

The Gospel News

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

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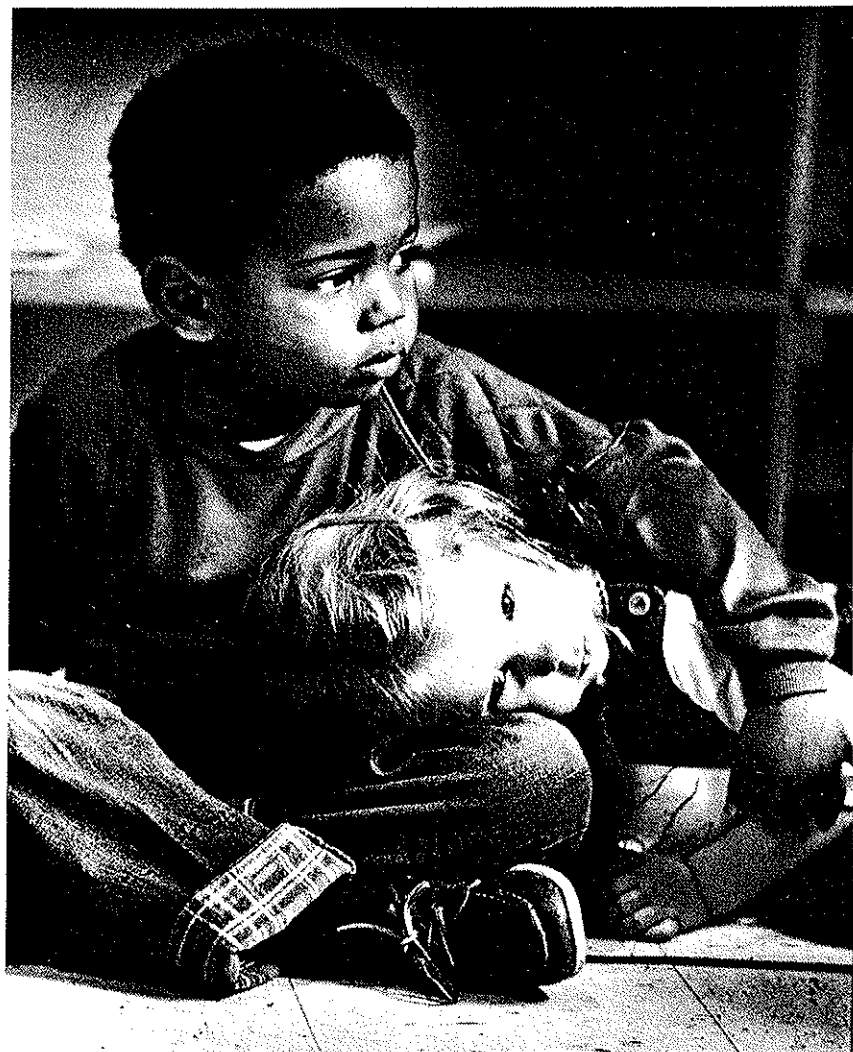
GMBA Conference November, 1984

By Ryan Gene Ross

GMBA President Brother John Griffith greeted the Conference representing the Atlantic Coast, California, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Areas of the MBA on Saturday morning, November 10, 1984. Following the opening prayer of Brother Brian Smith, GMBA Chaplain Brother Paul Ciotti Sr. read from III Nephi 27:21 & 22. He exhorted us concerning the keeping of God's commandments with greater diligence, that God might recognize us as the righteous people for whom Jesus died.

The roll call of officers was taken, communications were reported, and the May 19, 1984 Conference minutes were accepted by motion of conference. Brother Richard Scaglione reported that the **Pen Pal Program** has started and is being organized by Sister Linda D'Orazio (Lake Worth, FL). Under this program, young and old people alike can write to our future (and current) brothers and sisters overseas. This program is growing and all young people are encouraged to participate, because there are many of our foreign brothers and sisters anxious to correspond with us. For more details contact Brother Rich or Sister Linda.

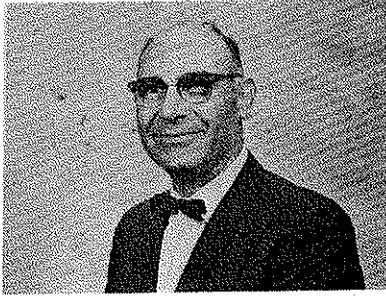
Brother Charles Jumper, GMBA Vice President, presented an overhead progress report of the **Religions Awareness Packet** project under which each MBA Area is responsible for



... of such is the kingdom of heaven.

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Greetings in Christ



When we think of Theology for today, we speak of returning to the word of God. As we know, God does not change His eternal purpose of everlasting truth. It is man that needs to return to the simple truth of the Word of God.

A man named Karl Barth was alarmed to see how quickly the Theologians of Germany joined Hitler's totalitarian movement. Karl Barth declared that the Church's only Fuehrer in 1935 was God, and refused to take a loyalty oath to Nazism. It is time, today, once again to return to the pure Word of God, to the eternal principle that Jesus Christ is Lord of all.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." It is this simple gospel truth upon which Christianity is based, this needs attention. A faithful disciple who devotedly followed the beloved old apostle John once said, "Master must you always finish your sermons with, 'Love ye one another?'" "Ha," said the beloved John (whom Jesus loved), "if we would only have pure love for one another." This truly makes Christianity complete. We are not talking of some dilettante, theological, intellectual assent to a vague something or other; but real, rugged, powerful love; not lust, not loose emotion, but love as Paul so superbly explains in I Corinthians 13. If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not charity, I am only a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have faith that can move mountains, but have not charity, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not charity, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud, it is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps

no records of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always preserves. Love never fails, and I would include, because "God is love." (I John 4:8)

New theology needs to embrace our brothers, the Israelites, in the light of the scriptures. As Paul, a chosen vessel to the Gentiles, writes to the Romans making them aware that God has not forgotten His people, we likewise need to be chosen vessels to Israel. "For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Romans 10:11-13)

Did Israel fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgressions, salvation has come to the Gentiles rather than to Israel. But if their transgressions mean riches for the world and their loss means riches to the Gentiles, what greater riches will their fullness bring? (Romans 11:11-12) Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unreachable His judgments and His paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Who has been His counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.

To Him (Christ) be glory forever, Amen. The greater theology is to be written; the hope of the future is ours in spite of all gloom. Our generation will see great things.

We must remember that when Joseph and Mary brought Jesus into the Temple Courts, Old Simeon, moved by the Spirit, went into the Temple Courts. Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God saying, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou has prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel." (Luke 2:29-32)

Who ever thought of such a blessing? Today both Gentiles and Jews need find a common purpose. Love for God and for men must prevail to establish peace in the whole world. More Jews are becoming believers of Jesus as their Messiah. More Egyptians are being Christianized than in the history of all

Christendom. "Let us have faith and live." The days are near when they will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9)

Yes, we live in hope, armed with pure faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Beginning and the End (the Alpha and the Omega). I fully agree with Karl Barth. Finding no help in theology (man's theology, that is), Barth turned to the Bible: We also must turn to the pure word of God and live by faith.

From the perspective of the Bible, Barth could add a pinch of cinnamon to flavor the theology of others, he said. How beautiful, don't we agree? Because God is a living God, Barth warns against identifying the word of God with any human form or institution.

Christ is the revelation of the true God and also of the true man. Therefore, in view of this revelation let us receive this glorious gift of God, that we may by His grace live in faith as children of the family of God.

Theology today needs also to learn first, to be still and know our God. (Psalms 46:10) Second, the Holy Scriptures shall ever be the meditation of the heart day and night, even as the Lord instructed. (Joshua 1:8) This book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein, for then you shall make your way prosperous and then you shall have good success. Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be you dismayed for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

In like manner, Jesus Christ commanded his disciples, in Matthew 28:19-20, "Go ye, therefore and teach all nations, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always."

There is no greater attribute to the theology of the scriptures than to love the Author of the Holy Scriptures, and then to observe all things that are God's and Christ's commands.

Life can never be truly complete until we do both, love the Author and His Holy Scriptures. This worthy admonition Paul gives Timothy (whom he called son), "Meditate upon these things;

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An Experience

By Denise Ruyle

I was baptized in 1971; at that time I was fifteen years old and a sophomore in high school. It was just around the time of the dawning of the Charismatic Movement and the 'discovery' of the Holy Spirit, and it was almost a fad to know Jesus Christ. Different coffee houses were packed to standing room only, filled with teenagers in search of God. I would say that 75 per cent of my peers in high school were so-called Christians, the minority calling them "Jesus Freaks." In one sense it made it easier for me to proclaim my faith in God, and I was respected greatly for my knowledge of the word of God.

But in another sense, which I would like to relate, it became a stumbling block to me. I was a babe in Christ, striving to please God while He was still holding me in His arms. I would confront these students daily in school and they would tell me of how God blessed them greatly by giving them the gift to speak in tongues, giving them the "word of knowledge," and many professed to be prophets of God. After a while I began to feel like God didn't love me because I couldn't do any of these things. The kids made it harder on me by always asking me what my gift was. I was ashamed to say "I don't know."

In time I was convinced that God didn't want me, and one night after returning home from school, I went in my bedroom, closed the door, laid on the floor, and cried. I cried my eyes out, wondering what I was doing wrong. I prayed to God asking Him two questions: Why could these other people prophesy, were they more favorable in His eyes than I, and what did He expect from me so that I could feel closer to Him?

I didn't hear any voices, nor did I see any visions. Then I said boldly with even more faith than I have now, "God, Your word says to ask and it shall be given unto you. I believe with all my heart that You will answer me." I then had a desire to read from my Bible. I picked it up as I went to sit on my bed. When I sat down the Bible automatically opened when I put it in my lap. I was shocked to see what the word of God said. It was opened to Jeremiah 29 and the passage I first noticed, verses eight and nine, said this: *For thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners that be in the midst of you deceive you . . . For they prophesy falsely unto you in my*

*name: I have not sent them, saith the Lord. I believed these words. I believed that He was speaking of the teenagers from school. What I opened to could not be pure coincidence. I cried again, out of thankfulness that God answered my question. I almost forgot that I had asked another question. I went to resume my reading of the 29th Chapter of Jeremiah and my eyes fell upon the 12th and 13th verses. There was the answer to my second prayer: *Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart.**

I was convinced and I felt a very special blessing in this. Many years have passed, and the so-called Jesus movement died as quickly as it began. Not one of the people I graduated with are still Christians today, and space will not permit me to tell of how tragic some of their lives are now. God has blessed me according to the desires of my heart. My husband and I are members of The Church of Jesus Christ, which I know is the true Gospel, and there is no doubt in my mind of God's great love for me.

GREETINGS continued . . .

give thyself wholly to them, that your profiting may appear to all."

This is the sum of the matter, to meditate upon the Word of God, one must give oneself wholly to them, to profit thereby. This is the foundation of past, present, and future theology.

Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord; and you shall *love* the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength: this is the first commandment.

And second is this, you shall *love* your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30-31) There is no greater virtue than to love God and to love His family.

Glory be to God in the highest through Jesus Christ the Lord. There is a living hope in my soul, a restless living faith for a better day in spite of all the gloom.

We shall overcome because Christ overcame and sits on the right hand of God, and because He lives so shall we also live.

Brother Mark Randy

GMBA continued . . .

gathering information about various points of doctrine upheld by several of the major Christian religions including the Baptist, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Pentecostal, Greek Orthodox, and Lutheran. The goal of this project is to assemble a pamphlet that can be used to make point-by-point comparisons of doctrine for these various sects. Once all of the remaining Area MBA reports are completed, the package will be presented to the General Church for review.

A lengthy discussion was held for the topic of by-law changes and revisions. The congregation voted to send out all proposed by-law changes as a "package" to be voted on by all MBA locals with the proviso that individual changes can be singled out of the list and cited by a local as "undesirable," if so deemed. If one-third or more of the responding locals cite the *same* by-law change(s) as being undesirable, then that individual by-law change will *not* be enacted.

Officers' reports were then given and were accepted by the congregation. (See GMBA minutes for details.) The delegates to the Conference said a little more than they usually do in their reports. Brother Chuck Jumper asked these local MBA representatives to sing, testify, or answer specific questions about their locals. Many wonderful songs and testimonies resulted and the congregation enjoyed a welcome break from business. Brother John P. Buffa, 1984 camp director for the GMBA Campout at Massanetta Springs, Virginia, reported that the annual event was successful once again. John commended all those associated with the various committees that served to make the camp a great one.

Brother Joe Ross, representing the Camp Procurement Committee, presented 1985's prospects to the congregation. The three possible camps presented were Camp Whiteoak (near Columbia, SC) for Sunday, August 18, 1985 through Saturday, August 24, 1985; Frost Valley (in the Catskill Mountains, NY) for Saturday, August 24 through Friday, August 30, 1985; and Massanetta Springs (in Virginia) Sunday, June 30 through Saturday, July 6, 1985. After seeing slide presentations of Whiteoak and Frost Valley and hearing about relative dates, prices, and other features, the

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GMBA continued . . .

congregation voted by a wide margin for Whiteoak. One of the major factors favoring Whiteoak was its capacity for the dining hall (500), meeting hall (450), seminar sites (15 rooms), and air conditioning in all of these buildings. Make your vacation plans for August 18-24, *now!* Our GMBA camp director will be Brother Brian Martorana from Niles, Ohio, who was elected at this conference.

The election of officers was held and Brothers John Griffith (President), Charles Jumper (Vice President), and Paul Ciotti (Chaplain) were re-elected.

The results of other elections are as follows:

- Secretary -Karen Progar
- Asst. Secretary -Tracey Francione
- Financial Sec. -Brian Martorana
- Treasurer -Jerry Valenti, Jr.
- Librarian -Philip Buffa
- Editor -Ryan Ross
- Asst. Editor -Rosanne Champine
- Auditors -David W. DeLuca
-Ralph Cartino
-Dora Palacios
- Historian
- Area Organizers:
 - Arizona -Mark Landrey
 - Atlantic Coast -Dominick Rose
-Ken Lombardo
 - California -Nick Liberto
-Dan Ciarolla
-Jim Huttenberger
 - Florida -Joe Catone Sr.
-Mark Kovacic
-Carmella Mazzeo
 - Michigan-Ontario -Steve Champine
-Larry Henderson
 - Midwest -Alex Robinson
 - Ohio -Stacey Light
-Joel Gehly
-Brian Martorana
 - Pennsylvania -Jonathan Olexa
-Ryan Ross
- 1985 Camp Director -Brian Martorana

The GMBA voted to donate nearly \$5,000 to mission fields including Italy, Africa, Mexico, India, Six Nations, Muncey, San Carlos, White River, and Urban Indian work. The GMBA also designated \$200 for 300 books of *The Songs of Zion* for the General Church Auditorium and \$160 toward the bus expense incurred by the Atlantic Coast Area. The 1985 May GMBA Conference will be hosted by the Ohio Area MBA (site to be determined) on May 18, 1985. Kitchen help will be the responsibility of the Atlantic Coast Area MBA and a program will be presented by the

Michigan-Ontario Area MBA.

NOTE: Area presidents! Send in your 1985 Calendar of Area Events (as soon as possible) for the GMBA Activities Calendar to:

Ryan G. Ross
703-1 College Park Drive
Crapopolis, PA 15108

SUNDAY MEETING

The Atlantic Coast Choir, directed by Brother Ken Lombardo, opened the meeting with several selections, including *Love Grew Where the Blood Fell*, *I Go to the Rock*, and *He's Safe, Jesus Saved Him*. Brother Jerry Valenti Sr. opened the morning service by reading from Colossians 3, focusing on the "old life" versus our "new life" with Jesus Christ. He advised us to keep our minds on the spiritual rather than the natural life. Brother Jerry elaborated on the details of Christian living, such as telling the truth, refraining from evil speaking, and loving one another with humility, meekness, and patience. "Above all is charity," Brother Valenti stressed, "which is the pure love of God, the greatest of all Godly attributes." Brother Jerry reminded us that our eternal reward is based on our performance (or the lack thereof) of these elements of Godly living.

Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino sang a beautiful selection entitled, *The Storehouse of the Lord*.

Brother Peter A. Scolaro followed Brother Jerry, asking us to *test* the teachings from Colossians 3, by living by the rules expounded by the Apostle Paul, and then looking for the results in our lives! These "results" are reflected by the blessings promised to us by God for those who "set their affections on things above." Brother Peter assured us that if we do these things, then God *will* bless us richly, not only in the life to come but also in our lives as mortal beings. Brother Scolaro stressed that the only thing that stands between man and God is sin and the desires of the flesh. He used the Brother of Jared as an example of a man who stripped himself of the earthly mind and saw greater things of God than any other man has ever seen!

Evangelist Dominic Moraca followed strongly by referring us again to Col-

ossians 3. Brother Dominic exclaimed that if we *claim* to be "born again," then we had better be *living* a born again life, totally free of all manner of sin and transgression. He reported on the status of our afflicted brothers and sisters. Although we are looking for a great miracle on their behalf and that others in times past and today have received such great miracles, the greatest miracle of all is when Jesus changes our hearts, washes away our sins, turns around our lives and points us in a heavenly direction! And to those who have taken on this new life with full intent, God grants a great peace within their souls, Brother Moraca insisted.

Apostle Frank Calabrese then addressed the congregation, saying that we indeed should "hold the fort" in our service to God. Brother Frank continued by saying that if we are risen with Christ, then let us fix our hearts and minds on heavenly things, and let God stand before us in our faith. Brother Calabrese emphasized the need for the Gospel in this world full of distraction, disheartenment, and trouble.

In concurrence with those who spoke earlier, Brother Frank stressed the need for us as a Church to live righteously, so that God would be quick to answer our prayers for the Church, for our sick and afflicted, and for His power in preaching the Gospel to the world. Brother Calabrese reminded us to fast, pray, attend meetings, visit the sick, and love one another.

The meeting was dismissed and all those in attendance truly enjoyed all that was said and done at this conference.

Resolve

- To strip the soul of all pretense,
- To hold each day in reverence,
- To keep the head and heart apace,
- To make this world a worth-while place,
- To share my bread with those in need,
- To tolerate a neighbor's creed,
- To keep a stride without a strut,
- To make a home in manse or hut,
- To have the grit to grin at loss,
- To master life and be its boss!

The Gospel News

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*Editorial Viewpoint . . .***The New Year: A Fresh Start**

The year 1984 is behind us, and 1985 is under way. With the new year comes a sense of a new beginning, a fresh start. As we close out our books and start out once again, we look forward expecting greater things, above and beyond whatever the past year has brought us.

As we leave the old year behind us, let us take advantage of the fact that we learn from experience. Whether the past year has been good or bad, we can look back upon it with thanksgiving that the Lord has never forsaken us, not even for a moment. Knowing this, let us look forward, trusting that the Lord will be with us all through the coming year.

If, upon looking back, we see mistakes we've made or works we haven't performed, let's not dwell upon them and be discouraged, but instead let us humbly ask God for His forgiveness and set out *not* to make the same mistakes again.

Do we see suffering and tribulation in the past? Perhaps our tribulations were part of a necessary growing experience, and we are better servants of God for it. If the end of our tribulation is not yet in sight, let us pray to the Lord that He would bring us deliverance in 1985.

As we use our past experiences as stepping-stones to draw nearer to God, let us also make use of the experiences of others in their dealings with the Lord. The *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* are filled with accounts of men and women who, not unlike ourselves, had to take their lives one day at a time and eventually learned to trust in God no matter what came their way. As we strive daily to follow the example set down by Jesus Christ, we can depend upon the mighty promises that the Lord has made to His servants. As we become stronger in righteousness, faith, and wisdom, there will be no limit to the blessings God has in store for us.

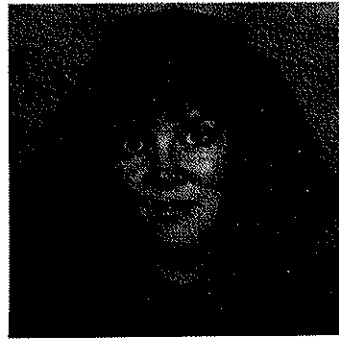
As the new year begins, then, let us renew ourselves spiritually, in our individual commitment to serve God—that same commitment that we made at the water's edge. Let us muster up within ourselves a rejuvenated determination to press forward, climbing with God's help to greater spiritual heights.

A marvelous future lies ahead for The Church of Jesus Christ. We know through the word of God and His continued revelation that He will use His servants here below to do a great work among the children of men. Although none of us know for sure where 1985 will take us as a Church, we cannot deny that scriptures are speedily being fulfilled all around us. Let us be ready soldiers, therefore, that we may act at a moment's notice, as the Spirit moves us.

Wherever we gathered together as a people in the past year, at campouts and conferences, the Lord sent His blessings upon us and filled us with the understanding that something truly great lay just around the corner. He will work with us when we are ready, so let us endeavor this year to draw closer to God, that perhaps we may round that corner in 1985 and see with our eyes what we have so long been hoping for. Let us, with all our might, prepare the way of the Lord!

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Lamanites Walk in Righteousness

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many years after the first Lehi and his sons Laman, Lemuel, Sam, and Nephi came to the land of the Americas, a good man called Helaman named his two sons Nephi and Lehi.

At this time the descendants of these first groups had grown into a large number of people, covering what is today South and Central America. Originally the Nephite people had kept the brass plates of Laban which had told them their laws. For several hundred years the Nephites had been a godly people. Now things were changed and the number of people who chose evil outnumbered the people choosing good. The laws were corrupted.

Nephi was a grown man and chief judge over all the Nephite people, but he was growing weary because of the hard-hearted evil ways of his people. So Nephi gave up being chief judge and took it upon himself to preach the word of God all the remainder of his days. His brother Lehi also believed in serving God and joined his brother.

God gave them great power and authority. They preached to many Nephites who repented and then they went among the Lamanites. The Lord gave them His power and authority and also gave them the words to speak. The Lamanites were astonished to hear their words and learn the true story of how Laman and Lemuel went against God. Eight thousand of them were convinced of the wickedness of the traditions of their ancestors and were baptized.

Many of the Lamanite rulers were upset to see their people change. They sent an army to take Nephi and Lehi and threw them in prison.

After several days without food,

Nephi and Lehi heard their enemies coming. The Lamanites planned to kill these two good men. But when they opened the doors they saw Nephi and Lehi standing with fire circling around them and they were afraid. As they stood there dumbfounded, Nephi and Lehi began to speak to them.

"Fear not," they said, "for God has shown you this marvelous thing, that you cannot kill us!" And when they said this the walls of the prison began to shake and a cloud of darkness came upon the people and they felt a terrible fear.

A voice of perfect mildness spoke that pierced them to the soul and said, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand, and stop trying to kill my servants." The Lamanites wanted to flee but they couldn't because of the fear and darkness that had come upon them.

When the multitude looked at Nephi and Lehi, they saw that they were looking up to heaven and their faces shone brightly. One prisoner named Aminadab told them, "They are talking with the angels of God!"

The Lamanites said to Aminadab, "What shall we do, that this cloud of darkness will be taken away?"

Aminadab told them, "Repent, say you are sorry—cry out to the voice to forgive you and hear you because that is the voice of Christ."

So they all began to cry to the voice which had shaken the earth, and the cloud of darkness began to go away. And when they looked up from their praying, each and every one of them was circled around with a pillar of fire. And Nephi and Lehi were in the middle of them, yet the fire did not burn them or the prison and they were filled with unspeakable joy. Behold, the Holy

Spirit of God came down from heaven and entered their hearts and they could speak forth marvelous words.

And it came to pass that they heard a voice saying, "Peace, peace be unto you, because of your faith in Jesus."

When they heard this they looked up to see where the voice came from and behold, they saw the heavens open; and angels came down to be with them.

There were about three hundred souls who saw and heard these things and they were told to go forth and tell what they had seen until the larger part of the Lamanites were convinced of the greatness of God. Now the *Lamanite* people became for the most part a righteous nation while the Nephites were becoming more wicked every day.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Our Women Today

Blessings at a Business Meeting

By Ilene Coppa

Our recently organized Ladies' Circle at the Muncey Mission, along with a goodly number of sisters from the Detroit Area met Saturday morning, November 3, at 10:00 a.m. to conduct the business and organization of the Michigan-Ontario District Ladies' Uplift Circle.

After a few opening remarks, Sister Arline Whitton directed our attention to the day's scripture reading, Alma 26:35, which was given by Sister Lorraine DeMercurio.

The meeting was moving smoothly along as one item after another was disposed of. Two letters from Sister Evelyn Purdue were read, thanking the sisters for their work in sewing vests and pants for the children of Mexico. While these letters were being read, Sister Rose Impastato was given a vision.

She saw two sisters, one tall in stature and the other short. On their heads from

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Branch and Mission News

Tucson, AZ

By Grace Brutz

We are all trying our best to serve the Lord here in Tucson, even though we are just a few. The Lord has never left us alone. We feel His sweet Spirit and blessings. Our desire is to continue on in doing His will and to serve Him all the days of our lives.

Sister Grace Francione celebrated her 90th birthday this past August. She is now in a nursing home and would love to hear from you. Send any cards to:

Paul Francione
6361 Cactus Wren
Tucson, AZ 85746



Sister Grace Francione

Cleveland, OH

On July 29, 1984, Frank William Hufnagle went down to the waters of regeneration. He was baptized by his father, Brother Bill Hufnagle, and confirmed later that day by Brother Vince Gibson.

Brother Frank had asked for his baptism some days earlier, but waited until his parents returned home from their vacation so that his father could perform the baptism. We are truly thankful for another soul entering the fold!

Windsor, Ontario

By Adrienne Collison

We were truly blessed on September 23, 1984 to have in our midst Brother Walter Cihomsky of New Jersey, our Brother Apostle Robert Watson, a former member of the Windsor Branch, and Brother Dwayne Jordan, who along with Brother Watson is a member of the Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch. All three of these brothers are members of the American Indian Committee, which had met in our building this weekend.

Brother Walter Cihomsky introduced our service with the encouraging words that he could feel the precious love of God among us. Our brother, who was not raised within the realm of this

Church, told of the struggle his parents incurred in escaping from Russia. In time he met the people of God and has found a wonderful, loving family.

Brother Bob Watson reminisced about many of the older brothers and sisters and especially the ministry of this branch who have gone to their rewards. He referred to them as his nursing fathers and mothers. Looking out at the faces before him he noted many who were present that were not even born when he lived and labored here.

He expressed to us his love of books and the history to be found within them, and the importance of the knowledge that they carry.

Brother Dwayne Jordan related to us a story of Greek warriors—runners—with the job of passing messages swiftly to others by relay. As these runners prepared to pass the messages to the next one up the line, the enemy would seek to attack and destroy the message, sensing when the runners would be at their most vulnerable point. And so it is with the young among us. As we receive the message of the Gospel from those who are older and wiser, the enemy strikes out at us.

How precious is this Gospel we have received from our spiritual fathers and mothers who tutor us towards righteousness and alert us to the dangers around us as we in turn endeavor to pass the precious message to those who come after!

Detroit, Branch 1

By Lisa DiFalco

On Wednesday, October 24, Brothers Dan Picciuto and Leonard Lovalvo from Modesto, California came to speak to us at Detroit, Branch 1. Almost all the branches in the area were represented, and the brothers brought the conference spirit with them.

It was requested that Sister Rosanne Champine would sing her song, *Stand Up for the Restoration*. Brother Dan Picciuto then opened the service. He said there is something for each of us to do. God wants His people to "stand up for the Restoration." And God is no respecter of persons, He'll use anyone—young or old—as long as there is a desire.

Brother Dan then read Jeremiah 16:16, "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks." Brother Dan proceeded to say that many of the young brothers and sisters will be the hunters and fishers, but the elderly will not be excluded in this work. Not everyone has to be a missionary in a foreign land. They can be a missionary at home. Some people will not go but will be the support line. Financial backing and especially prayers are some

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things that the support line can do to aid the hunters and fishers in spreading God's word. Brother Dan said we are very close to the time when God will use the faithful.

Brother Dan illustrated how our brothers and sisters in Africa fast and pray for 24 hours or more to move the hand of God. If we are to be those faithful people we must go beyond the call of duty. In doing so, we will see the blessings of God poured out on us like we've never seen before. Brother Dan consoled us in that we should not be discouraged by the small number of our people, because in Fourth Nephi the Church was small but it had the blessings and was filled with the power of God.

Brother Dan related an experience that he had while working on an Indian reservation. He said he was in the church alone and a boy with cancer of the eyes came to him. He and his mother had traveled sixty long miles, because they were told that God does miracles in this Church. Brother Dan prayed on this boy and the family returned home. The following day the mother went to give her son his pill. When she did he said, "We traveled sixty miles to see God and now you want me to take this pill!" Three days later when the bandages were removed from his eyes, he saw the light. This was a perfect example of faith. Brother Dan related another experience where he prayed on a lame girl and later that day he saw her running with the other children for the first time in her life.

Yes, the blind will see. The lame will walk. These miracles that were performed by Jesus and His disciples can be performed by us. The Church has this authority as long as God is our first priority. Brother Dan proceeded to tell us many more beautiful experiences and encouraged us to cling to the prophecies and promises of God.

We sang *God's Still On His Throne* and Brother Leonard followed Brother Dan. Brother Leonard commented on the enthusiasm in the singing and carried over the excitement as he began to preach. He said the Lord is not slack in keeping His promises. But oh how often we want them now, out of order, at the wrong time. He continued saying some of us are trying to live in the past, and some of us are living so far in the future that we're having a hard time dealing with today.

Moses, too, had a hard time. He had a burning desire to know the things of God. First God had to get his attention with the burning bush. Then Moses came closer and stood on holy ground. He was given a mission by the great I AM. But looking at his future task, he thought his slowness of speech would hinder its progress, and he asked God for help. God's anger was stirred against him, but he gave Aaron, Moses' brother, to be his spokesman in assisting him in the work of God. After taking heed of these words, miracles began to happen.

Moses had a battle to contend with much like we do. He was sent out to do God's work just like our hunters and fishers are being sent out. Both were touched by God and both were sent out with a portion of His Spirit. But, Brother Leonard reminded us, the battle is not ours—it's God's. What we can do is prepare. First, we must become Christ-centered and get in step with His promises and have a perfect brightness of hope in them. Then we'll see the glory of God.

Brother Leonard said that God is moving and tapping lightly on every heart of every hunter and fisher, on everyone who wants to be used, and it's not in any particular age group. Brother Leonard related a dream his Aunt Sarah Watson had. In this dream a plane was making its way to a Navajo reservation. Brother Leonard was in the passenger seat and his son was the pilot. Upon reaching its destination, Brother Leonard was greeted by his Aunt Sarah, but she did not recognize the pilot. Brother Leonard said, "Aunt Sarah, that's my son. We came to build Zion."

Many more good works and experiences are on the way. Of a surety the devil will try to deceive, persuade, and camouflage the work of God. Never has the Church had to combat so much buffeting by the devil than now. Yet good things are coming. Brother Leonard reported that Brother Carr in Nigeria had 1500 people to baptize. And we have hopes of the Choice Seer coming, possibly in this generation.

In Brother Leonard's closing comments he related another experience, and he prompted us to go tell others about the experiences we have no matter how big or how small. Go share them with someone, and do missionary work at home among neighbors and friends, that the Church may grow through our testimonies.

Saline, MI

By Roseann Wood

One of the greatest joys we experienced at the Saline Mission was when Brother Frank Morle was able to meet with us as he did on Sunday, November 4. Visiting with us that day, Brother Tullio LaCivita spoke of the Spirit telling him he would see Brother Frank in our midst that day and he then proceeded with the message of the "Great Plan of Salvation," speaking from Alma 48 and of the world's confusion over the modes of redemption; elaborating on the variety of places one's soul would go and eventually come to rest. From Revelation 21, his message carried on to the "new heaven and the new earth," which shall come to be—for the old earth (our earth) has been contaminated; and those saved shall be those who do His will—for nothing unclean shall enter the gates of the city of gold, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. "We may not see the fulfillment of the peaceful reign in our lifetime," Brother Tullio spoke, "but we will see salvation if we prove faithful and humble." Peter also spoke of a new heaven and new earth (I Peter 4:17-18); the time will come for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not obey the Gospel of God?—for we read, "And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?"

Brother Reno Bologna continued with this thought, "the righteous are scarcely saved," speaking to us of the heaven and earth passing away—this happening universally, for the galaxy will change—but "you will live through it . . . if you study what kind of person you should be and then become that person. Our entire environment is enticing you away from what is holy and just in the sight of God . . . God accepts you the way you are now and is ready to take you to where He wants you to be."

Our brothers brought to us the words of the plan of salvation and told us the greatest words one could hear are "Well done, . . . enter into the joy of thy lord."

One is reminded of the prophet John, the revelator, who was exiled fifty miles

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