and may the glory of the resurrected Christ be in all of our hearts, now and forever, Amen. Thus it is written.

Spiritual Food for Thought

If Christ would come today, would we turn Him away? If He came from a poor family without the benefits of a formal education, as He was in His time, would we deny Him? Or would we look to His heart and spirit like we should?

Let us not get all wrapped up in the material things of life, for they cannot sustain us! A sister from our Branch once had the experience, "One who is fed within needs very little without." That says it all!

We should many times be content and satisfied with what we have. The most important possession we should strive for is God's spirit, and that we may ever improve ourselves spiritually before Him.

Let us set our priorities in life—God first, and then family. Children are our dearest gift from God, but sometimes in this day and age we do not give them that time that is so dearly needed. The teachings of God should have priority over the teachings of man. Let us not lose sight of what is really important in

life. For God put man on this earth for one reason—to serve Him. That is our purpose in life. He is ever seeking our gold to refine.

May God continue to strive with His people, and may we always strive to be with Him, seeking first the kingdom of God, and all things shall be added.

The Glassport Branch

50th Anniversary

On Sunday, April 15, 1984, we at Detroit, Branch 1, presented Brother Frank Emmolo with flowers in observance of his 50 years in the Gospel.

Brother Frank was baptized on April 1, 1934 by Brother Anthony Ruzzi and was confirmed by Brother Carmen Campitelle.

Though the infirmities of old age have confined our brother to a nursing home for the past few years, Brother Frank quietly continues to shed his light with a warm smile. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless Brother Frank for the remaining days of his life.



Spiritual Birthday

By Bertha Constantine

On March 12, 1931, I made my covenant with the Lord Jesus Christ. It was
(Continued on Page 6)

Branch and Mission News

Omaha-Bedford

By Dorothy Miller and Joyce Matthews

The members of the Omaha-Bedford Mission would like to bring the readers of *The Gospel News* up to date on the progress and activities of our mission and to share with you some of the blessings we have received. God has truly blessed the efforts on our behalf to love and serve Him.

Under the leadership of the Ohio District Mission Board, we have been encouraged. Their support has enabled us to grow toward becoming the first established branch of the Church in Nebraska and Iowa. We look forward to our mission becoming two branches of the Church—one in Omaha, Nebraska and one in Bedford, Iowa. This area is ripe for the Gospel just as God revealed to us some ten years ago when He said, "There will always be a remnant of My work in this part of My vineyard." Prayers prayed ten years ago are being answered today. For this we give God all the glory and praise.

At the present time we are still holding our meetings in both Omaha and Bedford on alternating Sundays. We also hold midweek meetings on Thursday nights. At this time we do not have a resident elder, but we are on the Ohio Mission Board Evangelist schedule and have a visiting elder monthly. Recent visitors to the mission have been Brothers Vince Gibson, Joe Calabrese, and Russ Martorana. When an elder is visiting we try to gather in the home of one of the saints for fellowship and feasting on the word on Saturday evening, in addition to our regular Sunday services.

Brother Clifton Wells and Brother Calvin Matthews, both ordained teachers, are in charge of the mission. Sister Dorothy Miller and Sister Dorothy Matthews are the mission's ordained deaconesses. All of our members take an active role in the work of the mission, each working in the capacity in which God has gifted them to get His work done.

We are most pleased with the progress of our Sunday School, which was organized about two years ago. Our lesson plans have carried us through an

in-depth study of the scriptures using both the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, tying the two sticks into one as was prophesied. The gift of teaching has truly been in our midst. We studied the tabernacle and the priests' garments taking the symbols and relating them to Christ in Judea and the Messiah's calling in the judgment hall and on the cross. We did an in-depth study of Paul's knowledge of "Christ in you, the hope of glory." We search the scriptures for "The Role of the Women" and at present we are studying in Matthew, centering on the sermons of Christ and relating them to our everyday walk in the Gospel.

God has blessed us with a meeting hall in both Omaha and in Bedford. In Bedford, we meet in the basement of the Public Library, which is located in the center of town. We feel sure that we will attract attention just by meeting there.

In Omaha our meeting place is located in the South Section of Omaha in a public housing area. This area is the only place in the entire city of Omaha where every nation, kindred, tongue and people live in close proximity. We hope someday soon to have a meeting place of our own in this area of Omaha.

The mission also looks to the future with tentative plans to do some traveling during the spring and summer months. Saint John, Kansas, and the Dallas, Texas Missions are on our visiting schedule. Some members will be traveling to Conference in Greensburg in June. Sister Emma Grooms will be going to Evergreen, Alabama whenever possible. Our sister has planted the seeds for another mission in that area and with the commitment of the Ohio District Mission Board, we pray that those seeds will be nourished to maturity.

Saints from all over the Church are welcome to visit the Omaha-Bedford Mission anytime. We would like to extend an open invitation to anyone who would like to come during the weekend of July 20, 21, and 22. The mission will be hosting its second annual July gathering. The entire mission looks forward to a weekend of rejoicing with the saints from near and far and to sharing the Word of God.

Our purpose continues to be the purpose of the Church—that all may know

that the Gospel in its purity has been restored in these the last days. There is a haven of rest on this earth where mankind may work out their salvation according to the plan of which Jesus Christ is the author.

Greetings from the Omaha-Bedford Mission. We are sending good tidings of great joy because another soul was born of God on April 15, 1984. Our new brother in Christ is Thomas Kemp. Brother Tom was just returned from a two-year tour of duty with the Army in Germany. He stopped in to visit Sister Joyce Matthews in Creston, Iowa, when he arrived back in the States. He and Sister Joyce had been corresponding for about nine years and were acquaintances in high school. About a year and a half ago, Sister Joyce sent him a *Book of Mormon* and although he felt very negative about the book because of his early religious upbringing, he kept it because of the friendship he had with Sister Joyce.

On April 14, the saints from the Omaha-Bedford Mission gathered in the home of Brother Cal and Sister Dorothy Matthews for a study session and fellowship as Brother Russ Martorana was visiting the mission from Ohio. The Lord began to work with our Brother Tom as soon as he sat down among the saints. His whole body began to tremble and he knew that God was touching him. He asked those present to pray for him. After a group prayer on his behalf, he asked to be anointed for an affliction in his hip and leg. The pain and discomfort was removed immediately.

The lesson that evening was on fasting and prayer and Brother Russ, aware that the Lord was working with Tom, began to explain many of the beliefs and ordinances of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The next day, the mission gathered in Omaha anticipating many more blessings to be forthcoming that day. Sunday School was barely underway when Brother Tom began to tremble again. He pleaded with the saints to help him to know what was happening to him and what he should do. The power of God fell on Brother Clifton Wells, who told Tom that God will not put new wine in old bottles because they will break and that he needed to be baptized. Sister LaVerne Harris gave her testimony of how the Lord had taken her from a Baptist background like Tom's and brought

(Continued on Page 7)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Redemption Plan

Our *Holy Bible* and *Book of Mormon* offer interested readers and lovers of truth many accounts of the various workings of God down through the ages by which He richly and generously manifested His love for His people. However, the most notable example of the outpouring of God's love is His gift to the world of His only begotten Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

The unbounded generosity of our Heavenly Father in sending forth His Beloved Son to redeem the human family is best and simply summed up in the eloquence of our Lord Jesus Himself as He enlightened Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews:

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)

Thus, very early in His ministry, our Lord made it very plain and so easy to be understood that He was sent into the world to fulfill the plan of redemption as conceived in the mind of His Father. His mission was to bring the lost and fallen people of the world to a saving knowledge of their loving Heavenly Father and God.

The beautiful and ennobling lines penned by Haldor Lillenas and entitled *The Mystery of Grace*, are most stirring and fitting here:

*Deep within the heart of God before the dawn of time,
Formed a mighty plan, a wondrous mystery sublime;
Long before foundations of the universe were laid,
Long before the earth and they that dwell therein were made;
We may never know the length and breadth of such a plan,
But we know it brought redemption unto man.*

*We may not unravel all the mystery of grace
That would cause the Son of God to leave His holy place,
Coming unto earth to suffer death with all its loss,
Laying down His regal crown to bear the shameful cross,—
We may never know the length and breadth of such a plan,
But we know it brought redemption unto man.*

*Oh, the sacred mystery of grace,
Can we all its wonders fully trace?
Grace that justice satisfies,
Grace that all our need supplies,
Grace divine that can for sin atone;
Grace, God's grace through which we may draw near
Unto God to serve Him without fear,
Through this holy mystery
We from guilt have been set free,
And the sons of God are we BECAUSE OF GRACE ALONE!*

In recording his remarkable experiences while an exile on the Isle of Patmos, the Apostle John refers to our Lord as "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." (Revelations 13:8)

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Samson Grows Up

Dear Girls and Boys,

Before Samson was born, an angel visited his parents and told them their son was going to be different from other boys. He was going to deliver the people of Israel from their enemies, the Philistines. As a sign that he was special, his hair was never to be cut, and his physical strength would be great.

Samson had seen a Philistine girl in another city and wanted his parents to visit her family and make arrangements for them to marry. On his way, a young lion attacked; the Spirit of the Lord moved upon him, and he easily killed the beast with his bare hands.

When the wedding plans were all made and he was traveling by that same spot, he turned aside to look at the dead lion. To his surprise, a swarm of wild bees had filled the empty body with honeycombs. He gathered honey to share with his parents, but did not tell anyone that he had taken the honey out of the carcass of the lion.

At the wedding feast, he teased the thirty young Philistine men who were guests of his wife's family by betting them each a suit of clothes that they could not guess his riddle. Then he said, "Out of the eater came forth meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness (the honey)." No one could guess the strange riddle.

Finally, the Philistines told Samson's wife to find out the answer or be killed by them. She begged and cried until he gave in. On the seventh feast day, the guests answered his riddle and demanded their clothes. Furiously, Samson rushed to the nearest Philistine city. He killed thirty men and gave their clothes to the cheaters. He then left his wife.

Days passed. Taking a goat for a gift, Samson returned to his bride's home. She was gone, married to another! This was too much for Samson. He began catching wild foxes. When the grain fields were ripe, he tied the foxes together by twos. Then he placed a torch between their tails and sent them running wildly through the countryside.

After the devastation, the angry Philistines blamed Samson's bride. They gathered around her house and burned her family alive. Now Samson wanted revenge. He fought a huge group of Philistines and left dozens dead. Then he returned to his own country to the hill Etam.

The Philistine army followed and ordered three thousand of Samson's people to go and capture him. Samson allowed the Israelites to tie him up and deliver him. The Philistines cheered when they saw their enemy Samson all tied up. But the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him. He broke the ropes, picked up a large bone on the ground and began to fight.

One thousand Philistines were killed. An exhausted Samson called to God saying, "You have given me great deliverance, but now I am so weak with thirst I'll fall into the hands of my enemies." The Lord then opened a hollow place in a bone (a long jawbone of an ass) where water had collected. Samson drank and revived.

You can imagine the great joy of his people to see someone so unafraid of their enemies. Samson was selected as a judge for his people. For twenty years he guided his people.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

BIRTHDAY continued . . .

one of the best promises I have ever made in my life. While reading *The Gospel News* this month, which is always a blessing, the article from Glassport, Pennsylvania reminded me of when our brothers had to crack the ice in Youngstown, Ohio before they could baptize me also. But the Spirit of God bore through me like fire, and it never entered my mind or concerned me about the frigid weather.

I am thankful He has never let me down in the 51 years that I have served Him. He has carried me through many storms and afflictions. "I know in whom I have believed, and I know He will keep which I have committed to that day." Praise His High and Holy Name! I am looking forward for His promise—eternal life. My desire is the same as years gone by—to serve Him the balance of my days.

God bless the young converts, our Church of tomorrow. Remember us in prayer.

A Prayer for Awareness

Make me aware, O God.
Give me the sensitivity to understand,
to recognize need, to appreciate,
to marvel, to believe in miracles.
Open my eyes to the loveliness
of the world that surrounds me,
to the dignity in people,
to rare lessons in courage.
Waken me to appreciation of all that
You have given that I may savor
each day with the wisdom of
gratitude.
Help me to know that only today may
be mine so that I may fill it with
kindness, with sympathy, and with
the rich warmth of friendliness.
Keep me from faultfinding, pettiness,
self-centeredness, and the tragedy
of narrow-mindedness.
Grant perceptiveness to sham and
pretense, and the inquisitiveness
that will lead me to plumb the
depths of reality unafraid.
Help me to say: "Here is a problem,
Lord. What is my share in its
solution?"
May I be never forgetful that my own
strength is often insufficient,
But that in Thy love there is fortitude
that is everlasting.

Ruby A. Jones

OMAHA-BEDFORD continued . . .

her to The Church of Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God was so strong that it was decided to close Sunday School and open Church services. After the closing prayer, Brother Russ asked Tom how he felt and Brother Tom answered, "I'm ready, I'm ready!"

The mission then made haste to the Missouri River to witness the beautiful baptism of our brother. The river was high and swift, the sun was shining and the wind was blowing. Brother Clifton assisted Brother Russ in the waters of baptism. One sister testified after the baptism that as the three brothers stood in the water their garments became like light and they were all clothed in a garment of light. What joy when our brother came up out of the water a new creature in Christ. As we prepared to leave the water's edge, great drops of rain began to shower down from a sunny sky. These were truly showers of blessing for all of us.

On returning to the meeting hall, we continued with one accord as our new brother was confirmed. There was a beautiful spirit of testimony and love as we broke the bread and drank the wine as we are instructed by Jesus. What a blessing to share this Holy Communion with our Brother Tom for the first time.

Brother Tom has many relatives and friends all over the country with whom he is going to share his testimony and the truth that he has found in The Church of Jesus Christ that he knows cannot be found anywhere else.

We humbly asked the saints throughout the Church to pray for our Brother Tom and his wife and two little daughters, that they might all be united in God as soon as possible. Brother Tom will be stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky for the next year. He would love to hear from anyone in the Church. His address is:

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Detroit, Branch 3

By Catherine Mulla

On Wednesday evening, March 14, 1984, Detroit, Branch 3 was pleased to have Brother Ralph Frammolino from

San Diego, California and his father, Brother Carl Frammolino, Second Counselor of our District. The evening was originally set aside for Faith and Doctrine study, however, our lesson was dismissed to afford us the joy of hearing our visiting brothers.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened the service in prayer, wherein he mentioned that we need to reflect upon the goodness of God and that our only Hope is in Christ the Lord.

Brother Ralph began the service reminiscing on how, as a boy, he would sit in our balcony to view Christmas presentations. He said he chose this spot to afford him the opportunity to see all around. He added that in obtaining a particular vantage point, one received a better view of the people around him. In providing this fitting example, Brother Ralph then posed the question, "How does God see us?" One thing that is certain is that we cannot fool God!

Brother Ralph then related to us a story that he had read on the airplane upon leaving San Diego. The story pertained to a man who worked for an insurance company who found it necessary to prepare Xerox copies of a very important report. As the man loaded the copier with pages of his report, he was astonished and shocked to find that the Xerox copier was actually a paper shredder! A woman standing nearby who was able to prevent the incident, decided that it was a clever idea to let the man be fooled. Brother Ralph re-emphasized how, unlike the man, it is impossible to fool God.

After reading from Moroni 7:6-8, Brother Ralph stressed the message that it is not good enough just to have good intentions. Good intentions must be accompanied by good works, as was established in the order that God set up for us to follow. There must be a balance between faith and works. In continuing on Moroni's message, Brother Ralph mentioned that if we were to pass someone along the road of life who was in need, our prayers would be nothing before God—they would not even be heard! Our works do not cease at the time of our baptism or when hands are laid upon us to receive the Holy Ghost; on the contrary, we must prove we are worthy by enduring to the end and overcoming all obstacles. It is essential that we adhere to the testimonies of our brothers and sisters, for it is from them that we learn and become better equipped to deal with these obstacles.

Brother Ralph also reminded us of the time Joseph Smith petitioned God on what was the true church, and God informed him that all other creeds were an abomination to Him because they spoke with their lips but lacked works. The Church of Jesus Christ demands we have both oars in the water, as using only one oar causes us to go around in circles. Brother Ralph left us with the implication that these two oars pertain to faith and works!

Brother Carl then spoke to us on the importance of our need for each other. He referred to the obstacles that Brother Ralph spoke about which included trials that force us to question our ability to cope in life. We must pray for the many who are unable to pray for themselves as a result of their afflictions and depression. Brother Carl related an experience concerning fasting and prayer that a sister of the Inner-City Branch once had. As this sister set out to fast and pray for Sister Joanne Frammolino, an overpowering need to eat something fell upon her. She saw a loaf of bread in the kitchen and decided to give in to her weakness, that is, until she heard a voice asking her, "Do you love this bread more than you love Sister Joanne?" The sister was able to put aside the bread and offer a powerful and loving prayer.

Brother Carl added that together we can handle any struggle that comes along in life. We must commit ourselves 100% in our meetings, prayers, intentions, and actions. All our works are essential to glorify our God in heaven. Furthermore, Brother Carl quoted Moroni 10:34, which he said was his favorite verse. He advised us to remember these words and make them a part of our everyday life!

Prior to singing *Faith Is the Victory*, Brother Jack Pontillo, who is in charge of our Faith and Doctrine study, remarked on how the topics brought forth all related to the lesson he had planned for this evening. These topics included: events pertaining to the First and Second Resurrection, faith, and works.

In view of Brother Ralph's earlier comments, Brother Gary Coppa added that it was essential for the man from the insurance company to obtain results and not have his work shredded up. He also continued to Moroni 7:9 and emphasized how important it is not to let

(Continued on Page 8)

DETROIT, BRANCH 3 continued...
our faith waiver, lest our prayers never be answered.

As a result of the beautiful spirit present throughout the meeting, Sister Rose Impastato, who is blessed with the gift of visions, testified that she saw a man in white standing upon the rostrum with the elders, and that while Brother Ralph was speaking, she observed a glowing light over his head. Brother Mike Coppa was then prompted to stand and reveal a vision he also received. He mentioned that he saw a large light encompassing Brother Ralph and all the elders, while, at the same time, a huge white cloud was seen over all the congregation. Surely, God was in our presence this evening.

As we closed with the hymn, *Jesus Is the Sweetest Name I Know*, Brother Carl remarked that this was his favorite hymn and that it often comes to him while he is driving. Brother Mario Coppa then dismissed us in prayer. Everyone at Branch 3 enjoyed the visit of our two brothers this evening. We welcome them back again and pray that God will always be with them, especially throughout their trials.

On Sunday, April 15, 1984, the brothers and sisters of Detroit, Branch 3 were delighted to have Brother Rick Elzby and his family visiting from the Meaford, Ontario Mission. Brother Elzby was recently ordained into the priesthood. He and his family journeyed over 300 miles to be with us this day.

Brother Gary Coppa offered the opening prayer, after which Brother Elzby commenced the service with the hymn, *Are Ye Able Said the Master*. He then commented on the necessity of prayer for the many afflicted among us and its importance in drawing us closer to God. Brother Elzby expressed his desire to join us this day and felt directed to speak from portions of Matthew 13 and Alma 32. His topic concerned the Word of God, which can be likened to a seed. If the seed is cared for and nurtured properly, it will swell and grow, and thus bring forth delicious fruit. So it is with the Word of God, which, when adhered to, results in bountiful blessings.

Brother Elzby impressed upon us the need to nourish the Word of God in our

hearts. Understanding this concept would greatly benefit all of us. As a seedling develops into its particular structures of stem, branches, leaves and so forth, its root system also becomes more fully developed. Thus, the resulting plant becomes more deeply and firmly rooted into the ground. Brother Elzby concluded this analogy by stressing the importance of allowing the Word of God to develop more fully in us so that we may become deeply rooted in the Gospel. Furthermore, Brother Elzby's message held a promise for us that we can obtain the wonderful peace, God's peace, that is unknown to the rest of the world.

Brother Mario Coppa continued on this topic by adding that he is immensely thankful that God has planted the seed of love within his heart. Brother Mario reminisced about the time he spent in military service, where he felt a need to attend church services on his base. He related to us how he heard many preachers from various faiths but none were as pure and true, or even as piercing as hearing the Word spoken in The Church of Jesus Christ. As a result of hearing and adhering to the Word, Brother Mario has now been baptized for twenty-nine years.

Brother Gary Coppa then reinforced the words of Brother Elzby by providing us with a very provoking example. As was mentioned, the Word of God can be compared to a seed; however, we can be likened unto the soil, upon which the seed is planted. The fertilizer needed to nourish the seed is prayer and belief. Although all the ingredients appear to be present, a seed can fail to grow if the desire needed to bring forth the seed and allow it to germinate is lacking! As a child experiments with seeds and anticipates from day to day some kind of reaction, we too, must have that child's faith and desire for the same reaction. In concluding, Brother Gary left us with the penetrating thought, "Is our ground good enough to allow the seed to grow?"

Following this wonderful sermon, the meeting was left open for testimony. Brother Sam Taormino, who felt deeply touched, expressed himself in a hymn. He chose to sing *He Lives*. This day Brother Sam celebrated his 90th birthday. In viewing Brother Sam, one can surely see the blessings rendered to one deeply rooted in the Gospel.

Sister Rose Impastato expressed that while Brother Elzby was speaking, a man dressed in white was standing next

to him. At the same time, another presonage who was also dressed in white was sitting on the rostrum among the elders.

We truly enjoyed the message that our brothers brought forth this day. Surely, it is one to be long remembered. Our prayers go with Brother Elzby and his family, and we trust that God will help them in the work that they endeavor to accomplish at the Meaford Mission.

Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On March 11, 1984, I prayed in behalf of Brothers Joseph Calabrese and John Ross, who were leaving for India on March 22. In the Sunday morning service I saw a vision of Brothers Joe and John boarding the plane. They had a medal around their necks. Two men dressed in white accompanied them, one on each side. These messengers were with them all during their stay. This vision lasted all during the service.

On Sunday, March 18, 1984, the Rochester, New York Mission had the joy of having Apostle Frank Calabrese, Brother Russ and Sister Lena Martorana, Brother Brian Martorana, Brother Stacey and Sister Carolyn Light, Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly, Sister Lishia Calabrese and Sister Dora Palacios. Our visitors had come for the ordination of Brother Frank Natoli as a teacher.

We had community singing, after which Brother Russ offered a special prayer in behalf of the sick and afflicted throughout the Church. We then sang *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*.

Brother Frank Calabrese spoke concerning the angel flying and bringing the everlasting Gospel. We should not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that is the power of God unto salvation. It is a blessing to belong to the family of God and have fellowship with the saints. Brother Russ continued on the same subject.

We sang *If Jesus Goes with Me*, after which Brother Ansel D'Amico read the duties of a teacher. Brother Brian Martorana washed Brother Frank Natoli's feet, and Brother Frank Calabrese or-

(Continued on Page 9)

ROCHESTER, NY continued . . .

dained him. At this point, I saw a vision—Jesus standing beside them. We all witnessed the spirit and the blessings of God in our midst.

We sang *Ready*, and the meeting was then opened for testimonies. The Lord's Supper was then administered. The preaching was wonderful, the singing and testimonies were beautiful, and the presence of God was in our midst.

We adjourned for a delicious meal prepared by the sisters. A special cake was made for Brother Natoli's 23rd birthday. It was a beautiful day that will long be remembered. God bless all of you!

Monongahela, PA

On April 22, 1984, the Monongahela Branch had the opportunity to experience five ordinances of the Church. The morning began with a beautiful Easter program, in which the children and young people participated.

The blessing of a baby was the first ordinance to take place. Dena Massafra, daughter of Richard and Michelle Massafra, was blessed by Brother Richard Scaglione.

Brother Fred Olexa opened the morning meeting, choosing John 20:1-10 as his text. In this portion of scripture, John and Jesus' other followers are distraught because Christ was gone from the tomb. Have we ever felt as if we were without Jesus Christ, all alone, as they felt back then? The disciples walked with Jesus, and now they were lost because he had been taken away. They looked into the sepulchre, but still could not find Him. Today, we walk with Jesus also, and if the time comes when we feel alone, we too must look for Christ. In our search for the Lord, we must listen for His call. Just as Mary recognized Jesus when He called her name, we must recognize and receive Him with great joy when He calls us. He concluded by encouraging us to serve the Lord with full purpose of heart.

The afternoon meeting was opened by Brother Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio, who spoke about the foundation of the Church. A building is only as strong as its foundation. The Church's structure is built according to God's

command: apostles, evangelists, elders, teachers, deacons, and deaconesses. With each office is a responsibility to hold up the Church through the storms. The duties of a deacon and teacher were then read prior to the ordinations of Brother Alexander Cherry to deacon and Brothers Jonathan Olexa and Brian Smith to the office of teacher.

The next ordinance to be witnessed was the washing of Alexander's feet by Brother Idris Martin. He was then ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione, who asked God to bless Alex with patience, wisdom, and understanding accompanied by the Holy Spirit that he might fulfill his duty.

Brother John Griffith washed Brian's feet, and Jonathan's feet were washed by Brother Malcolm Paxon. Brother Calabrese, Brian's grandfather, prayed as he ordained Brian that there would be a weight upon him to help others and that Brian would be filled with a heavenly power. Jonathan was ordained by his father, Brother Fred Olexa, who asked God to give Jonathan wisdom and understanding to teach His word. Brother Fred prayed that Jonathan would never grow weary of the Lord's work.

Sacrament was then passed. The anointings of three sisters was the fifth ordinance to be witnessed.

In closing, Brother Fred exhorted our newly-ordained brothers and each member of the Church to walk worthy in the vocation in which each has been called. Our prayers go with our three brothers as they strive to do the work of the Lord.

On Wednesday, May 23, 1984, James Dean Crosier was baptized by Brother Robert Nicklow in the Monongahela River. After the baptism, we met at the church. The meeting was opened by Brother John Griffith, who spoke about a calling. Each of us has an individual calling. Even though each calling is different, they are all of God. Baptism makes us a better person. It doesn't take our problems away, but it gives us a hope that God will bring us through our troubles.

Brother John read from Acts 2, about the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost was bestowed upon the disciples. Even as Christ's followers of old received this spirit, we also receive the

fullness of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Meridith Griffith then confirmed our new brother, asking God to bless him with a guardian angel. He prayed that God would give Brother Dean a good desire that evil could never overcome. The meeting was then opened for testimony and prayer.

It was an evening in which our cups were filled with God's blessings. We thank Him for our new brother and pray that God will bless Dean and his wife in their lives ahead.

Evergreen, Al

By Emma Grooms

Sister Sherry Rollings and Sister Emma Grooms from Omaha arrived in Evergreen, Alabama on April 13. Five brothers from the Ohio District met them there on Saturday the 14th. The brothers and sisters were welcomed warmly by the family and friends of Sister Grooms. Sister Emma was ill when they arrived so Sister Sherry and the Pleasant family made the plans for fellowship and helped the brothers prepare for the meetings. The brothers were busy going door to door, passing out pamphlets and anointing and praying for the sick.

The Saturday meeting started at 7:00 p.m. There were 14 visitors, including the manager of the Center where the meetings are held. The meeting was very good and most of the visitors testified of how good it was that the Gospel had been brought to Evergreen. The brothers spoke from Matthew 16:13. In closing, one of the visitors asked that the brothers come to her home and anoint her husband and herself. Her husband has been sick with cancer for some time. The brothers were more than happy to grant her request.

On Sunday, the meeting started at 10:00 a.m. There were four visitors and all four were anointed and testified. The highlight of Sunday's meeting was that the Quincy, Florida Mission came to Evergreen to join the meetings. What a blessing was felt by all.

Sister Emma had to stay in Evergreen longer because of her illness and she received phone calls from her aunt, Mrs. Lillie Woods, saying how

(Continued on Page 10)

EVERGREEN, AL continued . . .

much better she felt and from Mrs. Eddie Slalloworth saying that she and her husband were doing much better. They asked that the Brother and Sisters continue to pray for them daily that the Lord would heal them. So brothers and sisters, pray for them that their eyes may be opened to a more perfect way.

Plans are being made to return to Evergreen in July and in September to continue the work there. The Omaha-Bedford Mission also needs to be remembered in the prayers of the saints that we will be able to continue to do the Will of God.

Dallas, TX

By Sister Stel Benyola

Sister Dolly Martin was baptized and confirmed in The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother George Benyola on Sunday, April 1, 1984 in Dallas, Texas.

Sister Dolly met the Gospel through Sister Pat McLellan two months prior. She admitted the first time she set foot inside of our church building, she knew that some day she would be a member. She fell in love with the Gospel immediately. She felt something different, something new, an attraction she had never felt before. She said she felt a love with our people that made her feel like she belonged.

This testimony is very encouraging to all the saints in Dallas because it is the result, the final product, of a special effort put forth by all the members in Dallas—the effort to generate this very feeling she described. We give all honor and praise to God, of course, because Sister Dolly would have never met the Gospel if it were not for His love and mercy. By mere coincidence, Sister Dolly met Sister Pat at an old favorite beauty salon that neither one has been to in years. They both just decided to go back after many years right on the same day. They never knew each other before that day. After spending some time in conversation, they exchanged telephone numbers but never realized that they gave each other a wrong number and, consequently, could not reach each other. Isn't it strange how hard Satan tries to interfere with God's work?

Sister Pat went back to the beauty salon to see if she could get Sister Dol-

ly's phone number, and while she was there, Sister Dolly walked in. They talked to each other, but for some reason had some doubt about each other's sincerity. But, they exchanged correct phone numbers this time and made plans to get in touch with each other, never thinking they would meet at the beauty salon again. They did, one week later, and again, by mere coincidence. This time Sister Pat did not let Dolly go until she promised her that she would attend our Church. Sister Dolly could not refuse because she admitted also that something was happening. The next Sunday Sister Dolly came to church with her husband, Jim, whom we predict to be a member of our Church in a very short time. They are both very receptive to the *Book of Mormon* and all the beliefs of the Church. As a matter of fact, it was during a feet washing service when Dolly asked for her baptism. She testified that she never felt such love and humility with a people like she felt that day as she witnessed our brothers and sisters engaged in feet washing. That is when she got up and stated she wanted to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To further confirm how God will go out of His way for a person when he or she is sincere, Jim and Dolly lived about 25 miles from the church when they first heard of it. They thought, even if they did become interested they were concerned about the distance. But the first morning they decided to come to church they received a phone call from the owners of a certain piece of property they were interested in buying indicating that they were willing to come down with the price as Jim and Sister Dolly requested. They were even more convinced now about the Church because this property is only four miles from the church. When you are sincere in heart, doesn't this prove that God will remove all stumbling blocks and answer our prayers even before we ask?

May God bless our new sister with more love and understanding of this glorious Gospel for we know she will never regret the decision she has made in joining ranks with the soldiers of Christ. And may God grant a special blessing to Sister Pat for being so eager to share her testimony with others. She had a beautiful experience the day Sister Dolly was baptized. She saw an angel of God in a vision holding a large sign spelling **victory**. There certainly was a victory that day, victory over Satan where a new name was written down in glory.

Emmette and Brigetta DiTomaso Craft were baptized and confirmed in The Church of Jesus Christ in Dallas, Texas on Mother's Day, May 13, 1984 by Brother George Benyola. A beautiful experience at the water's edge confirmed God's approval of the decision of Emmette and Brigetta. One of the Dallas sisters saw the heavens open and two white doves flew down above the head of Brother George as he performed this holy ordinance. This was encouraging to all to know that God is so pleased when we are willing to render obedience unto Him, that He would bless us with experiences such as this, even as He did when His own Son was baptized and allowed His Spirit to descend in the form of a dove.

After spending the last five years in Tampa, Florida, Emmette and Brigetta moved to Austin, Texas in October, 1983 with their two fine-looking sons. We hope and pray that Texas will bring them happiness as a family unit, especially since they are both baptized in the Church. Austin is approximately four hours south of Dallas, so it will not be possible to meet every week; however, God willing, when they are not able to travel to Dallas, Emmette and Brigetta have opened their home for the saints to meet there as we have done in the past.

May God richly bless our new brother and sister in Christ with longevity and continued spiritual growth in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Cape Coral, FL

By Hope Eutsey

March has been a wonderful month for the Cape Coral Branch. The Lord has blessed us greatly!

March 18 brought us visitors from the East Coast, which we always enjoy. Our visitors were: Brother Gene, Sister Flo and Brother Buddy Perri, Brother and Sister Frank Rogolino, Sister Rose Rogolino and Brother and Sister Fisher and their family. Brother Gene Perri spoke to us concerning the securities of this life, and how we can go bankrupt in our natural life, but we have notes of security in the Lord and His promises. Brother Rogolino followed, relating ex-

(Continued on Page 11)

CAPE CORAL, FL continued . . .

periences in his own life and telling of the security the Lord provides.

During our testimony meeting, Sister Juanita Rogolino and Sister Theresa Palermo were anointed. Sister Juanita had a severe headache for some time, and Sister Palermo had been suffering from a backache. After they were anointed, Sister Palermo stood and told how her body had been healed. We thank God for His goodness!

March 20 was a very happy day for Brother Greg and Sister Candy Swanger. The Lord blessed them with a healthy baby girl who they named Tiffany Ann. The Swangers also have two sons.

On March 24, our Sunday School held a picnic at Civic Park in Cape Coral. We had a wonderful day of fellowship with the saints. We thank the Lord for the love we have for one another, making us as one big, happy family!

March 25 brought another blessing from our wonderful Savior. During our testimony meeting, Brother Greg Swanger asked the elders to anoint his son, Gregory, who was having pain in his arm and did not want to move it. Our brothers anointed this child, and praise our wonderful Lord, as our brother sat down with his son, Gregory reached for his blanket and had no more pain.

We thank the Lord for all He has done for us and will continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters.

Lake Worth, FL

By Josephine Jasmin

We have been blessed with many visitors lately. It is a joy to see our brothers and sisters from afar and also from our neighboring branches and missions.

On Sunday, April 1, 1984, after a season of singing praises to our Lord, we opened our morning service. Brother Chuck Smith of Fort Pierce and Sister Janice Brown of Lake Worth sang *Cleanse Me, O Lord*. Prayer was offered by Brother Dennis Moraca of Hollywood, Florida. Brother Chuck exhorted unto us many beautiful words of life. Our dear brother has been very afflicted lately and still saw fit to come to

our Branch. He brought with him much love and joy. The day was filled with much spiritual food for our souls. Brother Chuck read from Matthew 22 and Luke 10, the theme being to love God above all and love our neighbors as ourselves, and also about being a Good Samaritan.

Brother Dominic Moraca, visiting from Michigan, followed bringing to our memories the day of our baptisms and the promise we made to God that day. We must put God first and above all things in our lives. We are in church wherever we go, and thus we reflect to those around us what we really are. Are we living the life Christ asked us to? Are we shining our light to those around us?

Brother Dennis Moraca then continued, telling us we must become involved with all mankind. We are being watched continuously and must live up to the commitment we made. We have to become a happy people because of that redeeming love.

Brother John D'Orazio, our Presiding Elder, asked us to be doers of the Word, not only hearers.

It was a glorious day filled with love and goodness from on high. Very fittingly we sang *Make Me a Blessing*.

Detroit, Inner-City

God, our wonderful Father, has truly been in our midst. His most Holy Spirit has been felt by many we know, and His precious Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, does abide here in the Inner-City Branch of Detroit.

Our dear brothers and sisters, we want to tell you of the GOOD NEWS here in the Inner-City. There is so much good news to tell. Something is happening here. There is a change taking place. We feel an anticipation here . . . as though we are on the threshold of something great. **Our God is moving!** Moving in our hearts and in the hearts of our many visitors and friends. We can feel it in the testimonies; we can hear it in the singing.

The Spirit we feel in our meetings is much stronger these days. Our ministers preach with greater power and pray with greater faith! Our many children are growing in the knowledge of our Lord, and good character, no doubt, is being molded in them. Our

Lord is blessing us!

And we do believe that you brothers and sisters who read this can relate and be thankful with us, for surely you must feel the Lord moving in your own branches and missions too. Surely he has not reserved these wonderful blessings for us only. Granted, there is sickness and trouble and discouragement, but the scale is unbalanced and the blessings far outweigh the afflictions. And be encouraged, my brothers and sisters, even when the scale does dip to the other side. It is only for a time and only for a reason. For the scriptures truly say, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous," but that verse ends with, "But the Lord delivereth him out of them all!" None of us likes sorrow, yet even in our sorrows there is gain. As one of the Proverbs says, "Sorrow is better than laughter, for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better."

Troubles may abound, but the blessings abound more still!

Let us always remember and never forget, **God's still on His throne!** And so we say, "Praise be to God, our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!" We are on the brink of great things! Greater manifestations of the Spirit and Power of God are at our doorstep! This is our faith, this is our hope, here we will stand!

So let it be according to the promises of our God. May we truly see many more come to repent and be baptized from both Israelite and Gentile nations!

Let us all, clasped hand in hand, continue our march to that fair City, that Zion! That place where all good hopes are realized and where all our dreams will come true. Where we may rest from all our sorrows, but not from all our tears . . . for there we will surely cry rivers, so great will be our joy!!

Detroit, Branch 1

By Lisa DiFalco

On April 8 the saints of Branch 1 were privileged to have visitors: Brothers Fred Olexa, Meridith Griffith, and John Griffith from the Pennsylvania District.

Brother Fred opened the meeting by reading from John 21:12. Jesus spoke

(Continued on Page 12)

DETROIT, BRANCH 1 continued...

to His disciples and told them to "come and dine." This was and still is an open invitation from Jesus to come and sup on the word of God. Brother Fred stressed the importance of eating God's spiritual food. If we, like sheep, are feeding on the nutritious spiritual food of God, its goodness will manifest itself in our lives and even give itself away to others when we speak.

Jesus, when speaking with Peter, showed the importance of feeding the flock. It was so important to Jesus that everyone would receive the Gospel that

He asked Peter three times, "Lovest thou me?" At the return of Peter's answers Jesus would say, "Feed my sheep."

Though physical starvation plagues many countries, it is no comparison to the spiritual starvation which has become a world-wide epidemic. When Jesus said "come and dine," He entreated the human race to eat of the meat of His Gospel and drink of the everlasting waters of life where none would hunger or thirst again.

We were all filled in receiving this message, and our cups were overflowing after Sisters Rosanne and

Marilyn Scolaro sang, *I'll Stand on That*.

Brother Merdy proceeded to illustrate our mission as a Church—to feed the flocks. The elders minister to the Lord's sheep, and the sheep minister to the world. We are all disciples that need to share God's food with others. When we share and shed some light into someone's dark corner we help to ease their burden.

Brother Griffith reminded us that if as a Church we do this in unity, we can bear each other's burdens and help to feed the flocks, the same assignment given to Peter hundreds of years ago by Christ.

* WEDDINGS *

CHRISTOFFERSEN—WOOD

Mr. Gregory Scott Christoffersen and Miss Kimberly Elizabeth Wood were united in marriage on Saturday, April 28, 1984 at the home of Donald and Sister Roseann (Batalucco) Wood in Saline, Michigan in the presence of one hundred and fifty brothers and sisters of the Church, relatives and friends.

Brother Reno Bologna officiated and a duet was sung by Tanya Wood and friend accompanied by guitar, and musical selections were rendered by Shawn Wood and string ensemble. The processional selections were by organist, Ed Ahuk.

The newlyweds are residing in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ammon is survived by his parents, his sister Nicole, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles.

Brothers Vincent Gibson and Russell Cadman officiated at the funeral services.

KETURAH CREWS

Sister Keturah Crews, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Herndon, Virginia, passed away. She was born on December 2, 1922 and was baptized on August 28, 1955.

Brother George A. Timms, Sr. conducted the funeral service which was held on February 9, 1984.

Sister Crews is survived by her husband, William.

New Arrivals

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

Jillian Renee to Gary and Bonnie Lombardo of Cleveland, Ohio;

Elizabeth to Ralph and Jennifer Gudenau of Inner-City, Detroit, Michigan;

Marcia Jesus to Benito and Marsha Mercado of Inner-City, Detroit, Michigan.

OBITUARIES

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

AMMON ALEXANDER KOVACIC

Ammon Alexander, son of Brother George and Sister Jill Kovacic of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch of the Church, passed away from this life on April 24, 1984. He was born on June 6, 1982.

CARSON—SCAGLIONE

Mr. Dexter Carson and Sister LuAnn Scaglione were married on March 31, 1984 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Brother John Griffith officiated in the ceremony, and Brother Richard Scaglione assisted.

Soloists were Sisters Jessie Bright and Carol Jumper. Valarie Marynchak was the organist.

The newlyweds will reside in Monongahela. Our prayer is that God will bless them in their new life together.

HEMMINGS—McCARTNEY

On April 28, 1984, Brother Timothy Hemmings and Sister Paula McCartney were united in marriage in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Brother Herb Hemmings officiated, assisted by Brother Paul Gehly.

Sister Melissa Bright and Brother Jonathan Olexa sang the musical selections, accompanied by organist Valarie Marynchak.

The newlyweds will reside in San Leandro, California. May God bless them in their new life together.

The Gospel News

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

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I Have a Message

By Brother Bud Martin

One day in the fall of 1983, as I lay upon my death bed, (as the doctors had supposed), I prayed to our Lord to take me quickly if He wasn't going to heal me. As I prayed He said unto me, "There is one thing left undone," and I knew He was speaking to me as the ministry, as He began to teach me what we had left undone.

He said, "You misinterpret the knowledge of me, that I will force no man to heaven and suppose that I meant once you teach repentance and baptism as the way of entering into the way of the Lord, that you were to leave them alone and let them make up their own mind for fear you would be forcing them to obey."

He said, "You surely do err in this thought, for the true meaning is this: Those you try to teach the gospel to that **do not** want to hear the word of God, you don't force the word upon them but pray that the Lord will soften their hearts in the future that they may see and desire the way of the Lord. But Those that love to hear the way of God and are in most of our meetings and show love for His Church and the children of God, **these you should not leave alone**, for what you are doing is leaving them to the wiles of the devil, the enemy of our souls. For as soon as he knows the desire of their hearts, he's not going to leave them alone, and it is his best weapon to teach them to procrastinate the day of their salvation. We should not leave them alone, but we should be teaching them the ways of the

Lord and warning them concerning the cunning ways of the enemy of our souls."

We have many of these souls in our branch, and I believe every branch of the Church has some that come to our place of worship for years and show love in hearing and believing the word of God.

By the ministry combating the evil one concerning procrastination, I don't mean to preach repentance and baptism every time they are in our presence, but we should visit them in their homes and see and hear what they believe and warn them of the ways of the devil.

As an example, the Lord pointed out two of these in our branch. These are men and women we love very much and love their fellowship. The first one the Lord reminded me of my conversation with. She said she cared for the Church and knew she should be baptized, but she felt she should have more knowledge of the scriptures first so she has been waiting, biding her time. The Lord brought to my remembrance the experience of Philip and the eunuch. Pointing out to me the eunuch was a man of great education and great authority, yet he told Philip when asked if he understood what he was reading by replying, "How can I understand unless someone teaches me?" And he asked, "Is the prophet speaking of himself or some other?" And Philip taught him of Jesus from that scripture, Isaiah 53, and I believe he taught him concerning the time He left the throne of God unto His return to God. And as they came to a place where there was water, the eunuch said, "Here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?"

Philip answered, "If thou believeth with all thine heart, you may," and the eunuch answered, "I believe, I believe," and Philip took him down into the water and baptized him. Philip was then caught away in the spirit and the eunuch went his way rejoicing. The Lord pointed out though, the eunuch didn't understand all of the scriptures. His belief in the word taught by the spirit by a servant of God was enough through repentance for him to be baptized.

The other the Lord pointed out to me was a man who was loved by everyone, one who did good every day of his life, that helped his neighbors and labored much on our church building in remodeling and repairs. The Lord brought to my remembrance my conversation with him one day in his home, which I want to say, he always made me feel welcome there.

This day as I talked with him, I felt he was satisfied that he was living a pretty good life, and the Lord reminded me during our conversation to tell him an experience He brought to mind at the time of an incident that happened 25 years before. I began to tell him as it happened thusly:

I was in the 3rd grade in school and we had a true and false test. For some reason which I don't remember I became stubborn and wrote my name at the top of the test paper and didn't write anything else. When the teacher came around to grade the test papers, she placed a large F, which represented failure, on mine. When the Lord brought this to my remembrance, I could see that paper so vividly and He

(Continued on Page 2)

MESSAGE continued . . .

said unto me, "You didn't answer any wrong, but you didn't answer any right either." This pointed out to me, and I hope to my friend, that doing good deeds is not enough to please God, but we must be obedient to His word and enter in the way of the Lord by repentance and baptism. We believe a man will be blessed for all the good he will do, but I don't believe this applies to the world to come, but immediately. As it is written, He blesses us for good and we remain in His debt. This debt can only be paid by obedience in His word and teaching and following after our Lord in the path He walked. This man we speak of has been blessed abundantly in this probationary time for all the good that he has done.

Alma in speaking to the Zoramites states, "This is the day of salvation, you cannot say at the last day of your probation, now I will repent." Remember Esau, as it was written, although he repented with much tears, the time of repentance had passed. When is our day of salvation? Let us remember the experience of Zacchaeus as he desired to see the Lord and climbed up into a tree. As Jesus came near He called Zacchaeus, "Come down for this day I will abide at your house." As Zacchaeus was pleased, he came down and as he walked in the presence of the Lord he began to repent and said unto the Lord, "The half of my goods, I give to the poor, and if I have wronged any man, I will give unto him fourfold." And Jesus said, "Zacchaeus, this day salvation has come to thy house." What day did salvation come? The day he repented and walked in the presence of the Lord.

In closing, my reason for writing this message, as my first thought was to wait until I gained strength to teach these things. But after I had a blood clot in my leg and went back into the hospital this April, I was troubled about waiting to be able to speak these things as my strength is slow in coming back. I thought of King Benjamin, although he taught his people much concerning the things of God, yet at his last days he spoke saying he didn't want their innocent blood upon his head so he taught them what was required of them. In like manner I feared to wait until I was strong again and able to speak strongly. I pray these words may edify some and teach them not to procrastinate the day of their salvation.

Has the Word of God Changed?

By Frank Natoli

We have been taught that the word of God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And we have been taught correctly, for man has always needed a standard to live by. Through Jesus Christ, we have a standard above all standards. We have the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ . . . His faith . . . His doctrine . . . His Church.

Over four years ago the Word of the Lord came forth during a testimony service, and those words mean as much today as they meant four years ago:

"I have come to bless My people this day. Rejoice My people. Rejoice that you know Me, the Son of God. I have come today to heal the broken-hearted. I have come to give strength unto the weak. I have come to call the sinner unto repentance. And as I walk among you, My people, and if you exercise faith to believe My word, I will manifest Myself in power unto you. I will tell My Church, for the day and the hour you are in, to beware, to be wise, to watch and to pray My people. Look about you, see the sins of this great nation. I have warned My people many times of the things I will do to this nation that has turned from Me, the true and living God, and I will deliver those that are righteous, if you serve Me you need not fear. I will take you under the shadow of My wing and I will protect you. I have come to give you My word, My people, I have blessed this Church and I have given unto you power to do My will. I have given unto this Church the authority of God and I will cause My people that they will rise in righteousness and holiness and I will fill you with light and glory and men will look and say, 'Behold the people of God.' So today I have come to bless you. **Receive my word.** I love My people. I will comfort My people. I will not forsake My people. Consider the price that was paid for you. In this you will rejoice. In this you will praise the Lamb of God because He is worthy to be praised. He is worthy to be praised. He is come to give you love. Oh My people, My people trust Me. Do not fear man, fear Me, and if you fear Me, I will bless you. This is My priesthood. This is My authority, saith Jesus Christ, saith Jesus Christ."

I would ask you to read this paragraph again, and to meditate upon God's word, for it is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

An Experience

It's a miracle. Yes, it's a miracle! A remarkable change from one state to another without the aid of any man's hand. It's a miracle. The Founder, the Originator, the One who hung the world in space, is moved upon with great love and mighty compassion, causing a reaction of power that trickles down from the throne of grace, down through the masses of man's mind, man's understanding presenting a state of unexplainable events. Then we say, "It's a miracle." Yes, it supersedes all the wisdom of man, and many times baffles man, oft times purges the recognized truth, only God can perform such a work. It's a miracle, and truly it was for Sister Ollie Belle Barnes of the Quincy, Florida Mission.

"My miracle," she states, "began as I took note that I was losing weight. In about one month I went from 110 pounds to 86 pounds. A large swelling, like a knot surrounded my throat, that I could not swallow. Then I experienced pain even when I sipped water. My eyes became large and prominent and my vision became dim.

"Reluctantly, in September, 1983, I went to the physician who immediately admitted me to the hospital and told me I need surgery. I was scheduled for many different tests which I learned were for enlarged thyroid. One test was to outline the thyroid for removal and also rule out tumors. The doctor told me my thyroid gland had collapsed.

"After the many different tests, I was finally scheduled for surgery. At this point, I sent for Brother Cleveland Baldwin. Immediately Brother Cleveland came and anointed me. That was on a Wednesday. The next day, Thursday, he returned and anointed me again. After he put the oil on my head, then placed his hands on my head and prayed, immediately I felt something run throughout my body from my head to the very tip of my toes. I knew right then my thyroid condition was healed.

(Continued on Page 3)

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

Doubts, thoughts, feelings and fear all fled away. It was a miracle.

"Friday morning prior to surgery, I was sent back for more X-ray studies and thyroid function tests. Saturday, my doctor came in and had called another doctor in for consultation. Filled with emotion, confusion, both doctors looking at and evaluating all the x-rays, stood in contemplation, perplexed, trying to dispute facts. The last x-ray taken showed a normal size, normal functioning thyroid. All the doctor could say is, 'There is no trace, there is no trace at all.' In this thing, I'm perfect. There is no swallowing problem, I eat anything I desire with no problem, I've gained weight, my vision and eyes are normal. I'm doing just fine . . . IT'S A MIRACLE!"

An Encouraging Experience

By Mary Jane Cervone, Levittown, PA

I had been ill and very deeply depressed for quite some time. I lost all interest in living and was tormented daily. I had been going to the doctors for a number of weeks and was taking medication which had an adverse reaction on me. I asked the elders of the Church to pray for me and asked God to lift this burden from me.

One day while I was crying and felt so alone, I received a phone call from one of my brothers, which gave me courage to go on. I knew the brothers and sisters were fasting and praying for me.

I had to go into the hospital for some tests. While lying in my hospital bed, I fell asleep and dreamed that I saw Brother Sam and Sister Josephine Dell come through the hospital doors, and appearing with them was Brother Rocco Ensana, who passed away several years ago. He looked so nice and I asked him, "Brother Rocco, what are you doing here?" He replied that he had come to anoint me. I knew then that I would get better.

I would like to mention that during this trial, my mother, Sister Ann Benyola, was a very great comfort to me.

I want to thank God for His wonderful love and mercy and for all of your prayers. God bless you all.

Michigan-Ontario District Meeting

By Anthony J. Scolaro

On Wednesday evening, June 27, 1984, all the branches in the Michigan-Ontario District met together at Branch 2 to hear Apostle V. James Lovalvo, who was spending some time in this part of the country.

Brother Jim read from the 15th chapter of the Gospel of John, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."

Brother Lovalvo elaborated on this purging process, which takes place in the life of every one of Christ's followers. We must repent of our sins and live close to the Lord, in order that we might bring forth fruit unto Him.

Further down the page, Brother Jim read, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

Brother Jim stressed the theme of togetherness that Jesus brought out in the fourth and fifth verses. This abiding in Him involves an effort on our part to work in harmony with Him, for without Him, we truly can do nothing.

Brother Jim continued his sermon, expanding on the meaning of the "fruit" Jesus spoke of. There is a market, Brother Jim explained, for this fruit. That market is every nation, kindred, tongue, and people of this vast world we live in. It is our duty, Brother Jim told us, to carry this fruit out to the dying souls of men.

Although the Lord's commission to us seems a bit overwhelming at times, Brother Jim reminded us that if we are truly born of God, if we are truly His sons and daughters, then it follows that we will have some of His characteristics. Just as any child resembles his natural parents, we as children of God should carry with us the precious attributes of

Faith, Hope, and Charity, as well as the qualities that follow these heavenly gifts. If the Spirit of God truly abides in us, we can do all things through Christ Jesus.

In concluding his message to us, Brother Jim admonished us to never stop dreaming of better things. There is no end to the blessings God has in store for His servants. We must never say we've had "enough" of what the Lord wishes to bestow upon His children. As we move forward as a Church, Brother Jim asked us to unite together, to combine the wisdom of our Aged with the strength of our Youth.

May the Lord bless our Brother Jim as he continues to spread the Gospel.

The Power of Prayer

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters who prayed for me while I was in the hospital with a heart attack. I would also like to share an experience I had.

I was very upset and worried while I was in the Emergency Room. I could hear the doctors saying something about a blood clot. Brother Roy and Sister Jean DePerno were with me from the beginning and called for an elder to anoint me. Brother Lou Vitto came, and as soon as he laid hands on me and prayed I began to feel much calmer. Each time the doctors came to see me I asked about the blood clot and finally they told me it just seemed to disappear all of a sudden (I know it was the Power of Prayer). After many X-rays were taken, there was still no sign of a blood clot. I began to feel so much better, I couldn't believe they were going to keep me in the hospital for tests.

Brothers and sisters, I would like to thank all of you for your beautiful prayers, your cards, and your phone calls. And I want to thank God for being with me every second. I pray that I can be worthy of His special goodness to me. I'd like to thank the brothers in the Ministry and all those who came to visit me.

My doctor says I'm doing fine now and my heart is growing stronger. Please continue to pray for me; I love every one of you.

God bless all of you,
Sister Pat Soeteber
Detroit, Inner City Branch

Branch and Mission News

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

The promise of the Lord is that if we are gathered together in His name in one accord, He will be in our midst. We of the McKees Rocks Branch are thankful for His presence in our meetings.

On Sunday, March 4, 1984, we were privileged to have a visit from Brothers Joseph and John Genaro. Brother Joe spoke to us from Romans 12:1, 2. He stressed the importance of offering our bodies as a living sacrifice. Also, after our lives have been changed, we must care for others, and when someone has a need, we must all pray for that individual as if we were praying for ourselves.

We had visitors from Aliquippa, Imperial and Lorain on Sunday, March 11, 1984. A beautiful spirit prevailed as Brother George Ondrasik asked the blessing upon Panfilo Angelo, son of Panfilo and Pat DiCenzo. This spirit of humility and love carried over to our feet washing service that afternoon.

We were blessed with visitors from Aliquippa, Glassport, Greensburg and Lorain on Sunday, March 18, 1984. Brother Alma Nolfi opened our morning service reading from Luke 19:28-34. From this scripture, our brother beautifully illustrated how we are loosed from sin and set free by the power of Christ. This set the tone for the day as many recalled their experiences of being set free from sin. As Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. was testifying of how God moved upon him to surrender all, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation was, "My spirit calleth, saith the Lord." We were blessed as we heard songs of praise from Brothers Pete Giannetti, Jr., Jeff Giannetti, Alma Nolfi, Ken Staley and the McKees Rocks Quintet.

Sunday, April 1, 1984, was also a day of rejoicing for us. Brother Lirio Fallavollitti of Greensburg spoke to us from John 3, stating the importance of being born of the water and spirit. This theme was appropriate as we have been fasting and praying for our unbaptized young people and friends, many of

which were in attendance that morning. We trust soon that God will loose the chains and set them free. This also marked 60 years in the Gospel for Brother Dan Casasanta. We rejoiced as we listened to his testimony of how at the age of 14 he rendered obedience to Christ. Even though he received much opposition as a young man, he was determined to serve the Lord, and he is still a faithful and active member of the Church. We trust that God will continue to bless us.

Saline, MI

By Roseann Wood

It was a most beautiful and exhilarating day in the countryside around the little Saline Mission and more beautiful was the service on that day, Sunday, March 18, 1984, when the twenty members, their families, relatives and brothers and sisters from branches in Detroit and Ohio gathered to witness the ordination of Brother James Cotellesse into the priesthood.

Following the congregational hymn, *More Like the Master*, Brother Bill Bufa offered a lovely and appropriate song entitled, *God Make Me Kind*.

We were pleased to have with us as our main speaker, Brother Joseph Calabrese, who was one week away from departing for India. "We are happy for the Church's expansion in this part of the vineyard," he said, and alluded to the presence of Brother Frank Morle, saying, "Just to see him walk in represents the greatness of God and the many prayers of the brothers and sisters."

Brother Calabrese told of the Church's structure being a prime interest of his and how we have scriptures both in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* to verify the priesthood which is after the order of the Son of God. In the thirteenth chapter of Alma we read, "the Lord God ordained priests, after His holy order, which was after the order of His Son, to teach these things unto the people . . . and this is the manner after which they were ordained . . . (that they have) . . . exceeding faith

and good works . . . having chosen good . . . are called with a holy calling . . . and ordained unto the high priesthood of the holy order of God, to teach his commandments unto the children of men, that they also might enter into his rest."

The *Bible*, Ephesians 4:11, further states, "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers, (and Brother Joe added, 'some deacons and we believe in the calling of sisters into the office of deaconess, as well') . . . for the perfecting of the saints," the *Bible* continues, "for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

"There aren't too many people that believe as we do," Brother Joe continued. "Some presume that it is the priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, but our emphasis is placed upon the order of the Son of God which is Jesus Christ." We know that the greatest thing that has happened since the birth of Christ has been the birth of the Restored Gospel. "This priesthood, then, represents the greatest thing upon the face of the earth since Jesus was here in person . . . This is the job that you and I have until we come into the unity of this faith—that we can create this peaceful condition that we so long for. This ministry can do it," Brother Joe emphasized, "We are **going** to do it. Out work is cut out for us, and we are indeed the most fortunate people here on the face of the earth."

Brother Calabrese recapitulated the confirmation of Brother Daniel Livingston—as hands were layed upon him, an angel of the Lord appeared holding in his hands the golden record, and our brother was able to view them until the light so blinded him that he had to look away. "This is the kind of priesthood that Brother Jim Cotellesse is being ordained into," he spoke. "This is the kind of priesthood that is going to stagger the imagination of the whole world . . . We have the power and the Spirit of God behind us. And while we may not all have college degrees and diplomas, we have the blessings of heaven. But what we need more than anything else is the demonstration of the power of God. This is the Church—we are the people—and we are going to represent **that** kingdom that will one day rule the earth." In closing, Brother Joe said, "It is a sacred place—treat it with great respect—treat those who

(Continued on Page 7)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

About Pollution

(Reprint—October, 1973)

Recently a radio minister made references in his sermon to our national concern over the serious matter of pollution—the pollution of air, water and land. He noted that government, industry and various organizations and agencies are involved in various courses of action to control and reduce the pollution of our streams and waters, as well as the atmosphere and our land. He conceded that this concern along with corrective measures are commendable and beneficial.

However, he also voiced his concern over spiritual pollution that is causing so much grief, pain, heartache and disruption of homes on an ever increasing scale. His point is well taken and who would dare debate his position.

A HEALTHY NATION IS A STRONG NATION

We too commend the efforts of government, industry and interested organizations and agencies in seeking ways and means to combat pollution in all its forms, to reduce its harmful effects upon people, animal life and on all our natural resources. A healthy nation is a strong nation.

On the other hand, like the radio minister, we are also concerned over increasing spiritual pollution in all its forms. The divorce rate is alarming. The increasing incidence of couples living together as husband and wife without benefit of either civil or religious ceremony is regrettable. Pornography in many forms continues apace.

A few years ago, a United Nations agency comprised of representatives of several member nations was set up to plan and recommend courses of action to stop the international flow of pornographic material. The Soviet representative presented a plan that seemed to assure success in fulfilling the agency's mission in combatting pornography. The American representative expressed reluctance to concur, stating that the Soviet representative's plan was too rigid and would infringe on freedom of the press. Note the irony of this situation when we consider the official position of the Soviet government is atheistic in doctrine while on the other hand, the American position is eloquently expressed in our motto: IN GOD WE TRUST. In this serious matter American prestige sustained a loss and we were deprived of an opportunity to afford influence and support to a plan that would uphold dignity and wholesomeness in opposition to the spreading evil of pornography.

MORONI SAW OUR DAY

Moroni, the great historian and prophet who predicted (circa A.D. 400) the coming forth of the *Book of Mormon* said, "Yea, it shall come in a day when there shall be great pollutions upon the face of the earth; there shall be murders, and robbing, and lying, and deceivings, and whoredoms, and . . . abominations; when there shall be many who will say, Do this, or do that, and it mattereth not, for the Lord will uphold such at the last day. But woe unto such, for they are in the gall of bitterness and in the bonds of iniquity." (Mormon 8:31) In Verse 35 Moroni adds, "Behold, I speak unto you as if ye were present, and yet ye are not. But behold, Jesus Christ hath shown you unto me, and I know your doing."

We pray that God will stir people everywhere and awaken them to their duty to God and that they may endeavor to keep themselves unspotted from this world.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Judge's Last Fight

Dear Girls and Boys,

For twenty years after the Philistines murdered his young wife, Samson ruled as a Judge for his people. As a baby he had been set aside by God to be a deliverer for his people. His parents were told never to cut his hair as a sign that he was set apart.

All those years his enemies kept close watch on him, hoping to find a way to capture him. One time they had sent an army of a thousand soldiers after him, and he had killed them all—each and every one. Now it came to pass that Samson fell in love with a beautiful Philistine woman named Delilah.

When the Philistine leaders realized Samson was in love with her, they offered her one thousand one hundred pieces of silver each to help them trap the strong Samson.

Delilah liked the idea. She began to pester Samson to tell her why he was so strong. He resisted by telling her pretend reasons. He said, "If they tie me with seven green branches, never dried, then I'd be weak like other men."

So Delilah did that. But when she called a warning to him, "Samson! Wake up! The Philistines are here!", he easily broke the branches and jumped up.

She whined some more, and cried, and told him he must not love her or else he would tell her the truth. Two more times he gave her pretended ways to make him weak. Both times she tried those ways. Each time she raised such a fuss that Samson was getting tired of hearing it.

Finally he told her the truth, as the angel of God had told his mother years ago. "There has never been a razor on my head, for I was set aside by God before I was born. If my hair was ever cut, my strength would be gone. I'd be weak like any other man."

The greedy Delilah knew he was telling the truth and hurriedly sent for the Philistines. She soothed Samson to sleep in her lap and quickly called a servant to come shave off the hair on his head. The deed was done.

When she woke him calling again, "Samson, the Philistines are here!", he

woke up thinking he could break free like all the other times. But this time his promise to God had been broken, and the Lord had departed from him. He was easily captured.

The happy Philistines dragged him away and poked his eyes out. Then they handcuffed him to a grinding machine and forced him to walk blinded in circles all day long.

The Philistines planned a huge feast celebrating his capture. They bragged, "Our god (a statue named Dagon) is the most powerful! He delivered Samson to our hands." Over three thousand Philistine leaders came and were sitting on the rooftop at the party eating and drinking.

They sent a servant to bring Samson so they could make fun of him. Now, since his capture, Samson had spent many pain-filled hours alone thinking. His hair also had started to grow.

He asked the servant to let him feel the main pillars of the house, saying he wanted to lean on them. When he felt them, he prayed, "Remember me, Lord, one more time. Strengthen me so I can pay back the Philistines for taking my eyes."

With a mighty effort, he bent over, pushing on the pillars and called, "Lord, let me die with these Philistines." The roof collapsed.

And so it came to pass that on that day, the mighty Judge of Israel, Samson, died. And with him he destroyed the most important leaders of the Philistines. Again he had offered his people years of freedom from their enemies.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

God's Miracle Child

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I would like to thank you for all your prayers on behalf of my daughter, Gina Hill.

On Friday evening, March 30, 1984, Gina was hit by a car near our home. She was taken to McMaster Medical Centre in Hamilton, where the doctors told me she had a broken leg in three places and a swollen brain. Their main concern was her brain. In order to treat

her they put her in a coma state to stabilize her brain before the swelling killed her.

After seeing Gina in the Intensive Care Unit, I asked someone to phone Brother Norman Campitelle. I wanted Gina anointed as soon as possible. I knew in my mind and heart if she was anointed she would be all right. It would be up to God. Brother Norman Campitelle and Brother Leonard Loyalvo came on Sunday morning and anointed

Gina. Two weeks later when they brought Gina out of the coma, the doctors said she would never be the same girl. I prayed every night that she would be herself someday. Now I thank God every night that He has brought my Gina back to me. She still has a long way to go, but I have faith God is not going to let her down now. God has brought her out of this so far; God will not leave her alone now.

Before we left the hospital, I visited the Intensive Care Unit to thank them and say goodbye. They were all glad to

(Continued on Page 11)

SALINE continued . . .

have been called with great respect," for Brother Jim is not only a minister of The Church of Jesus Christ, but "he's a representative of God here upon the face of the earth."

Brother Dominic Thomas then expressed his feelings of the good things the ordination of Brother Jim meant saying, "This is no ordinary day. You've already acquired a body of knowledge over the years. What does have to happen now is that there must be a spiritual experience that we'll all feel—that the angels of heaven are saying 'yea' and 'amen'—that God Himself is saying 'this is My Will'. Whenever this kind of experience emerges, something wonderful always happens—brought about by the whole spirit of the ordination of the day." He continued, as one looking back on this day, "Those who were weak were made strong, those who were discouraged were lifted up, those who were wayward were brought back, those who were hungry were filled, and those who were sinners repented," because this was a day God was calling his servant to labor for Him in helping people to make peace with God.

As Brother Thomas finished, his message was, "This is our calling. You are joining in with the Lord. You don't know yet who the people are who, through your preaching, your teaching and life's examples are going to come into The Church of Jesus Christ. You don't yet know whom you are going to bring down into the waters of baptism. You don't yet know on whose head you will lay your hands for the healing from God to make them whole. You don't yet know those babies you will hold in your arms to call God's blessings upon them. All this will come about through the glory and the beauty and the power and the wonderfulness of this priesthood."

Sister Julia Cotellesse was resplendent and inspiring as she sang to her son, *I'll Walk With God* as Brother Reno Bologna prepared to wash Brother Jim's feet. Brother Frank Morle stepped forward to ordain our brother as the ten visiting elders encircled him, among whom we were pleased to see Brother Gorie Ciaravino, uncle to Brother Jim. Brother Tony Lovaivo was inspired to lead us a *cappella* in *There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit*.

A short testimony was given by Brother Jim telling of all his life being spent in the Church; being reared by

his mother and his father (the late Brother Dominic Cotellesse), being baptized at age fourteen, of feeling his "roots" with his father who lived the life of a missionary and his family with him on the Indian reservation in Muncey, Canada, and of his grandfather, Brother Jim Cotellesse, and how he would like to give to his children these same roots.

Sister Leona Buffa, Brother Matthew Cotellesse, and Brother Tony Lovaivo gave confirmation to the ordination; our sister telling of a dream three years ago of Brother Jim being ordained and his wife, Sister Sandy, very much approving; Brother Matthew telling of a tremendous headache due to his chronic condition and the experience of the healing effect his brother had upon him as Brother Jim prepared his head for a haircut in his profession as a barber. The experience that Brother Tony expressed was that the last time he had visited in Saline, he felt a tremendous spirit come upon him about our Brother Jim. Upon being invited to Brother Joe Carlini's home, Brother Tony had a chance visit with Brother Jim who stopped by. As they sat and talked about the scriptures, the "Spirit of God came down upon me and I questioned within myself," Brother Tony recalled, "why hasn't this young man been called into the priesthood?" He told no one but his wife and the feeling stayed with him for days. Then he heard that Brother Jim had been chosen for the ministry and this authenticated that "God had been in the matter."

As we sang *God Be With You*, a circle of hands was formed by all the many present and we closed with a prayer in our hearts that God would bless Brother Jim in his new role.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi

The Tampa members had a wonderful week of blessings, starting with the ordination of Sister Irene Griffith on March 11, 1984. Her feet were washed by Sister Betty Ann Lowe, who had a personal experience relative to her being called as a deaconess.

The next blessing was on March 14, 1984 with the visit of Brother Nick Pietrangelo, who gave us a wonderful sermon on the experiences that God gives to His people and how through our faith God will grant us many blessings. He emphasized that we should never be

discouraged when personal tragedies befall us as God will give us strength to carry on.

The next blessing was the visit of the General Church Trustees on March 18, 1984; namely, Brothers Anthony Ensana, Joe Ross, and Dick Lawson. Also visiting were Sisters Erma Lawson, Elsie Ensana, Mamie Funkhouser and Ruth Ackerman.

Brother Dick Lawson opened the meeting. He read from Romans 8 in which he brought out that "Who shall separate us from the love of God?", and that no one should separate us from God, neither wife, husband, children, family or friends. God is everything to us who believe in Him. Brother Joe Ross followed and his theme was, "Are we persuaded to follow Christ?" We have to try to convert the world, not the world convert us.

Brother Duane Lowe then spoke on the love of God and how we should show this love one to another.

Our testimony meeting proved to be a time of joy and fellowship. Sacrament was then passed and the meeting came to a close with a prayer by Brother Sam Risola, Sr.

We all then went into our fellowship room to enjoy a wonderful dinner served by our Ladies' Circle and fellowshiped with one another in the love of God.

We of the Tampa Branch enjoy having visiting brothers and sisters, as we always receive a blessing from all who come.

Lockport, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On Sunday, April 8, 1984, the Rochester Mission met in Lockport Branch as Brother Ansel D'Amico was scheduled on the Ohio District visitation schedule. After community singing, Brother Ansel chose for his text Psalms 1, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and

(Continued on Page 8)

LOCKPORT continued . . .

night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."

We should search the scriptures, for in them we shall receive Eternal Life. Abraham looked for a city—the builder and ruler is God. Jesus said, "In my Father's house there are many mansions, I will prepare a place for you." We should be like the five wise virgins having our oil ready when Jesus comes.

Brother Frank Natoli followed on the same subject. We should be like the tree planted by the water—we should bring forth good fruit that we may share it with others and that the world would recognize the Church by our fruit. At the end we want to hear the words, "Well done my faithful servant, receive your reward." We should never be ashamed of the small number in the Church, but rather we should pray for all the world to come and partake of the fruit of the tree of life.

Brother Henry Berardi spoke in Italian on the same subject. The meeting was opened for testimony and Sacrament was administered. We were dismissed with prayer by Brother John D'Amico.

Quincy, FL

By Meredith M. Martin

Brother Tony Ensana and Sister Elsie brought to the Quincy Mission a spirit of perseverance and endurance. Their experiences in The Church of Jesus Christ, along with their labors, are like dew drops of strength and encouragement.

Brother Tony spoke beautifully of the necessity of a pure heart with pure love for all mankind.

Sister Lillie Mae Davis, the first baptized in the Quincy Mission, celebrated her 10th year in the Gospel. She was baptized on March 31, 1974. The theme used was her favorite hymn, *Where He Leads Me, I Will Follow*.

We were also happy to have Sister Mary M. Francis visit the Mission. She is presently with her husband, a service-

man stationed at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. Her father is also hospitalized at Tallahassee Hospital, along with Brother Leroy Walker's mother. Brother Walker's mother is not baptized; however, she has requested prayer and was prayed for by Brother Baldwin.

Love to all the saints!

Herndon, VA

By Esther Andrews, Branch Editor

Brother Paul Carr and family arrived home safe from Africa, while the saints of Herndon Branch awaited at Brother and Sister Chatman Young's home to greet them. Finally it was time for them to arrive. What joy filled our hearts as we embraced them. Tears of joy fell from our eyes. Boxes of pizza were piled high, while a welcome home cake rested nearby; also their favorite dessert, raisin pie. Sister Thressa's brother, George Seighman, and two nieces, Sister Jessie Bright and Lori Seighman, came to greet them from Pennsylvania.

Their visit was short but sweet at their home branch, Herndon, Virginia. They are traveling and visiting many branches of the Church. They will return home the last part of June and leave for Africa in August.

May God bless them in their work for the Lord.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Michele Davella, Branch Editor

The Branch of Hopelawn can surely say they had a glorious day on April 1, 1984. Brother Bill Davis along with his companion, Sister Betty Davis, were ordained deacon and deaconess respectively.

Brother Joseph Perri called to the front of the church all the deacons of the Branch. Brother Ralph Mecurio washed Brother Bill's feet while the congregation sang *Go, Ye Messengers of Glory*. Following, all the deaconesses of the Branch also came to the front of the church. Sister Theresa Venutto washed Sister Betty's feet while the congregation sang *Be Loyal to Jesus*.

Brother Joseph Faragasso ordained Brother Bill and Brother Lenny Benyola ordained Sister Betty. After the ordinations all the deacons and deaconesses embraced.

We can surely say the spirit of the Lord was in our presence. Our hearts were overjoyed to see both ordinations on that day.

The Hopelawn Branch can surely say God has been with us.

Ft. Pierce, FL

By Louise Micale

On May 20, 1984, Fort Pierce Branch hosted other branches and missions for a farewell for Brother George Arthur of Nigeria. Brother Arthur, due to the illness of his wife, Sister Agnes, had to stop his schooling and lost his visa. He has to return to Nigeria to obtain another visa in order to stay in this country. His wife, Sister Agnes, and children will stay here until his return. She is having treatments for her illness.

Sister Edna Bittinger had a small program on the topic of "Jesus". She spoke of what He meant in her life. There were poems and scripture. Brother Arthur then spoke on Luke 7. Was this the true Christ or should they look for another? He also spoke of his having to go to Nigeria.

Quincy Mission sang *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin felt that Sister Agnes Arthur should be anointed, and this was done.

Brother Cleveland spoke on the faith of Brother Arthur leaving his family.

The ordination of Brother Horace Huggins then took place. His feet were washed by Brother George Arthur and then ordained by Brother George Arthur.

Brother Mike Radd then spoke of setting an example. All things are for the praise of God.

One sister said she saw a veil that was as sheer as gossamer over the whole congregation. Another saw a light behind brother Arthur as he spoke.

(Continued on Page 9)

FT. PIERCE continued . . .

All in all we had a beautiful meeting, and those that were there were glad for that privilege.

Refreshments were served after the meeting, so we were fed spiritually and naturally.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are happy to report that in view of Brother Arthur's serious circumstances, the U. S. Government has graciously extended his visa.

Fredonia, PA

By Ethel Cadman, Branch Editor

On Monday, May 14, each sister invited a guest to Ladies' Circle. Sister Nancy Gehly presented a program on the theme of Mother's Day. Refreshments were served, giving an opportunity for each new visitor to become better acquainted. We hope they will all return sometime.

Sunday, May 27, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch were our guests. A brother secured a bus for transporting the group to Fredonia. Brother Russell Cadman used I Corinthians 12 for the Sunday School lesson. Five sisters from McKees Rocks sang *Come Holy Spirit*. After the welcome by Presiding Elder Alvin Gehly, Brother Bill Colangelo opened by using Mark 4:35-41. During the service, seven elders spoke, giving good discourse on the Gospel Ship and the care of Jesus for His people. Two sisters were anointed and the gift of healing was felt. The wonderful spirit of love and unity blessed us during the day. Lunch was served, affording more fellowship with our brothers and sisters.

On Sunday evening, Brother Dominic Bucci from Youngstown, Ohio and his grandson, Brother George Kovacic, from Erie met with us giving us a good message. Brother Bucci told of his early days in the Church, recalling his acquaintance with Brother Alexander Cherry and many others.

On Sunday, June 3, Brother David Nolfi, Sister Eileen and their children visited our Branch. Brother David spoke concerning the creation and actions of men throughout the years.

Sunday evening of the same day, the Pennsylvania Evangelists met in our building. With approximately one hundred in attendance, our branch was filled. Brother Paul Palmieri, Chairman of our Mission Board, directed the service. Brother George Kovacic from Erie opened the meeting, followed by others. We enjoyed a session of testimony and song. We praise God for the wonderful fellowship we have together as His spirit inspires our lives.

Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

This April 29, 1984, was a beautiful Sabbath day and we at Roscoe, Pennsylvania had just gathered together that we could praise and bless our God and be blessed of Him. While reading and discussing our Sunday School lesson, to our pleasant surprise in walked Brother Paul and Sister Thressa Carr with their son, John, and daughter, Cheryl. They had just returned home from Africa. They had spent over a year in Nigeria. It was a very happy occasion for all of us.

Brother Paul opened our preaching service using Isaiah 58 as his text. God blessed our Brother Paul in expounding the fact that the Lord intended for us to perform. But we like Israel do not always fast for the right things. Our cups overflowed and we were thankful to God that He was still teaching us a more perfect way to walk.

Brother Paul related some experiences of how God is blessing His people in Africa. One of the experiences that he told touched us very deeply. He told us that there were hungry children there and that a brother was told by God to feed them. They are all very poor there and the brother is doing all that he can to do what the Lord commanded him, but he needs help. I thought of how Jesus had spoken in His word, "When you have done this to one of these, you have done it unto me." It touched my heart when Brother Paul said, "Remember, these are the children of the saints." After hearing our brother's words, we knew that we had to get behind our brother in this labor of love. Although we at Roscoe try to be mindful of those in need, our brother's words made us realize that more must be done.

Brother Idris and Sister Ellen Martin of the Monongahela Branch were

also visiting with us. Our Brother Idris carried the spirit of our preaching service over into our testimony and sacrament meeting. He said many things to encourage us. He exhorted us to put God first in our lives, to love Him and His sons and daughters, our brothers and sisters. Brother Idris told us to keep the commandments of God and by doing this the blessings and miracles of God will be poured out upon us.

We had many testimonies and our cups overflowed. We left the house of God rejoicing, strengthened and with a firmer determination to live closer to God. We thank God for this wonderful day.

Aliquippa, PA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

On Sunday, June 3, our branch was blessed by the presence of Brother Joe Austin from the Clairton Branch. It seems as though each time Brother Joe returns to our branch that his words are seasoned more and more by the spirit of the Lord, and this Sunday was no exception, as our meeting was filled with God's blessings from start to finish.

Brother Joe opened the meeting by using the hymn, *Am I a Soldier of the Cross?*. Brother Charles Jumper then offered prayer. Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. very beautifully sang the hymn, *He Touched Me*, with the congregation joining him on the chorus. God's spirit was surely felt in Brother Pete's singing.

Brother Austin used II Timothy 2 for his text, speaking of how the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to endure to become a good soldier of Jesus Christ. He compared the words of the Apostle Paul with our own lives and how we each should strive to be good soldiers for Christ and the Church. Our brother also cautioned us to beware of Satan and his desire to deceive us and pull us away from the things God desires for us to do. He then related a dream he had in which he battled with Satan through the entire dream and finally, as the dream concluded, he saw the Lord welcoming him into His rest.

This was truly a very powerful and encouraging dream, showing us that if we endure to the end, we will receive our reward of eternal life. Brother Joe con-

(Continued on Page 10)

ALIQUIPPA continued . . .

cluded by stating that just as good soldiers in the army obey their superior officers, so must we listen to the words of God and also to the words of the Priesthood of the Church. If we do this, God will surely bless us. We enjoyed the words of our Brother Joe, and we pray that God will continue to bless him.

Brother Paul Palmieri followed, and the Lord's blessing was also felt in his speaking. Our brother stated that the devil tries to make the worldly things look beautiful, to pry us from doing the will of the Lord. Brother Paul said that as good soldiers train themselves to obey their superiors, so must we obey the words of the Lord. He then stated that the ways of the Lord and salvation are very beautiful and precious to experience, and he thanked the Lord for calling him into the Gospel. Brother Paul then cautioned those who had not yet joined the Church not to let the devil rob them of the joy that awaits them if they are baptized.

Brother Charles Jumper then made a few closing remarks by stating that the people of this Church are the soldiers that will eventually convert the whole world, and that each one of us has a responsibility to become good soldiers for the Lord.

After we partook of the Lord's Supper, Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley were asked to relate an experience that had happened during the week. Brother Ken related that one day after work, Sister Sharon, he and their son, Cameron, went to a friend's house to have their hair cut. While there, Cameron, unknown to his parents, placed a formaldehyde pill into his mouth. Formaldehyde is used in some barber shops for sterilization, and if swallowed can be fatal. It also can cause serious burns if it is in contact with the mouth area. Thank the Lord that He watches over us! Cameron received not one ill effect, even though the pill was partially dissolved. We thank the Lord that He is continuously watching over us and is merciful towards us.

Brother Thomas Ross brought our day to a close by dismissing us with prayer. We thank the Lord for a day filled with His blessings and pray for many more.

A day that started full of sorrow in

the Aliquippa Branch on June 18 was turned into a day of joy when the Lord saw fit to call Sister Janice Foxall into the Gospel. That morning, June 18, began with the conducting of funeral services for our beloved Sister Rose DeVincentis. During the service, Brother Paul Palmieri used for his sermon the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). Sister Janice was touched by the words of Brother Paul and the entire service.

Later, while riding to the funeral dinner, Sister Janice asked a sister sitting next to her in the car what she had to do to be baptized. The sister informed her that all she had to do was ask the elders of the Church and they would be more than happy to comply with her wishes. Sister Janice made her request for baptism to Brother Paul Palmieri, and all those present at the dinner rejoiced that the Lord had called a new saint into His kingdom.

We met later that evening at the Imperial Branch baptismal site to witness the ordinance of baptism. We began by singing that favorite hymn, *Shall We Gather at the River*, after which Brother Charles Jumper offered prayer. A joyous spirit was felt as Brother James Gibson baptized our new convert. The baptism was the first for Brother James since he was ordained into the Ministry. While our new sister was making her way out of the water, we sang *There's a New Name Written Down in Glory*, and Brother Thomas Ross dismissed us with prayer.

The confirmation of our sister was to follow, and we enjoyed singing hymns of praise as we awaited her arrival at the branch. We sang *Ready to Go*, and Brother John Ross offered a prayer, asking God to honor the confirmation. Brother Charles Jumper then offered a beautiful prayer of confirmation. We then sang *It Is Well With My Soul*.

Brother Anthony Ross then asked our new member to express herself. She stated that she enjoyed coming to Church for many years, and though she felt as if she belonged then, she said she knows that now she really belongs! She said that she hopes that some of the love that our late Sister Rose had could be found in her.

Brother Paul Palmieri then spoke of how the Lord had given Sister Janice strength as she cared for her late husband in his years of illness. He spoke of how the Lord carried her through this trial, and he thanked God for His call-

ing upon our sister.

Brother Joseph Ross followed by stating how Sister Janice's life would now change, and he noted that he could already see a difference in her countenance as she sat in the meeting.

Brother Thomas Ross also expressed his joy at the calling of Sister Janice. He said that God would make up to Sister Janice the years of diligent effort she put forth in caring for her husband by giving her many blessings in the Church.

We enjoyed a beautiful season of testimony throughout our gathering, expressing many thanks to God for giving us a new member. Our meeting was dismissed with prayer by Brother Paul Palmieri.

Our prayer is that God would bless our new sister in her service to Him, and we thank Him for bringing us joy in the midst of sorrow. Truly God does provide for His saints!

Detroit, Inner City

Violet Shipman, a Native American from the Detroit area, has been attending the Inner City Branch faithfully for several years. On February 19, 1984 she asked for her baptism. Sister Violet wrote her testimony in a letter and requested that it be read to the congregation on that day. Here is what she wrote:

"This is my testimony. I want to praise the Lord. I am happy to be here today. I keep coming to this church. I have feelings that I want to be closer to God, but I can not put it in words. I love Him! Praise God! I have problems in my life, both left and right, and as you all know I come all the time, but I don't say anything. It's all in my heart. I've been convicted of my sins and want to shout, 'Repent, and be baptized.'

"I encourage my children to come to church. I talk to them, and they listen to me.

"I am not a healthy person. I have high blood pressure and a heart condition but I live day by day asking God to help me. People see me on the street and say I look healthy, but I'm not. I talk to them and say, 'Have you ever

(Continued on Page 11)

DETROIT, INNER CITY continued...
met Jesus?"

"I love Jesus, praise the Lord! I know he comes first in my life. People may talk but that doesn't bother me because I know he's there with me. I get on my knees and pray for my sons and daughters so that they will respond to what I say. I love my children.

"Praise the Lord! I want to sing for Jesus!"

After her letter was read she sang *Amazing Grace* to the congregation in her native Indian tongue. That afternoon Brother Eugene Amormino baptized her and Brother Dominic Moraca confirmed her. Right after the confirmation the members in the congregation went up to the front to embrace her and welcome her into the Church. It was especially touching when her sons went up to congratulate and hug her.

CHILD continued . . .

see Gina go home. They then told me that on the night she was admitted the doctors and nurses had no hope that she would live. They all called her their miracle girl. Gina sure is one of God's miracles.

I was later asked what I would do if

God took her. My reply was I never once thought of it because when she was ill as a baby, God saved her. I didn't think her purpose here on earth was done. I had faith God had more work for Gina to do. With God's help someday her work here will be done.

I read a poem in a book at the hospital that followed a story. The story is about a little girl the doctors had given no hope to live. It reminded me of Gina so much I made a copy of it.

*This child of mine is very special.
She has the smile of an angel,
The laughter of happiness.
Little sadness does she feel . . .
This child of mine has something,
That no one else can give.
The radiance of an angel,
And a determination to live.*

Author Unknown

I will never be able to thank God enough for what he has done for my daughter, Gina. I again wish to thank you for all your prayers. Your prayers brought Gina home to me again.

God bless you all,
Timothy and Annie Hill
and Family

The Easy Road Crowded

*The easy roads are crowded,
And the level roads are jammed;
The pleasant little rivers
With the drifting folks are crammed,
But off yonder where it's rocky,
Where you get a better view,
You will find the ranks are thinning
And the travelers are few.
Where the going's smooth and pleasant
You will always find the throng,
For the many, more's the pity,
Seem to like to drift along.
But the steps that call for courage
And the task that's hard to do
In the end results in glory
For the never-wavering few.*

Messick

New Arrivals

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

Harry Eugene, Jr. to Harry E. Lester and Carolyn Annette Saunders of Ft. Pierce, Florida;

Joseph Nicholas to Joseph and Debbie Pietrangelo Scoza of Roseville, Michigan;

Vernon Austin III to Vernon and Linda Rogolino Evans of Ft. Pierce, Florida.

CHILDREN BLESSED

Dillan Thomas Morris was blessed on January 8, 1984 by Brother Richard Scaglione in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

* WEDDINGS *

CIOTTI-NARDOZZI

Brother Paul Joseph Ciotti and Sister Susan Nardoizzi were joined in holy matrimony on June 2, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Paul Ciotti, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were sung by Sister Donna Amormino, accompanied by Brother Eugene Amormino.

The couple will reside in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

COLLISON-BETHUNE

Mr. Bradley Ross Collison and Miss Tara Kysonne Bethune were married on April 21, 1984, at the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The wedding was performed by Brother Frank Rogolino.

MORRIS—WHITTAKER

Mr. Fred Morris and Miss Wendy Whittaker were united in marriage in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on June 2, 1984.

The couple will reside in Monongahela. Our prayer is that God will bless them in their life together.

CAPONE—COLE

Brother John Capone and Sister Pamela Cole were united in marriage on June 2, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Modesto, California. Brother Joe Ciarolla, the bride's father, officiated at the ceremony with the assistance of Brother Ken Jones.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Bruce Picciuto and Sister Lucy DeCaro with Brother Tony DeCaro as pianist. The groom also sang a special song to his bride.

The Capones are making their home in Santa Ana, California, and will be attending the Anaheim Branch.

DeSANTIS—WHITTON

Mr. Eugene G. DeSantis and Sister Laurie A. Whitton were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, June 16, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan - Branch 3.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Carl Frammolino, first counselor of the Michigan-Ontario District and presiding elder of Branch 4, and by Brother Paul Whitton, father of the bride and presiding elder of Branch 3. Musical selections were presented by Kathleen Furnari Peshl, with Becky Whitton, the bride's sister, as soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. May God bless their lives together and permit the Seed of Love to grow abundantly day by day.

OBITUARIES

ROSE DeVINCENTIS

Sister Rose DeVincentis, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, passed on to her eternal rest on June 15, 1984. She was born on April 11, 1911 and was baptized on August 21, 1932. She was a faithful member of the Church for fifty-one years.

Sister Rose is survived by her husband, Brother Felix, one son, two daughters, four grandchildren, a brother and a sister.

Brother John Ross conducted the funeral services and was assisted by Brothers Paul Palmieri and Joseph Ross.

A Tribute to Sister Rose DeVincentis

By Jeffrey Giannetti

Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. (I Corinthians 13:4-7)

These words written by the Apostle Paul truly show the kind of life that our Sister "Rosie", as she was affectionately called, lived. Her face continuously wore a smile, and her heart was always filled with love.

Sister Rose was known in the Aliquippa Branch for her delicious sweet bread, which she delivered without fail to the homes and hospital beds of the sick, or to families celebrating a child's birth. Her phone calls to members of Church families when illness struck came to be expected and were always uplifting.

Sister Rose's presence in our midst will be sorely missed. She was a pillar in our branch for many years. The kindness and humility that she showed in her daily life were an example to all of us.

A saint in the dictionary is defined as a person who is kind and holy. What better way to describe our sister. She was a true definition of the word "saint". Those of us in the Aliquippa Branch, and I am sure all those who knew Sister Rose, thank God for the privilege of knowing such a sweet woman. May God bless the family in their loss, and we look forward to seeing our sister again in God's kingdom.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

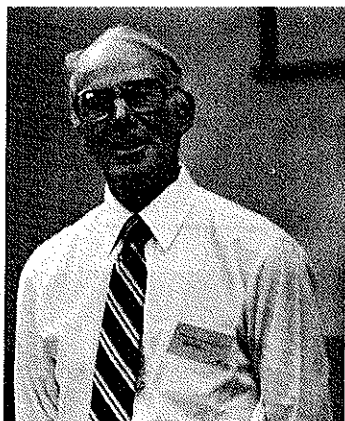
The Church of Jesus Christ, Monongahela, Pa., USA.

(USPS 223-480)

September, 1984

Volume 40, No. 9

A Tribute to Alvin Swanson, Evangelist



Alvin Swanson, the great grandson of Evangelist John Ashton—who was at the organization of the Church in 1862—and the grandson of James Curry, an Evangelist who was ordained in 1904, was born on August 31, 1908 in Washington, D.C. and passed from this life on June 18, 1984, in Miami, Florida.

He married Viola Cleeland on July 12, 1930 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 20, 1938 by Brother Ringer of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

With a wife and four children to look after, he was drafted into the armed services in December of 1943, reporting for duty the day before Christmas. He served 20 months in the infantry in Europe during the War and was honorably discharged on August 20, 1945.

Brother Swanson was ordained an Elder on January 11, 1948 in

Greensburg, Pennsylvania and soon after began regular trips to Washington, D.C. to hold services. He continued his trips for ten years, traveling there every other weekend.

In the spring of 1960, the Church was looking for volunteers to be missionaries in Nigeria, and after much prayer and meditation (and experiences), Brother Swanson volunteered and left his family again, but now as a soldier of Christ. He departed on May 23, 1960 and served the Church there for seventeen months, during which time he was ordained an Evangelist, the first to be ordained outside of the United States.

Soon after his return to America, he left the Greensburg Branch and moved to Miami, Florida. This was in March of 1964, at which time he was serving on the committee to build an auditorium for the Church.

A year after Brother Swanson's arrival, the Miami Mission was organized and in the same year he made a trip to Puerto Rico with Evangelist Joseph Calabrese, for possible missionary work.

In 1968 he was appointed the first President of the then-new Florida District, and after his initial term of one year he was successively re-elected to four more one-year terms.

A constant traveler (journeying to over twelve nations), Brother Alvin made several trips to Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, and in 1971 he initiated some contact with a Mayan Indian. Back in Florida he started the Hollywood Mission in 1978, traveling every Sunday for

two years, as well as assisting in the new Cape Coral Mission soon afterward.

During a meeting in Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation was given that "the one standing (Brother Swanson) would go to the isles of the sea and the ones sitting would preach the gospel in this land."

In November of 1981, Brother Alvin accompanied Brother Joseph Calabrese to India as the first missionaries of the modern-day Church of Jesus Christ to visit that nation. The brothers established two missions of the Church and ordained the first two Elders in India. Brother Alvin knew of the impending trip through an experience, before he was directed to go by the Church.

Brother Swanson has served as chaplain for HOINA (Home of the Indian Nations) for the last several years, while acting as a consultant for the organization.

A Biblical scholar and researcher, Brother Alvin wrote an article, after an experience, concerning the dates for the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. By joining *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* accounts, he came to understand that Jesus was born on Nisan the tenth (Jewish calendar) and was crucified on Nisan the 14th (Wednesday). He also understood that Jesus was 34 years and 4 days old on his death and that his ministry was for four years.

(Continued on Page 4)

GMBA Campout 1984

By Anthony J. Scolaro

There were people there from Florida, Atlantic Coast, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Kansas, Michigan, and as far away as California. Nearly 300 people participated in this year's campout, the sixth one held at Massanetta Springs near Harrisonburg, Virginia. Much preparation, both natural and spiritual, went into this activity, and those in attendance truly reaped the benefits.

As we met together on Sunday evening, July 1, to worship and partake of the Lord's supper, Brother George Benyola of the Dallas, Texas Mission addressed us on the difference between involvement and commitment. Using a plate of ham and eggs to illustrate his point, Brother George explained how the chicken that provided the eggs was involved, but the pig truly had to commit itself for the ham to be there. Brother George said that we must be more like that pig when it comes to ser-

ving the Lord. The image of the chicken and the pig served us as an ongoing theme for the entire week—committing ourselves to Christ.

As the week progressed, we were privileged to see three souls make that first step, baptism, in their commitment to God. Dennis Benyola of New Jersey, who had been contemplating baptism for some time, made his wishes known during Tuesday's seminars. Earlier that day a young sister from Ohio who did not know Dennis was walking behind him and felt splashed by droplets, as if she were in the wake of a ship. The Spirit of God gave her to understand that what she felt was the baptism Brother Dennis was about to experience. He was baptized by Brother John D'Orazio.

After Wednesday night's service, Scott Monaghan of Florida asked to be prayed on for guidance concerning a dream he had had early that morning. In his dream he saw a pulsating heart in a surgical tray, which he understood would be transplanted into him. Suddenly he saw a kitten playfully batting at the heart with its paw, which trou-

bled him greatly. He understood in his dream that if he did not have the heart transplant right away, he would have to go back to the bottom of the waiting list.

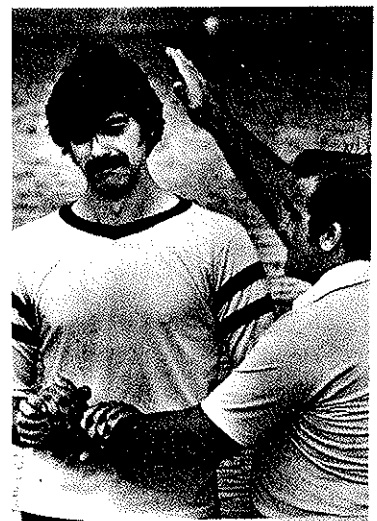
As Scott shook hands with the circle of elders who had prayed for him, one of the brothers spoke directly to him in the gift of tongues. No sooner had he finished speaking than the interpretation came forth from another of the brothers, "I will put a new heart in you and a new mind, and I will write My laws upon your heart and upon your mind and I will bless you all the days of your life."

During seminars the next day, Scott asked for his baptism. Diann Romano, also of Florida, asked for her baptism that afternoon. The two were baptized after breakfast the next morning, Brother Scott by Brother John D'Orazio and Sister Diann by Brother Jim Lovalvo.

Throughout the week, the Lord's Spirit made itself manifest in visions, dreams, tongues, prophecy, and heal-

(Continued on Page 4)





Change in Editor

By Brother Ken Staley,
outgoing Editor-in-Chief

"Time changes things" is a phrase that undoubtedly applies to every facet of our daily lives, including our degree of involvement in various activities at school, at our jobs, and in the Church. In each instance we strive to put forth the best effort as is humanly possible, and we rely upon God to give the increase. Such has been the case for the past five years with respect to my activities as Editor-in-Chief of *The Gospel News*.

Having had a greater desire to contribute something more in the way of service to the Church, I accepted this responsibility at the General Church Conference in April of 1979, with my father-in-law, Brother Thomas Ross, accepting re-election to the position of Assistant Editor. Brother Tom has served in this capacity since October of 1970, holding the office for nine previous years under Brother Paul Palmieri. Without the dedication and invaluable assistance of Brother Tom, my job would have been quite a burdensome one. For those of you who have had the privilege of knowing Brother Tom personally, you can appreciate the thorough and conscientious attitude he has offered toward *The Gospel News*. I find great contentment knowing that the Lord will justly reward our brother, along with all those who endeavor to serve God.

I am also very appreciative of the help I have received from many other individuals who have been associated with *The Gospel News*. I would like the readers to know specifically who these individuals are, even though they were listed in the masthead:

Managing Editor - Joseph Ross	
Assistant	
Managing Editor - Richard Scaglione	
Editorialists and	
Consultants	- Paul Palmieri
	- John Ross
	- John Manes
Office Manager	- Cathy Gentile
Typist	- Janet Gibson
Circulation	
Manager	- Janet Buffa

Also, many thanks to all of the Auxiliary Editors and District Editors. I especially wish to recognize the unending assistance and support of my wife and typist, Sharon.

At the June Conference of 1984, Brother Anthony J. Scolaro was elected as the Editor-in-Chief of *The Gospel News*, with his natural brother, Brother Peter Scolaro, being elected to the office of Assistant Editor. Brother Anthony is the seventh Editor of our Church paper. Brother W. H. Cadman began the publication in 1945 and served as Editor until his death in 1963. Brother George Neill served as Editor until 1966 and was succeeded by Brother Donald Curry who served until 1969. Brother Carl Frammolino held the office for two years previous to Brother Paul Palmieri's nine year term of office, which I then assumed in 1979. I trust that the paper has maintained the high spiritual standard that was originally intended by Brother Cadman.

I am sure that Brother Anthony will be given the same type of supportive efforts that have been rendered by the Gospel News Staff, various District and Branch Editors, regular writers, and special feature editors as in the past. Brother Anthony was baptized into the Church in 1978. He is an active member of the Detroit Branch No. 1, where he serves as Sunday School Superintendent. In addition, Brother Anthony serves as Treasurer of the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA, Secretary of the Michigan-Ontario District Mission Board, and was recently elected as the Michigan-Ontario Editor to *The Gospel News*.

I would like to solicit your prayers and support on behalf of our new Editor and his staff. My prayer is that God will bless all of those who are engaged in voluntary work for the Church, regardless of the position. I am reminded of the scripture found in *The Book of Mormon*, "When ye are in the service of your fellow being, you are only in the service of God." (Mosiah 2:7)

The Editor-in-Chief's address is as follows:

New Address

Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo, first counselor of the General Church, has changed his residence. The new address is below:

Nicholas Pietrangelo
42731 Sheldon, Apt. 124
Mt. Clemens, MI 48044
Phone (313) 263-7107

CAMPOUT continued . . .

ing. Above all, the beautiful peace and the love of God prevailed at this week-long retreat.

How good it was to be in an atmosphere of godliness for seven days straight! Jobs, school, and housework were all forgotten. In the absence of television, radio, and newspapers, we were able to forget even what day it was and concentrate on letting God's Spirit fill our souls. As we gathered from various districts with a common desire to receive God's blessings, He answered our prayers and poured His Spirit down.

When we tearfully departed at the end of the week, our hope was that we could carry home a portion of what we had learned and what we had received at this camp.

SWANSON continued . . .

A prolific story teller, he captured the attention of the congregation by his soft spoken, wise allegories and made the saints to think and wonder about the workings of God and the Church. He often ended a topic with "Think of it!" that introspective phrase which characterized his wonderment of the mysteries of God and the great plan of salvation, and of our lives here and to come; searching continuously the beauty and vastness of God's handiwork and purposes.

Brother Alvin was loved and will be missed by his family and the Saints; in Miami, in Florida, and throughout the Church.

Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends,

All of the Swanson family want to thank every one of you who sent cards and wishes to Alvin; all of you who fasted and prayed in his behalf; everyone who telephoned; and for all the love and concern shown to him and the family. Each call, each card, each word of kindness was a great uplifting to him. Each fasting and prayer carried him through another day. We can never express all the thanks that is in our hearts. We are truly grateful to God for having such wonderful brothers and sisters and friends.

The Swanson Family

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Our Spiritual Education

As vacation season draws to a close, millions of children and young people turn once again to the classroom—some reluctantly and some with great anticipation. Whatever their individual attitude toward school may be, the fact remains that education, the acquisition of knowledge, is a vital stepping stone toward a better, more productive life. As children we started with the basics, putting letters together to form words, discovering the properties of numbers, and gradually we built upon this base of knowledge, layer upon layer, until we were equipped with the learning we needed to lead our lives, to pursue our careers.

For the unfortunate people who are not blessed with the opportunity to obtain an education, life becomes a constant struggle. Time and time again, we see people being deceived and taken advantage of because of their ignorance, and in many instances the uneducated are unable to find employment because of their lack of training. Given the opportunity, these people or any of us would jump at the chance to pursue a course of study guaranteed to improve our standard of living. How much more, then, should we make an effort to improve our knowledge of the Lord by attending Sunday School, MBA, and Ladies' Circle meetings!

These three auxiliaries of the Church were established many years ago with the common goal, among others, of promoting the spiritual welfare of the Church through studying the scriptures. In the classroom atmosphere that these meetings provide, we have the opportunity to ask questions, discuss different topics, and share experiences with one another. As in any school, the youngest children start with the fundamentals, in our case Jesus and His infinite love. Unlike most schools, however, there is no graduation from the adult class, since there is no limit to the knowledge we can gain of this same Jesus, as long as we're on this Earth.

Just as it is necessary for any student to apply himself to his schoolwork and attend classes regularly, the sense of *continuity* derived from regular attendance of the Church's auxiliaries is invaluable to our spiritual growth. We learn *together*, as a group, and the student who frequently misses a class or rarely attends at all will soon find himself far behind the others, asking questions that were resolved in class weeks or months earlier. Can he learn on his own at his own pace? Rare is the child that teaches himself to multiply and divide without any help. Even with a teacher leading us through it, we made many mistakes before we could perform these calculations accurately. How much more grievously will we stumble and fall if we choose to remain spiritually illiterate by staying home on MBA night! Is there not an opportunist waiting for a chance to take advantage, in any way he can, of our lack of wisdom and understanding?

As the sons and daughters of Christ, it is our **duty** to Him and to ourselves to take full advantage of every opportunity for spiritual growth that is offered to us. As believers in the Restoration of the Gospel, we must be sure we know what makes The Church of Jesus Christ unique among churches, and the best way to obtain and affirm this knowledge, for ourselves and for the benefit of those we talk to, is by enthusiastically supporting and participating in our local Ladies' Circle, Sunday School, and MBA meetings!

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Sometimes God Says No!

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you ever pray hard for something and not get it? Did you ever wonder if maybe God just wasn't listening, or maybe He didn't like you? What if He was listening, but His answer to you was No? Have you thought about that?

Joseph of old was seventeen years of age. He had a father named Jacob who loved him over his eleven brothers. He had a beautiful coat of many colors and eleven jealous brothers. Some of them hated him.

Joseph's dreams made him feel even more special. He dreamed that each of his brothers was a bundle of wheat and each bundle bowed in front of his bundle. He dreamed his parents were the sun and moon and they bowed in front of him too.

"Oh, here comes the dreamer who thinks he is so important!" his brothers said when he came out to the fields to check on them.

"Let's kill him now!" one shouted.

"No, don't kill him—just put him in this big hole," suggested another. "We'll soak his coat in animal blood so our father will think a wild beast killed him."

How Joseph must have begged and cried when his older brothers shoved him into the ground. The next day when his brothers pulled him out and sold him to some traders, you know he must have been calling to God to let him go.

Joseph suffered many many days before he arrived in faraway Egypt. How lonely a dusty shepherd boy must have felt in a huge city of foreigners! Don't you think he wondered if God was hearing him when a rich man named

Potiphar bought him and took him home?

Years passed and Joseph, the slave, worked hard and learned to run his master's businesses. One day Potiphar's wife told her husband terrible lies about Joseph and he was dragged away to prison. No one believed Joseph when he told them she was lying.

Can you imagine how disappointed and scared Joseph must have felt when he walked through the prison doors? Do you think he ever wondered in his heart, even for one minute, if God was listening to his cries?

Several years passed and Joseph learned much about hard prisoners and prison life. The keeper of the prison eventually gave Joseph total charge there. The Lord was with Joseph and everything he did turned out right.

When a servant of the Pharaoh was imprisoned, he dreamed a dream that worried him. Joseph was given power by God to tell him the true meaning. Two years passed and the servant finally mentioned Joseph to the Pharaoh because he, too, was troubled by a dream.

Joseph told Pharaoh the truth. He said, "It's not me that tells you your dream; God will give you the answer." Then Joseph explained to Pharaoh that his dreams meant seven years of good crops would be followed by seven years of no crops. Pharaoh trusted Joseph and released him from prison. Joseph was made second in charge of the whole kingdom.

For seven years he organized a way to store grain. When the hard times came, there was food to buy in Egypt. Finally even shepherds from far away, Joseph's family, came to Egypt to buy

food. At first they never recognized their younger brother, who was living like a king in Egypt. They bowed to him (like in his boyhood dreams) and begged to buy corn. Everyone in that part of the world suffered from starvation. If God hadn't spoken through Joseph, there would have been no food saved anywhere.

Now, years later, we can see why God answered Joseph's prayers by saying No. Being sold led him to Egypt. Serving Potiphar he learned Egyptian ways and how to manage many responsibilities. Losing his comfortable life and landing in prison taught him much about ruling all sorts of good and evil men. Running the prison taught him how to organize a huge food storage system and financial payment program. Selling stored food to foreigners meant he could save his family from starvation!

Sometimes we don't know why painful things happen to us. Sometimes we don't find out for years and years. But getting a "No" from God doesn't mean that He doesn't hear you.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Perfect Love

Perfection of the saints begins with perfect love.

Trading pride for humility can only come from God above.

We have to learn to love each other just a little more,

Even if it means begging for forgiveness at your brother's door.

We have to say, "I love you," and do it with real intent.

Otherwise we betray our God and the purpose for which He was sent.

We're living in the Latter Days, and Zion's yet to come.

But if we start with love right now, half the race is won.

Sister Lisa DiFalco

Our Women Today

Carrs Visit Mon City Circle

By LuAnn Carson

On June 30, 1984 the Monongahela Ladies' Circle invited Paul and Thressa Carr to enlighten us on their missionary work in Africa.

The Monongahela Circle sang *In the Service of the King*, and dedicated it to Paul and Thressa. Sister Mabel Bickerton then gave a brief background on the Church's work in Africa. The first missionaries to go there were Brothers William Cadman and Joseph Bittinger in 1950. The people accepted them with joy and many were baptized.

Brother Dick organized the African

Circle with help from his wife, who translated the Circle by-laws.

One of the first missionary projects of the Circle was to buy thirteen bicycles because the transportation in Africa is very limited.

The next leader of the Circle was Brother Arthur's wife, who organized 52 Circles to which 2,000 sisters belonged. The plea from Africa has always been for us to send sisters along with the brothers. Sister Mary Ross was the first sister to go there.

Sister Thressa and Brother Paul then told some of their experiences in Africa.

In 1982 Paul and Thressa along with their family took their journey to Africa. They found a work there that is growing at a rapid pace. The African people see in our Church the Truth they have searched for.

The Circles in Africa are very active,

and the women there work extremely hard. One of their projects is to provide clothing and food for the children, just as the United States Circles do.

Sister Arthur is still the president of the Circle and is a great inspiration to her husband, who is still active at 102 years old.

In Africa every woman in the Church belongs to the Circle. This 100% participation is the key to their great success.

After the speaking we were shown slides and pictures that had been taken in Africa. Everyone in attendance enjoyed the afternoon.

Brother Paul and Sister Thressa and their family returned to Africa on August 1, 1984 to continue their missionary efforts there. We thank God for the growing work overseas, and pray that He will go with them and bless them in their endeavors.

Branch and Mission News

Warren, OH

By Sister Nancy Cartino

On Sunday, April 29, 1984, we at the Warren, Ohio Branch witnessed the ordination of a teacher and deaconess, Brother Richard Ciarolla and Sister Eleanor Martin. Brother Richard had his feet washed by Brother Victor Ciarolla, his natural father, and he was ordained by Brother Mitchel Edwards. Sister Eleanor's feet were washed by her daughter, Sister Georgiana Love, and she was ordained by Brother Bob Ciarocchi.

There were two brothers who had experiences regarding Brother Richard and Sister Eleanor's ordinations.

This is another testimony unto all that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He will guide us through rough places on our path, and we as the people of God will come through victorious, if we prove faithful to the end. Our prayer is that we, as the Saints of the most high God, may continue to bring forth the precious word of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to all kindreds, tongues, and people, gaining more loyal soldiers for the army of the Lord.

We can surely say that our day was filled with the Spirit of God, as we enjoyed all our visitors from various branches.

On June 17, 1984, many brothers and sisters from Perry, Ohio; Cleveland, Ohio; Modesto, California; Youngstown, Ohio; Niles, Ohio; Kent, Ohio Mission; Lockport, New York; Imperial, Pennsylvania; and Aliquippa, Pennsylvania came to witness the burning of our mortgage at the Warren, Ohio Branch.

The service began with hymn #55, *My Hope Is Built*. Opening prayer was offered by Brother Ron Genaro of Niles, Ohio. A special prayer was then offered by Brother Frank Giovannone for our new sign, "The Church of Jesus Christ," which was installed recently.

We then had the burning of the mortgage by our presiding elder, Brother Jerry Giovannone, who had his natural brother, Frank Giovannone, strike the match. It was 13 years ago that our building was dedicated to God.

Brother Tony Picciuto, visiting from Modesto, California, was our first speaker. He read excerpts from Revela-

tion 2 and 3 on the Seven Churches of Asia. He told us how God knows our works as he knew the works of the Seven Churches. As we were gathered here to celebrate the paying off of the mortgage of such a beautiful building, Brother Tony pointed out how we as individuals represent the Church of God, that we each are a temple and that we should be a beautiful people in representing the Church of the Lord. Brother Tony spoke many inspiring words on this theme concerning our spiritual lives.

Brother Elmer Santilli, president of the Ohio District, stated that this was the first time that he witnessed the burning of a mortgage. He said it takes a great burden off the brothers and sisters of the Warren Branch. Brother Elmer said that as he watched the mortgage burn, the thought came to him of how the Spirit of God burns like a fire and consumes all of our burdens.

Our next speaker was Brother Bob Buffington of Imperial, Pennsylvania. He thanked God for builders and leaders that are good examples to our people. He went on to say how David wasn't permitted to build a house unto the Lord, but rather his son, Solomon, was blessed with much wisdom and given the privilege of building a beautiful temple so that he could give sacrifice and

(Continued on Page 9)

Monongahela, PA

By Tammy Nicklow

Is there some faith now in God's Holy promise?

Have you clean hands and washed of all sin?

Is your heart pure and single in purpose?

Then you can enter in.

We in Monongahela must thank God for His goodness. On April 1, 1984, three young men surrendered their lives to God and requested baptism.

Sunday morning we were visited by Brother Bob Buffington and his wife, Sister Arlene. Brother Bob led the meeting using Luke 8 as his text. Brother Bob also related many experiences he had from his childhood growing up in the Church. He also praised God for the blessings he has received in the past and is receiving now.

Our afternoon meeting was introduced by Brother Ken Staley, visiting from the Aliquippa Branch. He related a few of his experiences of God's goodness in his life. The meeting was then left open for testimony. Many members testified, but one in particular stood and expressed his desire to serve God. Chuck Kogler, who has been attending for quite a few years, came to know the Church through his wife, Joyce. Many of the brothers and sisters in the branch knew of Chuck's strong desire to become a member of the Church. Towards the end of the meeting, a brother said that he strongly felt that Chuck was already his brother in Christ. Each one of us left the meeting feeling very full, but our spiritual cups weren't filled to the brim yet. The Lord was planning to let them overflow!

We usually gather for MBA on Sunday evenings, but this particular Sunday was different. As the saints parted to go home for dinner, one person, Charles Kogler, went to his brother-in-law's home and requested baptism. Filled with the joyous news, we began calling the brothers and sisters. Plans were made to gather at the water's edge at 6:45 p.m.

Once at the river, we were happy to see visitors from Aliquippa and Vanderbilt. Brother Charles Kogler was baptized by his brother-in-law, Brother John Griffith. The question was asked

if anybody else wanted to surrender their lives to God. After the prayer was offered Richard Scaglione came forth and asked to be baptized. He was baptized in what clothes he had on, by his father, Richard Scaglione, Sr. The question was asked once again if anybody wanted to be cleansed and washed free of all sin. After prayer was offered again, Dale King, visiting from Vanderbilt, walked forward and asked for his baptism. Brother Robert Nicklow baptized him. It was such a joy to see the enthusiasm of our brothers as they came forward.

I might add that at 6:45 p.m. on this day, it was close to dusk as we gathered at the river. Throughout the baptisms and prayers (repeated three times), the Lord was good enough to hold off the darkness until we were finished.

We went back to the branch and our brothers were confirmed. Brother Charles Kogler was confirmed by Brother William Chepanoske. Brother Richard Scaglione, Jr. was confirmed by Brother John Griffith. Brother Dale King was confirmed by Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr. Our new members then gave their testimonies. Several dreams and experiences were related about the baptisms.

We thank God for the blessings He continually bestows upon us. And especially for calling three more members into the precious Jewel we possess, The Church of Jesus Christ.

"All to Jesus I surrender, Now I feel the sacred flame. Oh, the Joy of full salvation, Glory, glory to His Name!"

Detroit, Inner City

On April 15, 1984, the Detroit Inner City Branch welcomed a new lamb into the fold as Brother Eugene Amormino took Beatrice Parker down to the waters of baptism. She was confirmed later that day by Brother Dominic Moraca. Our new sister truly has a remarkable testimony, which she is always eager to share:

"On the first morning of 1984, I asked God which church He wanted me to attend. I wasn't satisfied where I was for various reasons which God already knew. The Lord told me to go to the church on the corner of Brooklyn and Temple (Detroit Inner City Branch). I didn't even know the name of it. He said it was 'His' church on the corner of

Temple and Brooklyn. I had passed this corner many times and never realized there was a church there because it wasn't time for me to know yet.

"After God told me to go to this church I thanked the Lord and then I got right up and went to 'His' church. As I entered the door I found Love. I was greeted and given a hymnal, then we sat down and were very much inspired with the message. There was healing and prayer, and people were free to testify, as I did. I tried to express how I was feeling about being in this new place among new saints and friends. I love a church where Jesus is in charge, as He is here.

"I truly came to receive bread from Heaven that isn't made by man. I brought my three grandchildren that the Lord has given me to take care of. They too really enjoy being a part of the service. I truly enjoy each service being with the saints and friends of Jesus. I feel that I am being obedient to the command given to me by God.

"Every Sunday that I was in the service I wanted to become a member. I felt that I was part of the Church from the beginning. On Sunday, April 8, I felt very strange before, during, and after the meeting. I had heard a voice say, 'Be baptized and be saved.' I said, 'Lord Jesus, if this is Your voice and Your will show it to me in a dream.'

"On April 10th I worked the polls as chairman, as I had done for ten years. People on the job as well as others that just came to vote told me that I looked so radiant and shining that they wondered what happened to me. I told them, 'Thank God you feel this way but I don't really know what to say other than I feel different also.' Some of them even kissed and hugged me. Most of them had been my neighbors for years before and usually we just spoke a little, but this day was just so different because they wanted to talk to me and tell me how they missed seeing me and told me what had happened in their lives. It was so beautiful, I'll never forget the expressions on their faces. I was delighted to see the joy in their eyes and smiles of my friends over the change they saw in me because of Jesus letting His light shine through me.

"That night I saw myself in a beautiful dream. I saw a large body of bright blue water. Brother Eugene Amormino took me by my hand and led

(Continued on Page 11)

Imperial, PA

By Sister Eva Moore

We at the Imperial Branch have been fasting and praying for over four years almost every other Friday. At our meeting on May 27th, we had a list of about 14 or 15 of our unbaptized young people. We thought of different ones who we thought God would call. But there was one among those who was praying to God for help. It was 20-year-old Benjamin Moore, son of Brother Jimmy Moore. Ben came to realize he needed God and a new way of life.

He had been talking with his friends about our church and he saw they didn't believe, and, one night as his younger brother Joe, 16 years old, was going out for the evening, Ben said he got a fear that his brother was in great danger and he knelt down and asked God to protect Joe. That very night Joe had an auto accident which demolished his car, but Joe was not seriously hurt. It was then that Ben decided he was going to take a stand for the Lord by faith and help the young people. He said he wanted to help build up and not tear down the work of God. He said he wanted to help build Zion.

Sunday morning, June 3rd, Ben came forth and asked for his baptism with a beautiful spirit of repentance. Such joy filled our hearts to see father and son embrace in the love of God. As we went to the waters of baptism a humble spirit prevailed. Brother Jimmy immersed Ben in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. We returned to the church and he was confirmed by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost by his grandfather, Brother James Moore Sr., and the gift of charity was pronounced upon Brother Ben.

A sister of our branch told a dream she had had two weeks before the baptism. She dreamed that Ben called her for help, and as she went down the road to help Ben he met her half way and said, "I am safe now." We can say as the hymn says, "God Moves in a Mysterious Way, His wonders to perform." Ben testified three times on his special day, thanking God for His mercy and the prayers of the Church on his behalf.

This song, just finished a few weeks ago, is so fitting to the occasion:

The Return

*The old man watched closely the distant road,
And the woman prayed always, feeling the load.*

*Time slowly passed the old man by the gate,
Many in passing asked, "Sir, for whom do you wait?"*

*Then he looked straight ahead and said,
"One is lost."*

"A dear one," he said, and his eyes showed the cost.

He said he would wait for this child to return,

They knew that he meant it and saw his concern.

*The old man watched always while the woman prayed on,
For they never forgot the one who was gone.*

Some said, "Give up," but he said, "I will never."

"But how long will you wait?" Then he answered, "Forever."

They laughed as they left him and went on their way,

But the old man kept watching day after day.

Then in the far distance he saw someone coming,

He called his wife to him and they saw someone running.

With arms open wide they took the child in,

For life had been hard to this one lost in sin.

The prodigal's tears washed away their concern,

And the angels rejoiced to see the return.

Sister Arlene Buffington

WARREN continued . . .

burnt offering unto God. Brother Bob went on to show that we as saints should have our temples built unto the honor and glory of God and be willing to forsake all for the cause of Christ.

Brother Paul Palmieri, General Church Secretary, followed by saying that the brothers and sisters surely must be well pleased with their accomplishment. He then said this was a beautiful church building. As he viewed the finish of the building he showed that without the finish, the wood underneath would decay and the building would

crumble. Brother Paul then said as saints we should not only have an outward appearance of beauty, but that our beauty should come from **within** by having love for one another so the world can see that we are God's people.

Brother Jerry Giovannone then spoke concerning the vision of Brother Dominic DiPiero, which he had 13 years ago during the ground breaking service, of how he saw a white cloud rolling down from heaven, as if it were water, on the spot where the pulpit stands today. Then Brother Jerry related the testimony of Brother Keeney, who visited our new building for the first time and later became baptized. His testimony was that many, many years ago, as a very young man working on a farm, he went to lie down under a shade tree to rest. As he looked up unto the sky he saw a vision of a church that looked exactly like the Warren Branch building sitting on a cloud. Brother Jerry then spoke of his natural and spiritual Brother Frank, of how he visualized the building and spent many hours drawing it on paper as he saw it in his mind's eye. He then told how his brother was in charge of erecting the building and being the perfectionist that he is, made sure everything was in its proper place.

Brother Frank then gave a brief history of the Warren Branch since 1923 and he acknowledged those brothers, sisters, and friends that contributed, financially and otherwise, to our new building.

This will be a day remembered by all that were present. We can truly say in our hearts, "Lord, it was good for us to be there."

Brooklyn, NY

On March 4, 1984, the Bronx Branch closed down and worshipped with the saints in Brooklyn as we set this day aside to ordain our Brother Tom Rogolino as a deacon and our Brother Anthony Valenti as a teacher. We also had many visitors from different branches in New Jersey.

Brother Valenti's feet were washed by Brother Frank Banyacski, and he was ordained by Brother Matthew Rogolino. Brother Tom's feet were washed by Brother Thomas Gamble, and Brother Paul Benyola ordained him.

(Continued on Page 10)

BROOKLYN continued . . .

May the Lord bless our two brothers as they take on the callings that God has given them.

Roscoe, PA

By Sister Norma Kendall

In our studying of the 5th chapter of Jacob (the parable of the tame and wild olive tree) in our MBA Class at Roscoe, we found that there were parts of the parable that we wanted to understand better. We decided to ask our Brother Apostle Russell Cadman if he would come and teach us this parable. When we asked him, he said that he would be glad to come.

A date of June 8, 1984, was chosen. It was suggested that we invite all our District Branches to attend. We sent invitations and had a very nice attendance. It was good to see the desire of our people, who came from as far away as Erie, PA and as close as Monongahela.

Brother Russell also read other scriptures, teaching and expounding on them, showing their relationship to the 5th chapter of Jacob. He opened the meeting to questions and a good discussion followed with Brother Cadman answering and again helping us to understand a little better.

After our meeting, everyone was saying how they enjoyed themselves, how much they had learned and how they understood things a lot better. Many said that we should have more meetings like this on different subjects where questions could be asked by the members.

We want to thank Brother Cadman, for all of those who attended the meeting, for the love, effort, and concern that he has shown for us. We ask God to continue to bless him in his service to God and to His people.

By Sister Diane Abbott

Baptism had been on my mind for some time. I really didn't understand very much about the spirit of repentance, and I had been praying to the

Lord about this. I also prayed that if He should call me to be baptized that I would know for sure that it was my time. As I was getting ready for Church Sunday morning (June 10, 1984), the words of a hymn came to me, "Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling, who will go and work today?" I felt that it was possibly my day to be baptized, but I wanted a sign. So I knelt and prayed to God that if I was to be baptized that day, that someone would call out that hymn in Church.

Brother Fred Olexa and his family were visiting with us that day. I felt very close to them in the Church and I had prayed that if it was the Lord's will that Brother Fred would be present when I got baptized. Near the end of our Preaching Service he spoke of "signs." He told how many wait for a sign to be given when they should just listen to the small still voice within. I begin to wonder if a sign would be given to me concerning my baptism. In closing our morning meeting, Brother Bucky Kendall called out Hymn #303. As I opened the hymnal, I had no idea it was going to be *Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling*. Still, after we sang this and closed in prayer, I felt I wasn't ready to ask for my baptism.

We came home for lunch. My niece asked me if I was going to change my clothes because I hadn't been attending the afternoon meetings. I told her "I don't know," because I still felt that perhaps I would be baptized that day. When she left my room, I knelt and prayed to God that if it was truly my day that He would call me to be baptized and there would be no doubt in my mind. The spirit of repentance fell upon me, and I realized that was what had been holding me back. I called the church and asked Brother Fred if he would baptize me. After I had done this, my oldest brother, Bob, embraced me and said, "My dream has come true. I knew that you had to be baptized before me." He also repeated this after I had been baptized and he said that he knew it had to be Brother Fred who would baptize me.

After I was baptized by Brother Fred and confirmed by Brother Bud Martin, Brother Bud testified of a dream he had had. He saw that there would be one baptism, then a second, then a third or more. Brother Bud had been very ill in the hospital the week before my baptism and I had prayed for him very much during that time. Truly God blessed him in allowing him to be well enough to witness my baptism and to confirm me. This was the last meeting that Brother

Bud attended as he passed away from this life the following Sunday.

Sister Norma Kendall testified of how she had listened to "that small still voice", by calling our house Saturday night to tell us that Brother Fred and his family would be in Roscoe. My brother, Jim, had planned to visit Imperial that Sunday. When he learned they were coming, he decided to stay in Roscoe, and was able to be present at my baptism. A week earlier at our Thursday MBA meeting, he called out Hymn #305, *Shall We Gather at the River?* He testified that he had awakened with the melody, and the words "Where bright angel feet have trod" were on his mind.

I ask that you remember me in your prayers that I would be willing and able to do whatever work the Lord has planned for me in His Church. Also, that you would pray that God would call the others that were in Brother Bud Martin's dream.

Ft. Pierce, FL

By Louise Micale

On Sunday, June 3, 1984, Brother Mike Radd greeted the many saints visiting us from all over the Florida District, as we prepared to ordain our Brother Charleston Hester as a deacon.

Sister Geraldine Crudup sang the *Twenty-Third Psalm*, and the Florida area choir sang a few songs as well.

After the meeting was opened, Brother Joe Catone, Jr. read the qualifications of a deacon from 1st Timothy, as well as the list of deacon's duties from the *Law and Order of The Church of Jesus Christ*.

Brother Frank Rogolino then spoke of when he was made a deacon at a very young age, following the teachings of his senior deacons until he finally understood for himself what being a deacon meant to him and to the Church.

Brother Charleston Hester's feet were then washed by Brother Ron Carradi, and he was ordained by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr.

Brother Mark Kovacic then spoke on I Nephi 16, starting with the 18th verse. Nephi, having broken his steel bow,

(Continued on Page 11)

FT. PIERCE continued . . .

could not obtain food for his family. Because of their exceeding hunger, his brothers and even his father, Lehi, murmured against the Lord. Nephi made a new bow of wood, and only after they repented and humbled themselves to the Lord did He give them direction, by means of the Liahona, so that they might find food. As they faithfully and diligently heeded the writings on the ball, the Lord provided them with food to spare.

Brother Dennis Moraca followed, speaking on how to be a peacemaker. He also related his experience of the adoption of their son, Christopher, telling how they never gave up and leaned on the Lord. We have only begun, Brother Dennis said, to see what God can do for us. We should allow the Lord to lead us in the direction He wants us to take in life. Brother Joe Catone, Jr. then told us a dream he had had about Brother and Sister Moraca getting their new baby.

Brother John D'Orazio spoke on having a fixed determination. Even through times of trial, we must stand on the assurance that the Lord will help us. In

order to get to the mountain, we must travel through the valleys, and without the Spirit of God we cannot survive. Brother Sam Costarella followed in the same vein, telling how we can only stand if we're built on a firm foundation. Even though some of God's ways are mysterious to us, we must serve Him in faith.

In closing, Brother Mike Radd spoke on how some of our spiritual bows are broken. If we want to exist spiritually, we have to use what God has given us to obtain spiritual food.

As Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. closed with prayer, we all thanked the Lord for the beautiful day we spent in His house.

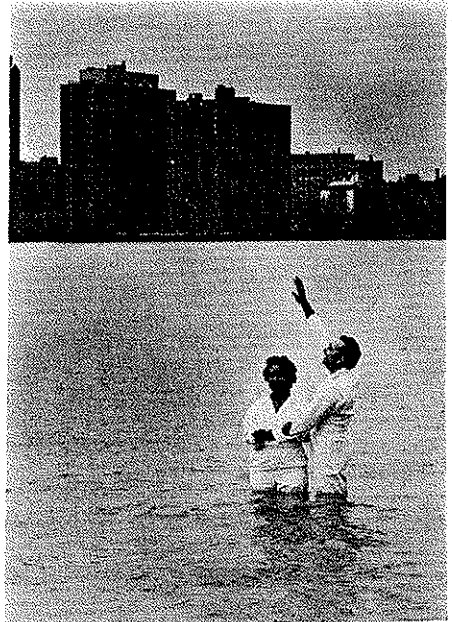
DETROIT, INNER CITY continued...

me into the water and it seemed as if Brother Eugene was praying for me, he then dashed me in the water to be cleansed of my sins, to sin no more.

"After awakening, a voice, Jesus' voice, said to me, 'I am with you, you are not alone and I will never leave you. Be baptized and the windows of Heaven will open to you. I am all you need.' I trembled at the sound and could actually

feel the water. He told me not to fear any man because He is my light.

"I thank God for letting me be a part of a church where He is in charge, and His saints believe in the power of prayer. May God keep on blessing this Church and may He allow me to be a useful servant for Him and His people."



*** WEDDINGS ***

PLAHY—JONES

Mr. Gregg Plahy and Miss Wendy Jones were united in marriage on Saturday, June 30, 1984, at The Church of Jesus Christ in Bell California.

Brother Tom Jones, father of the bride, performed the ceremony, assisted by Brother Ken Jones. Musical selections were presented by Sister Diane Surdock.

The newlyweds will reside in Buena Park, California. May God's blessings rest upon them in their new life together.

BONASSO—LAWSON

Mr. Perry Bonasso and Miss Amy Lawson were united in holy matrimony on May 28, 1984, at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bride's uncle, Brother John Manes, officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Brother Dan Casasanta, grandfather of the bride. Musical selections were provided by Sister Nina DiCenzo.

The newlyweds will reside in Oxnard, California. May God richly bless them as they begin their new life together.

COPPA—VULTAGGIO

Brother A. Michael Coppa and Sister Marlene F. Vultaggio of Detroit, Michigan - Branch 3 were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, June 30, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ - Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Gary Coppa, the groom's cousin. Brother Joseph Milantoni of the Inner City Branch assisted.

Musical selections were presented by Virginia Rivard on the piano, with Sister Diane Hawkins and Brother Steve Champine as soloists.

The newlyweds will reside in New Baltimore, Michigan. Our prayer for them is that God will fill their marriage with blessings as precious as their love.

New Arrivals

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

Stephen Michael to Michael and JoAnn McGuire of Dedham, Massachusetts;

Joshua David to Randy and Monica Mitchell of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania;

Richard Edward to Boyd and Jonalyn Fink of Roscoe, Pennsylvania;

Laura Ann to Emil and Yvonne Lambert of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2;

Amanda Lynn to Tony and Brenda Korotney of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2;

Kelly Marie to Kim and George Chabot of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2.

OBITUARIES

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

BEVERLY J. (BUD) MARTIN

Brother Bud Martin, born November 3, 1916, passed away on June 17, 1984. He was baptized on August 7, 1938 at Dunlevy, PA and was ordained into the priesthood in 1958. Services were held at the Roscoe, PA Branch, with Brothers John Kendall, Fred Olexa, and Matthew Laktash officiating.

Brother Martin is survived by his wife, Sister Virginia, a daughter and a son, a brother and two sisters, and three grandchildren. He was very much loved and will be missed by all of us.

Editor's note: In light of our brother's passing, we would do well to reflect upon the message that the Lord taught him from above (*The Gospel News*, August, 1984). Truly Brother Martin felt his days were numbered, yet the Lord used him one last time to deliver His message to the Church. We can only marvel at the mysterious ways in which our God works.

ANNA CARLINI

Sister Anna Carlini was born in Italy on April 27, 1902 and passed on to her reward on October 15, 1983. She was baptized in Detroit by Brother Ishmael D'Amico on November 25, 1928 and ordained a deaconess on July 19, 1931.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Sister Anna is survived by three sons, one daughter, 13 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three sisters. Brother Alex Gentile officiated at the funeral service.

A charter member of Detroit Branch 2, Sister Anna worked tirelessly to spread the Gospel to others. She loved music and composed several songs to the honor and glory of God. She will be missed very much by those who knew and loved her.

HAROLD J. BARNHART

Captain Harold J. Barnhart, the son of Sister Edna Bittinger, passed away on June 11, 1984 after a brief illness with cancer, in the Veterans Hospital in Miami, Florida.

Brother and Sister Bittinger wish to thank all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, love, and concern shown to Harold and his family during his illness and passing away.

HARRY THOMAS

Brother Harry Thomas departed from this life on March 20, 1984 after an extended illness. Brother Thomas was a member of the Clairton, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ for 17 years.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Arlene, a son and daughter, and one grandchild. We will truly miss our brother.

MINNIE AMATRUDA

Sister Minnie Amatruda of the Brooklyn, New York Branch passed on to her eternal reward on June 17, 1984. The funeral was officiated by Brother Dominick Rose. Sister Minnie was baptized on June 23, 1963 and was a faithful sister in the Church, always giving a helping hand wherever she was needed.

Sister Minnie is survived by one son, four daughters, eleven grandchildren, and a number of great-grandchildren, as well as one brother and three sisters.

ALVIN SWANSON

Brother Alvin Swanson passed away on June 18, 1984. Born August 31, 1908 in Washington, D.C. and baptized March 20, 1938, he was a resident of Miami, Florida for twenty years.

Brother Mark Kovacic officiated at the funeral services, assisted by Brother Frank Rogolino.

An Evangelist for 24 years, Brother Swanson is survived by his wife, Viola, a son, three daughters, three grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

October, 1984

Volume 40, No. 10

Ohio District Conference

The Ohio District Conference convened at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on Sunday, August 25, 1984.

The Youngstown quartet sang *We Are So Blessed* and *Then Came the Morning* to open our morning service. Brother Paul D'Amico was in our midst, and the ministry anointed him for his afflictions. Following this, Sister Kathy Natoli and Brother Bob Batson sang *The Latter Day Theme*.

Brother Russ Martorana opened on the establishment of the Church and approval of Jesus Christ. Just as the church of Philadelphia and the church of Alma were accepted by our Lord, so has the Church of today been accepted and approved. In the 18th chapter of Alma we see that the great prophet Abinadi was willing to die so that he could teach the doctrine of Jesus Christ even before the Church was established. Following this great prophet, Alma preached repentance and redemption along with a willingness to serve God. We today must be willing to accept God's ways, that His Church would remain pure, approved by Jesus Christ.

Brother Travis Perry expressed to us his gratefulness to be alive and able to attend another conference. The Lord has given him a second chance since his severe heart attack. Brother Travis reaffirmed the promises of God in the latter days. The promises unto the seed of Joseph and unto the Gentiles are great, giving us an anticipation of the establishment of Zion.

Brother T. Dom Bucci followed, reminding us of the time when the angel

restored the authority of Jesus Christ, and how, through this authority, we have the opportunity to enter into heaven.

Brother Paul D'Amico addressed us next, relating an experience from July of 1863, when the Word of the Lord came forth concerning the commission of the ministry. The Lord said that the priesthood should go to the ends of this continent to preach the gospel to the Seed of Joseph, and *then* He would give them power to go unto the entire world. We have much work to do to fulfill the commandments of God. It has been 121 years; we can wait no longer.

Brother Henry Cardillo spoke on how many times the Lord has blessed us, even when we haven't deserved it or even before coming to the knowledge of the Church. Let us take upon ourselves the responsibility of the Church and of what Jesus Christ has given us. Let our prayers for one another ascend to the throne of God.

Brother Frank Calabrese followed, telling us that we serve a God that answers prayers. He told us of how the Lord spoke to Brother Fred Olexa and told him that He would take care of him, and immediately following, Brother Fred's visit to the Cleveland Clinic was successful! And how a sister had lumps on her head and the Lord spoke to her and told her that it was nothing. And how Brother Joel Calabrese asked the saints to pray for him and had the Lord tell him to pray on and on, and that He would provide. The following Wednesday Brother Joel had a job. We must place the Lord **first** if we expect to see

and feel God's hand move.

Two recently-baptized brothers, Ben Moore of Imperial, Pennsylvania; and David Fallavollitti of Greensburg, Pennsylvania bore beautiful testimonies to the honor and glory of God.

We had the Lord's Supper and then all the young people sang *Wave the Flags of Zion*. Brother Wayne Martorana brought our conference to a close.

Conference Notice

The October, 1984 General Church Conference, to be held at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, has been designated as a Spiritual Conference, devoted to the edification and spiritual growth of the priesthood and the saints.

The Conference will convene on Friday, October 19, at 9:30 a.m. The Friday meeting is open to priesthood and teachers only. The Saturday and Sunday meetings are open to all members.

Please make every effort to be at this gathering.

Greetings in Christ,

"She hath done what she could." (Mark 14:8)

Failure, or a show of weakness, is a road most of us must come through at some time or another.

During such tragedies, there is a real need for an understanding friend.

Display of anger or preachment shatter the soul, but understanding heals and restores the spirit. Quoting scripture always makes good sense, but sometimes an experience of today is even better.



Carl Erskine, a great pitcher for the Dodgers, pitched a game against the Yankees. The Dodgers were one run ahead of the Yankees, but as the Yankees came to bat they had two men on base when someone hit a home run. There were about seventy thousand fans in the stands who saw the Yankees come ahead in a few minutes. They began to shout, "Change the pitcher, Dressen, change the pitcher!" Coach Dressen came out of the dugout toward Erskine; Carl, knowing that he had made a sad mistake, stood still, waiting for the coach to arrive.

This was the longest time that he had ever waited; besides it was his fifth wedding anniversary, but how shattered he felt with seventy thousand fans watching beside the millions watching on television. He felt the perspiration running down his whole body.

Then the coach arrived. "Let me have the ball," he said slowly, then he looked at the sky and said, "Carl, aren't you going to take your wife on an anniversary dinner tonight?" Carl nodded, then thought, "What a time to think of the wedding anniversary!" Charles gave the ball back and slowly walked back to his dugout. Carl thought for a moment, of a time he had gone fishing and across the river there was a church camp, he had heard a group of young people sing an old hymn he knew:

*Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
'Til all our striving cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress.
And let our ordered life confess,
The beauty of Thy peace.*

Erskine felt such peace as he whispered a prayer and went on to win the game and eventually the series.

What an understanding leader can do! Is this what happened to Peter, at the sea of Galilee as Jesus came to Peter, after the terrible denial of his Lord and Master in an hour of weakness? "Simon, son of Jonah, lovest thou Me more than these?" What must have transpired in Simon's mind, no one will know in this life. Was he whispering a prayer, as he stood silent?

Jesus gave the command back to strike out Satan, and Simon truly did in the strength and confidence of an understanding lord. Have you ever pictured yourself as an understanding friend to a miserable failure who has made a tragic mistake? Isn't this far better than quoting the book?

Isn't there a time of proving how much we truly love? Carl Erskine tells of what went on in his mind when Charles Dressen was slowly walking towards him, but what made Charles Dressen trust Carl Erskine and talk of taking his wife to dinner instead of the terrible blunder he had just made?

It was this wise approach that made Carl bring out his very best. Because he was trusted he went on to prove himself worthy of that trust. And because a greater Coach of all coaches yet trusted Simon Bar Jonah, Peter went on to justify Jesus Christ's trust in him.

Have you made some tragic mistakes in your life? Though you waited long for someone to reassure you of their confidence in your ability, perhaps none came.

Jesus is still that ever-living Friend who knows you best. Try calmness, whisper a prayer and reflect the words of this old hymn or one similar:

*Drop Thy still dews of quietness,
'Til all our striving cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress.
And let our ordered life confess,
The beauty of Thy peace.*

Brother Mark Randy

An Unforgettable Experience

By Sister Marty Jumper

On June 10, 1984, I traveled with my parents to Rockville, Maryland in order to visit with my youngest sister, Laurie. She was going to France for the summer and the purpose of our visit was to get her to the airport and bring her car home with us. After this was accomplished, we started home with my father and myself sharing the responsibility of driving both cars.

Halfway through the trip my mother took over driving their car to give me a rest and before entering the Pennsylvania Turnpike at Breezewood, I relieved my father who was driving my sister's car. I somehow got ahead of them, but we were always within view of one another. I saw a tractor trailer passing my parents. At the time I thought that it was funny that my father didn't hurry my mother along to get away from the truck. That thought had just passed through my mind when the truck hit my parent's car in the left rear panel. The car lurched, returned to its original position and started toward the shoulder of the road. At the time, I believed that my mother was pulling off the road because she had been hit. I slowed down to pull off the road also, when the truck hit them again throwing them in front of the truck and heading for the median in the highway. Next the truck hit them broadside and pushed the car sideways along the road toward where I was trying to stop. Seeing what was happening, I accelerated to get out of the way. By this time the truck was traveling in the right lane and the car had slipped off the right of the truck, becoming wedged between the hillside and the tractor trailer. The car was turned on its side and was lifted about five feet off the ground. The tires of the car were on the truck and the luggage rack on the roof was acting as a runner, skirting the ridge of jagged rock on the hillside. As the truck finally pulled away from the car, it slid upside down and landed on its roof.

My parents were both turned backwards in their seats. At this point they released their seatbelts and my mother reached behind her and turned off the ignition. People immediately arrived and began to help. Several men pulled my father through the window on the passenger side of the car. My mother followed on her own right

behind him. By the time my mother got out, a nurse and two doctors were attending to my father. A state trooper traveling on the other side of the highway saw the accident as it occurred and called for an ambulance. I should point out that even though the windshield was shattered, none of the glass dislodged and that the windows cracked but fell out of the car instead of in on my parents.

My father was taken, by ambulance, to the hospital where they discovered the worst injury he sustained was a cut requiring several stitches, which was probably caused by his being taken out of the car and not by the accident itself. My mother had only a few bruises and scratches.

I will never be able to relate my feelings as I watched the scene which appeared behind me. I can remember being sick with terror by what I thought I was about to face. I remember crying out loud, "Dear God, help," as I finally got my car stopped. I didn't even run back to the accident, for fear of what I might find. I walked because I thought that surely my parents were dead and that I had witnessed their death. A trucker, who had also witnessed the accident, stopped behind me. When I told him that those were my parents, he took me by the arm and walked back to the scene with me, trying to persuade me to wait and let someone come and tell me what had happened. Once again I spoke aloud to the Lord, asking him to calm me, and we continued walking toward where the car had stopped. When we could see the car, I saw my mother walking around and said so. He asked if I was sure and I pointed her out to him. I then saw that my father was out of the car and talking to the people who were administering to him.

What should have been a tragic and fatal accident proved to be only a minor one. I am grateful to the Lord for His protection and handling of this accident. From the shield He placed around my parents to the wonderful people which He provided to help us and for the many prayers and concern extended by the saints, our family, and friends.

An Experience

By Sister Raffaella DiFalco

Brothers and Sisters, I would like to tell you about a dream I had recently.

In the dream it was winter. I was walking down a road, and I knew I was going home. I walked for a long time. Then I saw two streets, one to the right and one to the left that branched off from the road I was on. I thought to take one of these two roads, but something kept telling me to keep walking forward on the path that I was on.

When I reached the end of the road, there was a door in front of me. I noticed that no other path but the one I was on led to this door. There also was a man in front of this door.

As I was wondering how I was going to get to the other side, a thought came to my mind to ask the man to open the door so I could go through to the other side.

When I asked, He said, "Yes, you can go through this door." The door was opened and I saw a machine that looked something like a cement mixer. I became nervous because I knew I had to go through this machine.

I made up my mind to go into the machine, because I wanted to go to the other side. When I went through I found there was nothing to be afraid of. It was sweet and peaceful, and I found myself there in an instant.

A young boy of about eleven then approached me. He said, "Give me your hand—I'll take you home."

After the boy spoke these words I awoke from my sleep. I felt that I had nothing to fear. I felt the same way as when I came to the other side in my dream. I thank the Lord for this dream and hope that it touches all of you as it did me. God bless you always.

Poets Wanted

Sister Esther DiBattista Dyer, who has written many hymns to the honor and glory of God, would like to hear from any of the brothers and sisters who are inspired to write poems from time to time, so that she might set them to music. Her address is:

Esther Dyer
2200 Riding Trail
Gastonia, NC 28054
(704) 865-1025

Remember the saints in North Carolina.

A Message to the Saints

By George F. Arthur

In memory of our beloved mother, the late Madam Sarah Udo Udo of The Church of Jesus Christ, Atai Otoro Branch, Nigeria. She departed from this life on August 25, 1983.

Before briefing you brothers, sisters, and friends on the life of Madam Sarah Udo Udo, I want to thank our Lord first, for everything He gave to Sarah. I thank my entire family, The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, Brother Paul Carr and his family, friends, relatives, and government officials for their support, cooperation, and sacrifices they made for the benefit of my mother's funeral.

Sarah Udo Udo left to mourn her one son, one daughter, 16 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two brothers, numerous brothers- and sisters-in-law and many other relations.

Sarah Udo Udo was among the first members who received baptism at the inception of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria in 1960. She loved the Church and her life was filled with kindness, sympathy, and service to others. She was born and bred by Christian parents and married to a husband from a Christian family. Her devotion to the Gospel's work and practices originated in her youth.

Sarah was a woman gifted of the Lord, and made good use of her talents. Her home midwifery practices earned her a great reputation and the popular title of "Doctor." Within a twenty-year period, 2500 children were born in her

private clinical home in Nigeria of women from diverse ethnic groups and tribes. She also diagnosed problems in sick children and got them successfully treated. Her clinic was a residence for both expectant mothers and mothers of sick children. She fed and clothed them free of charge. Some women gave birth to children five or more times without being asked to pay for the services by Sarah Udo Udo. Because of her humanitarian character, she was also called by the vernacular name "Ekaiban," meaning "Christian mother."

Sarah was an industrious woman. She grew a variety of crops on her parcels of farmland. She produced a palm oil of superior quality using her old-fashioned home method. She traded this and her other products, as is the custom in Nigeria.

Sarah was a loving mother. She had six children, four boys and two girls. She made it her personal duty to see that all her children received at least an average education, and those who were willing went even further. She also encouraged other parents to send their children to school.

This mother faced many problems in the later part of her life. But she was able to endure every situation as she had the Lord with her to the end.

She was married twice. Her first husband died, leaving her with three children. She then married a brother-in-law, whose wife had died as well. They had three more children together. Between 1967 and 1970, three of her four sons died, all in their early twenties. This left her with one son and two daughters.

Unhappily, her first daughter, Com-

fort, died a few weeks after my mother's own burial. My sister had written to me the day after my mother was buried. She consoled me to bear the pains of my mother's death with the hope and trust that we would meet her in heaven. But a few weeks after I had read her letter, I received a letter from my other sister, Janet, who reported that our senior sister, Comfort, had passed away.

I am thankful to the Lord that both my mother and sister departed from this earth with the hope to meet the Lord in their hearts.



Sarah Udo Udo, a charter member of the Church in Nigeria.

Michigan-Ontario District Meeting

By Anthony J. Scolaro

On Sunday night, August 19, the brothers and sisters from all over the Michigan-Ontario District met together at Detroit Branch 3.

Brother Dominic Moraca, our district president, was in charge of the meeting, and after his opening remarks he asked Brother Richard Thomas of Branch 1, who was ordained into the priesthood

last December, to address the congregation.

Brother Richard read from the 18th chapter of Mosiah, from the 16th to the 22nd verses, where Alma the elder, recently converted through the words of the prophet Abinadi, baptized 204 souls in the waters of Mormon and set up Christ's Church for the first time on the American continent. Our brother pointed out that after Alma was forced to flee from the wicked King Noah and his false priests, he must have felt the same way William Bickerton would feel two thousand years later—alone with the responsibility of bringing mankind

to the knowledge of the Truth. Brother Richard remarked on the power and authority with which Alma must have preached to the people at that time.

As the Spirit of God gave him utterance, our brother began to exhort the congregation to greater faith, righteousness, and good works. He recited many scriptures from memory, one of which was Romans 12, from verse four to the end, concerning our service to God through the spiritual gifts He bestows upon us. It was a blessing to hear the Apostle Paul's words

(Continued on Page 10)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Harvest Time

"Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." (John 4:35)

"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

These familiar verses of scripture come to mind as we look across the fields and vineyards and see that the growing season has come to an end and it's time for the laborers to go forth and gather up the harvest. Of course, when the Lord spoke these words, He was referring not to the natural harvest but to things spiritual. How often in the scriptures does the Lord draw parallels from the sphere of agriculture in order to illustrate His marvelous plan in terms that are intelligible to our limited understanding! In His infinite wisdom, He knew that sowing and reaping were things that mankind could understand in any day and age.

In the parable of the tame and wild olive tree, which Jacob was inspired to transcribe onto his golden plates from the writings of the prophet Zenos, we read of God's mighty plan for the house of Israel and for all mankind. In this parable we read how the master's servant labored diligently over a long period of time, trying to save his master's dying tree and to keep its branches bearing good fruit.

"And the servant went and did as the Lord had commanded him, and brought other servants; *and they were few*."

"And the Lord of the vineyard said unto them: Go to, and labor in the vineyard, with your might. For behold, this is the *last* time that I shall nourish my vineyard; for the end is nigh at hand, and the season speedily cometh; and if ye labor with your might with me ye shall have joy in the fruit which I shall lay up unto myself against the time which will soon come." (Jacob 5:70, 71)

Who are these few servants who are brought in at the last day to labor? Are they not those who are serving the God of Israel in this last dispensation of time? As a Church blessed with the understanding of how the Lord will gather Israel, we are required to be those servants in that vineyard. Truly the harvest *is* great, and the laborers *are* few. It should weigh heavily upon us, as those laborers, to work diligently, wherever we can, in whatever way we can, going forth mightily with the power and authority given to us by our Lord and Savior, the Living Head of our Church, to the four corners of the earth, bringing souls to repentance and to the knowledge of the Truth.

The parable of the sower and his seeds, as found in Matthew 13 and Mark 4, deals with planting the Gospel in the hearts of men. Only the Lord knows which seeds will take root and bring forth fruit, but like the sower we must let the seeds fall all around us. The Lord promised us that if we would labor with our might, we would have joy, and we as a Church truly have a hope of that latter-day glory, the likes of which our eyes have not seen, nor have our ears heard. Let us work, then, the works of Him that sent us, while it is day; for the night cometh, when no man can work.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Nephi's Father Dreams

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you feel if your father woke up one morning and told you that you and your family had to move? If he told you that you were going to leave your beautiful, safe home and live in tents would you be happy?

Nephi's father, Lehi, told his wife and four sons that they had to leave everything behind and go into the wilderness. God was going to allow the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed and the wicked people there to be taken as slaves. But the family of good Lehi was going to be saved. God planned to take them to a new land, far away, a land of promise.

Two of Nephi's sons, Laman and Lemuel, were really mad that they had to go. They didn't want to leave their friends, their plans, and the property and riches they would someday own. They did not believe anything could destroy a city as important and big as Jerusalem.

Every step of the way they muttered and murmured against their father. Anger filled them until they were like the Jews in Jerusalem who tried to take Lehi's life. The two younger brothers, Sam and Nephi, began to wonder who was right, their father or their older brothers.

After walking for several days from Jerusalem, Lehi had enough of his older sons. The Spirit of God filled him and he began to talk with Laman and Lemuel. Such power was there that those young men shook. They were so overcome that they did not dare to keep complaining against their father, and they did as he commanded them.

Now Nephi was a very young man, although he was the size of a full-grown

man. Yet he began to wonder about the mysteries of God. He wondered if God had really showed his father everything he said God had. And Nephi cried unto the Lord.

The Lord heard Nephi, and visited him and softened his heart until he believed the words of his father. Nephi told his brother, Sam, about the love of God and Sam believed him.

But Laman and Lemuel still hated and disbelieved. Nephi was broken-hearted that his brothers were so hard. He went to God in prayer for them, and God showed Nephi that everything was under control.

All four sons of Lehi were going to a Promised Land. The Lord told Nephi that in the future the people that descended from Laman and Lemuel would go against the people descended from Nephi. In that day God would curse them. They would be lazy, full of trouble, and not able to beat the people of Nephi. Those people of Nephi would rule over them as long as they served God.

The Lord continued to bless Nephi as time passed. Nephi saw many wonderful things in dreams. He was shown every single human being that ever would live. (That means you and me!) He saw Jesus Christ before he was even born on earth.

All of this happened according to God's plan and because one young man, Nephi, had a desire to know the mysteries of God. Nephi gave up a comfortable life he knew well to journey in the wilderness and cross the mighty oceans. What if sometime we are asked to give up something familiar, and safe, because God's Holy Spirit shows us to? Would you be willing to ask God, to believe your dreams, and to open

your heart to a new life? As God helped Nephi, He could help you, and He would, but you have to ask first.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

Jerusalem	Jews
return	cry
to	pray
Nephi	shake
Sam	low
Lehi	stone
dreams	bow
God	

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

Young People Ask

Brother John R. Griffith, Chairman of the General Church Mission Board, is available to write answers to any questions the young people of the Church might have for him. If you have a question you would like to see answered in his column, please send it to him at the following address:

John R. Griffith
R.D. #1, Box 118
Bentleyville, PA 15314

New Address

Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo, first counselor of the General Church, has changed his residence. His new address is below:

Nick Pietrangelo
42731 Sheldon, Apt. 124
Mt. Clemens, MI 48044
Phone (313) 263-7107

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 1

By Sister Lisa DiFalco

Sunday, September 2, was a more than exciting day for the saints of Branch 1. We were especially glad that many brothers and sisters from the Sterling Heights Branch were able to share the blessings with us.

The blessings began when the children opened the meeting by singing *Vessels of Gold*. But the blessings didn't stop there. It was just the beginning.

The Spirit of God was upon our visiting elder, Brother Sam DiFalco. Brother Sam began with the 6th chapter of Ephesians. He stressed how important it is that we as Christians must be dressed in full armor, full-time, every day. He proceeded to tell us that we don't know what we're going to face when we step outside the doors of church, but that we must be prepared for whatever comes our way. When David went before Goliath he was not prepared in steel armor but in the spiritual armor of God.

Like David, Brother Sam told us we must be prepared to combat the wiles of the devil. The devil is the same today as he was yesterday and is constantly devising ways for us to be snared. To avoid these traps, Brother Sam reminded us to put on our full armor and when we do the fruits of the Spirit will manifest themselves, guiding us safely away from evil. Also, we should be in the service of our fellow man, fasting and praying for those in need, for example. When we do something good for someone else we do it for God, too.

Brother Sam then related an experience. His wife, Sister Sarah, had undergone surgery. After the surgery the doctors informed her that she might have cancer and that they would have to perform another surgery. After Brother Sam heard this his spirit was troubled. He told Sister Sarah that she should leave this hospital and go to another. She said she didn't want to leave. During this time, Brother Lou Visconti was praying for her at his barber shop, and the Spirit of God told him to tell Brother Sam to get her out of the hospital. Sister Grace Visconti entered Sister Sarah's room and told her that the Lord must have sent her

to see her. She told Sister Sarah that she should leave the hospital. After hearing this, Sister Sarah was willing to leave. She was taken to another hospital where she wasn't diagnosed as having cancer. Some months later, the hospital Sister Sarah first went to was closed down. People in the hospital were having unnecessary operations performed on them. Brother Sam thanked God for saving his wife.

Brother Sam related many more beautiful experiences before he finished speaking. The Spirit was very powerful in the service and was reflected in a beautiful season of testimony.

The spirit was warm in everyone's heart as we came to the close of the meeting. We sang *What A Day That Will Be*, and Brother Tom Everett closed in prayer.

Lake Worth, FL

By Josephine Jasmin

Sunday, August 12, 1984 was truly a blessed day for the brothers and sisters of the Lake Worth Branch. Starting with our morning service, the spirit of joy prevailed throughout the day.

Brother Gene Perri opened our service and read from Daniel, Chapter 2, concerning King Nebuchadnezzar's dream and Daniel's interpretation.

Brother Gene asked us if the image is still standing today. What affect does the image have upon us?

The stone was cut out of the mountain, not by hands of man but by the power of God.

Brother Gene expounded many beautiful thoughts upon this scripture. The stone becomes a great mountain allowing the children of God to enjoy a glory beyond compare. The kingdom of God will be established, and we will be free from the cares of the world, to live in liberty and happiness.

Brother John D'Orazio followed, exhorting how this small stone will grow very large one day, and that the Gospel will go throughout all the land, drawing many people to their knees. God has a wonderful plan for this glorious Gospel

and righteousness will prevail.

A beautiful Spirit was felt again as we united together for our fellowship service, to witness the ordination of Brother Ron Carradi into the office of teacher.

Brother August D'Orazio washed Brother Ron's feet and prayer was offered by Brother Gene Perri.

A portion of scripture was read from both the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, Acts, Chapter 6 and Moroni, Chapter 3, pertaining to the calling of a teacher.

Our prayers go with our brother, that he may always be ready, and that God will direct him in all that he does.

Brother Ron offered a beautiful testimony telling us of his desire to fulfill the duties of his new office in the Church.

San Fernando Valley, CA

By Patty King

The Valley Branch had a day of spiritual rejoicing on May 6, 1984, as two new members, Bruce Jones and Karen Verardo, were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

We all met on the shores of the Pacific Ocean at 8:30 that morning. The first one to go into the water was Sister Karen, who was baptized by her father, Brother Frank Verardo. Brother Emmett Hood took Brother Bruce into the water and baptized him.

Back at the branch, Brother Hood confirmed Sister Karen into the Church, and Brother Bruce was confirmed by Brother Ed Buccellato. Sister Alyse Genaro then sang *The Twenty-Third Psalm*, dedicating it to our new members. Brother Bruce was especially fortunate to have his mother visiting from out of town when he was baptized.

A few weeks later, we were saddened to learn that Brother Bruce Jones and his wife, Sister Mary Jo, would be relocating in Federal Way, Washington. The Valley Branch will deeply miss them, but we know that as they continue to put God first in their lives, he will guide them in all of life's decisions.

Detroit, Branch 2

It was a beautiful clear morning as we stood on the shore of the Detroit River and witnessed the baptism of Lisa DiRado. We remembered the day she was born, watched her as she grew into a beautiful young woman, and were filled with joy to see her choose service to God in her young life.

We returned to our branch and were very happy to have Brother Joseph Bologna from Modesto, California visiting with us. He and Sister Lena were members of Branch 2 for many years, so it was an added blessing to see them.

After the young people sang Lisa's favorite hymn, *Ready*, Brother Joe spoke to us about walking straight ahead with God, never looking back. Brother Joe reminded us that it is dangerous to look back, but there is safety in going forward with God. Sometimes Christ carries us, sometimes He walks along side us, always ready to help us and inspire us to do things for others. "The devil is always there trying to get us off the track," Brother Joe said, "but God is always there also to



Brother Alex Gentile and Lisa DiRado

keep us on the straight and narrow road."

Brother Joe's sermon was an encouragement to all of us, especially Lisa. As with many young people, Lisa loved the Church but struggled with the decision to be baptized. She felt she just

could not live up to the commitment she would have to make. But the Lord gave her the wisdom and strength to make that commitment, and He will surely walk along with her in her life, helping her to keep the promise she made today.

Herndon, VA

By Esther Andrews

Donald and Marjorie Beach have attended the Herndon Branch many times over the years.

Recently, Donald was in the hospital, and he desired to have the elders of the Church visit him and anoint him. Brother George Timms and Brother Chatman Young granted his request. As he was being anointed, God's Spirit fell upon him and he cried out, "I want to be baptized." His wife Marjorie, standing at his bedside, requested her baptism as well.

We gathered the next Sunday morning to witness their baptisms. The sky was cloudy, but our hearts were filled with the joy of the saints as two more souls took upon themselves the name of Jesus Christ.

Brother Donald was baptized and confirmed by Brother Chatman Young, and Sister Marjorie was baptized and confirmed by Brother George Timms. May God bless them and be their guide as they begin their service to Him.

Brooklyn, NY

On July 1, 1984, we joyfully went down to the water's edge to baptize Joseph F. Pap, who has been attending our meetings for many months.

Our late Brother Frank Zaher and Brother Matthew Rogolino met Brother Joe in their missionary endeavors in New York City's Bowery. Over the months, we have all grown to love Brother Joe very dearly. As he expressed his desire to belong to The Church of Jesus Christ and to serve the Lord, his calling for baptism was the fulfillment of our united prayers.

Lorain, OH

By Renée Alessio

Greetings from the members of the Lorain, Ohio Branch. We wish to give you an update of the events that have taken place in our branch.

At the beginning of this year, Brother Fred, Sister Charlotte and Jason Olexa transferred here from the Roscoe,

Pennsylvania Branch. Brother Fred is an evangelist and Sister Charlotte a deaconess. They are a joy and a pleasure to be with. Brother Fred, who had undergone open heart surgery seven years ago, has passed his most recent physical examination with flying colors. His physician stated that he is as healthy as a man who has never experienced a heart attack. Brother Fred attributes this good news to the answered prayers of the saints.

Sister Susan Nardoizzi and Brother Paul J. Ciotti, were married in June in our church building. Guests attended from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan and California. Some of the Church members stayed in town to attend the Sunday service. The building was filled with the Spirit of God as we sang hymns of praise, listened to the preaching from Brothers Frank Ciotti, Paul Ciotti, and Bill Colangelo, and praised God with words of testimony.

The young people, led by Brother Frank Ciotti, introduced the service by singing *En la Viña del Señor* (In the Vineyard of the Lord). As the meeting

(Continued on Page 9)

LORAIN, OH continued . . .

progressed, Sister Rosanne Scolaro was asked to sing an original composition, *We're Getting Ready for a Wedding*, referring to the marriage of the Church to Jesus Christ. Brother Larry Champagne sang with her.

In the month of August we were blessed with the arrival of Brother Paul, Sister Arlene, Abbey and Ashley Holan, who relocated from Niles, Ohio.

We are excited to have several of our loved ones attending our services quite regularly after several years of separation. We ask for your prayers in their behalf that they would find themselves in active fellowship once again. We also have several visitors attending our church services frequently and hope that they one day will be our brothers and sisters in Christ. We have enjoyed the many brothers and sisters who have visited us from other branches of the Church, including Sister Rose and Brother Tony Palermo from Phoenix, who spend most of the summer months in Ohio. We ask that you remember the members and friends of the Lorain Branch in your prayers, and we will continue to pray for you often.

Clairton, PA

By Tirann Udosen

The Clairton Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ was the host of a Sunday night evangelist's meeting on May 6, 1984. Various evangelists from the Pennsylvania District were present, and they spoke many inspired words. The beautiful singing of the saints filled our building as well. The Spirit of God was surely present and those who attended were truly blessed.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Catherine Mulla

Sunday, May 13, 1984, was a day rich in blessings for the brothers and sisters of Detroit, Branch 3. Visiting our branch this day was Brother V. James Lovalvo, who is an apostle of the Church and a member of the Lindsay, California Branch.

Prior to the opening of the service, our choir was invited to sing, *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome*. Brother Jim

introduced the service by acknowledging Mother's Day and commenting on the beauty of motherhood. He mentioned that every day should be as Mother's Day—not just one day alone.

Brother Jim chose to speak this day from the tenth chapter of Moroni, Moroni's last farewell to his people.

In verse 32, Moroni invites us "to come unto Christ, and be perfected in Him." Brother Jim emphasized the reasons behind this invitation. He cited Matthew 11, which deals with the importance of being meek and lowly. Another reason Brother Jim pointed out was that of rebirth—a complete change in one's life must come about. We can become *new* creatures that are *perfect*. Death only brings mortality, but Life brings immortality through the Resurrection.

Brother Jim then cited the importance of *perfection*. He defined the term perfection as "doing the will of God without doubt or fear and with absolute confidence in Him;" also, "having knowledge without doubt that He is with us." Our faith should be strong enough to overcome our fear.

Brother Jim noted that we can perfect ourselves in Christ by showing in our actions that we truly *love* Him. This concept is exemplified in the last commandment, "Love as I have loved thee." The saints and prophets of old stood out because they set this example. Furthermore, we must deny ourselves of *all* ungodliness.

Brother Jim went on to say that the choice is ours. Baptism is *not* intended to change a person. It serves only for the purpose of washing our sins away. Change occurs because God allows us the *opportunity* to change ourselves. The spirit of perfection can be enjoyed now, if we serve God with all our hearts and souls, and we put humility before our pride.

Brother Jim warned us that in the day of restoration we are faced with choices, especially whether we are to serve God or not. We should try to be *sanctified*. And in being sanctified, we are being holy and doing the will of God. One cannot become a saint overnight, it takes years of practice. We must build up our goal to being fully sanctified.

Brother Jim then related two experiences which illustrated how the Lord works in his life. The first experience dealt with Brother Jim's flight home from a conference. On the plane,

he noticed that all the seats were taken except for the one directly next to his. A woman sat one seat away from him, and unknown to Brother Jim, she had prayed prior to her departure that she would receive words of encouragement from someone on the plane. While on the plane, the woman touched Brother Jim's arm and related her situation to him. The woman felt great relief and Brother Jim felt blessed when she related her experience with prayer. Both of them knew that the Lord played a role in this event.

In the second experience, Brother Jim elaborated on how he felt and observed a red mark on his arm. This time, he was at the Atlantic Coast conference prior to his departure for Italy. The mark remained for some time during the conference, and he later realized that he had been touched by the Lord's Spirit.

Brother Jim also warned us to be yoked with the knowledge of Christ. He urged us to continue to strive to serve God. It is a constant and hard struggle. We should strive to emulate the brothers and sisters who went before us.

The message brought forth this day was that we should delight in serving God. The congregation sang, *He Touched Me*, after which Brother Paul Whitton, our presiding elder, urged us to contemplate the way the Mother Church has touched us. The meeting was then held open for testimony. Afterward, Brother Paul invited all the mothers to sing a hymn.

Brother Jim presented a lovely sermon that brought special meaning to this day. Certainly, the message cannot be forgotten. Our prayers go with Brother Jim and his family as he strives to extend his work to other parts of the vineyard.

If there is righteousness in the heart there will be beauty in the character. If there be beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.

Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On April 15, Brother Harold Burge and Sister Burnice Burge from Erie, Pennsylvania visited Rochester as per the visitation schedule. Brother Harold opened with the 17th chapter of St. Luke, where Jesus healed the ten lepers and only one returned to thank Him. Brother Ansel D'Amico spoke on the same subject with great encouragement and words of life. Brother Frank Natoli followed, emphasizing the many mighty miracles which Jesus had worked in His lifetime, all of them out of love for mankind.

On May 20th, Brother Ron and Sister Cathy Genaro from Niles, Ohio visited our mission and sang *Something Beautiful* to open our morning service. Brother Ron chose for his text the 6th chapter of Judges. An angel was sent, that God would deliver the Israelites from the Midianites. We all have been called into the spiritual army that we might labor and be a worker for God. We fight a war against sin, and through Jesus Christ we shall overcome the world. Brother Frank Natoli continued explaining that God is the potter and we are the clay. We should let God have His way in our lives. We should use our talents that we might be an instrument in God's hand to bring about His purposes.

On July 29th, we had three carloads of brothers and sisters from Fredonia, Pennsylvania and Brother Paul and Sister Lydia Francione from Tuscon, Arizona with us since they had all attended the Hill Cumorah pageant on the previous evening. Fredonia's choir sang a few songs and Brother Paul opened with 1st John, 4th chapter. Beloved, let us love one another. God is

love and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God. Brother Alvin Gehly followed on the same topic. Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. We should build up a treasure in heaven, that it would last for all eternity. Brother Ansel stressed that we should have more of the pure love of God in all that we do. A lunch was prepared by the sisters and everyone enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship.

On August 5th, we were visited by Brother Claude and Sister Angie Champine and Brother Gary Champine from Sterling Heights, Michigan, and Brother Todd Becker from Levittown, Pennsylvania. The Champine Brothers sang some of their favorite songs and Brother Gary Champine opened our morning service with the 26th chapter of Alma. Brother Gary was inspired as he bore his own testimony and tied it in with the beautiful message of the morning. That evening everyone met at Brother Frank and Sister Kathy Natoli's home and we watched old movies of erecting the church building and many GMBA Conferences from Michigan and New Jersey. Some of the films included old brothers such as William Cadman and Charlie Ashton. The entire weekend was uplifting to all in the Rochester Mission.

On August 12th, the semiannual gathering of Lockport and Rochester was held in Rochester. We celebrated the 50th anniversary of being baptized in the Gospel for Sister Florence Catena, October 21, 1934. She bore a special testimony as to how she came into the Church and how Brother Mike Marinetti told her of the Gospel. Brother Paul D'Amico opened the service with the 6th chapter of Daniel, that of God delivering Daniel from the lion's den. Brother Ansel D'Amico expressed himself on how the Lord had blessed him through 51 years of service.

Brother Frank Natoli followed stating that it wasn't the number of years in the Gospel that was important, but what we did with the time that we had to serve God. Brother Gus Giansante closed in prayer, and everyone enjoyed the meal prepared by the sisters, which included an anniversary cake for the occasion.

On August 19th, Brother Elmer and Sister Betty Santilli from Perry, Ohio visited as per the visitation schedule. Brother Elmer opened on the 66th chapter of Isaiah. The heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool, where is the house that ye build unto me? Brother Elmer continued on the state of Zion. Brother Ansel D'Amico stated that God did reveal to Joseph Smith the Restored Gospel and that he would be used of God. Brother Frank Natoli followed on the restoration of the house of Israel and of the coming of the Choice Seer from the loins of the seed of Joseph.

We ask that all might remember us in prayer, that we would grow strong in the Spirit of God so that the blessings of God would continue to be with us.



Sister Florence Catena

Notice

The following items are available for purchase:

001 Cassette Tape—May, 1983 GMBA Program, *Songs of Zion*— \$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

004 Cassette Tapes—June, 1984 General Church Conference Sunday Meeting— 2 tapes for \$6.00

Cost includes shipping.

Those interested in obtaining the above cassette tapes, contact either:

Walter Laird
1604 Charlton Hgts.
Corapolis, PA 15108
Ph. (412) 264-8027

Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Ph. (412) 375-1648

MICHIGAN—ONTARIO continued...

come alive under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

After Brother Richard spoke to us, several people were anointed and Brother Moraca felt to open the service for testimony, giving us a chance to express our indebtedness to God to brothers and sisters of other branches. We heard many beautiful testimonies from the members and friends of our various branches, and everyone present that evening left feeling filled with God's goodness.

* WEDDINGS *

OLEXA—D'ORAZIO

Brother Johnathan Olexa and Sister Sherry D'Orazio were united in marriage on Saturday, May 26, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Brother Fred Olexa, the groom's father, officiated, assisted by the bride's uncle, Brother Tony Ensana.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Flo Lombardo and Brother Phil Benyola, with Brother Ken Lombardo as soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. May God richly bless them in their new life together.

CLAYTON—RIDENOUR

Mr. Larry Clayton and Sister Deborah (Busch) Ridenour were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, August 4, 1984 at the Detroit Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Spencer Everett performed the wedding ceremony with the assistance of Brother Louis Vitto.

Vocal selections were provided by Sister Diane Hawkins, Sister Donna Amormino, and Brother Eugene Amormino, with Brother Eugene accompanying.

The Claytons will reside in Colego Park, California.

Children Blessed

On Sunday, September 2, Glenn DiFalco was blessed by Brother Sam DiFalco at Detroit Branch 1.

New Arrivals

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

Scott Michael to Keith and Patricia Francis of Detroit Branch 3;

Lisa Marie to Danny and Karen Stefani of Edison, New Jersey;

Candace Marie to Brian and Karen (Siddall) Cole of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2;

Rebecca Grace to Rick and Faith Lobzun of Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

The Key to Living Is Giving!

*A very favorite story of mine
is about two seas in Palestine—*

*One is a sparkling sapphire jewel,
its waters are clean and clear and
cool,*

*Along its shores the children play
and travelers seek it on their way,
And nature gives so lavishly
her choicest gems to the Galilee . . .*

*But on to the south the Jordan flows
into a sea where nothing grows,*

*No splash of fish, no singing bird,
no children's laughter is ever heard,*

*The air hangs heavy all around
and nature shuns this barren ground.*

*Both seas receive the Jordan's flow,
the water is just the same, we know,*

*But one of the seas, like liquid sun,
can warm the hearts of everyone,*

*While farther south another sea
is dead and dark and misery—*

*It takes each drop the Jordan brings
and to each drop it fiercely clings . . .*

*It hoards and holds the Jordan's waves
until like shackled, captured slaves*

*The fresh, clear Jordan turns to salt
and dies within the Dead Sea's vault.*

*But the Jordan flows on rapturously
as it enters and leaves the Galilee,*

*For every drop that the Jordan gives
becomes a laughing wave that lives—*

*For the Galilee gives back each drop,
its waters flow and never stop,*

*And in this laughing, living sea
that takes and gives so generously*

*We find the way to life and living
is not in keeping but in giving!*

*Yes, there are two Palestinian seas
and mankind is fashioned after these!*

Helen Steiner Rice

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

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Volume 40, No. 11

Two Evangelists Ordained at Phoenix

By Frances J. Capone

And the son of the prophets said unto Elisha, Behold now, the place where we dwell with thee is too strait for us. Let us go, we pray thee, unto Jordan, and take thence every man a beam, and let us make us a place there, where we may dwell. And he answered, Go ye . . . so he went with them . . . But as one was felling a beam, the ax head fell into the water: and he cried, and said, Alas, master! for it was borrowed . . . the man of God said, Where fell it . . . And he cut down a stick and cast it in thither: and the iron did swim. Therefore said he, Take it up to thee. And he put out his hand and took it. II Kings 6:1-7

On Sunday, July 29, 1984, the membership of the Phoenix Branch rejoiced as they witnessed the ordination of Brothers Ether Furnier and Stephen Saffron as evangelists.

Attending this memorable service were visiting Evangelists Patsy Marinetti (Tucson) and Isaac Smith (Lakeside).

Brother Patsy Marinetti led the congregation in prayer after which we sang *He Keeps On Loving Us Still*.

Brother Ike Smith was the first speaker. Basing his sermon on the

above scripture, he delivered an intensive, thought-provoking discourse. He reminded us that we have the same means of accomplishment as Elisha had, but we have to maintain the Spirit that Elisha had.

In keeping with the theme, we sang *I Want To Be a Builder*.

Continuing on the same subject, Brother Marinetti emphasized that although the early apostles have passed away, the miracles have not. People today have seen manifestations of a living God. The seeds are in our midst, and in the near future we will have Nephis, Elijahs, and Elishas.

Brother Peter Capone followed by explaining the process by which evangelists are called. Stressing the responsibility of the evangelist, he referred to the text in II Kings. He asked the question, "Why did the ax head fall from the handle in the first place?" He explained that no wedge was supporting it. He made the analogy that we must retain the spirit of the Holy Ghost and be razor-sharp.

Sister Patricia Christman offered a beautiful rendition of *So Send I You*.

After making some pertinent remarks on the portion of the *Bible* that says, "The harvest is truly plenteous but the laborers are few," Brother Dick Christman directed his attention to the ordination of the two evangelists.



(Continued on Page 2)

Evangelist Ordained in San Diego

By Ralph Frammolino

Brother Paul Liberto was ordained an evangelist of The Church of Jesus Christ on July 29, 1984 before a congregation of brothers, sisters and friends from San Diego, Anaheim, the San Fernando Valley, Lindsay and Tijuana Branches.

Brother John Azzinaro (evangelist) washed Brother Paul's feet, and Brother Rusty Heaps (evangelist) ordained him into the office.

The spirit of love between the brother evangelists was evident during the service as they discussed the calling of Brother Paul and the general qualifications of their office.

Perhaps the most touching display of unity came when, after the ordination, Brother Tom Liberto (evangelist) stood before the congregation and placed his hand upon the shoulder of his natural brother, exhorting him to spread the Gospel as a member of the Quorum of 70. It was clear that a special spiritual bond was there between these natural brothers, who at one time played as children, and that the feeling carried over to Brother Nick and Sister Lena Liberto, their parents.

The congregation was told how Brother Paul had been called to be an evangelist. In 1980, Brother Mark Randy (evangelist from Modesto) asked God through prayer to bring forth laborers in the Quorum of 70. God gave him a dream, which depicted a Church conference.

In the dream, the call had gone out for the evangelists to come up front, and Brother Mark saw Brother Paul fall in step with other evangelists. After several years of prayer and thought, the evangelists of the California District forwarded the recommendation and during discussion at the 1984 General Church Conference in June, Brother Russ Martorana (evangelist, Niles) heard a voice when the name of Brother Paul and another candidate, Brother Frank Ciotti of the Santa Ana Mission, were disclosed. The voice said: "These brothers are bringing sinners to Christ."

After these experiences were related,

Brother Rusty Heaps told the congregation that the evangelists were the "greatest armada of men ever seen" that would be charged with bringing the message of the Restored Gospel throughout the world. Brother Rusty read an article he wrote about the qualifications of an evangelist, how the calling was a gift of God. He said an evangelist is one who is supposed to speak to strangers and convince them of the truth, a man commissioned to start new work and then turn it over to the elders before moving on to another work. He must be a leader, a man knowledgeable of the scriptures and not given to gossip.

Brother Paul then expressed himself, reflecting on his bashful nature and the responsibility he now feels to be more outgoing for the cause of Christ. He said he wondered why God would use him, but he realized that it took God's help to accomplish the work. He then gave a message to everyone: "You can do it through the power of Jesus Christ."

Brother Paul also read from John 15 where Christ declares himself the true vine and his disciples the branches. "We need to abide with Jesus Christ," said Brother Paul. "We need to abide in Jesus Christ."

The power of the Restored Gospel was underscored when Brother Luis Pacheco (elder from Tijuana) followed and told how, through anointing, God healed a woman with hepatitis. The woman, seven months pregnant at the time, was told she would die, but minutes after Brother Luis prayed for her, the color of her eyes turned from yellow to white. Attending Church for the first time, the woman stood before the people and offered thanks to God for the gift of renewed life.

The testimony from our Mexican brothers and sisters seemed only fitting at the ordination of our Brother Paul. He is busy with many projects to further the Church in Mexico and was instrumental in starting Monday night meetings with Mexican-Americans living near the San Diego Branch. He has often said that he feels drawn to work with the Seed of Joseph in Mexico, and we pray that God will grant his desire under his new responsibility.

Wherefore, if ye shall be obedient to the commandments and endure to the end, ye shall be saved at the last day. And thus it is. Amen. (I Nephi 22:31)

ORDINATION continued . . .

Inspiring prayers were offered as Brother Marinetti washed Brother Furnier's feet and Brother Smith washed Brother Saffron's feet. Then Brother Capone ordained Brother Saffron, and Brother Christman ordained Brother Furnier.

We sang *Jesus Paid It All* as communion was served.

Sister Ella Furnier requested that we sing *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning*. This hymn was a favorite of our deceased Brother Thurman Furnier, father of Brother Ether. Sister Ella said that she felt the presence of her father-in-law during the ordination.

Brother Ether arose and thanked God for His blessings. His one regret was that his mother, our dear Sister Birdie Furnier, was not present to witness the ordination. At ninety-five, the infirmities of age have caught up with her, and she is currently confined to a nursing home. Until recently she attended church services regularly, and was always ready to bear a wonderful testimony. She has been a true inspiration to all of us.

Brother Ether wiped away his tears as he spoke of his mother, as we wiped ours.

Brother Steve Saffron commented on the sharing of a favorite doll between a gentile girl and an Indian girl during the service. He quoted, "Unless you become as a little child . . ." and expressed a desire that the doll exchange become symbolic of a spiritual relationship between gentiles and Indians.

Brother Steve is Coordinator of Indian Services at Scottsdale Community College. By virtue of his position, he is involved with the Indian community—where he enjoys an excellent rapport with the Indian people.

Brother Walter Fleagle said that during the ordination, he saw a bright light encompass the newly-ordained evangelists.

And so beautiful a service had come to an end. A delicious luncheon was served and we enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters.

May our newly-ordained brothers enjoy many fruitful years in the work of the Gospel.

Michigan-Ontario District Conference

By Anthony J. Scolaro

On September 9, 1984, the branches of the Michigan-Ontario District closed down and we all met at Branch 1 for our semiannual conference.

District President Dominic Moraca felt directed to address us this morning, setting the tone of his sermon with the words of Peter:

"I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and are established in the present truth." (2 Peter 1:12)

Brother Dominic illustrated to us how today's world seems so foreign to what he could remember of the way things were 30 or 40 years ago. He compared our state to that of the mighty nation of Israel in Old Testament times. When the Lord brought them into the land of Canaan, His power went before them and there was no one that could prevail against them. As long as they were serving God, He sheltered them with His mighty arms. But when Israel as a nation drifted away from the Lord, He allowed other nations to have power against Israel, and they were eventually taken captive, losing their land and all their possessions.

Brother Dominic pointed out how important it is for us to recognize the *hour* in which we're living. Nephi prophesied that "in that day that they are fully ripe in iniquity they shall perish." (II Nephi 28:16)

The wicked shall be destroyed, according to the scriptures, which fact puts a great responsibility upon us as members of the Church to live righteously before God. Brother Dominic quoted Brother W. H. Cadman, asking us, "If we claim to be the saints of latter days, what manner of men and women ought we to be?"

Moroni, in the eighth chapter of Moroni, wrote how the Lord would remember the covenant He made with Israel in a day and age such as ours—one filled with tempests, wars, and pollutions. Brother Dominic read this chapter to us, bringing to our attention the clarity with which Moroni saw our day. He asked us how, in such a day and age as this, we can possibly survive spiritually. How do we keep our faith

and fight the good fight? How can we walk, as Paul besought us, "worthy of the vocation" to which we are called?

We can, Brother Dominic preached, because of our conversion from natural to spiritual. When we were baptized, we were transformed. *Only* through this conversion can we endure to the end. Our brother exhorted us to stir up the gift of God that is in us. Has the meaning of the Restoration grown dim to us? Has coming to church become a chore?

Brother Dominic admonished us to put off the bad things in our lives and to put on good things. "Let us sanctify ourselves," he said. "Let us ask the Lord to make us whiter than snow, that when we would pray for our sick brothers and sisters, He would hear us. Let us forbear and forgive one another, let us put on Charity. None of us is impervious to sin. We can each fall, but the Lord will sustain us, and He'll come through for us when we need it most."

The young people went forward and sang *To See the Morning Light*, and Brother Nick Pietrangelo addressed us next. He asked us to take our Brother Dominic's words seriously. "Serving God," he said, "is no joke."

"The Lord has been good to us," Brother Nick pointed out. "He blesses us in ways we don't even recognize as blessings. And He has revealed to us, even in these latter days, what He expects of us. He has told us that if we'd only draw closer to Him, there is nothing that He wouldn't do for us."

Brother Nick proceeded to relate to the congregation an experience he was given on the first day of this year. Coming home from the watch meeting late at night, he opened his Bible and asked the Lord, "What does '84 have in store for us?"

After much searching, the Spirit directed him to Deuteronomy 8:10-19. Brother Nick read these verses to us today, in which God warned Israel not to forget Him after that they had prospered in the land. Brother Nick applied this warning to the Church today. "We tend to forget the mercies of God in our lives," he said. "We sometimes fail to remember that He has given us everything we have." Brother Nick went on to caution us against walking after other gods. By the amount of time and energy we devote to different things in our lives, he explained, we can make them our gods. Brother Nick reminded us to put the God of Israel

first in our lives.

Brother Dominic concluded by acknowledging to the congregation that we didn't hear a sermon of flowery words today, but we were uplifted just the same to a greater consciousness of what we as individuals must do in order to bring about God's kingdom upon the face of the earth.

Before dismissing our meeting, we honored the request of our 99-year-old Brother Antonio Molisani by singing *It Is Well with My Soul*.

An Experience

On August 28, 1984, our Sister Mary Clements was becoming ill with red blotches, sore throat, swollen glands, and fever. We asked her if she would like to be anointed. Her answer was no. We asked if she would like to go to the doctor. Again her answer was no. Brother Dan Casasanta came to pay us a visit, not knowing how sick our sister was. He asked her if she would like to be prayed for. Her answer was, "No, I have been praying."

After visiting, our brother prayed as he prepared to leave, mentioning our sister's name to the Lord and asking blessing upon us and our house. The fever left our sister, but later she began to grow worse, not with fever, but with difficulty in breathing, talking, and swallowing. We didn't go to the Wednesday evening meeting but she tried to go to bed to rest. She couldn't rest at all, neither in bed nor on a chair, because of the cough and choking.

At 8:50 p.m. she got up and laid her head on my bosom. In my heart I prayed, remembering what Martha had said to Jesus, "If You were here our brother would not have died." So we said, if You were here our sister would not be sick. Soon she was feeling better; everything began to leave her, and she was able to go to bed and rest. By Sunday we were able to attend the meetings, rejoicing greatly that our God is the same yesterday, today and forever.

With love in Christ Jesus,
Martha Laird
McKees Rocks, PA

A Message to the Saints

By George F. Arthur

No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:62)

Dear friends and co-partners in the Faith of Jesus Christ, peace and love of God be with you.

Through the grace God has bestowed on me, it is my pleasure to write to you concerning the verse of scripture above.

Earlier this year my family and I worshipped at the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch. Brothers and sisters from all over the Florida District had come to meet there on that day.

Like the day of Pentecost, everyone there felt assured of the blessings of God and the whole house was filled with the Holy Spirit. Many wonderful events came to be accomplished. Brother Horace Huggins of the Quincy Mission was ordained a teacher. Prayers were offered for the sick and they returned home in good health. It was at this meeting that Sister Edna Bittinger testified of her sixty-sixth year of membership in The Church of Jesus Christ, which inspired my message that day.

Sister Edna M. Bittinger and her husband, Brother Joseph, are both attending the Ft. Pierce Branch. Sister Edna was baptized on May 18, 1918. She truly embraced the Church right from her youth. Since then she has never lagged in her devotion to the service of the Lord. Brother Frank Rogolino testified of her good works in the Church.

"As long as I have known Sister Edna," he said, "she has sustained the Faith and Doctrine of this Church, contributed to both home and foreign missionary work, shown love and trust in the Lord in times of sickness and other tribulations."

Sister Edna presented her testimony with a great deal of skill and grace. Coming up to the rostrum, she called upon the sisters from the Quincy Mission to sing *What a Friend*. After that, Brother Ray Bays read a poem entitled *Slow Me Down* and Psalm #46. Sister Edna then called upon myself and my

wife, Sister Agnes, to sing *Trust and Obey*, after which Brother Miles Fisher read a poem called *Heaven's Grocery Store*.

The songs and poems dedicated to Sister Edna were all centered on the theme that she had elaborated on about Jesus' love and care. She had accepted Jesus as her friend and Savior. Through His love Jesus has borne our sins and griefs. Sister Edna exalted Christ as our supreme Ruler of the Earth and Heaven. She ended her testimony by asking the congregation to sing *Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus*.

Let me take this opportunity to discuss the question of following Jesus as it is written in the ninth chapter of the Gospel of Luke, verses 61 and 62:

And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go and bid them farewell, who are at home at my house.

"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

What I want everyone to understand is the following:

1. Following Jesus calls for a lot of sacrifice, which may be of things such as energy, time, money, and pleasure.
2. It involves separating one's self from people who do not accept God in their lives. These people may be a father, mother, brother, sister, or friend.
3. It involves teaching others to accept God in their lives.
4. It requires strong faith and hope in the Lord at all times; when in sorrow, in joy, and in everyday conditions of life. Do not look back when following the Lord.

In conclusion, I ask you to pray for God's continuous protection and care unto Sister Edna and her husband, Brother Joseph Bittinger. They have experienced both good and bad times in their lives and yet they put everything in God's hands for Him to take control.

Glory be to God. My love to all of you.

Word from India

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I reflect on where I was last year at this time, at the World Missionary Conference.

It was a great privilege conferred on me by the Church to be able to attend the World Conference of the Church held in Virginia State in August, 1983.

My eyes were opened to the work of the Church all over the world. What a sensational and spiritual love I experienced there irrespective of nation, kindred, people or tongue!!!

Our country of India is a Gentile country, so the Gospel is not accepted so easily. Apostasy is seen among the Christians.

It is His work to establish The Church of Jesus Christ, and we are greatly privileged to work in His vineyard.

Many people are healed when I anoint them with the blessed oil of the Church. Since our people in the villages are very poor, they have many natural needs. Food, clothing, vitamins, medicine, etc. are always needed. With the Church's assistance, we can help solve these needs.

I can help in my own town by offering the Church my hospital as a free clinic. Contact Brother Joe Calabrese for details about this.

Needed also are full-time Gospel workers. These workers could spend their time visiting the villages, preaching them the Restored Gospel. I have many invitations from the villages to come to them and preach Christ to them. Due to transportation problems, I cannot do as much as I would like to. Without a car of my own, I have no way to return the same night to go home. It is a great inconvenience to me, having no place to sleep or eat, but I am doing my best within my ability, since the work of The Church of Jesus Christ belongs to Him and Him alone.

As an elder, I feel a great responsibility for souls. I feel that before I baptize anyone, they should have some knowledge of the Restored Gospel. It is also my belief that *quality* is better than *quantity*.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

At this time of the year, our country traditionally takes a moment to thank God for His blessings upon this land. Across the nation, millions of people gather in the homes of family and friends to feast upon the bounty that overflows from our borders. Few people realize, however, the real extent to which the Lord has blessed our continent.

When our Pilgrim fathers celebrated the first Thanksgiving dinner with their Indian neighbors in 1621, they had no idea that they were living on a choice land, or that they were breaking bread with one of the lost tribes of Israel. But today we should be especially thankful to God for the knowledge that He has bestowed upon us, "that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord; wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve Him who dwell upon the face thereof . . ." (Ether 13:2)

Some of our forefathers may have come to this continent, as did the Pilgrims 364 years ago, seeking religious freedom. Others may have sailed fourth class in the hull of a steamer, to find relief from poverty or political oppression. A few may have bidden their families farewell and come here in search of opportunity and adventure. And some of our forefathers were taken captive and shipped here to be sold into slavery. There are those of us as well who were born abroad and have come here of their own accord. But no matter how we find ourselves here, let us be grateful to God for bringing us to this land and to the knowledge of the Restoration so closely tied to it.

We know today that just as the House of Israel came to Joseph in Egypt for corn, the Lord will once again bring the House of Israel to Joseph on this land, not so much for natural food but for spiritual salvation. As a Church, the Lord has placed in our hands an understanding of His plan that no other church has. As inhabitants of this land in this day and age, the Lord has blessed us with the opportunity, if we so desire it, to have a hand in the restoration of the House of Israel and the establishment of Zion, God's kingdom, upon the face of the Earth. For this privilege we should be grateful indeed!

As we take the time this Thanksgiving to stop and count our blessings, let us also reflect upon our lot in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the unparalleled vision of glory we are privileged to share with one another and with the world. Let us endeavor to keep alive within us an appreciation of God's infinite mercy toward us. Let us allow the Joy of the Saints to be our strength, to carry us through life's valleys, that we each may endure to the end and rejoice with one another over there!

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Moroni's Flag—The Standard of Liberty

Dear Girls and Boys,

The new settlers in the land of America soon split into two groups. One group followed Laman and Lemuel and hated serving God. The other group followed Nephi, read the scriptures on the ancient brass plates, and loved God.

God warned Nephi to take his people and flee into the wilderness, because his brothers planned to kill them. The Lamanites (followers of Laman) were cursed with laziness and God turned their skin dark so they would not entice (win away) the children of Nephi.

Yet there was not peace in the land. Constantly the Lamanites would sneak up to the cities of the Nephites to attack them. Sometimes the Nephites were living clean, energetic lives, serving God. Then they would be ready to fight and save their homes. Other times some of the Nephites would be proud and sinful. Then God would use the Lamanite attacks as a way of bringing the Nephites back to Him.

For nineteen years the Nephites were ruled by Judges, who ruled fairly. The Church was established in every city, and priests and teachers were chosen over the churches to settle arguments. God blessed these people mightily.

But as they made more money, the Nephites began to be proud. Some of the lower judges of the land tried to think of sneaky ways to become more important and powerful.

One large and powerful man named Amalakiah worked with the second group of judges. He told them if they would support him to be king, he'd make them special rulers of the other people. Soon there was great trouble throughout the Church and the land of Nephi.

Now, one of the righteous Nephites,

the leader of all the soldiers and armies, was a man named Moroni. Moroni was a big, good man who loved God with all his heart.

He was furious that evil Amalakiah wanted to take away the Nephites' freedoms and be their boss. Moroni pulled off his coat and ripped off a big piece. He wrote on it, "In memory of our God; our religion, and freedom; and our peace, our wives and our children!"

He fastened this standard of liberty (flag) on a pole. Then he put on his fighting clothes (an armour and headplate) and bowed to the earth to say a mighty prayer to God. He prayed that freedom would be on this land as long as there were true believers of Jesus Christ here, serving God.

After his prayer, Nephi marched among the people calling in a loud voice for those who wanted to be free to join him. The people came running together, wearing their armour and tearing their coats too, as a sign they believed. Yes, they also believed they should protect their rights to serve God and live in peace in the land of Nephi.

Amalakiah's army was frightened. They began to wonder if they were right to want a king. Amalakiah quickly realized he should take his soldiers away. He decided to leave the land of Nephi and go join their Lamanite enemies.

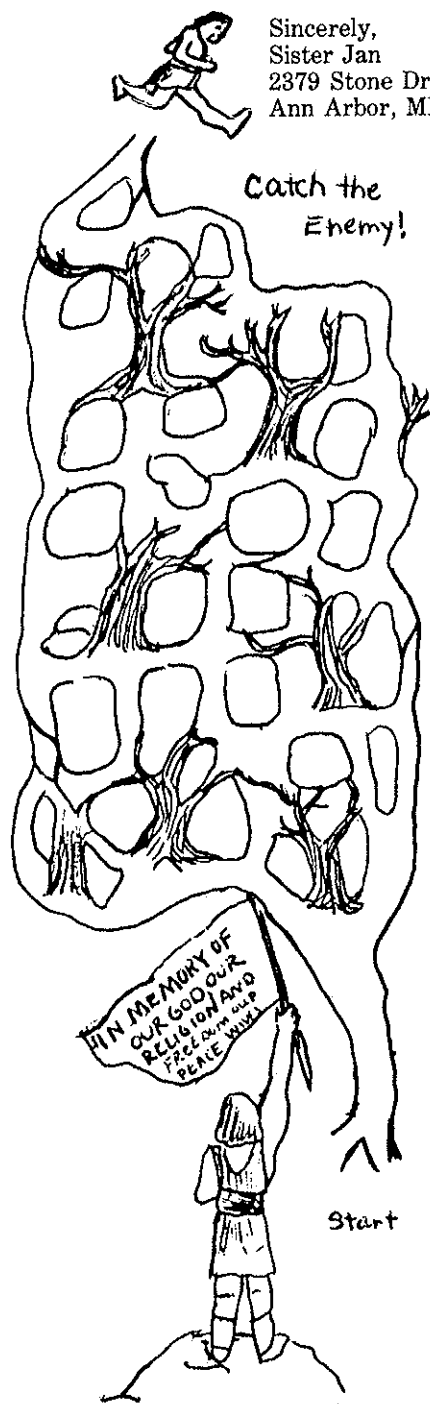
Now Moroni knew it was important not to let Amalakiah's army strengthen the armies of their enemies. He hurried to march his armies through the wilderness to head off the armies of Amalakiah.

Moroni's soldiers were able to surround and capture the other troublemakers. Amalakiah left the land with a few followers who escaped. Moroni gave his prisoners the chance to

change their minds. Any soldiers who wanted to support the Judges and the freedoms of the country were allowed to go free. They had to promise to stop persecuting the followers of God. Only a few refused to support freedom. The others returned home to a united country.

Moroni had more flags made, and these standards of liberty were put on every tower of the land. A beautiful peace existed in the Church and a wonderful spirit of rejoicing was enjoyed throughout the land.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan
2379 Stone Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105



Our Women Today

Kinsman Circle Holds Retreat

By Rosalie Mott

Friday evening, June 1, 1984, the Kinsman, Ohio Ladies' Uplift Circle met at Joseph Badger Meadows for a retreat. We began our evening by reading a poem together entitled *Retreat*. We enjoyed visiting one with another and singing hymns together. God's Spirit was with us and a special prayer was offered for the sick.

After a frightening experience with a flying squirrel we all finally went to sleep. Can you imagine a group of sisters standing on chairs and hiding in bunk beds and screaming because of a little furry animal?!

Saturday morning after breakfast, we met for Chapel in the woods. Sister Sandy Ford used the theme "Meet God in the Morning" and used scripture to bring forth her ideas. We felt God's blessings and enjoyed listening to Sister Mary Slick's (Niles Circle) testimony of how she came into the Church.

For our seminar each sister had been given a word from the Bible several weeks earlier. Each sister spoke on her word, gave the definition, gave a scripture using her word, and told how the word applied to her life both naturally and spiritually. These words formed rays from a "Sun" called "LoveShine" and each sister was given the poem "LoveShine." As we filled the pages of a scrapbook with our words, we were filled with a portion of God's love.

After a delicious lunch and a nature walk, Sister Rosalie Mott had a story hour for the children. She used the flannelgraph and read a story about a little girl who showed God's love to her neighbor and how they as children can share God's love.

We then had a very enjoyable time as Sister Rose Corrado took us on a "walk down memory lane." She created a visual memory lane and pinned a flag bearing each sister's name and the date they joined Ladies' Circle from our oldest member, Sister Anna Dreer (in

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 3

By Catherine Mulla

On Sunday, April 29, 1984, the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 3 were honored and blessed to have three visiting brothers from various districts of the General Church. These three brothers were Brother Frank Ciotti from Santa Ana, California, Brother Art Gehly from Fredonia, Pennsylvania, and Brother John Mancini from Tse Bonito, New Mexico.

The day began with the feeling that something spectacular was going to happen, and that happening was the presence and glory of the Spirit of God which filled the church. Brother Gehly introduced the service with the hymn *To See the Morning Light*, after which Brother John Mancini opened in prayer.

Brother Art Gehly introduced the service with some enlightening comments that were pertinent to our times. He reminded us that Jesus suffered pain and death for us, and He will *never* forsake us and promises to be with us to the end. The Apostle Paul shed tears over those who fell away from the Church. However, Brother Gehly emphasized that we must not forget the promises of the Lord. There is glory in the Church today and glorious events are occurring throughout all the Church. Brother Gehly stressed the fact that sin can be overcome and that it is *not* the most powerful power in this world. On the contrary, through the promises of God and His love, we are able to overcome sin.

Brother Gehly then chose to read passages of scripture from the *Book of Mormon*. He reminded us that the seed of Joseph had a promised land. Brother Gehly cited I Nephi 21:2-8 and the fourth chapter of Ether as he expounded on God's promises and the existence of living hope in The Church of Jesus Christ for the Seed of Joseph. He also emphasized the glory that shall reign in Zion and God's promises to us of hope and destiny (III Nephi 26).

Brother Gehly further made reference to the zeal and vitality of the young people and their importance in the Church. He emphasized that a commitment to the Lord is necessary if God's promises are to be carried out.

Afterward, the congregation was asked to sing *The Valleys Are Green*. Brother Ciotti then reflected upon the words of this hymn and added that there is hope, even in times of economic distress. God is real. The promises of God are real and He keeps His promises. We should think about doing something for Jesus and act on that thought. Brother Ciotti then elaborated on the lovely words of the Lord's prayer.

Brother Ciotti related to us a dream that Sister Lucy (Campitelle) Hemp had concerning the state of spiritual conditions in Detroit. He mentioned that Sister Josephine D'Amico appeared to her (Sister Lucy) and told her that Jesus would come to Detroit in glory as He had in Santa Ana. Brother Ciotti concluded with the remark that God is alive among us and that Jesus is in our midst.

Brothers Gehly and Mancini then honored us with the hymn, *He Planted Me Deep*. All were delighted to hear these brothers in harmony as they were once again united in song as in the days of their youth.

Following this beautiful duet, Brother Mancini spoke about the glory that is in Jesus and that emanates throughout the Church. He then related to us a beautiful and thought-provoking experience. One day, it occurred to Brother Mancini to ask his neighbor Randy, who lives across the street, to come to church with him that evening. However, when Brother Mancini walked over to invite him, he wasn't home. Now, Brother Mancini could not stop thinking about this neighbor, and after he went back home to finish some chores, he heard the sound of Randy's motorbike come up his driveway. Brother Mancini went to open the door and before he could say anything, Randy asked him if he could go to church with him that night. Randy told Brother Mancini that a voice had spoken to him and told him to go to Brother Mancini's house. Surely, the Lord's Spirit directed this young man.

Brother Mancini then spoke from III Nephi 21, which concerns the signs of God's work and the glorious destiny of repentant Gentiles. He also referred to Alma 33.

(Continued on Page 11)

Youngstown, OH

By Linda Italiano

Our cups were surely filled with the blessings of God on Sunday, July 8, 1984. An open invitation was issued by Brother Henry Cardillo, in the morning service, to attend the ordination of two of our young brothers, Michael Italiano and Paul Pezzenti, to the office of teacher. Many spouses, children, and relatives of the saints returned to share in our joy.

Brother Ralph Berardino opened the service with the song *Take My Life, and Let It Be*, and Sister Sandy Cardillo was requested to sing the same hymn. Brother Ralph then spoke from Ephesians 4, beseeching our new teachers to walk worthy of the vocation to which they were called, and endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. He expounded upon the duties a teacher must perform and also the role his family must assume to help him to do the Lord's work.

The ordinance of feet washing then took place with Brother Don Pandone washing Brother Mike's feet and Brother Richard Santilli washing Brother Paul's feet. Brother Mike was anointed by Brother Henry Cardillo and Brother Paul by Brother Ralph Berardino. This was followed by the Youngstown Quartet singing *There's Something About That Name*. Truly a spirit of humility, love and joy prevailed throughout the meeting.

We were also blessed with the visits of many of our brothers and sisters from out of town. Among our visitors were Brother and Sister Nick Ritz from Florida, Sister Celia Beyou from California, Brother and Sister Louis Pandone, and Brother and Sister Richard Pandone.

Our prayers are certainly with our new teachers and we are sure that with God's help, they will carry out the duties of their office.

Aliquippa, PA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

Sunday, September 9, 1984 was a day filled with blessings as the Lord's Spirit prevailed in our midst throughout the entire day.

Brother Joseph Ross began our day by very eloquently bringing forth a message that applied to members of the Church as well as those who have yet to make their covenant with God. Brother Joe used "The Sermon on the Mount" for his text, specifically Matthew 7:21-27. Our brother stated that in this sermon the Lord is instructing us how we should live, and if we but do the will of the Father we will be likened unto a wise man whose house is built upon a rock. Brother Joe encouraged those who had yet to become members of the Church that the way to build their "spiritual houses" upon a solid foundation is by being baptized into the Church. He continued explaining that it is not good enough to obey *some* of the Lord's commandments, but *all* must be obeyed.

Brother Joe then spoke to the members of the Church. He said that being baptized is not all we must do, but we must continue to build upon our foundations by doing all the things the Lord has instructed us to do. Our brother concluded by saying, "If we do all these things God will welcome us into His rest as good and faithful servants."

Brother Paul Palmieri followed and related the familiar children's story, "The Three Little Pigs." He told of how one of the three pigs built a strong house made of brick to prevail against the menacing wolf. Brother Paul stated that the wolf in this story can be likened to the power of evil and we like this pig must build a strong house to prevail against this power. Our brother continued by relating a dream that was had by a person contemplating baptism. In the dream a house that was founded upon a sandy beach was seen. A great wind arose and destroyed the house. The dream prompted this person to call for his baptism, showing him that we must have a solid foundation. Brother Paul closed by asking, "Where do we want to be when the winds arise? In a house made of a weak foundation or one whose foundation is built upon a rock?" He also asked, "Where do we want to stand before God when the trumpet is sounded? Will we stand upon a solid rock or a foundation of sinking sand?"

We very much enjoyed the words of our brothers, instructing us to build our spiritual houses upon a solid foundation. We closed our morning service thankful for God's Spirit which had been with us, and anticipated more blessings in our afternoon meeting.

Those blessings were felt the moment we returned to the building as we saw Brother Anthony Palmieri sitting in his familiar seat on the rostrum for the first time since being afflicted with a stroke two years ago. Tears of joy fell from our eyes as our prayer was answered with the return of Brother Tony to our midst.

Brother Tony opened our afternoon service by expressing his thanks to God for what He has done for him and allowing him to be back in church. He thanked the brothers and sisters for their prayers and hoped that God would continue to give him the strength to come to church.

Brother Charles Jumper then commented that Brother Palmieri is a true testimony to God's goodness and to the power of prayer. Brother Charles stated that we have been praying for Brother Tony for a long time and the Lord has heard our prayer.

A wonderful blessing was felt in the passing of sacrament and in the testimonies of the saints. Many told of their happiness to see Brother Tony and of the many good things the Lord has done for them.

We closed our meeting with one of Brother Tony's favorite hymns, *O Paradise*, and then our brother closed the meeting in prayer. Words cannot fully express the beauty of seeing the saints line the aisles leading to the front of the church to greet Brother Tony. What a joyous feeling it was to see him and embrace him again!! We thank God for this wonderful day and for answering our prayers. Our hope is that God will continue to bless the afflicted not only in our branch, but throughout the entire Church.

Bronx, NY

By G. Benyola

Sister Josephine Benyola, of the Bronx, New York Branch, celebrated her 53rd year in The Church of Jesus Christ on October 11, 1984. Brother Louis Mazzeo took Sister Josephine and her companion, Brother Tony, into the waters of baptism on October 11, 1931. They were both confirmed by Brother Bill Mazzeo on the same day in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. (We pay special tribute to Brother Tony Benyola, who passed on to his reward in June, 1981, after a long period of illness).

Many years have gone by since that day at the water's edge, but Sister Josephine's firmness and faith in the Gospel has never wavered and has always been an inspiration to all of us. As she found herself in the valley so many times throughout her life, it was her strong faith in God that immediately put her on top of that mountain where the beauty of the Gospel is ineffable.

Sister Josephine had a very encouraging experience regarding faith several years ago, which proved to be a tremendous inspiration to her then and for the years to follow in her life.

She dreamed that Brother Joe Benyola, who had already passed on to his reward, called her on the telephone. To her surprise she said, "Joe, is that you?" You see, she knew that he had passed on, so getting a telephone call from him was quite a surprise. He said, "Yes, it's me and I know that you have been very discouraged so when you go to church call Hymn No. 302 and you will feel much better." When she woke she remembered the dream but didn't know what Hymn No. 302 was. When she opened the book she cried as she read the title, "Faith Is the Victory." A beautiful message at a most opportune time by a brother she loved and confided in many times throughout her life.

"Faith Is the Victory" has been her theme and her strength throughout her life in the Church. May God continue to bless her life, and may she remain deeply rooted in The Church of Jesus Christ for many years to come.

San Diego, CA

By Ralph Frammolino

The Lord has blessed the San Diego Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ and many souls have heeded the call for repentance and baptism into the Restored Gospel.

Sister Glenda Soriano was baptized May 13 after God granted her a healing. For months, Sister Glenda had been skeptical of the love she found in the Church but was assured many times by the Lord that it was real. One evening, she was helping her husband, Brother John, perform some chores in their garage when the door came down on her neck.

Needless to say, she didn't feel well,

but she didn't think to call upon the elders for prayer until a voice told her in the night to have Brother Tom Liberto anoint her. She and Brother John called on Brother Tom, who prayed for the sister. The pain instantly left and she asked for her baptism. She was taken into the watery grave by Brother Tom and confirmed by Brother Ralph Frammolino.

One month later, God worked on the hearts of Brother Sam Hemmings and Sister Mary Alaburda. These two young people had been attending services in San Diego for some time and it was quite evident they felt the Spirit working in their lives. Brother Sam's family background is steeped in the Church, whereas Sister Mary represents the first generation of her family in the Gospel.

They were baptized June 10. Brother Herb Hemmings of Pine Top, Arizona baptized and confirmed his son. Brother Paul Liberto baptized Sister Mary and Brother Tom Liberto confirmed her into the Gospel. The day was a season of blessings, with Brother Hemmings preaching to the congregation that "we don't have to take a back seat to any organization when it comes to singing, when it comes to preaching and when it comes to the love of the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

On August 12, two more souls were added to the fold. Sister Lisa Cicatti was baptized by her father, Brother Lou Cicatti, and confirmed by Brother Ralph Frammolino. Sister Jill Coppa was baptized by Brother Jim Huttenburger of the Anaheim Branch and confirmed by Brother Ken Jones of the Santa Ana Mission. The confirmations were performed during a Sunday evening service in San Diego.

Both Sister Lisa and Sister Jill called for their baptisms earlier in the week during a glorious California MBA Campout. During the last evening service on August 10, Sister Lisa stood on her feet and made her intentions known to follow Christ. Her actions had been seen in a vision given earlier to another sister, a beautiful witness to the truth of our sister's calling.

Sister Jill called for her baptism and then waited until the next day to telephone her parents in Michigan. This, too, was in the plan of God because earlier in the week her father, Brother Elio Coppa of Detroit, was given a dream in which he saw Jill calling home. Then the Spirit spoke to him and

said: "Mark this date on your calendar. August 11." As it happens, that was the day Sister Jill called for real.

But our joy was not over. The Spirit of the campout pervaded the Branch. After the Sunday morning meeting of August 12, Brother Eddie Noel, who is stationed nearby in the service, called presiding elder Ken Surdock aside and quietly asked for baptism. And during the Sunday night meeting, during which the Power of God was manifest in the confirmations of our sisters and in prayer, Sister Karen Liberto was touched by the song of Zion, *He Planted Me Deep*. She asked to be born again.

These baptisms were performed one week later, August 19. Brother Paul Liberto baptized his daughter and Brother Eddie. Sister Karen was confirmed by Brother Tom Liberto, her uncle, and Brother Eddie was given the Holy Ghost by Brother Lou Cicatti.

The saints in San Diego are certainly grateful for this harvest and we pray that many more souls here and throughout the Church would come to God rather than die in the desert of sin.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

We of the McKees Rocks Branch would like to praise God for His many blessings.

On Saturday, July 14, 1984, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at our new church property which is located at 227 Herbst Road, Kennedy Township, McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. With great joy we listened as we heard from our elders and the Board of Trustees reminding us of the great labor of love that has brought us thus far in the construction of our new church building. As the saints held hands, our Presiding Elder, Brother Richard Lawson, offered a beautiful prayer in thanksgiving to God, as well as petitioning God for His continued direction.

Monday, August 13, 1984, Sister Fannie Casasanta of our branch along with Sister Dorothy Schaeffer from Monongahela departed for India to assist Sister Darlene Large with the children in the orphanages there. They were planning to stay for approximately one month. As we read in the Word of

(Continued on Page 10)

McKEES ROCKS continued . . .

God, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

We are thankful that on Sunday, September 2, 1984, another soul rendered obedience to this precious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Sister Sherri Reed asked for her baptism in the Sunday service at the Pennsylvania Area Campout. She was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti. Some of the brothers and sisters of our branch were not present at the campout; therefore, it was decided that the confirmation of our new sister would take place at a special meeting that evening in McKees Rocks. This service was well attended as we enjoyed visitors from New Jersey, Michigan, Ohio, and various branches of the Pennsylvania District.

Brother Paul Palmieri read from Mosiah, Chapter 18 and spoke to us about those that were baptized at the waters of Mormon. He referred to the great change that took place in the lives of those that were baptized by Alma and how that we today receive this same change of heart. He stated that this day the angels in heaven were singing, *There's a New Name Written Down in Glory*. It was the name of Sister Sherri Reed. Our new sister was then confirmed by Brother William Colangelo. A beautiful spirit prevailed as our young sister received the Gift of the Holy Ghost. The meeting was opened for testimony and many saints offered their praise and thanks to God. We also heard from our new sister as she testified she has been overwhelmed by the love of God in this Church. She has been attending for approximately six months and she knew that today was her day. She said her life has been changed completely. We praise God for this and for all of His blessings.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Brother Steve Champine was ordained a deacon on Sunday, September 16. His feet were washed by Brother Mike Dragonetti, and he was ordained by Brother Carl Frammolino. Brother Steve, along with his wife, Sister Kathy, was baptized on Sunday, February 19, 1978. He was led into the waters by Brother Louis Vitto and confirmed by Brother Tony Gerace.

When Brother Frank DiDonato was advised of the impending ordination, he wanted to do something special. He asked the Presiding Elder, Brother Sam DiFalco, for permission to call a fast and prayer service for Sunday morning. Permission was granted and all the ordained brothers of the Branch, along with Brother Steve, attended and a wonderful spiritual service resulted.

Our adult Sunday School classes were combined and were presided over by Brother Spencer Everett. He read several passages in the Bible concerning ordained officers. He related how it is God who directs the priesthood as to who is to be ordained, and this is done through revelation.

The ministry needs support and they receive this through the help of the deacons, deaconesses and teachers. The office of deacon is more in the Church than being a janitor; it could be called a ministry of health—a helper or reliever—one who will cheerfully visit the sick and help the elders in any way they can. A deacon must have the same qualifications as an elder. He must be filled with the Holy Ghost and become humbled, "The only way up is down." The world operates on popularity, but God looks at the inner being, how close the person is living to Him.

After Sunday School, we went into the morning service. Brother Tony Lovalvo offered the opening prayer. Before praying, he said, "We should borrow the slogan from AT&T, 'Reach out and touch someone.'" We sang *Amazing Grace*, and Brother Joe Calabrese spoke, stating that he could feel the presence of the Holy Spirit here today. There is a difference in just saying it and actually feeling it. If we reach out, we can receive a blessing that we can take home with us. There will be many times when we will wish we had a blessing. We should put our blessings in a bank, so to speak, to receive interest and allow them to grow, so that when we need them, we can withdraw a blessing or two. No one is exempt from feeling a blessing, but each of us must work for it.

Brother Joe read from Ephesians 4:11-12. He told of how Stephen, along with six others, were made the first deacons. Stephen was later stoned to death as Saul held the coats of those who stoned him. Stephen looked up and he beheld the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

The Lord saw determination in Saul,

and caused him to be stricken down. Saul repented of his sins and his name was changed to Paul. He became a true follower of Christ, a prisoner of God, and a captive of the Holy Spirit. Paul told the Ephesians how to set up the Church, the same way we do it today. God wanted men that could be used. After the death of Jesus, the Apostles needed help so they called men who were filled with the Holy Ghost to assist them. Thus the offices of deacons and teachers were established. Today, we fast, we pray, we ask God to direct us. Let us look at the depth of this Church. We are not just another church, we are The Church of Jesus Christ.

We sang *An Angel Came Down* while sacrament was being prepared. Brother Sam DiFalco addressed us, saying that our cup is overflowing, God gives us so much. The priesthood of this branch have prayed for help and trusted in God to provide that help. He told of the experience of Brother Steve, who dreamed he was visiting with Brother Mike Dragonetti (one of our older deacons) and in one corner of the room was a huge stack of gold bricks, all belonging to Brother Mike. He gave some of the bars to Brother Steve and told him to give them to the brothers and sisters and the young people. Then Brother Sam related to us a dream had by Sister Sarah DiFalco. It seemed that she and Brother Sam arrived at the church and Brother Steve and his wife were already here. She saw Brother Sam hand Brother Steve two keys and she heard him say, "We are giving you two keys, one is to the building, the other is a spiritual key." These two dreams were an answer to what the ministry had been praying for. We believe our dear Brother Mike is pure gold as he approaches old age, as he has stood firm and strong in times of trouble.

Brother Sam asked all the deacons and the teachers who had held this office to come forward and sit in the front row. He told them, along with the priesthood, whomever felt the Spirit upon them, to wash Brother Steve's feet. Brother Mike Dragonetti leaped up and as he washed our brother's feet, he prayed in his native Italian. The elders then knelt around Brother Steve, and Brother John Buffa prayed. As he was praying, Brother Sam asked God who would be chosen by Him to ordain Brother Steve, and a voice told him, "Brother Carl." Brother Frammolino then anointed Brother Steve a deacon.

Brother Sam said he often asks himself if he could stand as Stephen of

old did. If we have the Spirit of God upon us, as did Stephen, we will be able to endure any torture inflicted upon us for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us all have a prayer in our hearts for our newly-ordained brother.

We came back for an evening service, where we sang many beautiful hymns. There were testimonies of visions seen in the morning service which were related by Sister Beatrice Parker and Sister Lena Ciaglia of Inner City Branch. Brother Frank DiDonato requested we read the 133rd Psalm concerning unity. The first verse reads: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"

Brother Steve sang *To God Be the Glory*. Brother Lou Vitto then repeated something Sister Beatrice said in her testimony: "If God reveals something to us, we should not just keep it to ourself, we should share it with our brothers and sisters." If we don't, we might lose the gift God has given us to receive His revelations. Brother Lou then said, "Let us all look up to Christ and see Him looking down at us."

The Champine Brothers sang *It's My Desire*, and we were dismissed by Brother Tony Scolaro. We met in the basement for a period of fellowship and refreshment. We all had a very enjoyable day.

DETROIT, BRANCH 3 continued . . .

Brother Paul Whitton, our presiding elder, stressed the importance of making and keeping our commitment to the Lord. He reminded us of how we can overcome sin through the power of God's love and His promises. Brother Jack Pontillo then closed in prayer.

All those who heard our brothers were very touched by the message they brought forth. Each one of them added, in his own unique way, a better understanding to the glory of God and His beautiful promises. This day, many of us felt uplifted and on that mountain top, as the Spirit of God moved throughout the meeting. We thank our brothers for joining us and ask that God will deliver His Spirit to their branches and that His glory will reign forever!

Correction

In the May, 1984 issue of *The Gospel News*, the baptismal date for Apostle Anthony Corrado was given as February 7, 1923. The correct date is January 7, 1923. We apologize for the error.

INDIA continued . . .

Once again, I thank and praise God and I am grateful to the Church for giving me the privilege of expressing myself freely and permitting me the opportunity to attend the World Missionary Conference. Thank you all for your kindness.

Praise ye the Lord all ye saints and glorify His name at all costs, among all nations, kindreds, people and tongues.

Elder B. D. Livingston
Tadepalligudem, S. India

OUR WOMEN TODAY continued . . .

Circle 54 years), to our youngest member. As each sister's name was mentioned she shared a special memory from previous Ladies' Circle experiences. We were all surprised at how much we had forgotten over the past years, but felt very thankful for all of God's blessings.

I am sure that each sister can say it was well worth the time and effort spent in preparing for our retreat, and we are very grateful for the joy we felt as we shared God's love with one another.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. (Prov. 16:32)

A Fine Line of Honesty

I feel so dirty; I feel so unclean.

When God said "forgiveness," what did He mean?

Am I fit to live? To be counted among the saints?

Or when I face Jesus with fear will I faint?

Is there a hope? Is there a way?

Would I be ready if God came today?

Are my hands doing the things that they should?

Can I honestly say that my works are good?

Have I stolen a penny or told a white lie?

Am I forgetting that I'm in God's eye?

Were I in perfection, would I these words write?

Is there something wrong or am I seeing the Light?

Have the evils of justification begun to set in?

Am I calling wrong right when I know it's a sin?

When the rains come will I be on the land,

Or will I be mired in the shifting sands?

Am I like the world that goes floating on by,

Or am I strong enough to turn against the tide?

Have I turned the beliefs that I once held with pride

Into something immoral and laid them aside?

You may think this is harsh; you may think this is cruel;

But I'm going to do God's work and I'll follow His rules.

I have to be perfect. I have to be a saint.

So I'll walk with God's promise and I know I won't faint.

Sister Lisa DiFalco

* **WEDDINGS** *

GAY—BUCCI

Mr. Thomas K. Gay and Miss Christina M. Bucci were united in holy wedlock on June 30, 1984 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bride's great-uncle, Evangelist T. Dom Bucci, officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Brother Ralph Berardino. Musical selections were played and sung by Sister Betty Gennaro.

May the Lord bless both husband and wife in their new life together.

CHAMPINE—SCOLARO

Brother Lawrence Albert Champine and Sister Rosanne Joy Scolaro were brought together in holy matrimony on September 29, 1984 at Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Brother Peter A. Scolaro, brother to the bride, presided over the service with the assistance of Brother Sam DiFalco of the Sterling Heights Branch.

Brother Eugene Amormino played the piano and organ, and Brother Steve Champine and Sister Marilyn Scolaro sang two songs written for the occasion by the bride.

The newlyweds will reside in Detroit. Our prayer is that God would continue to direct them in all that they do.

RAACH—CONRAD

Brother William Raach and Sister Cindy Conrad were united in holy matrimony on March 11, 1984, at the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

Brother Richard Christman officiated. Musical selections were played by Sister Yvonne Saffron.

May the couple enjoy the peace and blessing that only Holy Spirit can bestow.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

New Arrivals

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

Daniel Thomas to Kim and Nancy Hemmings of San Diego, California;

Carlin Alexander to Charleston and Rhonda Crump Hester of Fort Pierce, Florida;

Carly Ann to Joseph and Lenore Sommerville Milleson of Fort Pierce, Florida;

Dominic David to Dominic and Debbie DiBattista of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Megan Elyse to Jared and Carol Ann Thomas of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2.

Children Blessed

On September 20, 1984, Kara Lynn Wright was blessed at the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Frank Rogolino.

OBITUARIES

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

ALBERTA D. BARLETT

Sister Alberta D. Barlett of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on August 1, 1984. She was born on May 1, 1919.

Surviving are her husband Brother Clair, her mother, a son, two daughters, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers James P. Moore and Robert Buffington.

ELMA GROSS

Sister Elma Gross of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch passed from this life on August 21, 1984. She was born on February 17, 1917 and became a member of the Church on September 7, 1951. Our sister was a deaconess in the Church.

Brother Harold Burge and Brother Russ Martorana conducted the funeral.

In addition to her spiritual family, Sister Elma will be especially missed by her husband, Brother Orville, her daughter and three sons, her natural brother and four sisters, and her 19 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

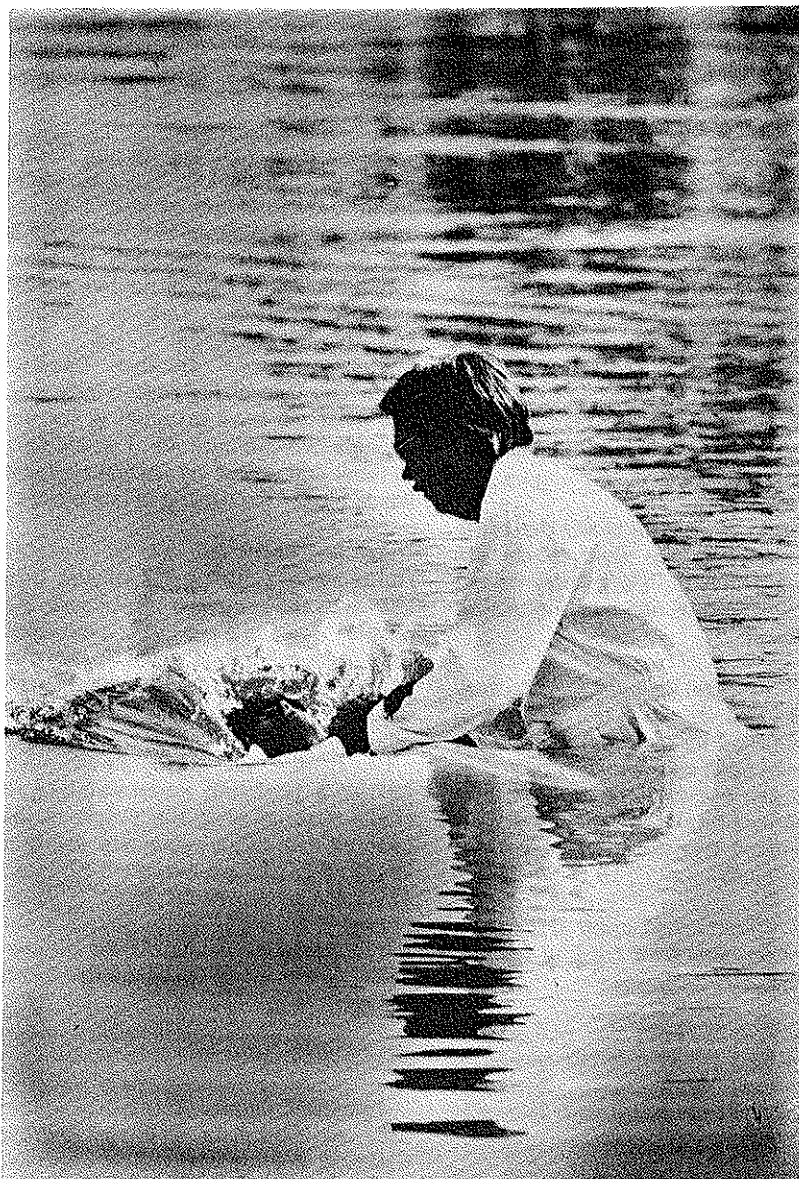
The Gospel News

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

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December, 1984

Volume 40, No. 12



As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us rejoice in the opportunity He has given each of us to achieve a spiritual re-birth.

Apostles Speak at October Conference

By Anthony J. Scolaro

Brother Russel Cadman and Brother V. James Lovalvo, two members of the quorum of twelve apostles of the Church, addressed a congregation of elders, teachers, and members on Saturday morning, October 20, 1984. Both apostles delivered inspired messages pertaining to the plan of God and the glorious mission of the Church. They left the saints with a clear picture of what we must do to align ourselves with the progress of Zion.

Apostle Joe Lovalvo of Modesto, California, president of the quorum, introduced the meeting. He explained how the apostles meet from time to time to discuss ways to improve the spiritual well-being of the Church. In all their endeavors, the apostles seek the direction and the revelation of the Lord, asking Him for wisdom and understanding concerning the many issues they face.

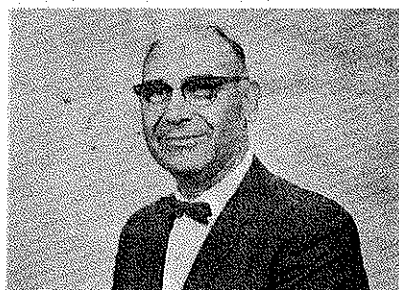
Today, Brother Joe told us, the brothers were not going to 'tickle our ears' with beautiful words, but rather they desired to stir up our hearts and souls to a greater realization of what we must do. Brother Joe asked all of us to remember the apostles in prayer as they endeavor to guide the Church. "We need your help," Brother Joe pleaded, "to fight the fight."

BROTHER CADMAN'S ADDRESS

Our first main speaker was Apostle

(Continued on Page 2)

Greetings in Christ



There is an ocean—cold water without motion. In this ocean, however, is the Gulf Stream, hot water flowing from the equator towards the Pole. Inquire of all scientists how it is physically imaginable that a stream of hot water flows between the waters of the ocean, which, so to speak, form its banks, the moving within the motionless, the hot within the cold. No scientist can explain it. Similarly, there is the God of love within the God of the forces of the universe—one with Him, and yet so totally different. We let ourselves be seized and carried away by that vital stream.

I spent four beautiful days in wonderful Portland, Oregon, known as the City of Roses, and indeed it is, with the great Columbia River flowing between Portland and Vancouver, Washington. I can truly say that this was a continual meeting from the time I arrived till I departed. I met with Brother Dean Longrie at his Forestry Department office on Friday and Sunday for our usual meeting. I also met the four daughters of Sister Mable Lassen. Judy, the oldest, has a beautiful voice and a heart more precious than gold.

The love of God flowed like the hot streams of water between the two cold sides of the ocean which the unbelieving world cannot explain or think possible. We need young missionaries with a mission at heart. The field is still plenteous, but the laborers are still few.

When Lenin spoke of spreading the doctrine of Communism, he said we must have the zeal of a Christian to overcome the world. Communism is overcoming, but what has happened to the zeal of a Christian?

In our city a survey was taken by the Ministers' Association in regards to pornography. Seventy-two percent oppose its evil, but only two persons protested to the city council. Has Christendom lost the zeal? Or is it temporarily put on

(Continued on Page 4)

APOSTLES continued . . .

Russel Cadman of Fredonia, Pennsylvania. Brother Cadman addressed us on a very inspiring topic, one that has always been very dear to him: the Church's hope of the Peaceful Reign and the establishment of Zion. Though some of his comments were directed more toward the priesthood, all of what our brother said this morning was pertinent to the membership of the Church as a whole.

Brother Russel read from Alma 13:3, instructing us to apply its contents to our priesthood today:

And this is the manner after which they were ordained—being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding faith and good works; in the first place being left to choose good or evil; therefore they having chosen good, and exercising exceeding great faith, are called with a holy calling, yea, with that holy calling which was prepared with, and according to, a preparatory redemption for such.

Brother Russel explained to us that he read these words to us today in order to refresh our minds of this great calling into the Church and into the kingdom of God. "We are His people." Brother Cadman told us. "We must accept this fact very humbly—not lifted up with pride, but with humbleness and meekness of heart."

Our brother went on to say that none can come unto the Son unless the Father draws him. "Do we understand the seriousness of our position and of our calling?"

Brother Russel brought to our attention that this church is the *last* one to be established by an angel of God. He impressed upon us both the seriousness and the glory of our Church. "We have the responsibility of bringing every nation, kindred, tongue, and people to the glory of God!"

Our brother turned again to the Book of Mormon, this time reading from II Nephi 22:11:

Wherefore, the Lord God will proceed to make bare his arm in the eyes of all the nations, in bringing about his covenants and his gospel unto those who are of the house of Israel.

Brother Cadman dwelled upon the word 'proceed' for a moment, explaining how the word conveys a sense of

progression or continuity. "The Lord will not make His arm bare all at once," Brother Cadman explained, "but I see it rather like God rolling up His sleeve, a little at a time. As God *proceeds* to make bare His arm, let us *proceed* with Him. Let us *proceed* in righteousness. Let us *advance*. We are *going* to do it, no matter how stubborn we may seem at times. We have no *conception* of the potential advancement of the people of God, to the state of righteousness where Jesus Christ would come down to dwell with us."

Our brother referred next to Ether 4:7, which speaks of the Gentiles: "And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me . . . even as the brother of Jared did . . ." Once again Brother Cadman pointed out the significance of the verb, in this case the use of the word 'shall,' which here expresses determination, compulsion, obligation, or necessity on the part of the Gentiles.

"Let's start building up our faith," Brother Russel told us, "because we're *going* to do it sooner or later." In the meantime, he pointed out, it's possible for us to *hinder* the birth of Zion, through a lack of faith or not living close enough to God. "Let us become sanctified—cleansed of *all* unrighteousness," Brother Cadman said. "Our Church has come a long way, but what we have attained is not yet enough. We can improve. I would hate to think that any of my unrighteousness would hinder the healing of our people."

As he exhorted us to greater righteousness, Brother Cadman held before us the promises of God unto His people: " . . . Then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them *all* my revelations . . ."

Our Brother Cadman spoke as a seer, having a profound understanding of God's dealings with His people in the past, as well as an expansive vision of the Church's future and the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. "These things will only come about," our brother said in closing, "if we are obedient to the Lord in all things. In *all* things."

BROTHER LOVALVO'S ADDRESS

Apostle V. James (Jim) Lovalvo from Lindsay, California, followed Brother Cadman, dealing first with the meaning of 'foreknowledge.' He explained to us

(Continued on Page 3)

My Ship Came In

When I was a young man a seed was planted in my heart. It was planted by the Spirit of God in The Church of Jesus Christ. I had a desire to serve God, but I never seemed to find the time.

Shortly after graduating from high school I had made plans to be married to a beautiful young lady, but it did not work out and it left me heartbroken. It seemed like the whole world was going to fall in. Then I remembered that God was there and that He would comfort me.

One night I had a dream. I was on an island walking around with many of my friends. This island had no grass; the ground was just dirt. There were trees, but they didn't have any branches on them. It was a very dark and dreary place. As we were walking around, I looked out to the water and a ship came by. It was a very beautiful ship, brilliant white, and on the deck of this ship there were men sitting. These men were sitting just like the elders do in front of the church. I noticed the men looking at me, then I turned away and continued walking on the island. I began to feel lonely and I was getting bored, then this beautiful ship came by again. I was looking at the ship and then I turned to look at one of my friends. He shook his head as if to say no. When I turned back to the ship it was gone.

I then began walking the island again. This place was still very lonely and I began to wonder about the ship. Then the ship returned, its gleaming white color was shining brightly and the men were still sitting on the deck looking at me. A gangplank was lowered to me and I walked on board. As I stepped on to the ship a beautiful feeling came over me. All my loneliness left and I felt as if I didn't have a problem in the world. While this wonderful feeling came over me, I looked into one of the rooms and there was a beautiful young lady greeting me. Then the dream ended.

The Lord was telling me what the world had to offer. The man who shook his head at me telling me not to leave the island is now a successful businessman, and though I didn't want to believe it, God was telling me that I would have to obey the Gospel before I could find a wife.

In the spring of 1980 my life became very lonely and it seemed that the whole world was on my shoulders. So again I

petitioned the Lord in prayer. He told me to repent or He would destroy me!

I had made up my mind to go to church the very next Sunday and be baptized. On Saturday my mother asked me if I was going to church; I told her maybe. I didn't want to tell her what was on my mind. That night Satan began to tempt me. I got my Bible out and flicked through the pages. I opened it at random and began reading in II Corinthians and I felt the Spirit of God come over me. This was very comforting.

The next morning my mother and I set out for Detroit, Branch 3. Brother Dan Parravano from Branch 2 was visiting. He spoke of how God is truly our father and about the love He demonstrates to us by leaving room for every man to reconcile himself.

As Brother Dan went on, he began reading from II Corinthians 5:14. When I heard these words a tremendous shock hit me; he was reading the exact verses I had read the night before.

My heart began pounding so hard I thought that everyone could hear it. I then looked at Brother Dan and I saw he was standing in a bright light. I thought my eyes were playing tricks on me, so I glanced away. It was cloudy and pouring rain outside. How could this bright light be beaming in? When I looked at Brother Dan again, this bright light he was standing in was still there. As I looked the light grew larger and larger.

I knew I could not deny my Savior any longer. God was telling me it was time to leave the island of the world and walk on board His ship of love. I stood and asked to be baptized. I can tell you the love that I have felt from that moment forward cannot be surpassed. I never imagined that life could be so beautiful. I thank God for remembering me. I sail through life's sea now with a new found strength because I know Jesus is at the helm.

May God bless all of you.

Your Brother in Christ
Mike Coppa
Detroit, Michigan

APOSTLES continued . . .

that the foreknowledge of God is not to be confused with the false notion of predestination. God gives every man and woman the opportunity to choose good or evil for themselves, but through His ability to see all things, God knows before hand what path in life each of us will choose. It is through this foreknowledge of all things that the Lord has called and prepared His people from the foundation of the world.

Brother Jim touched also upon the topic of the high priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. Again, many of his words were directed to the ministry but were edifying and very enlightening to all present this morning.

This priesthood, Brother Jim explained, is a priesthood after the order of the Son of God. No college, no diploma can bestow this priesthood upon a man. It must come from the Lord. But what distinguishing mark is there upon the priesthood that testifies of their authority? "It is the life we lead," Brother Jim answered, "a life of righteousness."

Our brother continued, reading from Alma 13:12, where the priesthood "could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence." Brother Jim asked us today, "Would we allow our hands to be burned over a flame or in a container of acid? Sin has the same effect on us spiritually—it burns us and we suffer for it."

Brother Jim noted how predominant sin has become in our society. The immorality that we see all around us has, in the past, caused the great empires of the world to fall. As he was thus elaborating on the evils that are so widely accepted today, a brother rose to his feet and spoke under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost:

"BE FAITHFUL, O MY PEOPLE. ABSTAIN FROM THESE THINGS WHICH HAVE BEEN SPOKEN OF TODAY. THUS SAITH THE LORD, AMEN."

Our Brother Lovalvo went on, advising us to teach our children in their youth to turn away from the things that are evil. He enumerated to the priesthood and to all the members the reasons why we must strive to live more righteously. "The closer we come to God," Brother Jim said, "the closer Zion will be to us, the easier we can say

(Continued on Page 4)

California Campout

By Rosemary Scalise

While the city of Los Angeles basked in the glory of the XXIII Olympiad, the members of The Church of Jesus Christ California District basked in the glory of God's Spirit at Camp Radford. Once again the spirit of fifteen years ago was felt.

1969 was brought back to our memories as we went through all the activities of the past. There were seminars for all ages from the very young to the senior citizens, and games and crafts for all ages. There was plenty of food at all meals, hosted by Sister Mary Scalise and members of Bell Branch. A candy store in the evenings was run by Brother and Sister Knowles.

We had many visitors from throughout the nation. We also had Apostles Bob Watson and Joe Lovalvo and their families with us, and their presence was very encouraging to all present.

Saturday, August 4, was the day of arrival. Many brothers and sisters arrived and were anxious to get settled in their cabins and dorms. Those who had not previously registered were very well taken care of by Sister Diane McDonnell. There was an air of great anticipation throughout the camp.

On Sunday Brother Bob Watson opened the meeting speaking on Philip and the eunuch and how we must preach the gospel to all men. There was a beautiful spirit during sacrament. The evening meeting was filled with the Spirit as we sang *The Songs of Zion*. There were also many beautiful testimonies. On Monday, we started our seminars which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The theme was "Back to Basics." We also started "Olympic Games" organized by Brothers Randy Ciccatti and Mark Coppa. Everyone was urged to participate.

On Tuesday, Brother Joe Lovalvo opened our evening service with a stirring message on "Love" and encouraged us to love one another which is the "basic" ingredient in our service to God. There were also many people who asked to be anointed by the ministry, and many of them received.

On Wednesday, God truly poured His Spirit upon us in our evening meeting. As Brother Ysidro Dominguez of Tijuana preached, the Lord blessed

Brother Luis Pacheco with a vision of John the Divine and the three Nephites. Brother Matt Piccuito spoke in tongues at this time, and while he spoke, a sister saw a white whirlwind above his head. While we were praying for Sister Maryann Nicosia our Brother Pacheco saw her dressed in white with a gold belt and a gold crown upon her head. A 10-year-old Mexican girl saw Jesus Christ appear above the priesthood and He opened His arms and said "God loves you." Another brother saw a white blanket cover the congregation. Many were again anointed and God met their needs. While Brother Jim Huttenberger was anointing one he felt the evil spirit leave her and the power of God upon his hands. When he finished praying, the sister testified she felt the spirit leave her. Brother Paul Liberto felt the same power upon his hands as he anointed another for healing, and she immediately testified that she had been healed. God's Spirit was overwhelming as the meeting lasted until midnight. Praise God!

On Thursday, we had our talent night singspiration in which many beautiful praises unto God were sung in thanksgiving for His blessings the night before.

On Friday, the Olympic medals were given out to all winners in the Olympics. Our evening service was opened by Brother Steve Saffron who talked about what we learned at camp and how we should react after coming down from this mountain. Next, Brother Luis Pacheco spoke on the subject of baptism, after which the brothers and sisters from the Santa Ana Mission sang for us in Spanish. Brother Joe Lovalvo then spoke under great inspiration and at one point prophesied that Zion will be built by the next generation down from him. Brother Peter Genaro then spoke in the gift of tongues; the interpretation was "It is true." A sister from the Santa Ana Mission said in her testimony that there were two people who want to be baptized, but their hearts are hardened. As soon as she sat down a young man next to her got up and asked to be baptized. The other person was a young woman across the room, who also made her wishes known. The sister then said these were the two she saw in a vision the week prior and she knew they would be baptized. The power of God then overwhelmed all, even the little children. At one point, the elders encircled the children who were overcome with the blessings of God and prayed that God would bless them and take care of them. When it was all over,

13 young people had asked to be baptized. Truly the Spirit of God was with us as we closed our meeting at 2 a.m.

On Saturday there were many tired bodies, but revived spirits as we bade farewell to each other, eagerly anticipating our campout in '85 and hoping that God's Spirit will be as overwhelming as it was this year.

APOSTLES continued . . .

'be healed,' the easier we can preach with might and power from above."

Brother Joe Lovalvo followed his brother with a few closing remarks to the ministry at this inspiring Saturday morning service. "Let's present the Book of Mormon," he said. "If you have visitors at your branch, use the Book of Mormon in your sermon, don't refrain from doing so! How can we wave the flags of Zion across the land if we don't preach from the Book of Mormon?" To the congregation and to the entire membership of the Church, he spoke on behalf of the Quorum of Twelve, entreating us once again to live righteous lives. This, above all else, will align us with the Holy Spirit and unite us in the awesome work that the Lord has called each of us to do.

GREETINGS continued . . .

ice? Alma writes of being willingly humble. But he also asks, "Do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly humble themselves because of the word?" Alma 32:14

Pray for Portland, Oregon.

With love,
Brother Mark Randy

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

October Conference—A Step Forward

The Spiritual Conference of October, 1984 represented a step forward for the Church in more ways than one, as the priesthood was united both spiritually, through the ordinances of the Lord's Supper and Feet Washing, as well as naturally, as seminars were presented focusing on the Church's primary commission: Carrying the Restored Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

After the apostles addressed us Saturday morning (See page 1), we heard from the presiding evangelists of the seven districts of the Church, each with a good report of the Church's progress in his district.

A presentation combining scriptures and inspirational songs with slides of American Indians both within and outside of the Church was delivered on Friday evening to the priesthood and Saturday night in an open meeting. Its intent was to heighten our awareness of the great work we are faced with, and it served its purpose well.

Sunday's meeting was again centered on evangelism and our responsibility to Joseph's Seed. Powerful prayers, in which the congregation was deeply united, were offered on behalf of the Work of the Church and for the many afflicted among the saints. The gifts of the Spirit were made manifest, and God's peace was strongly felt throughout this Conference.

A song written by Sister Rosanne Champine for the slide presentation expresses very well the theme that pervaded the Conference:

STAND UP FOR THE RESTORATION*

*We, the Church of Jesus Christ,
We have the Truth here in our hands.
God's given us a work to do,
Yes, He's revealed a glorious plan.
The Restoration is the key
That unlocks Joseph's history.
Now it's up to you and me
To send the message out.*

*Let's tell them of their heritage,
Of a covenant from the past.
The promise God gave Israel
Was a promise meant to last.
We won't impose our culture,
We won't impose our ways.
But just tell of God's great plan for them
In these the latter days!*

*The harvest is great,
The laborers are few,
So there's something each of us can do.
The Father's sending out His plea,
"Oh, won't you come and work for Me?
Work for Me!"*

*Stand up for the Restoration.
Bring back Joseph's scattered nation.
Built on the rock of His revelation,
The Gospel must go out!*

*In the towns, on the reservations,
Let's call God's lost ones home.
And whether near or far,
Let's tell them who they are,
And how they'll rise again.*

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



God Shows His Power in a Strange Way

Dear Boys and Girls,

When King Mosiah asked each of his four sons to be the new king, they told their father that their hearts burned to tell people about God instead. At one time these young men and their friend, Alma, had led wild lives and gone about the Church causing terrible problems and confusion. The entire Church prayed that God would change them, and He did. He sent an angel who shook the earth to talk to them. After he did, they were sorry.

Mosiah's sons fasted and prayed much that the Lord would visit them with His Spirit and go with them so they could be used to tell the Lamanites about God. They took their swords and spears and their bows and arrows with them into the wilderness so they could provide food for themselves as they traveled.

Mosiah also was fasting and praying for his sons and the Lord promised him that He would spare the lives of his four sons as they went to the land of their enemies, the Lamanites. These men who loved God travelled through the wilderness many days before they reached the lands of the Lamanites. The Lord visited them with His Spirit. He told them, "Be patient in long-suffering and afflictions to show these people your belief in Me. I will use you to bring many souls to believe in God."

The brothers and those that were with them took courage and separated at the borders of the land. Ammon was chosen to go into the country of Ishmael. As he crossed the border, wild, rough Lamanite guards captured him and tied him up to bring him before their king. And this was their custom, so the king could decide whether to let him live or be killed.

The Lamanite king, whose name was Lamoni, liked Ammon. He talked with him and asked him what he wanted.

When Ammon replied, "I want to live here in this country of Ishmael," King Lamoni was pleased. He offered Ammon a chance to marry his daughter and live in luxury.

We may wonder if Ammon was tempted to do that, perhaps thinking, "I could always tell people here at the palace about God . . ." But Ammon thanked the king and told him he wanted to be a servant.

So King Lamoni gave Ammon the job of guarding his huge flocks of sheep. There were bands of sheep thieves who would scatter other people's flocks so they could herd the strays into their own flocks.

On his third day of work, Ammon was with the other shepherds taking the sheep to water, when a large group of Lamanites ran up and the frightened sheep scattered all over. The shepherds were terrified. They began to cry, "Now King Lamoni will kill us like he did the last shepherds who let his sheep be scattered and stolen!"

When Ammon saw them crying for fear of being killed, his heart filled with joy. As he prayed he thought, "I will now show these men the power of God that is in me, and gather up the sheep. Then their hearts will be glad and they'll believe my words."

So Ammon told the shepherds, "Don't fear! Let's search for the sheep and bring them back so the king won't kill us!"

Following Ammon, the shepherds rushed forth and gathered their sheep back to the watering place. But just as they finished their hard work, those same rough men stood to scatter the flocks again. Ammon told his friends to circle their sheep so they couldn't run while he went to deal with the Lamanites.

Those wild men had no fear of Ammon as he approached because he was one and they were many. When Ammon took his slingshot and began to shoot rocks at them, they all shot back. Ammon killed six Lamanites before they grabbed their clubs and ran at him to kill him.

They didn't know that God had promised to protect Mosiah's son. One after the other, they lifted their huge clubs to smash Ammon. Tirelessly he swung his sword and their club-carrying arms fell to the ground. They began to be astonished and after Ammon fought and killed their leader, the thieves turned and ran.

Ammon chased them far off, then returned to finish watering the sheep. The shepherds were amazed. They had seen one man possessed of great power fight a great number of men and not be killed. They did not know yet where that power came from, but they gathered up the arms of the men Ammon had fought and ran to tell the king.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan
2379 Stone Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

God	Ammon
Spirit	keep
led	sheep
land	need
Ishmael	water
Lamoni	in

I	N	O	M	M	A	I
I	P	E	E	H	S	D
N	E	O	E	H	P	R
O	E	L	M	D	I	E
M	K	A	K	G	R	T
A	E	N	O	T	I	A
L	E	D	M	G	T	W

Our Women Today

The Ladies' Uplift Circle General Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania on October 6, 1984. The Circles were represented from Canada, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

The Monongahela Circle took charge of the devotions by reading the Scripture and sang songs, telling us to make our lives a living sacrifice. Sister Mabel Bickerton, the president, encouraged the Circles to meet together no matter how many sisters are present. Read and search the Scriptures; continue to find the word and keep the Circle as it started out. With love and unity we will be able to continue this work in helping The Church of Jesus Christ with the missionary work.

The roll call of officers was had. The minutes of the last Conference held at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, were read and accepted. The reports of the districts in the Atlantic Coast, California, and Michigan were read plus the local Circle's reports. The questions assigned last Conference were, "When did the Lord cease to send manna to the children of Israel?" and "Find all the references pertaining to the sword of Laban." The first question was found in the Bible, Joshua 5:12 and Exodus 16:35 and the second question was found in The Book of Mormon, I Nephi 4:9, 18, 19, 21; II Nephi 5:14; Jacob 1:10; Mosiah 1:16; and Words of Mormon 13.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sister Cora Fowler, Brother Alma and Sister Vina Cadman, Sister Grace D'Angelo, Brother Luigi DeLuca, Brother Chris Thoman, Sister Herta Tiedtke, Sister Anita Hopkins, Charles Jumper, Sr., Sister Mary Buscemi, and Ammon Alexander Kovacic (baby).

The by-laws are printed and are on sale for thirty-five cents each.

The money was donated to the Church for the Indian Missionary work, including the needs in Mexico, for the

two African students we are sponsoring, the printing fund for the by-laws, and to India and Africa relief.

The officers elected for the coming year are:

President	- Mabel Bickerton
Vice President	- Ruth Akerman
Secretary	- Lucetta Scaglione
Asst. Secretary	- Kathy Smith
Fin. Secretary	- Joyceann Jumper
Treasurer	- Dora Rossi
Asst. Treasurer	- Elizabeth Eiler
Librarian	- Betty Ann Manes
Editor	- Mary Tamburrino
Card Sender	- Mary Criscuolo
Auditors	- Joan Gibson
	- Sarah Palmieri

The next Circle Conference will be held at Detroit, Michigan on March 30, 1985.

Sister Fannie Casasanta and Sister Dorothy Schaffer reported on their recent trip to India.

Michigan-Ontario Area Circle

By Mary Criscuolo

The Michigan-Ontario District Ladies' Uplift Circle gathered together at Detroit Branch 4 on September 25, 1984 to introduce our Inner City sisters to the Ladies' Circle. After singing and opening prayer, scripture was read concerning Dorcas; the love she had for her sisters and her good works among them, and the love her sisters had toward her (Acts 9:36-42).

The "Aims of the Ladies' Circle" was read along with the pledge that each new member takes. We were asked to consider the benefits of being a member of the Ladies' Circle and being part of the "team."

Sister Arline Whitton asked the sisters to look around the room and if there was a sister we didn't know, we should make a point of going up and introducing ourselves after the meeting. She then asked Sister Rose Milantoni of the Inner City Branch to come up and say a few words about her many years in the Circle. Sister Rose has been attending circle since she was twelve

years old and also served as the first Area Circle President. The rest of the sisters from the Inner City Branch came up and joined with her in singing *There's No Rainbow Can Shine Like Jesus and Send Hunters and Fishers*. We truly felt blessed as we saw and heard them sing these Songs of Zion. Sister Bea Parker was asked to express herself. She said she was grateful to be in the Ladies' Circle because she wanted to be involved with all aspects of the Church. Sister Marie Lunham, president of the Circle in Muncey, expressed her thanks to God that she could be used by Him in this way. The sisters that were asked to speak did not know of it beforehand, but each spoke humbly and lovingly about their God and their work among the sisters. That spirit of love filled us and we were so blessed being among all our sisters.

Sister Arline Whitton, our area president, thanked everyone for making the effort to come out in the rainy weather, especially from as far as Muncey and Meaford, Ontario! We closed in prayer and gathered together for refreshments and further fellowship.

50th Anniversary

By Catherine Mulla

Sunday, June 10, 1984, was a special day for all the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 3. The day held particular meaning and beauty for two sisters celebrating their golden anniversaries in the Church. Those sisters were Sister Mary Criscuolo from the Harrison, Michigan Mission and Sister Caroline Loffredo of Branch 3.

In honor of this day, the brothers and sisters of the Harrison Mission joined Branch 3 in worship. In addition, many other visitors were also present from other branches in the district and from as far away as Mesa, Arizona and Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania. Also in our midst were many who have long been absent due to afflictions.

The service was introduced with the hymn, I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice, after which Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened in prayer. Sister Caroline Loffredo has been afflicted for many years and confined to a hospital. As a result, she was unable to attend

(Continued on Page 8)

MBA Highlights

Lake Worth, FL

By Dianne Maddox

The Lake Worth MBA was host to a beautiful program compiled by Sister Carmela Mazzeo. It was entitled *Miracles in the Past Ten Years*. Sister Carmela felt that we seem to always dwell on the blessings of the past, and that the Church *was* blessed, so she decided to present a program to magnify the experiences of today and how the Church is blessed *today*.

It was so uplifting to hear of the glorious things that the Lord has done for his people and to know that the blessings have not ceased. She had participation from all parts of the district, which brought a beautiful spirit of unity to the service. We are thankful that our sister took the time to gather this information and more thankful that the Lord provided it.

On Sunday, August 19, 1984 the Lake Worth MBA was blessed to have in attendance with them the Hollywood MBA along with visitors from Metuchen, New Jersey: Brother Wally and Sister Marie Cihomsky and their son, Steven. Steve will be moving to our district to attend school in Tampa and we are thankful that he will be a part of our area. It was very nice to have the two MBA's worship together, that our area may become more unified.

Brother Wally spoke to us concerning the work that is taking place in the Atlantic Coast area with the Seed of Joseph. He exhorted us to go out and work whether it be with the Seed of Joseph or any other nationality, as all men need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our desire as an MBA that we might be able to do this that the Lord might be glorified in His Church.

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

this service, however, her years of service in the Church have not gone unrecognized and she was remembered this day.

The brothers and sisters of Branch 3 honored Sister Mary Criscuolo with a corsage. Sister Lena Pontillo, one of our deaconesses, had the privilege of pinning the corsage. Brother Jack Pontillo presented a synopsis of Sister Mary's life and works in the Church. He began by acknowledging the fact that fifty years ago, Sister Mary made Jesus her choice. She was born on June 11, 1921 in Shantytown, Pennsylvania to Brother Marco and Sister Teresa Pier-sante. Sister Mary was baptized in Detroit on June 17, 1934 by Brother Patsy DiBattista, who also laid hands upon her for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brother Silverio Criscuolo married Sister Mary on September 2, 1940. Brother DiBattista also officiated at this ceremony.

Sister Mary was ordained a deaconess on May 14, 1950. She has been an active member in various missions of the branch, including Port Huron and Harrison. In addition, she has performed many duties throughout the years, including Sunday School teacher and President of the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

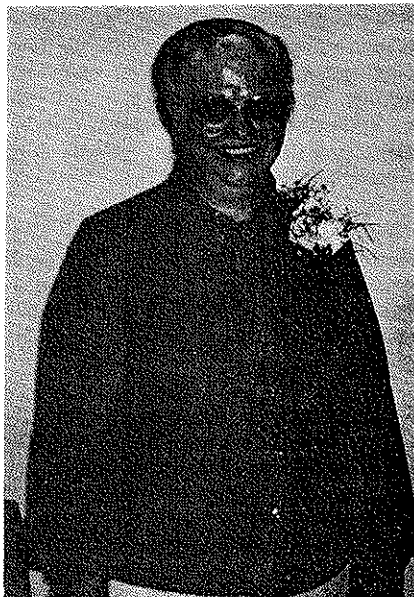
Members of the Ladies' Circle were invited to sing a hymn. Sister Mary chose *The Mercies of God* as her selec-

tion. Since Sister Mary has performed a major role in the Ladies' Circle, Sister Arline Whitton, President of the Michigan-Ontario Ladies' Uplift Circle, was asked to elaborate on this role. Sister Arline read the numerous projects Sister Mary has been involved with over the years in both general and local Ladies' Circles. As the Area Circle President for many years, Sister Mary was involved in several projects, including the printing of the Cookbooks; managing mother/daughter banquets; organizing, supporting, and participating in charity bazaar fundraisers; and initiating much fun and enjoyment as well as enthusiasm. Other major roles have included Ladies' Circle editor, historian, and card sender (to the many afflicted over the years).

Sister Mary was then given the opportunity to express herself. She mentioned that she joined the Ladies' Circle 50 years ago at the age of 13, and acknowledged how God has enabled her to do all that she could, for without God, she could do nothing. She was extremely grateful that God chose her and blessed her with a wonderful companion who aided and reinforced her spiritually as well as naturally. Sister Mary emphasized that God does not leave us alone and her desire is to remain faithful to the end.

Brother Paul Whitton, our presiding elder, followed with a synopsis on the life and service of Sister Caroline Loffredo. Sister Caroline was born on October 30, 1907 in Italy. She was baptized in Detroit on June 3, 1934 by Brother Patsy DiBattista, who also laid hands upon her for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Sister Caroline's husband Michael



Sister Mary Criscuolo



Sister Caroline Loffredo

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Niles, OH

By Ron Genaro

On Sunday, September 2, the Niles Branch was elated to welcome visitors from various parts of the Ohio District and Detroit. The warranted occasion was the ordination of Brother Bob Batson into the office of a deacon. The morning service was opened in prayer by Brother Frank Calabrese and a season of prayer by the Priesthood ensued in behalf of the many afflicted. After an anointing, Sister Phyllis Koon beautifully sang *Because He Lives*.

Brother Don Pandone introduced the service using Romans 15:1-2 for his text, which states that the strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak. Brother Don accentuated that wisdom is an integral part of good human relations. He stated that virtue is to love someone and wisdom is to understand them and that many people attain much knowledge but few acquire wisdom. One of our major goals in the Gospel is to be in harmony with one another and we cannot treat everyone alike but we must be treated as individuals. We must be tolerant and patient of the idiosyncrasies of others.

Brother Frank Calabrese furthered the theme of the day stating that we must encourage and strengthen one another. He reiterated the words of Christ that the world would know us by our love for one another. We should be compassionate toward the problems of others and not say that they brought those problems upon themselves. We should be eager to help and assist others in any way that we can. The morning service was closed in prayer by Brother Joe Genaro.

Brother Wayne Martorana introduced the afternoon service, reading scripture pertaining to the office of a deacon. Brother Bob's feet were washed by Brother Bill Galucci, another deacon of the branch. Before the ordination, the ministry knelt around Brother Bob and Brother Russ Martorana offered prayer. Brother Ron Genaro then ordained Brother Bob into the office of a deacon. The testimonies of the saints completed our day in church, and our service was brought to a close by Brother Flip Palacios. May God bless and utilize Brother Bob in this holy office.

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

I had been holding meetings in Riverside for about six months in the home of Brother and Sister Gonzalez, daughter of Sister Juanita Toribio, when we decided to have our first Sunday meeting which was held on September 30, 1984 in an open air service. What a glorious feeling when we began singing praises to God with our voices reaching up to the sky, which was our ceiling. The meeting was attended by brothers and sisters from a few different branches plus a couple of visitors. Instead of having a Sunday School lesson, I asked a couple of older sisters to tell experiences of how some of the branches got started many years ago.

Brother Jose Toribio mentioned how the Tijuana Mission began by holding meetings under a tree. After a short break, we began singing again. Brother Chuck Alms and I sang *There's No Rainbow*. Sister Juanita Toribio sang a song in Spanish with her two daughters, Sister Gelo and Sister Lupe.

I opened the meeting using Matthew 16:13-19, the Church founded on the rock of revelation, and *not* upon Peter. During the meeting, Sister Gurdie Alms prayed silently and asked God if it was really His Spirit in the meeting to cause a cloud to cover the sun and bring a cool breeze into the meeting. God did just that. The meeting was opened for testimony in which many testified of the goodness of God in their lives and a spirit of humility was felt throughout the service, even by the visitors. I then proceeded to pass sacrament and I felt God's Spirit upon me as I passed it in the open air. It reminded me of when Christ fed the multitude with the loaves and fishes. After anointing four members for various reasons, we formed a circle and closed our meeting.

The way this work got started in Riverside was one day about six months ago Sister Lupe was shopping when she met Sister Mary Nicosia in the same store. After a few words, Sister Lupe said to Sister Mary, "Give a message to Brother Ken. Tell him I have four families interested in the Gospel." Sister Mary told me the message and after praying to God for understanding, I left for Riverside. Pray that God will bless this work and give me the strength

to endure.

I might add that God is still the same and still hears the prayer of faith. Those who were anointed, received. Sister Josephine Palermo had a problem with her leg healed. Sister Juanita Toribio had pain in her leg healed. Brother Floyd Hemp had a problem in one eye healed. Sister Vickie Van De Weghe was troubled by Satan disturbing her home, and received relief through prayer. Thank God for His mercy and love to those that will trust in Him, with childlike faith.

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola

On Sunday, June 17, we were happy to welcome in our midst Brother Jerry Benyola and his family from Detroit Branch 1 and on July 1, our Brother and Sister Harold Burge from Erie, Pennsylvania. Our brothers gave words of encouragement expounding on love, promises made and promises kept, commitment, and God's mercy.

Sister Jennie Purkall from the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch visited our branch and donated beautiful handmade communion linens. The Levittown Branch thanks our sister for the time and effort she put forth in making these cloths. I am sure God will bless Sister Jennie for her endeavors.

To end our day of service on July 1, a special prayer was offered on behalf of our Sister Darlene Large. Once again, our Sister was making her way back to India. Our constant prayer is that God will be with her and protect her while she travels from place to place.

Lake Worth, FL

The first mini-conference for the Florida District was held on September 16, 1984 in the Lake Worth Branch. The brothers and sisters of the Hollywood Branch gathered together with Lake Worth to enjoy the blessings of God. Included with us also were visitors from Ft. Pierce and Miami.

After a season of singing praises to our Lord, we prepared to open our service with Brother Gene Perri presiding.

(Continued on Page 10)

LAKE WORTH continued . . .

Brother Gene called to the front all teachers, deaconesses and deacons to open our service by singing *To the Work*. Prayer was offered by Brother Joe Catone, Sr. Sister Barbara DiNardo then honored us with a beautiful solo.

The sacrament table was prepared as the congregation sang *Make Me a Blessing*. Truly our hearts were all in tune for a beautiful blessing. Brother Charles (Chuck) Smith and Sister Janice Brown sang a lovely duet.

Brother Chuck was our first speaker and exhorted many wonderful things unto us. Brother Chuck used as his text the sixth chapter of St. Matthew—the wonderful teachings of Jesus, telling all mankind to be a good, humble and righteous people, and to take heed in all that we do. We must lay up our treasures in heaven and not on this earth. “For where your heart is, there will your treasure be also.”

Brother Gene Perri followed with the intense love of God flowing from deep within our brother and reaching into each and every one of our hearts and souls.

Brother Gene expounded on the *quickness* and *reality* of God. The commands of God were *quickly* obeyed in the creation. The winds, the waves, the trees, and all living things obey His commands. We then should do likewise, being quick to obey, quick to listen, and quick to do His will. In the end we will be changed in a twinkling of an eye, very quickly. The love of God and the word of God are so great. They can deliver us from all things. Obedience to His commands should be our first priority.

There were many beautiful testimonies that followed. The Spirit of God was very evident during this portion of fellowship.

Brother Dennis Moraca spoke on how we must prepare ourselves from our youth to serve the Lord with all our hearts, putting God first in our lives and remembering that we cannot go back to relive any part of the past. Treasure the Lord and cling to Him always and there will be no need to want to go back and change past things.

Brother Joe Catone, Jr. expressed himself, filled with the joy of the Lord. He told us of his heart's desires and his love for our Lord. Brother Joe pleaded

for anyone who has not done so to make their covenant with God.

There were some who were prayed on for spiritual and temporal help. A blessing was felt by all as the scriptures were fulfilled. “Is there any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”

The Lord's supper was then shared among the congregation with great love and dignity.

As our service came to an end we all felt filled. The blessings of God prevailed throughout our service. We closed with *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and prayer was offered by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr.

Saline, MI

By Roseann Wood

The saints of the Saline Mission enjoyed a summer of welcome visitors, among them Brother Bob Nicklow and his family from Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Brother Bob related several experiences had prior to and shortly after his baptism. He spoke of God's goodness in his life and of the many times God has provided for him. His message was to put our trust and faith in God for *all* things and God will direct and lead us.

From Arizona came Brother George and Sister Margaret Johnson and their traveling companions, Sister Dorothy and John Schaffer and Brother Meredith and Sister Irene Griffith of Pennsylvania. That same Sunday found visitors from Lorain, Ohio; Brother Frank Nardozi and his family, and Sister Tammy Nicklow of Pennsylvania. Brother George spoke from Hebrews using the theme “Tell Me the Story of Jesus”—how Jesus is better than the angels, then Moses, and Abraham and that we want to continually strive to become better. Brother Griffith glorified God's creation as he viewed the green pastures and golden fields surrounding the Mission, reminding him of his home. His thoughts related to the song *Jesus and I* as he told us, “There's no reason to be unhappy when you have The Church of Jesus Christ, when you're walking with Jesus, because then you are in touch with God. The scripture he read, “As the Father has loved me,

so have I loved you—continue in My love—if you keep my commandments, you shall abide in My love,” reminded us to energize that good feeling of knowing God—greeting people—strangers—and letting the goodness flow from one to another. Brother Griffith told us not to become weary because of not attracting new members quickly, because that has never been important in the history of God's Church.

“Uniqueness of the Church” was the subject matter presented by Brother Joe Milantoni when he and his wife, Sister Rose, and their daughter, Sister Karen, visited. “The love of God as the scripture teaches, tells us that we need to reflect this quality by our talk, our action, everything about us. The Church has the potential of displaying an enormous amount of gifts to the world and our primary function is to bring souls to Christ through the awesome power of God. Brother Joe related to us that he had been spoken to three times that he must serve the Lord, and so reminded us that we must love God and serve Him in righteousness to our fullest capacity.

The Fall season was ushered in and a “gathering of the fruits of labor” was felt as the Saline Mission looked about its congregation noting the many young people with us. Along with newly transferred members and visiting young people, we rejoiced with the awareness that uncommitted teenagers and young adults outnumbered the older brothers and sisters in our midst. Brother Louis Vitto, visiting from the Sterling Heights Branch, spoke to this young congregation from the fourth chapter of Matthew, “Man cannot live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of the Lord.”

“The devil works very hard against you,” Brother Lou said, “You have the choice to fight off Satan.” It is a hard lesson for our young talented people who are honored and recognized for their talents in their local schools and communities to recognize that “the glory of the world in many cases belongs to the devil.” Brother Lou continued, “We are *in* the world, but not *of* the world.” After citing his personal struggle with the attractiveness of worldly glory, Brother Lou encouraged the young to choose a commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ, not to glory and fame of this world.

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

died many years ago at the young age of 34.

Although Sister Caroline's life was filled with hardships and trials, her faith persisted and she was strengthened by God's Holy Spirit. God chose her to be a deaconess and she was ordained on April 25, 1954. Sister Caroline was also a long-time member of the Ladies' Circle.

As a faithful servant of God, Sister Caroline always had a smile on her face and showered her love on everyone. Upon receiving visitors from church, her face would often glow with love and enthusiasm. Through God's strength, she remained steadfast unto her calling and truly set a good example to follow that cannot be forgotten by those who knew her. In honor of this day, the floral committee sent a plant to Sister Caroline in remembrance of her service to God.

Brother Silverio Criscuolo continued the service reflecting upon his years with Sister Mary and the blessings God has bestowed upon them. He credited the mercies of God for bringing them this far. Brother Criscuolo mentioned that he has never carried God, but rather God has always carried him. And in his service to God, he has received much joy. Brother Criscuolo emphasized

ed that, "Godliness and contentment are great gain!" The world misses out and lacks this joy and happiness in serving God.

Brother Criscuolo related to us an experience that happened when he was younger. It concerned a millionaire who was successful in real estate and owned many luxuries. One day, this man became very discouraged and turned to Brother Criscuolo and told him that he wished he had what Brother Criscuolo had. Even with all of his wealth, the man lacked the joy in his heart that can only be felt by one in service of the Lord. Brother Criscuolo stressed that there is joy in salvation and in the Gospel, and if one has not received the Gospel yet, then he has nothing.

Brother Criscuolo then formulated a very truthful analogy that characterizes the members of the Church today. He said, "Some members are pillars that you can depend on and lean on. Some members are just caterpillars that crawl in and out of church." If we do not spread the Gospel, then we are not fulfilling our commission.

Brother Paul Whitton concluded the morning service with the first three verses of Psalm 1. In effect, he indicated that those who delight in the Lord will prosper.

The brothers and sisters of the Har-

rison Mission then honored us with a hymn. Brother Mario Coppa closed the morning service in prayer.

The Harrison Mission then joined the brothers and sisters of Branch 3 for a beautiful luncheon that was prepared by the sisters. A cake was presented to Sister Mary Criscuolo in honor of her natural birthday. The fellowship shared among one another was divine and sweet.

Following the luncheon, the afternoon meeting commenced and the ordinance of feet washing took place. A beautiful spirit presided throughout the meeting and many testimonies, as well as hymns sung in praise to God were given. Brother Criscuolo further reminded us that Christ paid our penalty by dying on the cross for us.

This day was a day of rejoicing in the Lord. Surely, the words of Brother Criscuolo were edifying for our soul. The examples set by our sisters with many years of service were rewarding. We are grateful to God for this day.

* WEDDINGS *

CATONE—BENYOLA

Laura Benyola and Charles Catone were united in holy wedlock on May 15, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., assisted by Brother John Ali.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Richard Benyola, organist; Brother Ken Lombardo and Sister Barbara Dinardo, soloists; with accompaniment by Sister Florence Lombardo and Brother Phil Benyola.

The newlyweds are attending the Broward Mission in Florida. May God bless them as they enter this new chapter in their lives.

GENARO—KOETH

Brother John T. Genaro and Miss Susan Koeth were united in marriage, July 14, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Conducting the ceremony were Brothers David Nolfi and Joe Genaro, uncle of the groom.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino as pianist and Sister Donna Amormino as soloist.

The newlyweds will be residing in North Carolina. May God bless them in their journey in life.

CASION—HIPPOLYTE

On August 25, 1984, Sister Joyce Hippolyte and William Casion were united in Holy Matrimony in Miami, Florida. Brother Mark Kovacic officiated with Brother John D'Orazio assisting.

Musical selections were performed by Sisters Colleen Warden, Kathy Warden and Kelly Kovacic. Sister Janet Warden was pianist.

The Casions will be residing in Miami, and we pray that God will bless their new life together. Sister Joyce is from St. Lucia, West Indies and first met the Church in Detroit Inner City.

CARLINI—ZACCAGNINI

Brother Kerry Carlini and Sister Isolina Zaccagnini were united in marriage on Saturday, October 6, 1984. The marriage took place at Detroit Branch 1 in the presence of three hundred fifty brothers, sisters, relatives, and friends.

The bride's uncles, Brother Sam DiFalco and Brother Richard Thomas, officiated and assisted at the ceremony.

Musical selections were sung by Brother Steve Champagne and Sister Marilyn Scolaro, accompanied by Brother Eugene Amormino and Brother Frank Conti.

The newlyweds are residing in Birmingham, Michigan.

HUNT—MILLER

Terry Hunt and Diane Miller, daughter of Brother Bert and Sister Ina Miller, were united in marriage by Rev. Leland Wiley, May 12, 1984.

The Lord's Prayer was sung by a soloist, Layes Wood. The newlyweds are residing in Warren, Ohio. May God bless them in their new life together.

O'BRIEN—KOETH

Mr. Michael A. O'Brien and Miss Sandra Koeth were united in marriage on Saturday, June 30, 1984, at The Church of Jesus Christ, Warren, Ohio.

Conducting the ceremony were Brothers Mitchell Edwards and Jonathan Molinatto, uncle of the bride.

Musical selections, some of which were Songs of Zion, were rendered by a violinist and harpist at the Church and reception. Soloist was Sister Sandra Ford, accompanied by Brother Paul Ford on the piano.

The newlyweds are residing in Newton Falls, Ohio. May God bless them in their new life together.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

BARREIRO—SALINAS

On October 16, 1984, Brother Armando Barreiro, Jr. and Sister Diana Salinas were united in Holy Matrimony in Miami, Florida. Brother Mark Kovacic officiated at the wedding service.

The new couple will be residing in Miami and we pray that God will bless their life together. Brother Armando is from Havana, Cuba and was first introduced to the Church almost one year ago by Sister Diana.

GONZALEZ—WARDEN

On October 20, 1984, Sister Colleen Warden and Jose Gonzalez were united in Holy Matrimony, in Davie, Florida. Brother Mark Kovacic officiated the wedding services.

The groom's mother had the fortune of coming from Ecuador to witness her youngest child's wedding.

The couple will be residing in Sunrise, Florida and we pray that God will bless their new life together.

Children Blessed

Max Tobias Brutz was blessed in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on September 2, 1984 by his grandfather, Brother Anthony Brutz.

Holly Isis Funkhouser, born to Brother George L. III and Mary Lou Funkhouser on December 25, 1983, was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Harold Burge.

OBITUARIES

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

CAROLINE LOFFREDO

Sister Caroline Loffredo passed on to her eternal reward on June 27, 1984. She was born on October 30, 1907 in Italy. Sister Caroline was baptized in Detroit, Michigan on June 3, 1934 by Brother Patsy DiBattista and was ordained a deaconess on April 25, 1954.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Peter H. Capone and Brother Paul Whitton. Sister Caroline is survived by two sons and one daughter, in addition to nine grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren.

Our dear sister recently celebrated her 50th anniversary in the Church; however, she had been afflicted in recent years and unable to attend services. Sister Caroline will long be remembered for her faithful years in the service of the Lord and for her warm smile and loving ways. Her membership here at Detroit Branch 3 has been extensive and we give thanks to God for allowing us to worship with our Sister Caroline.