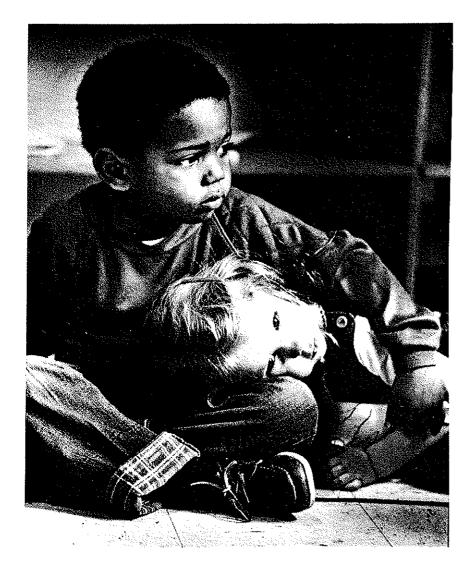


January, 1985



Volume 41, No. 1

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

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 selfseeking, 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;

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

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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

(Continued on Page 4)

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 Asst. Secretary Financial Sec. Treasurer Librarian Editor Asst. Editor Auditors	-Karen Progar -Tracey Francione -Brian Martorana -Jerry Valenti, Jr. -Philip Buffa -Ryan Ross -Rosanne Champine -David W. DeLuca -Ralph Cartino
Historian	-Dora Palacios
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 Caraopolis, 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!

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The Gospel News

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRNT HOUSE: Subscription price is \$6,00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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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 wre 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



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

(Continued on Page 10)

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

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-runnerswith 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

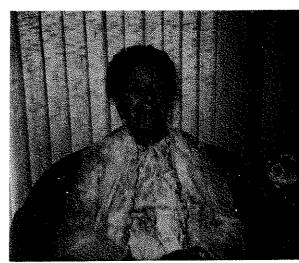
By Lisa DiFalco

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." Ând God is no respector 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

(Continued on Page 8)



Sister Grace Francione

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DETROIT continued . . .

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 prophesies 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

50th Anniversary

By Lisa DiFalco

Sunday, October 14, was an extra special day for Detroit Branch 1 as our Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo and Brother Anthony Scolaro marked their Golden Anniversaries in the Gospel.

In honor of our brother and sister's 50th anniversary, they were presented with carnations.

When the meeting was opened for testimony, Sister Yola expressed herself, thanking God for both her spiritual and natural family, and for calling her into the Gospel at the age of 17 in Rochester, New York. Even at this young age God was preparing her to be used. God had work for Sister Yola, and she was ordained a deaconess. In her 50 years of dedicated service to God, Sister Yolanda still has all the energy that she had when she was first baptized. This was reflected in the closing of her testimony. She said it's her desire to press forward.

Brother Tony also expressed himself. He thanked God for calling him at the tender age of 15 and for the many blessings God has showered upon him. Brother Tony was especially thankful that he is able to see all of his children in the Church while he is living. Brother Tony was baptized in Detroit on October 14, 1934 and even though he was a young boy, God was preparing him for work. He was called into the priesthood in 1956, and with the labor came many blessings. Brother Tony thanked the Lord with all his heart for having a pillar like his father, who has been a true inspiration to him, and for continually watching over him throughout his life.

We thank God for Brother Tony and Sister Yolanda and for their many years of dedicated service to the Lord. Both are truly vessels of gold. We pray along with them that they never lose the strength of their youth but continue to press forward to the end. "Press forward. The prize is in view. There's a crown of bright glory awaiting for you!"

SALINE continued . . .

offshore from Miletus in Asia Minor on the rocky island of Patmos for refusing to worship the image of the Emperor Domitian and of the final visions of a new heaven and a new earth, as predicted by Isaiah, describing the



Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo



Brother Tony Scolaro

renewal of all creation, free from imperfection and transformed by the glory of God.

Our rejoicing with Brother Frank's presence continued as he rose and joined our circle of brotherhood as we sang *Wave the Flags of Zion* and then led us in closing prayer, after which Sister Isabella Bologna told of her experience of a voice telling her not to prepare the sacrament to take to Brother Frank's home, for "he would be there," in our presence, to receive it. 10 January, 1985

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola

On September 23, 1984, another soul was called into The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Patricia Fraschilla was baptized by Brother Jerry Valenti and confirmed by Brother Paul Benyola.

Our sister related in her testimony that she had been searching for quite some time for something to fill the void in her life. After attending our Church for a period of time, she realized that those things which once satisfied her in life were no longer important to her. She knew in her heart that the Church's teachings, the love of the brothers and sisters, and her commitment to serve the Lord were the things which would bring her the peace and contentment she was searching for.

Our prayers are extended to our Sister Pat that God will guide and direct her in serving Him.

BLESSINGS continued . . .

the forehead to the base of the skull there was a bright band of pure gold. These bands glowed with brilliant light, as the noonday sun. The two figures were all clothed in white, and standing next to them was a white sewing machine.

When Sister Rose experienced this vision she wanted to know if it was from God. She said, "Lord if it is from You let me see it again." It then appeared twice more and included a third sister also clothed in white.

Now our Sister Rose is up in age and she did not know the sisters had worked to sew the clothes and could hear little of the letter of thanks when read.

There were other items of business to take care of, and we were proceeding to take care of them when Sister Rose asked to relate her experience.

Years ago, we had held all day meetings and the afternoons were devoted to testimony. Sister Rose had thought she would be able to relate her experience then, but the Lord urged her to speak now, knowing there would be no afternoon meeting, and she obeyed.

Moved by our sister's experience, one of our sisters stated that she had intended to decline her office should she be nominated, but she changed her mind and hoped to put new effort into the work. It is encouraging to hear and feel that the Lord is pleased and approves of our efforts.

Not great in the over all picture, but still a link in the chain in which every link is counted upon, be entreated one and all to keep up the good works, for by the fruit you shall know the tree.

New Arrivals

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

Christopher Steel to Joel and Ruth Gehly of Erie, Pennsylvania;

Benjamin to Ray and Cindy Bright of Levittown, Pennsylvania;

Andrea Marie to Dell and Gloria Rau of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Tamara Laurelle to Timothy and Marilyn DeMarrias of Wakpala, South Dakota;

Jeremy Ryan to Robert Jr. and Chris Nicklow of Monongahela, Pennsylvania;

Armand Joseph to Wayne and Mary Conti of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1;

Christine Dianne to Chuck and Dianne Maddox of Lake Worth, Florida.

Children Blessed

On September 25, 1983, Trisha Diane DeMarrias was blessed in Wakpala, South Dakota by Brother Earl DeMarrias.

* WEDDINGS *

ZEH-CIOTTI

Mr. James Zeh and Miss Renee Ciotti were united in holy matrimony at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 13, 1984. The bride's grandfather, Brother William Colangelo, presided over the ceremony, with the assistance of Brothers Paul and Frank Ciotti, the bride's uncles. Musical selections were played by Sister Nina DiCenzo.

The couple will reside in Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. May God richly bless them as they begin their new life together.

VITTO-WINTERS

Mr. Perry Vitto and Miss Sharon Winters were united in marriage on Saturday, September 22, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ Branch 4 in Redford, Michigan.

Brother Frank Vitto, father of the groom, performed the ceremony and was assisted by Brother Lou Vitto and Brother Peter H. Capone, the groom's uncles.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Frank Conti on the piano with Brother Steve Champine as soloist.

May God fill Perry and Sharon's marriage with blessings as precious as their love.

ROSS-GIBSON

Brother Steven Lyle Ross and Brenda Kaye Gibson were joined in marriage on July 28, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ Branch 1 in Cleveland, Ohio.

Brother Vince Gibson performed the ceremony with Brother Bill Prentice giving a very inspiring talk before the service.

Musical selections were performed by the Hapsburg Trio and soloist Reymon Rangel.

The newlyweds are residing in Chagrin Falls, Ohio

HUFNAGLE-SOCHIN

Brother Douglas Clifford Hufnagle and Kelly Ann Sochin were united in holy matrimony on October 20, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ Branch 1 in Cleveland, Ohio.

The groom's father, Brother Bill Hufnagle, officiated at the ceremony with the assistance of Brother Vince Gibson.

Musical selections were played by Brother Brian Martorana, with Sister Carla Dziak and Reymon Rangel as soloists.

The couple are living in Euclid, Ohio. May God bless them.

OBITUARIES

ROSE DELEARY

Sister Rose Deleary of Muncey, Canada passed away on October 5, 1984. She was born on May 12, 1883, making her the oldest member of the Muncey Mission at the time of her death.

Brother Peter H. Capone and Brother Jack Pontillo conducted the funeral.

Left to mourn Sister Rose are 3 daughters, 2 sons, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

GEORGE ONDRASIK

Brother George Ondrasik, a member of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch, passed away from this life on September 27, 1984. He was born January 3, 1903, was baptized on April 21, 1940, and ordained into the ministry July 14, 1941. He was known for his good works; he was always ready to help anyone in need.

Brother George is survived by his wife, Sister Martha, three daughters, two grandchildren, and will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

Officiating at the funeral services were Brothers Bob Buffington, Jimmy Moore, and James Moore, Sr.

THERESA GENNARO

Sister Theresa Gennaro, a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, passed on to her eternal reward on October 15, 1984. She was born on September 6, 1907 and became a member of the Church on August 26, 1923. She was ordained a deaconness on September 18, 1960. She was preceded in death by her husband, Apostle William Gennaro.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Ralph Berardino, with the assistance of Brother T. Dom Bucci and Brother Joseph Calabrese. Sister Theresa is survived by her son, Brother William D. Gennaro, her daughter, Sister Jan Ardinger of Texas, seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was a faithful and loving sister who will be sadly missed by all.

MARIO ZACCAGNINI

Mr. Mario Zaccagnini of Warren, Michigan passed from this life on October 20, 1984 in Bi-County Hospital. He was born in Italy and moved to the United States where he resided and married Sister Connie Zaccagnini.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Sister Connie, two sons and one daughter.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul Vitto and Apostle Nick Pietrangelo.

MICHELE (MIKE) DRAGONETTI

Brother Mike Dragonetti, a deacon of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch, passed away on November 24, 1984. He was born in Italy on November 19, 1894 and was baptized into the Church on January 29, 1934.

Funeral services were performed by Brothers Louis Vitto and Sam DiFalco.

Brother Mike was survived by his wife, Anna, one son, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. He was the father of the late Mary Mancinelli. Our Brother Mike was a pillar in the Church, and we will truly miss him.

JESSIE VELTMAN

Sister Jessie (Garlow) Veltman of Detroit, Michigan Branch 2 passed away on November 11, 1984.

Sister Jessie was born on the Six Nations Indian Reservation in Ontario, Canada on September 17, 1910 and was baptized by Brother Sam Cuomo on February 26, 1956.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Dan Parravano and Anthony R. Lovalvo. Brother Louis Vitto sang Sister Jessie's favorite hymn, *Supper Time*.

Surviving are her husband, Brother Jan, two sons, six daughters, 33 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, two brothers, and a host of brothers and sisters in Christ who will miss her very much.

DEAN ALBERT

Dean Kelly Albert passed from this life on March 11, 1984. He was born on October 2, 1968.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Dominic Moraca and Brother Peter H. Capone at Muncey, Ontario.

Dean is survived by his parents, Ken and Joyce Albert.

January, 1985

NORAH BRANT

Sister Norah Brant passed on to her eternal reward on April 5, 1984. Born on December 28, 1889, she was a member of the Muncey, Ontario Mission.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Tony Gerace and Brother Peter H. Capone.

Sister Brant is survived by a large family of one sister, five children, 71 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

WILLIAM DOLSON

Brother William Francis Dolson passed on to his eternal reward on June 14, 1984. Brother Dolson was a member of the Muncey, Ontario Mission. He was born on April 4, 1911.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Peter H. Capone and Brother Jack Pontillo.

Brother Dolson is survived by his wife, Sister Lillian, and a number of nephews and nieces.

SARAH FRENCH

Sister Sarah L. French of the Muncey, Ontario Mission passed away on May 12, 1984. Brother Tony Scolaro and Brother Peter H. Capone conducted the funeral service.

Sister Sarah is survived by one brother, one sister, and two sons.

EVA MURIEL MILLER

Sister Muriel Miller passed away very peacefully to her heavenly reward on November 15, 1984. She was a member of Detroit Branch 4, and was a true pillar of the Church in Detroit. She was baptized by Brother V. James Lovalvo and confirmed by Brother Mark Randy on August 6, 1939.

She is survived by her sister, Rosa E. Brown, three nieces, and two nephews. Her husband was the late Mat-

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thew T. Miller, an evangelist in the Church.

Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo, Anthony R. Lovalvo, and Norman Campitelle officiated at the funeral services.

Sister Miller wrote an item for The Gospel News some twenty-three years ago concerning the value of time. Its message is still pertinent today.—Ed.

The Value of Time

By Eva Muriel Miller (June, 1961)

True wisdom lies in gathering the precious things out of each day as it goes by. Take time to live, that's what time is for. God gives us lives to live, grace and strength to hold our minds to the highest we know, and open our hearts to the best, thus asking Him to fill our minutes, with magnetic contents. Take time to work. It's the source of power and success. While doing one's work, whatever it may be, spare the time to be kind. It is the source of happiness. Time is the gratest solver of all our problems. If only we had faith enough to trust it, and not put things off, but put them over.

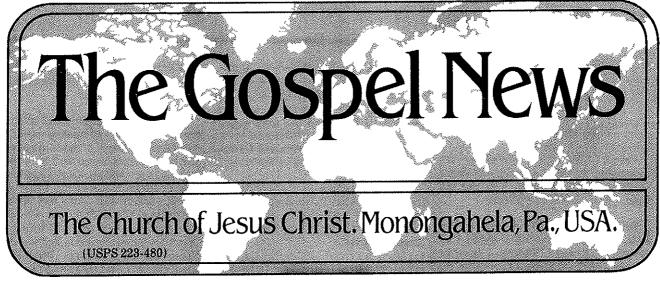
Take time to dream, and meditate; it is medicine for the soul. Thankful for life, and the blessings given, thinking those thoughts that are right and good. Doing those deeds, that you think you should, with love, is the greatest of virtues. Take time to be courteous; it always pays. Take time to worship, it is the highway of reverence and obedience to the commandments of God. Take time to read, it is the foundation of knowledge; what we do with time imprints a definite mark or spot on our character, no matter what we do.

Some day when we least expect it, the sun will rise on our last day of life. Those who are wise live ready all the time, because we never know when the test will come. Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour, wherein the Son of Man cometh. (Matthew 25:13) It's not the number of hours, days, or years that we have put in The Church of Jesus Christ, but what our daily efforts have been each hour for the building of God's Kingdom on earth. Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven. (Matthew 7:21)

Take time to plan; it is the secret of being able to look away from yourself. Practice lifting your mind above the rush and confusion around you. I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. (Psalms 121:1 & 2) There is time even in these busy days of ours to try this daily dozen. A little patience, at least once. A few minutes of unselfishness. A flash of generosity. A prompt reply for loyalty. A noble thought, perhaps a text recalled. A good deed not left undone. A brief prayer for a friend in trouble. A moment of thankfulness for blessings enjoyed. A kindly smile where it may brighten another's woe. A snatch of song, or hum of a tune, that helps with life's load.

Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life, and every setting sun be to you as its close, so that every moment leaves its sure record of some useful and purposeful activity, in our love and service to God.

12



February, 1985

It Is Written

By V. J. Lovalvo, Apostle



It is recorded in the Bible: Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter. (Isaiah 5:20)

History repeats itself over and over again. The above scripture is fulfilled today almost literally. Living together without being united in holy wedlock by ministers is the accepted thing. Having children out of wedlock is no longer frowned upon by the masses. Where it once was a shame to have a child without being married, now, in many cases, non-marriage pregnancies are not looked upon with much distaste. Where once the use of drugs was disgraceful, in the current years its use is widespread among young and old; some unfortunately are caught in its evil web, while others seek it willingly.

Low morals, adultery, drugs, murder, thievery, and a host of other evils are covering this earth with their mantle of

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debauchery, disease, and misery; conjuring up the "Four Horsemen" of the book of Revelations.

History recalls to us the devastation that sin and transgression have wrought upon the face of the earth. Isaiah, the prophet, declared that, The earth is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. (Isaiah 24: 5) Nation after nation has tumbled to dust because of immorality. Whether a nation has lasted a year or a thousand years, it has fallen because of the evil practices of its people. God is not mocked, wrote Paul, the Apostle, to the Galatians, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:7)

Sin and transgression of the Lord's commandments brings its own dire consequences; whether or not one justifies or rationalizes his sin. Saul, the king of Israel, tried to justify his disobedience of bringing back with him the best of the sheep and cattle from his war with the Amalekites, telling the prophet Samuel that he did so to sacrifice to the Lord, blaming this act of disobedience on the people rather than on himself. In consequence thereof, the prophet told him, To obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. Because of the many transgressions of Saul, God took away his kingship. Although Saul was still physically king, the Lord removed His Holy Spirit from him so that he no longer could commune with God, neither through dream or visions, nor through the prophets. Consequently, he was reduced to go to a witch of Endor for consolation.

David, the subsequent king of Israel,

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commited murder and adultery. He had Uriah sent to the foremost part of the battle after he had commited adultery with the man's wife. Sin caught up with him, nonetheless. When the prophet Nathan told him how angry God was with him for his transgression, David cried out, "I have sinned," and asked God's forgiveness. However, the prophet told him that because of his sin, the sword would never leave his house, and he would not be allowed to build the House of the Lord.

The rest of David's life was spent in confessing his sin and asking God's forgiveness. The consequences of his transgression remained with him until his death. Throughout the Psalms that he wrote is pictured his repentance. I quote a few: For I will declare mine iniquity; I will be sorry for my sin. (Psalm 38:18) My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Why art Thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? (Psalm 22:1) Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. He continues in the despair of his soul:

Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned, and done this evil in Thy sight . . . : Purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean: wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou hast broken may rejoice. Hide Thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within

Evangelist Ordained

By George Benyola

Frank Ciotti was ordained an evangelist of The Church of Jesus Christ on September 23, 1984, at the Santa Ana, California Mission.

Brother Frank was set aside for the office when his feet were washed by Brother Edward Purdue, another member of the Quorum of Seventy. He was ordained by Brother George (Rusty) Heaps.

Our brother's calling as an evangelist was underscored by a wonderful experience during his ordination. As Brother Rusty poured holy oil on Brother Frank's head, a personage appeared among the evangelists who formed a circle around their newest colleague.

The personage then laid his hands on top of Brother Frank's head when Brother Rusty offered the ordination prayer.

Brother V. James Lovalvo (Apostle) was the only one to see the personage, and immediately described the heavenly visitor as dressed in a white garment with a red sash. He identified the personage as Nephi, one of the three Nephites.

Prior to the ordination, the congregation was told about Brother Frank's calling in 1980, when a dream was given to Evangelist Mark Randy. Brother Mark had been petitioning God in prayer that He might call brothers into the Quorum of Seventy to fill some vacancies.

In the dream, Brother Mark saw himself at a General Church Conference where the call went out for all evangelists to come up to the front of the auditorium. When he looked around, Brother Mark saw Brother Frank among those who left their seats to head for the front.

After much prayer, the California District Evangelists submitted Brother Frank's name, along with that of Brother Paul Liberto, to the Quorum of Seventy in June, 1984 for consideration. Our brothers felt harmony in the recommendation, and the Lord told a Quorum member that both are bringing souls to Christ. Brother Frank is known for his enthusiasm and dedication for spreading the Restored Gospel. He has helped nurture the work in Santa Ana since its inception in 1980, and has even taught himself a measure of Spanish so he could preach to Mexicans and Central American people living in the area.

"There has been no work without someone behind it, pushing, praying, giving their money, giving of himself most of all," Brother Rusty said before the ordination.

Brother Rusty "acclaimed" Brother Frank a "man of God" who has been doing the work of an evangelist prior to his ordination.

After the ordination, Brother Frank asked the saints to continue praying for him. "I feel my unworthiness before God and before Jesus Christ," he said. "Yet I know I want to work for Him and do what I can do."

Brother Frank also thanked God for his wife, Shari, and the spirit of unity felt in his home as he busied himself with the work in Santa Ana. He also spoke about the love God has given him for the work among the Seed of Joseph, those native American peoples whose history is recorded in the Book of Mormon.

We continue to petition God on Brother Frank's behalf, praying that He will continue to give our new evangelist more contagious optimism and dedication to the Restored Gospel.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation for all the prayers, cards, and phone calls during my recent stay in the hospital. They were a great source of encouragement and an uplift during the recovery from my operation. May God bless you all.

> Sister Stella Arcuri Metuchen, New Jersey

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with gratefulness of heart that I am writing this letter of thanks. I have gone through a difficult period—and all the cards and letters of encouragement meant so much to me.

I lost my husband Chris in March, and your cards of sympathy were appreciated. Then I had surgery—a cancerous tumor removed. I also had a tumor in my left arm which caused the bone to fracture and split. I have been taking treatments, and the tumor is shrinking. The doctor was planning a bone graft in my arm, but through Xrays he found my bone healing itself! This is truly a miracle. With all the prayers of my brothers and sisters and the priesthood, the Lord is causing this bone to grow.

The doctor was so pleased that he gave me a folder with all my X-rays to show my other doctors. Last week I showed the X-rays to one doctor and she asked me if I believed in prayer. I answered, "I sure do." She commented that this is a miracle. I find my support and strength in the prayers of the family of God.

When I thought that I had no strength left, that's when cards of hope and thoughts came my way. God is so wonderful!

In August at the California Campout a handkerchief was anointed for me. A brother came to my home and presented it to me. He offered prayer, and I felt the power of God's Spirit in the anointing of the handkerchief. God is so good! He deserves praise! "What man cannot do, God can."

I am grateful for the family of God. With all of your prayers I find peace and hope and the Lord's soothing Spirit around me. God bless each of you.

Thanks again for all the prayers and cards sent to me.

Sister Violet Thomas San Diego, CA

- The Lord be with you as you walk Along your homeward road.
- In silent thought, in friendly talk, May you be near to God.
- The Lord be with you as the night Enfolds your day with rest.
- Be He in every heart the light, In every home the guest.

An Experience

I was born and raised in the Amish church, which is a very strict religion. With my father as a minister in that church, I was looked upon by others quite a lot. I joined the Amish faith at the age of nineteen to satisfy my parents. I never really felt that I was baptized.

At the age of twenty-one I began traveling to Ohio where I had relatives (I was born in Indiana). I got to know Ada, who is now my sister-in-law, and she introduced me to her brother Bert Miller in 1958. At that time he had left the Amish church for three years, and had been baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ since 1957.

The first time I saw Bert, I knew I would marry him. The day he met me he urged me to visit Brother Rocco Biscotti in Cleveland. I told him, "I am Amish, I will not change, and I will not go to meet your church people." He laughed and said, "I'm not coming back to the Amish until you see my church."

I didn't see Bert again until that fall. During this time I felt something was missing in my life, but I couldn't figure it out. I promised Bert a date in January of 1959. When he picked me up I had my white cap on. He told me I didn't need the cap, and showed me II Corinthians 11. I had never read this before. We got to talking and ended up not going out that evening. That night I had the first of three dreams. I dreamed of fire, snakes, and hell. The next night, Thursday, I had the same dream only worse. I never went back to sleep that night.

I had never really learned how to pray at home. Each night my whole family would kneel at chairs and my father would read out of a German prayer book. I couldn't understand what he was saying and we'd often fall asleep with our heads on the chairs.

On Friday night at bedtime I was afraid of having the same dream again. I knew I had to turn to the Lord. I got the Bible at the house where I was staying and knew that it was my answer. I pressed the Bible between my hands and started talking to the Lord like I never had before. I promised him I'd read wherever the book fell open that night. It opened to the Song of Solomon, which was new to me. I began to read and it felt like birds were singing and there was music in the air. I read the whole book and struggled to pray to the Lord (I didn't know what it was to pray from the heart.) I asked Him to guide me through the night.

That night I dreamed the most beautiful dream of my life. In the dream I packed a suitcase and Brother Bert came to pick me up. When he saw the suitcase he asked me where I was going. I told him I was going to church with him Sunday. As we traveled in the dream, we came to a dark tunnel. When we got to the end of the tunnel I saw Brother Rocco Biscotti's face on the left and he said, "You finally came." When he said that I looked up to heaven and saw the Church as white as snow. I awoke and felt a deep peace within my heart.

On Saturday I packed my suitcase, just like in the dream, because I wanted to see what kind of church Bert really had. I was singing with joy while I packed my things. That evening, Bert picked me up to go out on a date, and I told him I was going to Church with him the next day. We headed for Painesville, Ohio and stayed at Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Kline's home overnight. I wasn't very long in their home when I began to see a different kind of love among these people.

The next morning when I walked into the Perry Branch I couldn't believe my eyes. I said to Brother Bert, "There's the man that I saw in my dream." It was Brother Rocco Biscotti.

I felt rather awkward, dressed in my Amish clothes. When the meeting started Brother Biscotti asked if I had a favorite hymn. I had been looking in the Saints' Hymnal and saw one I knew, In the Garden. This was the first of January and I attended church with Brother Bert from then on. On February 15, 1959, I asked for my baptism. My father had written me a letter from Indiana on February 11 saying, "Whatever you do, don't let yourself be baptized again." Usually his letters took only one day to arrive, but this one didn't arrive until February 16. I feel that the Lord held the letter back until I was baptized.

I was baptized by Brother Frank Rivera. I was the first one to be baptized after they built the Perry building and on May 2, 1959, Brother Bert and I were married by Brother Rocco Biscotti, the first wedding to take place in that building.

God has been good to us. He has bless-

ed us over the years with three children and we have much to be thankful for. It was a blessing to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary.

> May God bless you all, Sister Ina Miller Warren, Ohio

A Letter

Dear Brother Anthony,

I hope this note will find you and yours in the very best of health and spirits.

I'm writing at this time for you to put in a few words in the next issue of The Gospel News for me. Please thank all the brothers and sisters who prayed for me during my one month period of hospitalization. I suffered a ruptured appendix which went unchecked for a few days and which nearly took my life. But thanks be to God, I was healed and now feel better than I did before. I have always enjoyed abundant health; have never gone to doctors or been in a hospital. How this happened to me is a puzzle. Nevertheless, I praise God for His mercy toward me and I thank Him for brothers and sisters and friends who cared enough to pray, send cards, and pay a visit or make a phone call. God bless you all!

We had two baptisms today at Anaheim—a wonderful couple whom I had the privilege to introduce the Gospel. What a joy I felt today.

I belong to the Santa Ana Mission, which is really growing—lots of work to do physically and spiritually. We meet each Monday morning at 6 a.m. for prayer before work.

I have been teaching school for several years now and work with second graders at present. I hold a bilingual credential, which means I teach in Spanish. I do all the translation work for our ministry out here. I went to college specifically to be trained for the work of God, and I praise God for the work He has given me to do. Only one thing is important in this life, and that is "to please God in every way and to do His will." Therein lies the key to real happiness.

God bless you all.

With love-in-Christ, Sister Santina M. Mercuri

50th Anniversary

Fifty years of service . . . Many times in our daily lives we hear of people's accomplishments. In most cases, these people have served a company for many years and now will be rewarded with retirement. We hear of gold watches and parties and the familiar "You deserve it, take a rest."

On March 11, 1984, the Modesto Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ celebrated with nine brothers and sisters 50 years of dedicated service. But there was no retirement party for these people. Instead, there was a "gathering" of those who loved thema show of affection and admiration and support for the future. These nine people have loved and proudly served the Lord Jesus Christ for over 50 years-a total of over 450 years of worship! Their accomplishments in 50 years of service to the Lord is an example to us all. The celebration was an uplift to those attending-nine role models of faithful people who love the Lord.

We honored them with flowers and presented them each with a plaque displaying 50 years of service. The ceremony was led by Brother Leonard Lovalvo, who read a summary of their lives since their baptism, and asked each to give their personal testimony. The church building was full of people who loved them and we all stayed to share a delicious dinner and cake after the ceremony.

As each of our brothers and sisters got up to receive their plaque, they proudly gave their testimonies. The following is a little about each one of them:

Brother John Santarcangelo: Baptized January 1, 1934 by Brother Joseph Bologna in Detroit, Michigan and confirmed by Brother Joe Dulisse. He was a member of Detroit Branches 2 and 1 and transferred to Modesto in November of 1978. He was ordained a deacon in 1934 and has faithfully served in that capacity since that time. One hears stories of Brother John shoveling snow and turning on heaters in preparation for worship services. The building was always warm and ready for the saints when they arrived. In his testimony (one which he never fails to give) he says that God is his constant companion. He had an experience before joining the Church: he dreamed he was in an empty field and there was one very dry tree. He understood the tree to be himself. Then he saw a second tree on a river shore. The water was crystal clear and the tree was beautiful. The Lord said, "When you repent and become baptized in this water, you will become as this beautiful tree." This was the only experience he needed to make his commitment to the Lord. Brother

John, now 91 years old, is an inspiration to us all. He has had many experiences since his baptism and never hesitates to say: "*This* is the Church of Jesus Christ that saved my soul . . . there is no other way." God bless you, Brother John!

Brother Vito (Bill) LaCommare: Baptized and confirmed December 10, 1933 by Brother Joseph Giansante in Detroit, Michigan. He has been a member of Detroit Branches 1 and 4. He transferred to Modesto in June of 1953. He was ordained a teacher in 1935. Brother Bill was deeply moved as he gave his testimony. He said that before he joined the Church, he wanted evidence that the gospel was true and prayed for it time after time. God answered his prayers at 5:00 one morning when he heard a whisper in his left ear (speaking in Italian) "Come, come." He was convicted and baptized and has had many experiences to help him along the way. His closing comments were: "I feel like I'm in the ark of safety, floating in the living waters towards heaven. My biggest thrill will be when I receive the crown of everlasting life."

Sister Frances Camarda: Baptized December 10, 1933 by Brother Joseph Giansante in Detroit, Michigan and confirmed by Brother Thurman S. Furnier. She was a member of Detroit Branches

(Continued on Page 8)



Left to right, Mark Randy, Frances Camarda, Virginia Lovalvo, Joe Lovalvo, Bill LaCommare, Lena Bologna, Joe Bologna, John Santarcangelo, and Carmella Santarcangelo.

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

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As I compile the articles submitted to me for this month's *Gospel News*, I am uplifted and encouraged in seeing letters of praise and thanksgiving from throughout the Church, acknowledging the prayers of the saints and rejoicing in the Lord's intervention on behalf of these writers. Other articles bring the encouraging news that the Church is growing, as we read of a mission dedicated in the California District committed to spreading the Gospel among the Seed of Joseph.

As edifying as all this good news is to us, we are all somewhat distressed when we hear of the loss of our dear loved ones, some of whom many of us felt very close to and will miss sorely. As we reflect upon their suffering and our loss, we sometimes find ourselves asking, "Why, Lord, why did it have to happen this way?"

In today's world, where major scientific and technological breakthroughs are almost an everyday occurrence, we've grown accustomed to having the answers to most of life's questions. Because we're so used to having all the answers, we seem to become especially frustrated and impatient when something happens in our life that we don't understand, something like a prolonged illness or the loss of a loved one.

In the face of these vicissitudes, we can easily become discouraged spiritually. If we allow ourselves to dwell upon our disappointments, we will find it easier and easier to feel angry with the Lord for not answering our prayers in the manner we'd like them answered. The deeper we descend into the valley, the higher the climb we have ahead of us to return to the mountain top where we, as the sons and daughters of God, are privileged to dwell.

Discouragement is a tool of the enemy of our souls. If he cannot persuade us to disobey the commandments of God, he places things like fear and unbelief in our paths, in an attempt to lead us away from the Lord. Discouragement erodes the faith that it's taken many years for us to build up, and without faith, who among us can overcome?

We must not allow ourselves to fall upon this stumbling block, for as the Lord has promised us, *He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son*. But the fearful and unbelieving cannot attain this inheritance. (Revelation 21:7&8)

Far be it from me to say that it is an easy thing *not* to become discouraged. It takes all the strength we can muster, often at a time when we have very little strength, to retain our grasp on that rod of iron which leads to everlasting life. The Lord Jesus Christ, from whom our strength comes, told us, *In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.* (John 16:33) As we fight, with the help of God, against life's disappointments, He blesses us with the peaceful assurance that "God's still on His throne," and when all is told. His servants will dwell with Him and sing His praises for eternity!

Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:28-31)

The

Children's



By Jan Steinrock

Corner

A Lamanite King Believes in God

A continuation of the story in the December, 1984 Issue. -Ed.

Dear Girls and Boys,

King Lamoni had been raised to believe that whatever he chose to do was right. When sheep robbers scattered his flocks and took his sheep, he had the shepherds killed. Now his new shepherds had run back to the palace carrying arms cut off from the sheep robbers and telling the king the most amazing story! His newest servant, Ammon, a Nephite prince, had fought off the robbers all by himself! He had told the shepherds to hurry and gather their scattered sheep while he fought the robbers.

What power he had! No one could kill him, and here was a pile of arms to prove it. King Lamoni was shocked and afraid. He began to think that maybe Ammon wasn't a Nephite, but was the Great Spirit himself, come down to punish King Lamoni for all the times he'd killed his shepherds.

When Ammon returned, the king called for him, and then was unable to speak for an hour. Ammon prayed in his heart and understood what the king was thinking. He asked Lamoni, "Are you marvelling because you've heard I defended your servants and flocks and killed seven robbers with my sling and cut off the arms of others who tried to attack me? Is this why you marvel so much? Behold, I am a man and your servant. Whatever you want that is right, I will do."

King Lamoni asked anyway, "Are you the Great Spirit who knows all things?"

Ammon answered, "No, I am not."

The king questioned, "How do you

know the thoughts of my heart? And tell me by what power you killed and cut off the arms of the robbers that scattered my sheep! If you will tell me, I will give you anything you want!"

So Ammon replied, "If I will tell you by what power I do these things will you listen to me? That is my desire."

Eagerly Lamoni answered, "Yes, I will believe all your words." So now Ammon had the chance he'd been praying for to really tell this man about the love and power of God. He asked Lamoni if he believed in God. Lamoni called God the Great Spirit and believed that he'd created everything on earth. Ammon explained to him that he'd created everything in the heavens as well and had created man in His own image.

Ammon explained to King Lamoni that God's Holy Spirit had called him to teach these things to the Lamanites so they would have knowledge of things just and true. Ammon explained that part of God's Holy Spirit was in him and that it gave him power and knowledge according to his faith and desire.

Lamoni was hearing the story of Adam and the holy prophets of God for the first time, since he was a Lamanite and it was the Nephites who had kept the holy written records of God. Ammon told Lamoni that the ancient traditions of his people weren't true; he heard and believed.

When Ammon began to tell Lamoni about God's wonderful plan of redemption prepared from the beginning of the earth, and all about Jesus Christ, Lamoni began to cry unto the Lord. He cried saying, "Lord, have mercy upon me and my people.'

The cover of darkness and unbelief in

his soul was beginning to be lifted. As Ammon's wonderful words about God sank into Lamoni's soul, he was overcome with joy. This was the first step in King Lamoni's conversion to God. Soon he would lead his whole kingdom to a true belief in Christ.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

Ammon	king
arms	Lamoni
Christ	man
cut	\mathbf{off}
go	robbers
great joy	save
joy	spirit

S	Т	A	E	R	G	I
R	I	0	v	0	J	С
Е	R	F	A	I	s	н
B	I	F	s	N	U	R
В	Р	U	0	0	G	I
0	s	М	v	M	N	s
R	М	Α	N	A	I	Т
A	R	М	S	L	K	J
С	U	т	J	0	Y	R

For Deborah

God takes the darkness and turns it to day, God helps His children for their spiritual display. God holds us dearly and cradles our fears, For He loves us and will for all of our years. God wants His children to be close in their hearts, God needs our worship each morning to start. God made a promise to all who will hear: His Glory, His sanction will always be near.

> Sister Stephanie Winkler Atlanta, Georgia Mission

6

MBA Highlights

Ohio Area Hosts Thanksgiving Dinner

On Saturday, November 17, approximately fifteen saints from the Ohio Area MBA gathered together near Athens, Ohio to host their 5th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, this year with the Broadwell Indian Center and the surrounding community. Sisters Brenda Ross and Cindy Prentice were in charge of organizing the collection of food donated by the locals in the Ohio Area, and also preparing the food at the Indian Center. This year the saints prepared six turkeys with all the trimmings to feed those gathered.

All the preparations were done by 1 p.m. and approximately 60 individuals from the community gathered to share in the festivities. Some members from the community brought desserts and other items for the meal. Brother Bill Prentice, who is in charge of this work for the Ohio District Mission Board, made a few opening remarks, and we were led in prayer by Brother Bill Hufnagle. The Church was well received and we had the opportunity to "let our light shine" among this people, several of whom were American Indians.

After the dinner we gathered at a church building next door where we fellowshipped in singing and listened to a few words by Brothers Bill Prentice, Russ Martorana, and Bill Hufnagle. Sister Carolyn Light played the piano and the saints were asked to sing a few selections. We sang *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning, Come All Ye* that Thirst, and Send Hunters and Fishers. We listened to a few selections sung by members of the community and also heard a few words by their ministers, who thanked us for our efforts and enjoyed praising God with us.

We also prepared meals with the leftover food to take into the homes of shutins and those who could not attend the dinner. The Priesthood of the Church accompanied the members of the Broadwell Indian Board in distributing these meals to over twenty homes, thereby feeding over forty-five additional people. Our elders had the opportunity to speak with them and have prayer in their homes. The Church was well received in visiting these homes, many of which greatly needed the food.

Sunday morning the saints gathered at the Broadwell Indian Center to hold services. We had three visitors from the Indian community. Brother Russ Martorana opened the meeting using the 11th and 12th chapters of III Nephi as his text. He spoke on the teachings of Jesus Christ and his ministry here on the land of America. Brothers Bill Prentice and Stacey Light followed Brother Russ along the same topic. We enjoyed a beautiful spirit of singing and testimony. All were thankful for the weekend that we had spent in the service of our fellow man and God. The Ohio District Mission Board and the Area MBA continue to work very closely and we ask a continued interest in your prayers that the Gospel may go forth.

May God bless you.

Ohio Area MBA Ohio District Mission Board

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

Many good things are happening at the Sterling Heights Branch as the Lord continues to shower blessings upon the saints. The Lord inspired many of the younger generation to go out and collect food for our annual Christmas basket gathering. A total of 75 food baskets were made up, filled with all kinds of foods including canned hams, soups, and vegetables, chili, spaghetti and sauce, peanut butter, and jellies. The baskets were distributed to needy families in the inner city and other parts of Detroit.

We would like to thank all that took part in this benevolent cause, including those who donated food and money.

The brothers and sisters at Sterling feel that if we keep doing good things for the Lord that our hearts will draw closer to God, never to be moved.

I, the Lord, search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings. (Jeremiah 17:10)

Truth shall spring out of the earth and righteousness shall look down from heaven. Psalms 85:11

The Legend of the Spider and the Silken Strand Held in God's Hand

There's an old Danish Legend with a lesson for us all Of an ambitious spider and his rise and his fall. Who wove his sheer web with intricate care As it hung suspended somewhere in midair, Then in soft, idle luxury he feasted each day On the small, foolish insects He enticed as his prey, Growing ever more arrogant and smug all the while He lived like a "king" in self-satisfied style-And gazing one day at the sheer strand suspended, He said, "I don't need this," so he recklessly rended The strand that had held his web in its place And with sudden swiftness the web crumpled in space-And that was the end of the spider who grew So arrogantly proud that he no longer knew That it was the strand that reached down from above Like the chord of God's grace and His infinite love That links our lives to the great unknown. For man cannot live or exist on his own-And this old legend with simplicity told Is a moral as true as the legend is old-Don't sever the "lifeline" that links you to THE FATHER IN HEAVEN WHO CARES FOR YOU.

By Helen Steiner Rice

Submitted by Catherine Mulla Detroit, Michigan

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

1 and 3 and transferred to Modesto in December of 1964. She was ordained a deaconness March 13, 1977. Sister Frances told of her experience in coming to the Church. She attended a meeting in which a woman spoke in tongues. She understood every word and heard her to say, "Unless you are baptized of the water and the spirit, you can in no way enter the kingdom of heaven." She then experienced that she was in Jerusalem and an old man directed her saying, "Daughter, you go over there." (Pointing to a multitude of people.) There she saw Christ speaking and He said to her: "This is the hour ... are you ready to come with me? Come ... " She called her baptism and has never regretted it. Sister Frances has been a faithful servant through many hard times but the love she has for the Lord always shines through.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo: Baptized July 16, 1933 in Detroit, Michigan by Brother Ishmael D'Amico and confirmed by Brother Patsy DiBattista. He has been a member of Detroit Branch 1; Windsor, Canada; Sarnia Mission; Grand River, and Muncey, and came to Modesto in September of 1953. He was ordained as a teacher in 1935, an elder in 1936, an evangelist in 1937, and an apostle in 1939. Brother Joe told us that before coming to the Church, he prayed for an experience to show him that the gospel was true. His prayer was "Lord, if you're real, answer my prayer because I want to serve you." That night, the Spirit came upon him and he dreamed the following dream: He was climbing up a hill on a narrow road. At the top of the hill there was a building made of precious jewels and he wanted to get there very badly. Two hands came out with long claws and grabbed at him; they held him and tore his clothes and flesh. But he struggled and got to the top, bleeding and tired. At the top of the hill he could see that the building had writing across the top. It said The Church of Jesus Christ. As he looked at it, a voice said "Joseph, if you want to serve Me, now is your opportunity." That's all he needed to make his commitment. God changed his heart and his life. He feels that his brothers and sisters are his crown and his glory, and says "I'll serve the Lord and praise Him 'til the day I die.'

Brother Mark Randy: Baptized April 23, 1933 by Brother Matthew Miller in Detroit, Michigan, and confirmed by Brother Wade Riggen, he was a member of Detroit Branch 1, then Port Huron Mission, and transferred to Modesto in 1951. He was ordained a teacher in 1934, an elder in 1936, and an evangelist in 1938. Brother Mark established The Church of Jesus Christ here in Modesto through a series of very profound experiences. He has done much missionary work and always finds a smile for everyone. To him, The Church of Jesus Christ is more than just a group of people, it is a blessing that God has given us. Brother Mark's love for mankind always shows through. He is a humble man who is always quick to praise His Lord and his brothers and sisters. He is truly a blessing to us all.

Sister Virginia Lovalvo: Baptized March 5, 1933 by Brother Matthew Miller in Detroit, Michigan and confirmed by Brother Joseph Giansante. She was a member of Branch 1 in Detroit; Windsor, Canada: and transferred to Modesto in September of 1953. She was ordained a deaconness in 1942. Sister Virginia was raised Catholic, but one day was presented with the opportunity to go to The Church of Jesus Christ. When she walked in the building she saw "a group of people so humble." She saw a vision of Christ walking down the aisle and all the people following. She was baptized shortly after that experience and says she has been able to walk with Him and do His will. Sister Virginia is a model Christian woman who has been a constant support to her husband in his ministry and an example to all she meets. Her hospitality is never ending and she proudly testifies of her love for the Lord and all that He has done for her.

Sister Carmella Santarcangelo: Baptized June 29, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan by Brother P. Costa and confirmed by Brother Joseph Giansante. She was a member of Detroit Branch 1 and transferred to Modesto in November of 1978. Sister Carmella was there with her husband on those wintry nights in Detroit helping to prepare the church building for services. She has been a supportive wife in every way and a faithful, loving, prayerful woman. Sister Carmella gave her entire testimony in English for this ceremony which is something we don't often hear! The Lord has blessed her with many dreams and she has been blessed with the gift of interpretation of tongues on many occasions. Before her baptism, she too prayed that the Lord would answer her question: "Is this your church?" In a dream, she was given her answer, and was baptized. Her smiling face always brightens the room, and her faithfulness and sincerity is to be admired.

Brother Joe Bologna: Baptized June 22, 1930 in Detroit, Michigan by Brother Ishmael D'Amico and confirmed by Brother Joseph Dulisse. He was a member of Detroit Branch 2 and transferred to Modesto November 27, 1958. He was ordained a teacher in 1933, an elder in 1933, and an evangelist in 1947. In Brother Joe's words: "I am thankful to God that He was mindful of me in calling me to His gospel. Before joining the Church, I was reading Dante's trilogy, The Divine Comedy, concerning his idea of Heaven, Purgatory, and Hell. The description of Hell shook me so much and I was so fearful that I couldn't sleep. I couldn't find rest anywhere. The Lord showed me a dream where I was on a flat mountain all by myself, thinking, 'Why am I here?' I saw from far away something moving towards me. It was like big apes carrying 2-foot long knives. I asked myself 'Where am I going to go...how will I get away?' As they came closer, something lifted me and put me down about a mile away. This happened twice. After I was baptized, the dream came back to me and the explanation was clear: the Gospel lifted me up and delivered me from evil."

Sister Lena Bologna: Baptized May 27, 1929 in Detroit, Michigan by Brother Wade Riggen and confirmed by Brother Matthew Miller. She has been a member of Detroit Branches 1 and 2 and transferred to Modesto November 27, 1958. She was ordained a deaconness December 18, 1960. Sister Lena is the youngest in age of the group, and the longest baptized...over 54 years! In her words: "Church is my whole life. As soon as I came to this church, I loved it. I didn't need an experience; I knew this is what I wanted. Our house became a house of prayer with brothers and sisters over all the time." The Lord has blessed Sister Lena in many ways...even the night before this ceremony, she suffered with her foot hurting her to the point she could not walk. She called Brother Leonard because as head deaconness, she felt she needed to make arrangements for someone else to prepare for feet washing. She was disappointed that she could not attend, but she couldn't walk. While talking to Brother Leonard, she began to feel better, and by the time she was to go to church, she was able to walk on her own...even up to the rostrum to receive her plaque and bear her testimony. Sister Lena has also been

Branch and Mission News

Miami, FL

November 18, 1984 was a historic day for the Miami Mission as Marc Rogers, a young Jewish man, was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ after attending for several months.

Brother Marc was baptized in Biscayne Bay by Brother Mark Kovacic as the saints witnessed from the shore another soul coming to Christ and the special blessing of seeing one of Israel committing his life to Jesus. After the baptism, the Mission gathered back at the meeting hall and before the service started there were five anointings and a spirit of peace and joy was felt by all.

Brother Marc was then confirmed a member by the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Kovacic. A short sermon followed, taken from III Nephi 12:6, as Brother Kovacic emphasized that we must "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

A season of testimony and fellowship followed with our new Jewish Brother giving thanks to God for His son, Jesus Christ, and for leading him to The Church of Jesus Christ. This was the Church's second baptism this year in Miami, for which we are all thankful.

Aliquippa, PA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

The scriptures tell us that there is joy in the presence of the angels when a person repents of his sins (Luke 15:10). There surely must have been joy in their midst as there was in the Aliquippa Branch when we witnessed the baptism of Sister Barbara (Palmieri) DiBartola on Sunday, October 28, 1984.

We in the Aliquippa Branch had looked forward to this day with much anticipation. Several weeks earlier, Barbara had told her uncle, Brother Paul Palmieri, that when she got better she wanted to be baptized. Barb had been very seriously ill for many days and was even near death, but through the prayers of the saints and God's mercy, her life was spared and we were able to witness this beautiful day.

A large crowd gathered on this beautiful Sabbath morning with visitors from Vanderbilt, Glassport, Imperial, and Lorain; and we all looked forward to the blessings that we would receive throughout the day. Brother John Ali of the Glassport Branch opened our meeting and spoke of the hope we have in our lives of receiving the crown of eternal life. He stated that we have to hold on to that which is good and keep God's commandments and we will receive God's gift of eternal life. Brother John also expressed his happiness in the calling of Sister Barbara and stated that this is the first step in inheriting that eternal gift. We very much enjoyed the words of our brother and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless him.

Brother James Gibson continued on the same subject and told of God's plan for salvation. He stated that with God's help we can carry out each and every step of His plan for eternal life. Our brother stated that first and foremost in our lives should be the concern for the welfare of our souls and we should do everything we can to ensure our salvation. We thank God for His wonderful plan, and our hope is that we all may someday reach that goal of eternal rest with God. Brother Charles Jumper closed our meeting with prayer and we looked forward to the drive to the Imperial Branch where the baptism would take place.

When we arrived at the baptismal site, we sang beautiful hymns while awaiting the arrival of the candidate. How joyous it was to stand at the water's edge and reminisce about our own baptisms, a day I am sure none of us will ever forget. That familiar favorite hymn, Shall We Gather at the River, was sung and Brother Charles Jumper asked God's blessing upon this ordinance. Sister Barbara was baptized by her uncle, Brother Paul Palmieri. It is no wonder that the angels rejoice in heaven when a soul comes to Christ as we all shed tears of joy in witnessing this beautiful and sacred ordinance. Brother Bob Buffington dismissed us with prayer, and we made our way back to Aliquippa for the confirmation.

Brother Joseph Ross opened the afternoon service and stated that he noticed a peaceful spirit among all those

that witnessed the baptism and that the Spirit of God was among us. He also related that when a person is baptized their whole countenance seems to change when they come up out of the water and it's all because they are doing the will of God. Our brother told Sister Barbara that she was about to receive the greatest gift anyone can receive, the gift of the Holy Ghost, which helps us to keep God's commandments and guides us and directs us after we are baptized. Following the words of our Brother Joe we sang the hymn Ready as Sister Barbara made her way to the front of the building. Brother Paul Palmieri then asked for God's blessing upon the confirmation and Sister Barbara was confirmed by her grandfather, Brother Anthony Palmieri. What a blessed sight it was to see Brother Tony confirm his granddaughter into the Church. As our new sister embraced the members of the priesthood we sang I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice. Following the hymn Brother Ken Staley very beautifully sang Good Morning God, which he felt described Barbara's calling into the Church.

We felt a beautiful spirit in the partaking of the Lord's Supper and also in the season of testimony that followed. Our new sister thanked all the brothers and sisters for their prayers during her illness and asked that we continue to remember her as she strives to do the will of God. Many other beautiful testimonies were offered thanking God for all His goodness toward us. Brother John Ross ended our day and summed up God's goodness to us in his prayer when he stated, "We thought we might be gathering for Barb's funeral, but instead we gathered for her baptism." We thank God for His mercy and His grace and our hope is that all mankind might share in His blessings.

Levittown, PA

On November 25, Brother Sam Dell once again preached a sermon to the Levittown Branch. Brother Sam had been missing from our Branch due to a serious operation he had to undergo. Through many prayers and fastings, he has fully recovered and is once again back in our midst.

We opened the Sunday meeting by singing the hymn *He Planted Me Deep*. Brother Sam introduced the meeting 10 February, 1985

LEVITTOWN continued . . .

and presented a question to the congregation: "How deep are we rooted, and is our commitment to God strong enough to endure any problem that might come into our life?" He spoke on the 12th Chapter of Romans where it mentions that we should present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God. Cleave to that which is good, rejoice in hope, being patient in tribulation and continuing in prayer.

Brother Sam mentioned that when he was lying in his hospital bed feeling very weak at times, he found that as soon as he started talking about the Church to those he came in contact with, his body was strengthened. Even though he was afflicted, he never felt that God deserted him. We are all faced with storms in our lives, but with God's help, he pulls us through these storms, teaching us patience and endurance along the way.

Brother Sam thanks everyone for their cards, their concern—but most of all, for the prayers offered on his behalf.

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

On December 16, 1984, the Riverside Mission was greatly blessed when Brother V. J. Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Mary, visited the saints here. As any other new mission would feel, the visit by one of the twelve Apostles was like a shot in the arm. Brother Jim opened the meeting after several selections were sung by the brothers and sisters.

Brother Jim said that if we want to be like Christ, we must practice even as a professional person would do in this life. He then sang *Oh Soul Have You Thought*. After testimonies the meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Lloyd Henderson.

We have a visitor attending that has eight children and her husband left her with no money or any way to support her family. Through the efforts of our brother, this woman had a good Christmas. The day we delivered food and clothing to her home, she said it was like two Angels came to her home. She has a beautiful testimony and I hope she will one day accept the Gospel.

The other booster shot we received

was by the several visits by Evangelist Otto Henderson. Brother Otto said one of the times he came into our meeting, the Power of God came down upon him as soon as he walked in. Brother Otto has been a great help because of his humility and knowledge of the Restoration, which are two requirements in working with the Seed of Joseph.

The work is moving forward in Riverside and I believe it will continue as long as we remind the people here to seek Christ first and live a righteous life.

A wonderful experience was had by the son of Sister Lupe and Brother John. He said early in the morning hours he was awakened by a light coming from his parents' room which shone all night. When morning came he asked his mother why they slept with the light on all night, to which they replied, we did not. The interpretation of this dream to me is, the light of Christ came to this home. When the light of Christ comes into our life, we can either keep it shining bright or turn it off.

Pray for us because every time a new work gets started, it gives Satan pain, and he will inevitably try to stop it.

Cincinnati, OH

By Sister Rose Licata

October 7, 1984 will be a day long remembered at the Cincinnati Mission. We gathered that day to witness the ordination of our brother Joe Furnari as an elder.

Brother Joe's feet were washed by Brother Bill Hufnagel of Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Joe Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio ordained our brother into the ministry.

We were all blessed as Brothers Joe Calabrese, Bill Hufnagel, Vince Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio and Mitchell Edwards of Warren, Ohio preached the word of God to us with authority and power. Brother Joe Furnari expressed himself as to his calling into the ministry.

In attendance were brothers and sisters from Omaha, Nebraska; Dayton, Ohio; South Bend, Indiana; Cleveland, Ohio; and Lorain, Ohio. Also in attendance were family and friends.

Our prayer is that the Lord will bless

our brother as he begins his ministry. We would also like to invite our brothers and sisters to visit and worship with us when passing through our area. If you can visit please call 513-941-6442 or 513-922-7416.

Santa Ana, CA

By Ralph Frammolino

The Santa Ana Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ dedicated its first church building September 23 after meeting in homes and rented facilities for four years.

The dedication service, well attended by many saints in the California District, featured singing and a review of the history of the Santa Ana work. The spirit of gratitude was felt by all, and the Lord blessed the service with the gift of tongues to confirm His presence.

The work in Santa Ana began as an outgrowth of the Anaheim Branch. The Mission held its first meeting in March of 1980 in the home of Brother Raymond and Sister Frances Mireles. At about the same time, Sister Santina Mercuri, who works in the Santa Ana schools, began bringing four to twelve students at a time to the Anaheim Branch. Eventually, the parents of these children began to attend the services at Santa Ana.

The Mission was officially organized in January of 1981, but the City of Santa Ana told the new group that church meetings were prohibited in homes. The saints rented a church, but their hearts yearned for a building of their own.

"Whenever the Mission members were driving, we didn't watch the street," Brother Frank Ciotti said. "We were looking for our church."

Meanwhile, the Gospel began to spread in Santa Ana. In early 1983, 28 members attended services. By the end of the year, 15 more had been baptized. So far in 1984, there have been 11 baptisms, four transfers in and one renewal, bringing the total membership to 59.

Soon, God was to provide a church building located on McFadden and Orange Streets.

Brother Frank related several experiences showing how God confirmed that this building was for the Santa Ana Mission. In one, Brother Ysidro Dominguez, one of our newly-ordained elders, visited a meeting being held at the building by the former church group that owned it.

While the minister of that group was speaking, the Lord opened Brother Ysidro's mind and he saw the words "The Church of Jesus Christ" on the front wall and the Santa Ana ministry sitting on the rostrum. As Brother Frank was telling this experience, Brother Paul Ciotti of Pennsylvania spoke in tongues, confirming the truth of the experience.

Brother Frank said one sister in Anaheim had a dream that indicated the work in Santa Ana would grow, with much work, as fruitfully as the Gospel had spread in Detroit beginning in the 1920's, where the faith of a handful eventually blossomed into a district of many branches and missions.

After remarks by Brother Frank, Brother V. James Lovalvo (Apostle) offered the dedicatory sermon, speaking about the day Solomon dedicated the temple before Israel. Likewise, the Church was dedicating its newest building in Santa Ana, he said.

"When you want to know who owns a house, you go to the Hall of Records," said Brother Lovalvo. "But no one will have to do that with the Church. Everyone will know God owns a house on McFadden and Orange because of the power and glory."

Brother Edward Perdue (Evangelist) offered the dedicatory prayer in Spanish, the language most used during the Santa Ana services since many of our brothers, sisters and friends here are Mexican or from Central America.

Following the service, the saints of Santa Ana fed the large congregation and the brothers and sisters of the California District spent the time in fellowship.

Our prayer is that God will continue to bless the work in Santa Ana so someday soon the mission will either have to dedicate a larger building or sponsor an independent work of its own.

He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: Who can stand before his cold? Psalm 147:16&17

San Diego, CA

By Ralph Frammolino

Brother Joe Calabrese (Evangelist) visited the San Diego Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ December 9 and preached about Psalm 23, giving the saints a wonderful exposition of the much-loved scripture.

Brother Joe opened his sermon by saying the Spirit of God prompted him the night before to talk about Psalm 23. He said that as he was studying scripture, trying to prepare himself mentally for the Sunday service, the Spirit brought emphatically to his mind the first line of the psalm, **The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.**

"Shepherds are a dime a dozen out there," said Brother Joe. "But what kind of shepherds are they?" He exhorted the saints to put their trust in Jesus Christ, and they will be sure to never lack for anything good and wholesome.

He then compared the green pastures and the still waters to the contentment God gives His people. Unlike the bad shepherd, he said, God will not lead his people into rocky pastures.

God also **restoreth** our souls by giving the saints confidence. "You and I experience reverses like David. But you get confidence once again," said Brother Joe. With this experience, he continued, we are then led in **paths of righteousness for his name's sake.** In other words, he said, we get back into the spiritual groove.

With this sense of righteousness, we can then walk under the **shadow of** death, but we will fear no evil.

"You and I know there are individuals who are afraid of walking down the street today," said Brother Joe. "When we're with the Lord, we fear no evil."

Brother Joe then compared the **rod** mentioned in the psalm to God's Word in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*. The **staff** is the Spirit of God, which quickens our beings. With this comfort, God can prepare a **table** in the presence of our enemies, or in the "midst of confusion" that reigns in the world, he said.

That table that is prepared is the Restored Gospel, he said. Our heads are anointed with **oil** and our cups **runneth over** because of the profuse blessings bestowed upon us by God, added Brother Joe.

The result is, as David has written, that **goodness and mercy** follow us all the days of our lives. And then, said Brother Joe, comes the "reward of rewards" as we **dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

"It is a house that is built without hands, in the Heavens," he said.

Brother Joe then finished his sermon with an exhortation to the young people.

"You young ones have a treasure. Let it sink down into your heart. You're going to be responsible for tomorrow. There is not going to be another falling away. The Lord will not let His Church disappear....But there could be a falling away of people," he said.

Brother Joe and his wife, Sister Vicki, were also at the December 11 weekday service to show slides from Brother Joe's latest trip to India, where the Church has recently been established. The Calabreses attend the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

healed of cancer and has had many experiences to keep her strong in her faith. Her admonition to the young people is "Work for the Church...work for God, and you will be rewarded."

No, there are no retirement parties for these brothers and sisters...no gold watches, no "You deserve it" or "Take a rest." It is more like cheering on the marathon runner—the goal is in sight but there's still a long way to go. At times there is pain and at times there is glory. But we have to *enter* the race before we can complete it. With the Gospel of Jesus Christ, through His Church, and through the grace of God, we can obtain the final prize...life everlasting.

These brothers and sisters presented a challenge to us all—to take every day in faith and in righteousness and to endure to the end. They are blessings to us all. May they continue to prosper in His love. We are thankful to have them as a part of our lives. 12 February, 1985

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

me. Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee. (Psalm 51:2-13)

David, although grieving for the sins he had committed, never forgot to praise the Lord at every opportunity. Consider the beautiful 23rd Psalm: The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want, etc. And the 91st Psalm: He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: My God; in Him will I trust, etc. The Psalms are filled with David's praises to the Lord. Nonetheless, sorrow and grief followed him continuously. His son, Absalom, conspired to destroy him. The Benjamite, Shimei, cursed him with impunity. His enemies also sought David's destruction. The consequences of his sin never left him. Despite the fact that David's sin was forgiven, the Lord kept His word, and the "sword never left his house."

In contrast to the punishment for sin, next month's column will deal with the rewards of righteousness, both in this life and in the life to come.-Ed.

* WEDDINGS *

TINGLER-JACKSON

Mr. Ron Tingler and Miss Phyllis Jackson, daughter of Guy and Sister Joyce Jackson, were united in marriage on September 22, 1984 at an outdoor ceremony at Badger Meadows Church Camp.

The couple will reside in Kinsman, Ohio. May God bless them in their new life together.

VanKANEGAN-JACKSON

Mr. Terry VanKanegan and Sister Sharon Jackson, daughter of Guy and Sister Joyce Jackson, were joined in holy matrimony on November 3, 1984.

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Brother Howard Jackson, uncle of the bride, and Brother Philip Jackson, cousin of the bride, officiated and assisted at the ceremony respectively.

The newlyweds will reside in Kinsman, Ohio. We wish God's blessings upon them in their journey through life.

PITTIUS-DAVELLA

Mr. Joseph John Pittius and Colleen Davella were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 22, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Brother Paul Benyola, the bride's cousin, officiated at the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Philip and Sister Linda Benyola. Vocal soloist was Sister JoAnn Arcuri.

May God bless this couple as they begin a new life together.

ANDERSON-COPPA

Mr. Scott David Anderson and Sister Joann Carol Coppa were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, December 22, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan - Branch 3.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Richard Elzby of the Meaford, Ontario Mission, who is the bride's brother-in-law. Brother Silverio Coppa assisted.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Eugene Amormino on the piano, with Sister Tracey Francione and Brother Andrew Parravano as soloists.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Michigan. May the Spirit of the Lord fill their lives with peace and joy and allow the promise of love to grow deeper and more meaningful.

New Arrivals

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

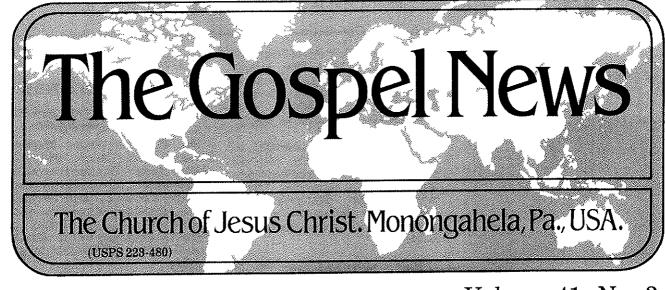
Natalie Kara to Paul and Karen Pezzenti of Youngstown, Ohio;

Ammon Seth to Paul and Sandra Scazka Ford of Kinsman, Ohio;

Paul Stuart, Jr. and George Adam to Paul and Connie Robinson of St. John, Kansas;

Alese Genevieve to Joseph and Suzanne Catone of Hollywood, Florida;

Christopher Alan to Joyce and Dennis Moraco of Hollywood, Florida.



March, 1985

It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo



Continued from last month's column. -Ed.

The opposite of the consequences of sin are the rewards of keeping the commandments of God. It is written: "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 night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the river of waters, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." (Psalm 1:1-3)

All one has to do to get a wonderful picture of the rewards of the righteous is to peruse carefully the Beatitudes (Matthew 5th chapter). Alma tells us what manner of men would be the possessors of the High Priesthood after the order of the Son of God. He says, "... having their garments made

white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin save it were with abhorrence . . . " (Alma 13:12) Living righteously will guarantee one a place in heaven. But gaining this exalted place is not done without self-sacrifice. Jesus once said, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." (Matthew 17:24) Paul, the Apostle, counsels the Thessalonians to "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:22)

It isn't difficult to live a righteous life; one has only to make up one's mind to do so, and yet recognize the simple truth that without Christ one cannot do it alone. Hence, we have a spiritual companion who is willing to walk with us in trial or tribulation, in gladness or in joy, whatever the occasion may be. But it is up to the individual to invite the Lord to be by his side. There is a constant need to pray daily for guidance and understanding, not only for ourselves, but also for our children who are so exposed to the temptations of this world, whether at school, at play, at work, and through the medium of television which glorifies pre-marital relations, "open marriages," living together without being married, and everything else which the scriptures call evil and the world calls good and acceptable.

The saints of God must be alert every moment of our lives, for the devil insinuates himself very subtly, at times, even as an angel of light to deceive the very elect, if possible. Our children are exposed to devilish lyrics which glorify drugs, immorality, and even the worship of Satan. Job prayed for his children daily lest they should sin. It is written: "And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to

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eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, it may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts." (Job 1:4,5) Was Job concerned that his children became carried away with their eating and drinking? Is it possible that their destruction was attributable to unacceptable behavior?

Jesus once said, "If ye love Me, keep My commandments." To love Christ will motivate one to strive diligently to abide in Him and keep His commandments. There is also another portion of scripture which tells us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is under-standing." (Proverbs 9:10) It is possible to profess to love the Lord and yet commit sin because there is no "FEAR" in the hearts of people. Love and fear of the Lord must go hand in hand. If one loves Christ, one will keep His commandments; and if one fears the Lord, he will abstain from sin because he does not want to offend the One he says he loves. Love and fear are truly the spiritual ingredients that make a person a "SAINT."

I exhort everyone to pray that we all will be able to discern the difference between good and evil. The beloved and loving Disciple of Christ admonishes us all to: "Believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God . . ." (I John 4:1) To paraphrase the above quotation: "Do not be deceived by those things which appear good, but examine each thing separately

(Continued on Page 7)

Greetings in Christ,



Among some skaters was a boy so small and evidently a beginner that his frequent mishaps aroused the pity of a tenderhearted, if not wise spectator. "Why sonny, you are getting all bumped up," she said. "I wouldn't stay on the ice and keep falling down so; I would come off and watch the others."

The tears of the last fall were still rolling over his rosy cheeks, but the child looked up, and answered, half indignantly, "I didn't get these skates to give up with—I got them to learn how with."

The whole philosophy of earthly disciplineship was in this reply.

Life's hard tasks are not to be met with thoughts of giving up, but they should be used to awaken strength, skill, and courage in learning how to master them. Our baptism and commitment is intended to serve until the end of our life, never to give up with. So we rise after each fall no matter how much it hurts.

The harder the struggle the deeper will the appreciation be, once we learn to overcome each struggle. We cannot learn by standing on the side, watching and hoping to learn by other's experiences.

It was never intended for Jesus' disciples to ever talk of the plans and dream of the great future. But rather, it was for Jesus' disciples to get on with the preaching and teaching the Gospel: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always" (Matthew 28:19,20)

Five sons decided to work their

father's farm. They started early with a good packed lunch. They planned, they talked about it, they remembered their father, how he farmed the whole hundred acres by himself, but he was dead now and the lot fell on them.

They explored every possibility, but the days and weeks went by. Each night they reported to their widowed mother pretty much the same thing. "Do not worry, mother. We planned, we measured, we talked, and all seems hopeful. Tomorrow we will make an early start.

The mother knew her sons well, but gave them time until the time for planting was nearly over.

She rose early one morning and packed their lunches as usual, but this time she packed her own lunch. "Where are you going, mother?" "I need some fresh air," she answered. Upon arriving at the farm, she wisely spread the blanket on the ground. The five boys watched. "Can you hoe this much ground?" she asked smiling. "Oh yes," they said. "Then begin now."

The five quickly attacked the ground to impress their mother. As soon as they finished the section she quickly spread the blanket out again and again until the whole farm was ready for planting.

Begin even in a small way, you will succeed. How will you know unless you try? Begin now.

Brother Mark Randy

Attention

The Print House has completed the first volume in a series of volumes containing all *The Gospel News* beginning with the very first issue that Brother Cadman printed in his basement on a trial run in 1938. Two to three volumes will be printed yearly and an index will follow.

Each volume will be hard bound with *The Gospel News* logo embossed in gold on a blue cover. The cost is \$17.50 per book, postage included.

For an additional \$1.00 we will emboss your name on the cover.

Use the order form attached to the center of this months *Gospel News* to place your order.

Arizona—California District Conference

By Margaret Henderson, Elizabeth Simpson, and Bob Sullivan

The California District President, Brother George Heaps, invited the Arizona District, Brother Dwayne Jordan, President, to join us in our annual spiritual conference, which included a series of seminars and meetings at the Anaheim Branch both Friday and Saturday, concluding with Sunday Service at the Bell, CA Branch on October 7, 1984.

The ideas behind the seminars were based on positive thinking. Accordingly, we often heard, "Are you the problem, or are you part of the answer?" and "Let us solve our problems and not dwell on them."

Friday evening there were seminars on "How to Improve Our Performance" for the ministry by Brother V. J. Lovalvo, the deacons by Brother Bill Meo, and the teachers by Brothers Dennis Calabrese and Paul Gray.

At the same time, Sister Sarah Watson and Sister Marsha Liberto chaired a seminar for ministers' wives entitled "Living with Ministers," centering on how to deal with the time their husbands must give to God's work. The problems arising from this situation were openly discussed. The positive aspects of a work for the Lord were stressed, and the seminar was deemed very helpful and well received.

Saturday morning, Apostle Bob Watson from Arizona chaired a seminar on the history of the Church. The crowd filled the Anaheim church building to capacity while Brother Bob covered Restoration from Joseph Smith to William Bickerton. This seminar included a discussion on "What Is a Cult?" and how it affects us. We found it to be most informative and interesting.

Under sunny skies, the new patio/barbeque area at Anaheim was in full use for coffee breaks, meals, and snacks. Over 300 brothers and sisters were praising the Lord, for His Spirit was surely with us. The feeling of unity and positive thinking was strong in our fellowship and at meal times.

Saturday afternoon we enjoyed a combination fellowship and panel discussion on: "How we as Districts can become unified and use our strength to assist each other." During the discus-

sion, many interesting exchanges were heard. One member questioned our attitude and response regarding the Book of Mormon. When speaking to those outside the Church, we often proudly proclaim that " . . . we are members of The Church of Jesus Christ . . ." and then guickly add that we're not Mormons. I'm sure we can all relate to that. A memorable comment came form a young man just beginning to attend our Church. He said, "I've been all over the world in the Marine Corps and I've never heard of the Book of Mormon. All the world is not against it. I want to know more about it." The panel discussed how we should not be defensive about the book and not argue it with anyone, as this accomplishes nothing. Again we found a "positive thinking" attitude among the ministry. The panel was enjoyed by all and it was decided that we would have more of these in the future.

Saturday evening we heard singing from different branches in many languages as well as spirited congregational singing. Brother Joe Lovalvo preached a sermon on how Satan in all ages of time has told mankind not to believe the words of God and he is still doing it today. Brother Joe emphasized that whatever God has spoken will be accomplished and has been accomplished in the past, and we are to believe all His words. It was greatly enjoyed.

Sunday morning the Spirit was present in all that we did. The Bell Branch was overflowing, with some having to sit outside. The congregational singing was beautiful. The District Choir sang *Wave the Flags of Zion* with Brother James Lovalvo and Sister Diane Surdock singing solos and duets throughout the song and the congregation joining in. It was glorious!

Brother Ike Smith of Pine Top, Arizona opened our service and spoke of enlarging our borders, thinking bigger. He spoke also of the ax handle in II Kings, 6th Chapter in reference to the Authority of the Church.

Brother Luis Pacheco then spoke in Spanish. Although many of us could not understand him, we knew the Spirit of God was in his words, and heard many "Amens" from our Mexican brothers and sisters in attendance. There were beautifully sung selections by the different choirs between speakers.

Brother Steve Saffron from Phoenix, Arizona spoke on learning to obey God and how we all had to make changes in our lives. Brother Steve challenged all of us to do so. Truly God's Spirit flowed through the ministry during the preaching service.

Sacrament was passed and there were several anointings. During the anointings, tongues were spoken by Brother Ike Smith of Arizona. The translation was given instantly by Brother V. James Lovalvo to be, "Thus speaks the Lord, Come to Me and I will heal you." The Spirit of God touched many, and throughout the service we saw again the positive thinking that prevailed during the entire conference, showing us how we must move ahead individually, as a branch, as a district, and as a Church.

Sister Margaret Henderson summed it all up when she said, "It was a great weekend. It brought the two districts closer together than I have ever seen, with a spirit of great love, respect, and fellowship."

Thanks be to God.

A Letter of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of Sister Mary, Ron, and Tina, I would like to thank you for your many cards, calls, and, most importantly, your prayers for my father, Brother Frank Morle, during his illness. In the end, he died peacefully at home with his family and friends beside him.

During his illness, he was continually amazed at the volume and quality of cards and well-wishes he received. Doctors, nurses, and patients alike marvelled at the sight of his wall, papered with greetings, and many people not of our Church read your wonderful words of encouragement. Not surprisingly, they too gained strength, and my father had many opportunities to tell others about this great and marvelous Church.

Near the end, and at his funeral, I talked with a number of frustrated individuals who felt a great loss of a man they thought had still a great work to do. About one year ago, Brother Tony Corrado anointed my father, as did countless other brothers, and he petitioned the Lord not to take him until his work was done. And my dear brothers and sisters, I fully believe that prayer was answered. If you think back over 1984, you will remember that it was you who prayed him from the grave so he could attend an area MBA retreat and two conferences. Never before, to my knowledge, have so many united together in prayer, and those prayers were answered before our very eyes.

And if you would also remember the General Church Conference of June, 1984, the sermon he delivered there was filled with the power of God. The Lord used Brother Frank that day to deliver a message, and that message was confirmed by the Spirit: If you are on this boat (the Church) to rock it, or to go along for the ride, then get off. But if you're on the boat to Zion, pick up an oar and row! There are many oars in this Church to row, and I'm sure there is one designated for each of us. I pray that the Lord gives us all the strength to faithfully pull for the shore. Thank you again, and God bless you.

Brother Jerry Morle

I Believe

I believe beyond the shadow of a doubt, That there is a God who knows what I'm about.

I believe He is with me full-time every day. He never takes a vacation, and works without pay.

I believe He sits by me wherever I am. In the car He's the passenger at my right hand.

I believe He is with me when I'm put to the test. He helps me get through and then gives me a rest.

I believe He sends angels to me every night; I'm never afraid when I turn off the light.

I believe He is with me wherever I go. He's the prayer in my heart and the love that I show.

By Sister Lisa DiFalco



News from India

By Joseph Ross, Secretary Foreign Missions Committee

As a result of communications received by Brother Joseph Calabrese, Chairman-India, the following news items are published for your knowledge regarding our missions there.

A Devanandam in Thiruniravur

Brother Dev informs the Foreign Missions Committee of the recent tragedy that struck India, the dreaded cyclone! He writes, "We had a cyclone with heavy rains and storms for over a week. Many houses were drowned by the floods and many trees are fallen. A great loss for our people. Some of our church members' homes also fell down due to the flood. These homes are made of mud and clay and cannot stand against the storms. Many people, including our church members, are not in a position to rebuild their houses because they are too poor. I gave them shelter in the building we use as a church until they can rebuild their huts. Mere God's grace that our church building was not fallen. Praise God. But the roof flew away due to the storms. At once we bought coconut leaves for the roof to keep our building safe.

"We prayed with burden for the people's needs. The Lord answered our prayer. Immediately after the cyclone, I received a letter from Brother Joe Calabrese with \$100 enclosed from the California District Ladies' Circle. Praise God. I gave four families \$25 each. They were very happy to receive it and glorified God and the saints for their tender mercies. This is not enough for their present needs, but it will be more helpful for their critical movements. They send their love and regards with gratitude to you and all there. Thank God for our Ladies' Circle of our Church in U.S.A."

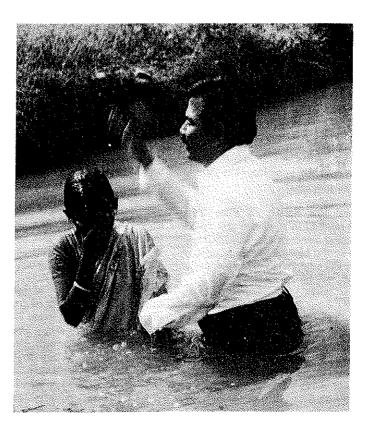
The Foreign Missions Committee, Church organizations, and individuals have sent some funds to assist our people there. However, their needs are great, and our resources are limited. In the Indian villages, when a tragedy strikes, they do not have insurance coverages to reimburse them for rebuilding homes. They must start over again. So as a Church, we do what we can. We do have provisions via the General Church Welfare/Relief Fund under the General Mission Board. Money is donated to this fund by individuals, organizations and Church auxiliaries. Requests are made by an established missionary work by a Church committee or board requesting welfare/relief aid via the General Mission Board. This fund is an ongoing activity. Any person or others desiring to contribute to this Welfare/Relief Fund may do so by sending your contributions to:

> Anthony Ensana 1921 S. E. Erwin Road Port St. Lucie, FL 33452

When sending donations, you may specify the area where you want the funds sent, or simply for the general welfare supervised by the General Mission Board. Brother Dev further writes, "November 29, 1984 was the Foundation Day of The Church of Jesus Christ in India. We know our Brother Joseph Calabrese and Brother Alvin Swanson established our True Church on that date in 1981. Praise God. We celebrate the anniversary day with joy and happiness on the eve on November 29th. We had a procession with good gatherings."

Recently Brother Dev baptized another member into The Church of Jesus Christ. She is the wife of one of the deacons there. They were married by Brother Dev on December 12, 1984. Our new sister's name is Mercy Sita. She is a college graduate and lives 500 miles from Brother Dev. He traveled there to conduct the wedding ceremony. It took 12 hours by train. While in that area, Brother Dev states he preached the Restored Gospel among the Hindus. Most of the young people are eager to know more about Jesus and showed a willingness to accept Him as their Saviour. He did supply them with some church literature and New Testaments. They requested that Brother Dev visit their place often. But the distance does present a problem to him. He writes,

(Continued on Page 7)



Brother Dev baptizing Mercy Sita

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Editorial Viewpoint . .

The Gospel News

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

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By Ralph Frammolino Guest Editorialist

There is a powerful lesson to be found in the 12th Chapter of Acts. It doesn't lie in the account of how an angel miraculously delivered Peter from the prison. Instead, it is found in the second verse, which says simply that Herod the king "killed James the brother of John with the sword."

The verse is often overlooked, yet, when compared to the long narrative of Peter's escape, it provides a stark and compelling contrast. While one of Jesus' Apostles is spared by divine intervention, the other is quickly, almost effortlessly, killed.

Did this mean Peter was more righteous than James? No. Were the prayers of James less favored than those offered by the saints for Peter? Again, no.

Actually, we will never understand why God saved Peter and allowed James to perish. But what we can learn is that in both cases—in life and in death—God received the honor and glory.

And that is exactly the point: God is pleased not only in the deliverance of His people, but in how they conduct themselves during times of grief and suffering. A righteous person fits the description that one celebrated American author reserved for the word "courage": showing grace under pressure. In the Old Testament, God is honored by the faithfulness and integrity of His servant Job, who was able in some measure to stand his ground despite the buffeting from Satan. In Isaiah, the prophet predicted the coming of Christ and said, "It pleased the Lord to bruise him; he has put him to grief." The reference doesn't mean God was delighted to see His Son suffer; it means that He was delighted to see how His Son bore the suffering and triumphed in resurrection. The Apostle Paul was so righteous that handkerchiefs that came in contact with his body were sent to the sick for healing and release from demons. Yet when Paul begged the Lord to remove a vexing affliction from within his body, Paul received a gentle rebuke: "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Taking note of this is important, especially during the recent times when there is news of sickness and untimely deaths in the Church. Invariably, our thoughts turn inward. Is the God who answered our parents and grandparents with mighty miracles turning a deaf ear to this generation because of unfaithfulness? We should be compelled to root out the sin of unbelief so miracles will not cease. We must be diligent in prayer because we never know when it will move the hand of god.

But we should also be mindful that God can be glorified, not only in miracles, but through our attitudes in adversity. There is the courage and faithfulness displayed by the family of our late Sister Joyce Moraco, and the stirring vision of our late Brother Frank Morle, his body racked with pain, exhorting us at General Church Conference.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

That was written by Peter, who later in life surely realized that his miraculous deliverance from prison was, after all, only a postponement. The day came when no angel appeared to show the way to safety. For, like James years before him, Peter too was to die a martyr.

The

Children's



By Jan Steinrock

Abish Calls the Crowd

Dear Girls and Boys,

When the Nephite, Ammon, was sent by God to tell the people of King Lamoni about the true Church, Ammon went with great joy. He saved the king's sheep from robbers by using an amazing amount of strength sent from God.

The astonished king was afraid that Ammon wasn't a man but was really the Great Spirit sent to punish him. He sent for Ammon but was afraid to speak to him. The Holy Spirit showed Ammon the king's thoughts and Ammon had his chance to share the story of Christ and the first people God brought to the Promised Land.

King Lamoni listened to Ammon and believed the wonderful words about Christ. As his soul was flooded with joy, his body was overwhelmed and he passed out. For three days and two nights he lay like one dead. People came to see him and sadly told his queen that she should bury him, for his body was starting to smell.

But the queen did not think her husband's body smelled. She called Ammon and asked if she should bury the king. "To me he doth not stink," she said.

Ammon knew that King Lamoni lay asleep with God. He told the queen, "Don't bury him. Tommorow he will arise."

She watched over her husband and on the next day, he awoke. Reaching his arms out to his wife, he cried, "Blessed be the name of God, and blessed are you! I have seen Christ who will come forth in the future and save everyone who will believe on his name!"

The Holy Spirit overflowed in his heart and the king again sank with joy. The queen also was overpowered by the Spirit and sank down. Ammon fell upon his knees and began to thank God for pouring out His Spirit on the king and queen. He was likewise overcome with joy; all three had now sunk to the earth.

When the shepherd-servants of Lamoni saw God's power, they were filled with fear and began crying out to God. As they cried in prayer, they also fell to the earth.

One servant saw this happening and felt great joy. Her name was Abish and she had secretly been baptized many years before. For a long time she had hoped all her Lamanite people could experience God's power, and now she ran out to call everyone to come see what had happened.

But as the crowd gathered, confusion grew. When they saw their king and queen lying as if dead by Ammon, some blamed him. One of the crowd was the brother of a sheep robber whom Ammon had killed. He raised his sword to slay the man of God as he lay unconscious. But as his arm was lifted to kill Ammon, the power of God caused him to fall dead.

How the crowd marveled! Some said Ammon was a monster sent by the Nephites to torment them. Others said Ammon was the Great Spirit because no one could kill him.

Abish was full of sorrow when she saw their arguing and confusion. She ran to the queen's side and pulled at her hand. As soon as she did this, the queen rose to her feet and cried in a loud voice, "O blessed Jesus who has saved me from an awful hell! O blessed God, have mercy on my soul!"

Filled with joy, the queen took Lamoni by his hand and he likewise arose with gladness and began to preach to his people. One by one, the servants and Ammon joined them. They related wonderful experiences and told of the angels they had seen. Those of the crowd who listened were immediately convinced about the beauty and joy of serving God.

Some would not hear the glorious truth and went their way. Yet a church was set up among these Lamanites and a new group of true believers flourished. King Lamoni even postponed a visit to his father, the mightiest Lamanite king, and stayed to help build up the Church. Great joy and peace was known by many of those who had once desired only to do evil. Truly Ammon, one follower of God, was used as an instrument in God's hands to lead many to the truth.

> Sincerely, Sister Janet 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

Great	joy
Spirit	grew
Ammon	blessed
killed	Jesus
big	me
evil	mercy
robbers	Abish
power	led
of	ran
God	see
king	hand
sunk	

N	S	U	N	ĸ	G	N	I	K
H	A	N	D	н	s	Ι	B	Α
Y	С	R	Е	М	S	Т	С	S
0	K	G	s	U	т	I	N	R
J	С	R	S	R	A	R	0	Е
s	Е	Е	Е	Е	Е	I	М	В
G	J	w	L	v	R	Р	М	B
В	0	Р	В	I	G	S	Α	0
Р	F	D	E	L	L	I	K	R



Our Women Today

Fort Pierce Ladies'Uplift Circle 20th Anniversary

By Gladys Moore

November 10th was a very special day for the Ladies' Uplift Circle of Fort Pierce, Florida and for all that attended the program and dinner celebrating our 20th Anniversary.

The program under the direction of Sister Ann Costarella was an exact replica of the first meeting held in Fort Pierce, including the same songs. A duet was sung by Brother Sam and Sister Ann Costarella. The visiting sisters from Lake Worth graced our meeting by singing God's Still on His Throne very beautifully.

Brother Charles Smith and Brother Sam Costarella were invited to say a few words. They complimented and encouraged our Circle to continue in its good works, after which a turkey dinner and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

This was also Sister Ann Costarella's birthday and her daughter Joanne provided a birthday cake which we all enjoyed.

This event was presided over by our Vice President, Sister Gladys Moore, in the absence of our President, who was in Pennsylvania. Sister Gladys is the only charter member still active in the Circle.

A wonderful time was had by all and we sincerely pray that our Circle will continue to grow not only in number but also in its natural and spiritual efforts.

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

and prayerfully, and choose—by the help of God—that which is good." I also exhort everyone to pray earnestly for all the people of God even as Jeremiah who lamented: "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." (Jeremiah 9:1) This is truly a time for fasting and prayer because the devil is out to sift the saints as wheat. Thus it is written. God bless you.

INDIA continued . . .

"Really the fields are ripe for harvest, but the laborers are few. Let us pray to God for laborers of the harvest."

In closing, Brother Dev writes, "We thank God for the blessings bestowed upon us for the past three years' Church activities. We thank God for the victory over the persecutions and sufferings by our brothers and sisters. We thank God for the Restored Gospel that reached India with the True Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. We thank God for the General Church, General Mission Board, Foreign Missions Committee and church members. We thank God for the physical and spiritual supports. We give all the glory to Jesus. Praise God, let the earth hear His Voice!"



Wedding Ceremony at Tenkasi

Branch and Mission News

Mexicali, Mexico

By Ralph Frammolino

The saints from Mexico and the United States gathered on December 16 to dedicate a new building for use by The Church of Jesus Christ.

The dedication service featured singing by brothers and sisters from Tijuana, and many thoughts brought forth both in English and Spanish by nine elders.

Brother Rusty Heaps, Evangelist and California District President, offered the dedicatory prayer to set aside the new building for service to God.

Brother Rusty told the congregation—which consisted of saints from San Diego, Anaheim, Bell, Mexicali, and Tijuana—that it was three years ago when he and Brother Luis Pacheco drove down the humble streets of this Mexican border town and met a woman who was looking for a new church to attend. The night before our brothers arrived, God gave this woman a dream that a tall man and a Mexican man would come to her door. God prepared the way for our brothers to give their testimonies, and the result is the Mexicali Mission.

He encouraged the saints in Mexicali to tell their neighbors about the Gospel. "When you've been healed, tell the neighborhood. When you've been blessed, tell your neighbors," he said.

Our brother elders each spoke briefly, bringing forth many wonderful words of encouragement. Brother Luis, who is acting as presiding elder for Mexicali, spoke under great inspiration of how the building was built "with love" and he said this is how the Church will progress.

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(Continued on Page 8)

8 March, 1985

MEXICALI continued . . .

Also speaking were Brothers Vincente Arce, Daniel Mora and Adrian Rodriguez from Tijuana; Paul Liberto, Tom Liberto and Ralph Frammolino from San Diego; and Tom Jones from the Bell, California Branch.

A group from Tijuana sang Wave the Flags of Zion and To See the Morning Light in Spanish, and, in preparation for Christmas, a group of 40 or 50 children sang Christmas songs. Brother Mora passed sacrament.

The joy of the day was augmented when brothers and sisters from the Anaheim Branch distributed a truckful of Christmas presents and toys to the Mexicali children.

Before the meeting, Mexican authorities inspected the truck, causing a delay in its arrival. This inspired Brother Paul Liberto to speculate that if the people of Mexico knew of the spiritual gifts offered by the Church, the authorities would have permitted them into the country with enthusiasm.

Modesto, CA

The Modesto Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ experienced a wonderful meeting on June 3, 1984. We were blessed with several visitors; Brother Ken Jones from Santa Ana, CA and Brother Frank Vitto from Detroit.

Both brothers spoke, Brother Jones from Acts 3 and 4 and Brother Vitto from Psalm 1:1-6 and Hebrews 4:12. The basis of their speaking was that we cannot do anything on our own. The Church is only as strong as we want to make it.

Brother Dan Picciutto followed by calling one of the Songs of Zion, *To See the Morning Light*. There was a good spirit in the singing and Brother Dan continued. Twice during the previous week, the scripture Habakkuk 2:3 was given to him with the understanding that in order for Zion to be established, we need a "more spiritual and righteous movement in the Church."

The Spirit of God was present in testimony and in prayer. Brother Frank prayed for Sister Grace LaCommare, that she would again be able to walk. He poured out his heart to God and touched every heart present. His prayer was not answered at our meeting, but as Brother Dan was directing the meeting, he told us to not be discouraged, that God had His own plan and that we should feel good to see and witness such a spirit of prayer.

At that moment, Brother Matthew Picciutto stood up and spoke in tongues. There was no immediate interpretation, but after the meeting was over, Sister Carmella Santarcangelo gave the interpretation of tongues spoken: "I am the Lord thy God. I am the same yesterday, today and forever."

It was a very uplifting service that we will not soon forget.

The conference at Modesto on July 7 and 8, 1984 was a successful one with many blessings. Saturday was a business meeting until the evening service, which was open to the public. Brother Nephi DeMercurio from Nigeria (now residing in Michigan) spoke to us. It was an exciting message that we all felt touched by. He admonished us to pray that we might not be someone else's enemy.

Sunday, Brother Paul Carr, our missionary in Nigeria, spoke to us from Isaiah 58:7-10. His theme was, "Who will follow thee?" Are we ready to follow God and do whatever He wishes us to do? He sent out a plea to the young people to dedicate their lives to God and work for Him.

Brothers Paul Palmieri, Rusy Heaps, and Dan Piccuitto all spoke with the Lord directing them on the same theme. Brother Dan asked that we fast and pray that we might be called to work in missionary fields.

A collection was taken fro Brother Paul Carr and his wife to help defray expenses of traveling and taking things back to Nigeria.

Many blessings were felt and there were many people in attendance. It was good to see the Modesto Branch overflowing with the saints. We all enjoyed a delicious lunch after the Sunday meeting.

Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

The Rochester Mission has enjoyed the company of the saints and was happy to share and enjoy God's blessings with them.

On September 22, 1984, we had Brother Stacey and Sister Carolyn Light from Erie, PA and John Shaeffer from Monongahela.

On September 16 Sister Dora Palacios and Sister Lisa Calabrese visited from Lorain, Ohio.

On October 7 Brother George and Sister Jill and Nickie Kovacic came as scheduled. Brother George chose for his text the 8th chapter of Alma, how the people of Ammonihah cast Alma out, and how he was comforted by an angel of God and by Amulek. Our brother spoke concerning the great power which was manifest and how God watched over Alma and his brothers and provided according to their needs. Brother Frank Natoli continued on the same subject and also spoke of how Alma and his brethren persecuted the Church and later repented and went to preach unto the people. They were chosen vessels before God. Brother Ansel D'Amico spoke upon the ordinance of feet washing, while a wonderful spirit prevailed. We were dismissed by Brother John D'Amico.

On Saturday evening, November 3, Brother and Sister Eugene and Donna Amormino from Detroit and Sisters Eva Moore and Arlene Buffington from Imperial, PA along with Brother and Sister Paul D'Amico, Sister A. Giansante, and Brother Henry Berardi from Lockport, and also Brother Stacey Light from Erie and Sister Dora Palacios from Lorain visited. Brother Eugene introduced many of The Songs of Zion and Sister Arlene related the experiences that she received with each song. Each song is more beautiful than the other. In Sunday School, they continued relating experiences of the Songs and Sister Donna Amormino and Sister Kathy Natoli sang a duet, Hear the Call Across the Water. Brother Stacey Light opened the morning service with the 37th chapter of Ezekiel. Israel shall be restored. The bones are Israel, and we are looking forward to seeing life restored once again, along with seeing the Choice Seer come and bring Joseph home unto the Lord. Oh, how beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those who declare the glad tidings of joy. We sang To View the Promised Land, and Brother Eugene spoke of the many blessings he has felt at the Inner City Branch.

Brother Ansel D'Amico was our next speaker. He emphasized the wonderful words of life the Brothers spoke and the hope of looking forward to seeing the beautiful city of Zion. He also related how God healed him when he was afflicted. Many beautiful testimonies followed, and the spirit and presence of God was so felt in our midst that we had a taste of Zion. We were dismissed by forming a circle of prayer led by Brother Ansel D'Amico.

On November 11 Brother and Sister Harold Burge and Sister Berniece's two sisters visited from Erie as scheduled. Brother and Sister Bob Batson were also visiting from Niles, Ohio. Brother Harold read from I Corinthians, 3rd Chapter. The foundation that man builds of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble will come to nothing. He spoke of how it took Noah 120 years to build the ark, and how God led Lehi and Nephi to this land. We too must have the love and patience as these men of old had that we might build upon the Living God. Brother Frank Natoli followed, emphasizing that we must build upon a solid foundation, that being Jesus, the Chief Cornerstone. Brother Ansel D'Amico concluded, stating that we are building day by day in the service of Christ the solid rock. Brother Bob Batson closed our service.

On December 31 we held our watch meeting. We gathered in the basement for a snack and refreshments and went upstairs to begin our service. We sang the Songs of Zion and Brother Frank Natoli opened the service with the parable of the sower and the seed. Let us be thankful that our hearts were good ground, but let us continue to work, that the seed would bring forth much fruit, never being satisfied with the size of our tree or the amount of fruit we bear. Brother Ansel D'Amico followed on the same topic and encouraged us to better our service to God in 1985. The meeting was opened for testimony and we felt a sweet spirit as everyone in the congregation testified. At midnight we formed a circle and were dismissed in prayer by Brother John D'Amico.

1984 was a beautiful year filled with the spirit and blessings of God, and we of the Rochester Mission are looking forward to greater blessings in the future.

* * * * * * *

"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Corinthians 4:17)

Aliquippa, PA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

On Sunday, November 4, 1984, we in the Aliquippa Branch of the Church were blessed with the presence of the entire McKees Rocks Branch as we met together to worship God during Sunday services. We experienced a wonderful day filled with the Lord's blessings from start to finish as God saw fit to pour out His Spirit upon us.

The festivities of the day were started by singing beautiful songs of praise to God, and we used that very inspiring hymn, *Because He Lives*, to open our meeting and Brother James Gibson asked God's blessing upon the day's activities. Following the prayer, the McKees Rocks Quintet honored the congregation with a beautiful hymn entitled *At Calvary*. A wonderful blessing was felt, as the moving hymn touched all present.

Brother Dan Casasanta of the McKees Rocks Branch was called upon to open our meeting, and his words were fully seasoned by God's Holy Spirit. Brother Dan used for his text that familiar story found in the fourth chapter of John, the Woman at the Well. Our brother asked those of us who were baptized if we had been filled by the living water that Christ spoke of with this woman. Brother Dan stated that once we decide to obey the Gospel we should be filled with God's Spirit and we should never thirst again spiritually. Brother Dan continued by stating that once we accept God's living water, in order to never thirst again we must strive to do all we can for the Lord and His Church, all the days of our lives. He then related that when he first obeyed the Gospel he didn't know everything about serving God so he followed the example set by the older brothers and sisters, and tried to stay near them. It was through following this that Brother Dan drew closer to God. We all found Brother Dan's words encouraging and uplifting, and our prayer is that God will continue to bless him.

Brother William Colangelo of McKees Rocks continued speaking on the same subject and delivered a very inspiring message. Our brother told us that once we receive that living water from God, people should begin to see a difference in our lives. He said we should strive to draw closer to God and if we do, our lives will reflect the difference. Brother Bill concluded his message by stating

that without God in our lives we have no hope, but with Him we have the hope of eternal salvation through Christ.

Brother John Manes, also of McKees Rocks, followed Brother Colangelo by asking the question, "Is anyone so independent that they don't need God?" Our brother told us that we must become dependent on God and Christ for all things. He stated that once we depend on God for everything He will add all things unto us, as the scriptures say. Brother John continued that as we learn to lean on the Lord for all things He will grant unto us a greater portion of His Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. Our brother concluded his inspiring message by stating that we must become more dependent on God in order to become the righteous people we must become in order to spread the Gospel.

Brother Paul Ciotti was the next speaker and he began by alluding to the thought that we will be the people that take the Gospel to all men. Brother Paul stated that the world looks everywhere but to Christ for help, and that it is only through Christ that any can find peace and rest. Our brother concluded his message by relating a dream that a woman from the Santa Ana Mission of the Church had had. In the dream the woman found herself on a street in Santa Ana and she saw many of the Seed of Joseph near her and she perceived that they were very hungry. She then beheld an ice cream truck coming toward them; the truck was very clean on the outside, but the interior of the truck was dirty. A man inside the truck began making cones but they all melted away because the people had no money to pay for the ice cream. Later, the woman saw another ice cream truck coming toward the people. This truck was not as clean and didn't look as good on the outside as the previous truck, but the inside of the truck was pure and white. The woman also saw Brother Frank Ciotti of the Santa Ana Mission, inside the truck, dressed in white and preparing cones that were perfect in every way. Brother Frank invited the people to come and eat, but they replied that they had no money. Brother Frank answered, "It's free," and thousands came from all over to partake of the ice cream. What an inspirational experience it was to hear of this wonderful dream.

Brother Anthony Ross brought our meeting to a close and we dismissed by

(Continued on Page 10)

10 March, 1985

ALIQUIPPA continued . . .

singing the favorite hymn, *Everybody Ought to Know*. We thank God for the powerful message brought forth by our brothers from McKees Rocks, and for His Spirit that was felt throughout the meeting.

After a short break for lunch we reconvened for our afternoon service. The Aliquippa Trio began the meeting by beautifully singing an inspiring hymn entitled *Majesty*. The song caught the attention of everyone and was the start of many blessings that would flow that afternoon.

Brother Joseph Ross opened the speaking in the afternoon and continued on the subject brought forth in the morning meeting. Our brother recalled how twenty-eight years ago he took a drink of that living water and his soul has since been satisfied because he has endeavored to keep the Lord's commandments. Brother Joe stated that the living water is for all to partake of and we all have the opportunity to drink at the fountain of the Lord. Our brother concluded by instructing us to have a serious attitude about serving God, in order to inherit eternal life.

Following the Spirit-seasoned words of our brother we felt a wonderful and peaceful spirit in the partaking of the Lord's supper and the season of testimony which followed. We thank God for the opportunity to worship together with the saints from McKees Rocks and we look forward to the day when the saints from all over the world will come together to worship in Zion.

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola

The Levittown Branch welcomed our newest member, Sister Thelma Allison. She was baptized on December 9, 1984 by Brother Paul Benyola and confirmed by Brother Sam Dell.

Our sister offered a very sincere testimony in which she mentioned that she had no fear of going into the water. She knew she had to repent and be baptized for the remission of her sins. She felt God's presence and has experienced a change in her life since meeting the Church.

Our prayers are with Sister Thelma that God will continue to give her guidance and direction.

Anaheim, CA

From the Anaheim Newsletter

On December 9, 1984, two wonderful friends became a part of the family of God. Jerry and Jeannine Gilbert were baptized by Brother Rusty Heaps. Sister Jeannine was confirmed, by the laying on of hands, by Brother Walt Jankowski and Jerry was confirmed by Brother Jim Huttenberger. It was a beautiful day, filled with God's blessings. We are so very happy to have them as part of our family in the service of God.

Monongahela, PA

The holiday season was an especially busy time for brothers, sisters, and friends of the Monongahela Branch. On Sunday, December 23, the children and young people presented an interesting Christmas program. The children broadcasted the birth of Christ as a news anchor team, while the young people sang the "commercials." It was a program enjoyed by both the participants and audience alike.

Our annual Christmas caroling took place on December 16, during which we honored shut-ins with carols and gifts of fruit baskets. Afterwards, everyone gathered at Leon and Terri Nath's home for an evening of snacks and socializing. Our hearts were blessed in bringing a little Christmas cheer to the shut-ins.

On December 31, our New Year's Eve watch service was held. Brother Richard Scaglione recapped events from the past year of 1984, such as weddings, baptisms, and births, and also reviewed happenings from ten years ago in 1974. We also enjoyed special musical selections throughout the evening. At 12:00 midnight, we all formed a large circle, held hands, and prayed silently while Brother Meredith Griffith offered a prayer thanking God for the past year and asking His blessings upon the new year. We then greeted our brothers and sisters for the first time in 1985, wishing all a prosperous new year. After the meeting many people gathered at the Bright residence for more fellowship and good food.

We thank God for the activities of the Church which give us the opportunity to know each other better, and we wish you all a blessed new year.

Lorain, OH

By Renee Alessio

On Sunday, October 14, 1984, a quiet, sincere spirit of testimony filled the room. One after another stood to express words of gratitude to our Lord. The last two testimonies were given by a couple who began attending church within the last year. They were baptized once in the early 1930's but fell away some time after.

We would see them infrequently through the years, but never in church. They enjoyed talking about the brothers and sisters that they had known in their younger years. Their memories seemed to be good ones but they never mentioned a desire to return to God. One day in 1983 Julia Alessio became gravely ill. Her husband, Ernest, called upon the ministry to offer prayer and to anoint her. The saints of God prayed for her also. Julia recovered gradually. Realizing that God had healed her, Julia and Ernest both said they desired to attend church once again. And they faithfully did.

This day God had mercy upon their souls and he warmed their hearts with his sweet Spirit. A spirit of repentance fell upon them so strongly that they wept throughout their testimony, praising God and asking to be reinstated into the Church. The Spirit of God flowed beautifully from vessel to vessel.

The ministry, calling upon the authority of Jesus Christ, laid their hands upon our Brother Ernest and Sister Julia and restored them into The Church of Jesus Christ. After many years they partook of sacrament once again.

Another sister from our branch had the following dream this same Sunday morning: She dreamed that she saw several of the older brothers and sisters from our branch (those who have gone to the paradise of God). They were looking down at the Church smiling very happily. She did not know the meaning of this dream until later in the day. She then realized that these dearly departed saints had worshipped together with Brother Ernest and Sister Julia during their early years in the Church.

We have been praying for those who are lost to come unto Christ. We cannot thank God enough for these two blessings.

Dallas, TX

By George Benyola

In December, 1984, Brother Joe Calabrese called me from Weatherford, Texas to tell me that he had been visiting with an old friend that he knew from Ōhio more than fifty years ago. Brother Joe and Sister Vicki were on their way to Arizona to visit their children for the holidays. But as we all know, Brother Joe will always take advantage of an opportunity to tell what he knows about the Restored Gospel. He promised Sister Jane Ardinger from the Dallas Mission that he would take time to visit her uncle Sam Blanc and his wife Lucille in Weatherford, Texas on his way to Arizona.

When Brother Joe and Sister Vicki arrived at Sam and Lucille's home, they received a warm welcome and immediately recognized an overwhelming excitement about coming back to the Church by Sam. Sam used to be a member of the Church a long time ago. He was about seventeen when he was baptized, but shortly after, lost his way spiritually and has been wandering since. He has covered a lot of territory and has traveled many miles since then but has finally come to the realization that he made an error in leaving the Church and wanted to reconcile himself with God.

After Brother Joe's first visit with Sam, Brother Joe called me and told me of Sam's excitement for the Church and asked me if I would call Sam and try to set up a meeting at Sam's home. Consequently, we held our first meeting in Weatherford, Texas on January 6, 1985. Those attending were Sam and Lucille Blanc, Martha Anderson, Brother Joe and Sister Vicki, Sister Jane Ardinger, Brother Doug McLellan and Brother George Benyola. There was a wonderful spirit felt by all immediately upon meeting with each other for the first time in Weatherford. The meeting was opened by Brother George using as his text I Corinthians 13. The theme was very quickly established, "The Pure Love of God." We all felt that love all throughout the day. It seemed quite apparent that it was this love that kept a spark of life in the spiritual desires of Sam Blanc all these years. He confessed all throughout the day how happy he was to have the opportunity to "come back home." He was so concerned that he would never have the saints of God in his home again. But he did and now he is called Brother Sam again. We all gathered at the lake in Cartwright Park

to witness Brother Joe Calabrese baptize Brother Sam Blanc. Sam's wife, Lucille, who is a semi-invalid and was in bed the first time Brother Joe visited there, was anointed at that time and he found her up walking about with a cane when he returned. She also had a strong desire to go to the lake to witness her husband enter the watery grave. This was a miracle in itself. How God answers prayer!

We all returned to the meeting and witnessed Brother George lay hands on Brother Sam for the gift of the Holy Ghost. We had testimony, sacrament, and anointed the sick. I might add, it was very encouraging to hear Martha Anderson's testimony. She has never heard of the Church before and this was her first meeting. She really enjoyed the Love of God that she felt and confessed that she has never felt anything like this before. She asked to be anointed and also requested for us to return to have future meetings in their home.

After the meeting was dismissed we all enjoyed lunch together in Brother Sam's home after which we all departed with God's blessings.

Spartanburg, SC

By Harold L. Littlejohn

On Sunday, January 6, 1985 we could truly say, "This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalms 118:24) The day began in prayer and thanksgiving to the Lord because this was a great day for the city of Spartanburg. Our prayers were followed by the Gospel Program of The Church of Jesus Christ on Radio Station WASC 1530 with Brother Nathan Peterkin from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. We were blessed to have Brother Wilbert McNeil at the station also. He gave a beautiful testimony. Brother Peterkin spoke from Matthew 19:1-6, about Zacchaeus meeting Jesus Christ and how we should draw near to Him.

The day was cold, but the Spirit of the Lord was mighty upon us as we then gathered at the river for a baptism service. As the saints sang *Shall We Gather at the River*, Brother Peterkin offered a mighty prayer, followed by this statement to the candidate, Harold L. Littlejohn, who had been a Pentecostal minister and pastor: "After having taken many steps, this is the greatest step—and if you fall from here remember you have failed. Never forget the covenant you make with God this day." Then Brother Jonathan Molinatto questioned the candidate: "Do you repent of your sins, and do you promise to serve God all the remaining days of your life?" The candidate answered, "I do" to all of the questions. Brother Jonathan Molinatto led Harold L. Littlejohn into the water where he achieved a spiritual rebirth. We then returned to the meeting place where the saints engaged in a song service until the meeting began.

Brother Molinatto introduced the meeting with a song: The Solid Rock, after which Brother Arthur Searcy opened in prayer. Brother Nathan Peterkin spoke further by using Romans 8:1-6 for his text, in which he stated the seven steps to the paradise of God. They are as follows: Believe, Repentance. Making a Covenant, Baptism, Laying on of Hands for Reception of the Holy Ghost, Endurance, and Paradise. He also said that we are in the sixth step now. Other brothers of the priesthood gave inspirational expressions, after which they performed the ordinance of Laying on of Hands in the name of Jesus Christ for the Reception of the Holy Ghost upon Brother Harold L. Littlejohn. The prayer was offered by Brother Joe Genaro.

The meeting continued with testimonies during which many testified of the goodness of God in their lives. The meeting was given to the passing of communion, and the Spirit of the Lord was felt greatly in our midst. The meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Harold L. Littlejohn, after which the saints enjoyed a most beautiful and delicious meal at the home of Brother Peterkin; however, this day was especially great because it was the first meeting of the South Carolina Mission and the baptism of its first new member into the body of Christ. Our prayer is that the city of Spartanburg will be won for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Imperial, PA

By Eva Moore

We can say 1984 has been a good year. After many fast and prayer meetings we had four baptisms: Ben Moore, Bob Buffington, Jr., his wife Patricia, and Kimberly Buffington. These are some of the young soldiers

⁽Continued on Page 19)

IMPERIAL continued . . .

needed on the front lines to replace some of those as the song says:

Men long in battle, a lifetime of fighting, But years creep upon them and time starts to show. Holding positions while calling replacements Where are there some brave men, some willing to go?

On November 24 we had a beautiful wedding as Louann Pershin and Timothy Moore were united in marriage. Louann was born in Imperial and blessed as a babe in the Church by Brother James T. Moore. Timothy also was blessed as a babe by his grandfather, Brother James T. Moore. Louann and family moved to Anaheim, CA when she was about 3 years old. When she was about 18 years old she came to Imperial to visit her relatives and she met Timothy. One year later he moved to Anaheim. He attended the Anaheim Branch with Louann and love grew between them. They came home to Imperial Branch to be married.

Brother Bob Buffington preached a sermon on how Jacob was sent to meet Rachel at the well. The scripture said, "And Jacob kissed Rachel and lifted up his voice and wept." (Genesis 29:1-12) Brother Jimmy Moore, Timothy's father, gave the wedding ceremony and pronounced them man and wife. After a few days the Pershin family, Shirley, Lou, Frank, and Terry, all returned to their home in Anaheim. Timothy and Louann enjoyed the Pennsylvania weather for two weeks and they returned to make their home in Anaheim, California.

On December 2, we had a mini conference with three apostles attending our service: Brother Tony Corrado, Brother Frank Calabrese, and Brother Russel Cadman and his wife. We also had visiting us Sister Rose Lovalvo from Modesto, CA, Sister Pearl Nester from San Fernando Valley, CA, and Sister Joann Stransky from Hopelawn, NJ.

Our service was opened with Sister Rose singing He's Taken My Blindness. Prayer was offered by Brother Frank Calabrese. Brother Russel opened the scripture to Moroni 10:30-33. He taught us how to become perfected in Christ and deny ourselves of all ungodliness, and through obedience to the words of Jesus when he said to Nicodemus, "Except a man be born of water and of the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." Brother Frank then spoke of the great privilege it is to serve God. He said Moses had a rod of power and he asked, "What do we have in our hand?" He said, "We have the rod of iron, the word of God." (I Nephi 15:23&24)

Brother Tony Corrado then followed, telling us of the power of God he has experienced in his 61 years in the Church. He said we must have faith because it is impossible to please God without it. Sister Rose Lovalvo then sang, *The Sea Is So Great* and our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother James T. Moore, Sr. We can surely say it was good to hear our apostles instructing us of our responsibility in these the latter days in The Church of Jesus Christ.

OBITUARIES

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

FANNIE CVETICHAN

Fannie P. Taddeo Cvetichan passed away on November 28, 1984. She was born on August 26, 1918, and blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ as a child.

Brother Paul Palmieri and Brother James Gibson conducted the funeral services.

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She is survived by her husband, a son and a daughter, two grandchildren, three brothers, four sisters, and other numerous relatives. She will be missed by them as well as by many friends.

FRANK MORLE

Brother Frank Morle, an elder at the Saline, Michigan Mission, passed from this life on January 1, 1985. Born on August 25, 1933, Brother Frank was baptized into the Church in 1956. He was ordained into the ministry on April 28, 1968 at Detroit Branch 2, where he was a member for many years.

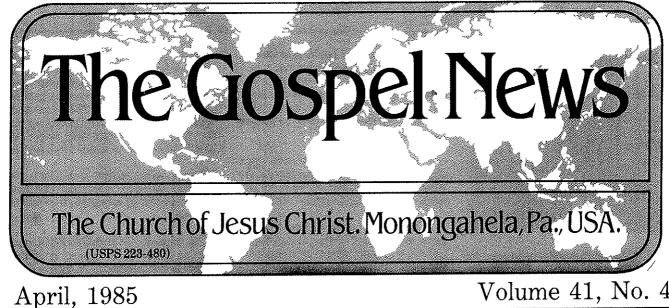
Brother Reno Bologna officiated at the funeral service, assisted by Brother Alex Gentile. Words of comfort were offered at the cemetery by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo and Brother Joseph Milantoni.

Brother Frank is survived by his wife, Sister Mary, two sons, a daughter, and one sister. He is mourned not only by the saints of God, but also by the thousands of students who came to know him at the high school where he worked for many years. Our brother was truly a friend to everyone who knew him.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for the indicated new member of their family:

Bradley David to Sister Joy and David Kurowsky of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.



It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo



This is the first of three articles dealing with being "unequally yoked" in various situations in our lives.

"Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers; for what fellowship hath righteousnes with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (II Corinthians 6:14,15)

Paul, the apostle, was exhorting the Corinthians to avoid any close association with the world, especially those who were not of the same faith. He was well aware of the pitfalls encountered when saints would socialize or do business with unbelievers. There was always the danger of sincere born-again Christians falling into the trap of devious and selfish unbelievers. Unscrupulous people always have a tendency to take advantage of humble and honest believers.

To some, Paul may sound strict and straight-laced, however, his concern was for their welfare. Some, perhaps may disagree with Paul, on the premise that there were-and are-some good sincere persons in the world, although they may not be of the same faith. We must understand that in the day when Paul was conveying this counsel, there were only Christians, Jews, and unbelievers; there were no various denominations of Christians as there are today.

The leaders of the Church at that time were very strict in admonishing the saints to eschew even social associations with unbelievers. John has this to say about the question: "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him Godspeed; for he that biddeth him Godspeed is partaker of his evil deeds." (II John 1:10,11)

Paul, the apostle-as well as other apostles-even warned the saints to avoid some of the same faith who were utterly insincere in their actions and motives. The same Corinthians were told: "Now I beseech you brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them." (Romans 16:17)

I will not dwell at length upon the above matter, as the Scriptures speak for themselves. I would, however, exhort our people-adults, teenagers, and pre-teenagers-to look hard and long before anyone would associate oneself with anything which is not conducive to righteousness, or anyone who would have a tendency to weaken our faith in Christ and His Church. I would exhort our young people especially, to choose

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carefully their friends and the type of entertainment they expose themselves to. Avoid especially the music with lyrics that glorify sex, death, rebellion, and the worship of Satan. Be not unequally yoked with this type of poisonous food which is being dished out to the public. There is no fellowship with this kind of music for the Christian believer; no communion with this kind of darkness. To all of our members, I sincerely counsel you to avoid the trash that is being offered on television. Everything that is evil is being glorified on TV and in much of the media of today.

One of the most important things which the devil is viciously attacking is the institution of marriage. There are more broken marriages today than at any time in the history of mankind. Some researchers say that one out of every three marriages ends in divorce. The dissolution of a marriage is the easiest thing to obtain in this day of promiscuousness. Someone is always hurt deeply when divorce oscurs; mostly it's the children who are the innocent victims of a broken marriage. The media-TV, radio, cinema, and newspapers-I believe are the greatest perpetrators and innovators of the "New Morality." However, I cannot blame everything on the media, for God has given every per-son the ability and the right to choose: either sin and transgression or following the commandments of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The "New Morality" is prophetically described in the Scriptures. Paul says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous,

Greetings in Christ,



A Chinese philosopher wrote that the root of the state is in the family today as it was 2500 years ago, yet today the modern American family is under a terrible attack, having so many social pressures and difficulties.

One quarter of all murders occur in the home, about one half of these involving husband and wife. The marriage counselors and Institute of Mental Health estimate that only one quarter of all marriages are happy ones.

Clayton Barbeau suggested that a creative family involves each member, husband and wife. Children seem to be the victims of unhappy parents who in most cases use the word "you" instead of "us".

The vow "until death do us part" and "the twain shall be one flesh" is soon forgotten. No problem is really bigger than our responsibility towards each other, and most important to our flesh and blood (our children). Mr. Barbeau suggested that we can be open to each other if we try. Today I want to talk about a creative family and the creation of self and the creation of other people in relationship to creation of the community.

"I agree entirely that God made me and that I am created by God. And that God created woman likewise for the very purpose of us being each other's helpers.

"I am aware of the fragility of my own existence; I could drop dead this moment. However, the fact is that married couples are involved in a co-creation of each other, creating a relationship in families and therefrom creating children which most certainly should strengthen their marriage.

"Most of us begin life in a relatively open fashion if we ponder back upon it. Children tend to be very open, and some of us tend to be more open than others. We know when to be open and when to be closed in certain situations.

"We are open to love and to be loved, to give gifts or to receive them, but if someone injures me I tend to become closed for a time.

"I may become partially open again to give and to receive. I can start a new relationship, because it's unlikely that someone is going to injure me again.

"Once again, I am open, free, and can be as creative and loving and giving as before, yet I am aware that someone may come and hurt me again, but meanwhile I have the advantage of being alive instead of dead; loving, giving and creative."

Upon listening to Mr. Clayton Barbeau for the second time, I feel that whether 2500 years ago or today, the responsibility of creating and sustaining a family remains the same.

The giving of ourselves to each other and our children, if any, is worth all the effort, the pain, and sacrifice we can endure.

The creative family is the strength of our society; the remaining together is the work of both parties, as nothing destroys love more quickly than selfishness.

I agree with the Chinese philosopher who wrote that the root of the state is in the family. The ability to communicate, to reconcile, and to forgive is the core of a creative family.

Mark Randy

A Letter of Appreciation

May the Grace, Mercy and Peace from God our Father, and Jesus Christ our Lord be with you all.

Dear Parent Church, permit me to inform you that your spiritual prayers guided us peacefully through all our deliberations in last November's Conference.

After the Conference had read and viewed your good gesture with great joy, the House resolved that a letter of thanks should be written to the Parent Church in America. Sirs, under that impression, the members who were in the meeting to hear of your kindness and your fine gestures, recorded their hearty thanks to the Parent Church. They also sent special greeting to Elder John Ross for the interest and the able ways he handles the Church affairs in Nigeria.

Those who were benefited in transport fares to Conference also sent their warmest greetings to the Parent Church.

The Nigerian Priesthood and the entire members have indeed recorded their heartfelt thanks to the three Christian ladies who have launched the building of a Birth Clinic for our women in Nigeria.

We thank the Parent Church very much for the building of a dormitory block for our students in The Church of Jesus Christ Comprehensive Secondary School at Atai Otoro-Abak.

Sirs, with this type of gigantic cooperation and marvelous love like Jesus Christ, we pray for God's continuing love and long life to the Parent Church in the U.S.A.—Amen.

Finally, I thank the Parent Church in everything they do unto us. God bless you all.

Yours faithfully, U. U. Umo Eno Executive Secretary, Nigeria

An Experience

By Bertha Bilsky

On the first day of this year, I was awakened early in the morning with the line of a hymn singing to me. It was, "children of sorrow if you'll only let Him, then He will erase every vestige of sin."

I recognized it as one of the Songs of Zion, *Remove Every Stumbling Block*. I got up right away and read the words, and although I had sung the song before, it seemed when I read them as if the Lord was speaking to me. I looked up the word 'vestige' and found that it meant 'trace of' or 'footprint.' I felt such a blessing as I read the words to the hymn several times and felt that this was the answer to our concerns and that

(Continued on Page 4)

What Shall We Do?

By Julius Kovacs General Church Finance Committee

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:38-47)

When the throng came around Peter and the apostles on Pentecost at Jerusalem, they no longer contended with men of trepidation but with men whose mortal weaknesses were strengthened and guided by the Holy Ghost. Peter is no longer the rash speaker, quick to turn tail; he stands like a rock, solid and sure, on the foundation of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. Reading this part of the second chapter of Acts, we perceive and present these comments:

1. The way of remission of sins by repentance and baptism was stressed.

2. A priceless gift of the Holy Ghost was bestowed: this could not be obtained by bribes or large sums of money.

3. A promise was stressed by Peter that this gift, the Comforter, is accessible to those in the environs of Jerusalem, to children, and to all mankind.

4. The call for separation of the

goats came lambs from the forth: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation.'

5. Note that no cajoling, no domination, no force was used on them; they received gladly the word and were baptized, not one but about three thousand.

The story does not end here.

6. They continued in fellowship, prayer, preaching, doctrine, divine illumination, baptism, the Lord's Supper, miracles, and joy.

7. Miracles, wonders, and signs were performed by the apostles. The rewards for a repentent, humble, contrite heart cannot be valued in money or in any earthly benefits.

8. Everyone shared together their material goods, food, compassion, and the totality of partaking in the love of verse: "Bring ye all the tithes into the Jesus. It was held in common. Their goods were shared with all men, giving mine house, and prove me now herewith, to those that lacked.

9. The continuity of worship, a spiritual bond, was a daily blessing, not once, twice, or three times in a week, but daily in the temple. They went from house to house; nobody was forsaken. They "... did eat meat with gladness and singleness of heart," not merely earthly food that would be hungered for again, but the inspiration of spiritually drinking the waters and sharing the body and the blood of Christ. Their minds were single, centered in and radiated by the Holy Ghost. They were truly the "blessed of my Father."

of love poured down on all the people. Consider this: "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." It is so beautiful to picture this, going a new creed and a new belief are being daily to the waters of baptism. Every imposed in that land. day was, and still is, for that matter, the Lord's day.

"And again Alma commanded that the people of the church should impart of their substance, every one according to that which he had; if he had more abundantly he should impart more abundantly; and of him that hath but little, but little should be required; and to him that had not should be given.

"And thus they should impart of their substance of their own free will and good desires towards God, and to those priests that stood in need, yea, and to every needy, naked soul. And this he said unto them, having been commanded of

God; and they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another both temporally and spiritually according to their needs and their wants.

"And now it came to pass that all this was done in Mormon, yea, by the waters of Mormon, in the forest that was near the waters of Mormon; yea, the place of Mormon, the waters of Mormon, the forest of Mormon, how beautiful are they to the eyes of them who there came to the knowledge of their Redeemer; yea, and how blessed are they, for they shall sing to his praise forever." (Mosiah 18:27-30)

Malachi writes, "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation." (Chapter 3:8 & 9)

But the reward is in the 10th storehouse, that there may be meat in saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.'

The Church of Jesus Christ is at the threshold. Ahead is Zion, and behind us is the muddle of creeds, sects, rituals, and castes. How much do we love the Church: more importantly, how much do we love Chirst and our fellow man, nations, kindreds, tongues, and peoples, regardless of continents, of dialects, of skin color, of position in life? Do we love one another? The example in the Book of Acts teaches a lesson. Less than forty years later, Jerusalem was destroyed and the blessings were gone. The 10. God was praise; His radiant aura Church founded by the waters of Mormon, and the ensuing faith of the Nephites, is gone like a cry in the night. The Israel of old is no longer so blessed;

> What does all this mean to us in The Church of Jesus Christ? Let us set our priorities:

> 1. I believe in the Restored Gospel. I believe the spread of it to be of global dimensions in the near future. This is the one Church that stands and will remain against the Church of Satan. What is that worth to me?

> 2. I love Jesus Christ. I have repented, been baptized, and I love my brothers and sisters. I love the missionary zeal of the Church. (About one

A Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My family and I wish to express our deepest thanks for your prayers and fastings during Joyce's sudden illness and unexpected passing. We wish to thank everyone for the hundreds of cards and phone calls received during this time.

Your prayers, cards, and words of strength gave us the needed courage to face this great trial. We pray God will repay each one of you for your love and care for us.

Among Joyce's personal papers she had saved the following poem which best described her feelings about God and also how we feel at this time.

IS THE CROSS YOU WEAR TOO HEAVY TO BEAR?

Complainingly I told myself

"This cross is too heavy to wear." And I wondered discontentedly

Why God gave it to me to bear. And I looked with envy at others whose

Crosses seemed lighter than mine. And I wished that I could change my

Cross for one of a lighter design. And then, in a dream, I beheld the cross

I impulsively wanted to wear,

It was fashioned of pearls and diamonds And gems that were precious and rare

And when I hung it around my neck The weight of the jewels and the gold

Was much too heavy and cumbersome For my small slender neck to hold;

So I tossed it aside and before my eyes Was a cross of rose-red flowers

And I said with delight as I put it on, "This cross I can wear for hours!"

For it was so dainty and fragile, So lovely and light and thin,

But I had forgotten about the thorns That started to pierce my skin;

And then in my dream I saw my cross, Rugged and old and plain.

That clumsy old cross I had looked upon With discontented disdain

And at last I knew that God had made This special cross for me

For God in His great wisdom knew What I before could not see,

That often the loveliest crosses

Are the heaviest crosses to wear,

For only God is wise enough

To choose the cross we can wear So never complain about your cross, For your cross has been blest, God made it just for you to wear, And remember, God knows best.

> With love for all of you, Brother Dennis Moraco Tony and Christopher

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, having a form of godiless, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away." (II Timothy 3:1-5)

I want to repeat the last words of his exhortation: From such turn away. This is exactly what I am counseling our people to do: Turn away from the things which have even a slight appearance of evil; for if we yield to the enticings and temptations of Satan, we become the servants of evil and companions of unrighteousness. But we have been called to be servants of Our Lord Jesus Christ and companions of righteousness, and as such we must wage a warfare against the evil encroachments of Satan. The saints cannot yoke themselves to anything or anyone but Jesus Christ.

He once said, "Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (Matthew 11:29,30) Thus IT IS WRITTEN.

Next month's column will deal with a spiritual approach to keeping a marriage together. Ed.

WHAT SHALL WE DO? continued. . .

half of our giving is for missionary work in the spreading of the Gospel.) What is all that worth to me?

3. I look to the kingdom of Heaven, and while money will not get me into it, the love for my fellow man from the shed blood of Christ can be spread across the lintels of each and every heart and soul in this world-wide desire. What is that worth to me? 4. I must eat temporally and spiritually, reasonably limited in the former but boundless in the latter. I know that the Church has expenses and I know that as I have prospered spiritually, I should be like that throng at Jerusalem and share. What is <u>that</u> worth to me?

5. One lost lamb, one strayed sheep, one crying soul that can be reprieved and brought to the fold—what is <u>that</u> worth to me?

6. One more light, though just a candle glow, in the world of growing darkness; what is that worth to me?

Set your goals, looking to your total needs and your abilities. You set your own mark, but brothers and sisters, try to keep it. We can do it, prayerfully, sacrificially—giving up needless luxuries.

The banner of Christ must be planted on mountain tops, valleys, nations, continents, and the isles of the sea. That is worth everything to me. "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

AN EXPERIENCE continued . . .

God was willing and able to help us if we would let Him.

"REMOVE EVERY STUMBLING BLOCK"

By Sister Arlene Buffington

There is no power

that God cannot conquer, and

There is no battle

that He cannot win for you; Children of sorrow

if you'll only let Him, then He will erase every vestige of sin. And

Remove every stumbling block,

dissolve every obstacle,

Destroy every fortress

where evil could hide, and break Down every standing wall

that sin has constructed,

Untie every silken cord

that Satan has tied. And He'll

Send you a sunny day and drive every cloud away,

And lift every shadow

that follows along, and put Joy where the pain had been and

wash off the stain of sin,

Forget every place you've been, forgive every wrong.

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is 56.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Ye are the light of the world," Jesus told His followers when He lived upon the earth. Today, like then, the Lord wants us to allow His light to shine through us. If we stop to think of what Jesus Christ is to all those who know Him, we can easily see how, by projecting His image to others, we could be instrumental in winning souls for Him.

In order for us to let our light shine, we must constantly seek the direction of the Holy Ghost. We never know when the opportunity may arise for us to be a light in the darkness. Perhaps, when all around us people are filled with fear, we can be as Jesus was on the stormy sea, bringing peace to others. When everyone else is throwing stones, maybe we can set an example for those around us and be the first to forgive. Just as Christ has become a personal friend in whom we can confide, perhaps we can share our time and lend a listening ear to someone in need, someone who still doesn't know the Lord. Unlike Christ, we cannot be all things to all people, but each of us has an individual talent, something we can do better than most people, and whatever that ability may be, we can use it toward God's honor and glory to better the lives of others.

The key ingredient in our reaching out to others must be the fervent charity that Christ himself possessed, that pure love of God which led Him to put all of mankind before Himself. Without this love our other efforts will have little effect. The love of God must be a profound, consistent presence in our lives, not something that makes an occasional, unpredictable appearance.

As we endeavor to exercise the love of God in our lives, let us reflect upon God's infinite love for us, to have sent His only begotten Son down to earth, to take upon Him flesh and blood, to be mocked, ridiculed, and finally crucified because of His good works among the children of men. Let us remember His commandment to us that we love one another even as He loved us, and ask Him with all energy of heart to bestow His love upon us.

At this time of year when the Christian world celebrates the resurrection of Christ, let us take a moment to reflect upon what Christ's immortality means to us. The scriptures teach us that there is no other name by which man can find his way back to the presence of God. Being born Himself of water and the spirit, Jesus blazed the trail for us along that straight and narrow path.

Jesus is our strength. We must not imagine that we can, by our own means, overcome this world. Only by drawing from the reservoir of strength Jesus provides can we surmount the things that come upon us in our lives. As long as we are trying our best to keep His commandments, He is there for us to lean upon when we need Him. He is the solid Rock upon which our faith is built. In an ever-changing world where we can't be sure what will happen next, Jesus is the one thing we can count on.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

A King Believes

Dear Girls and Boys,

Lamoni, king of the land of Ishmael, believed there was a Jesus. Ammon, a Nephite minister of God, had taught him the true story of how God had brought the Nephites and the Lamanites to the Promised Land. King Lamoni wanted Ammon to tell his father, the great ruler of all the Lamanite nations, about God's love for all. But the Lord spoke to Ammon and told him not to go to the old king's home because the old king would try to kill them. God told Ammon instead to go to the land of Middoni where his brother, Aaron, and his friends Muloki and Ammah were in prison.

King Lamoni agreed to go, too, and told Ammon, "The king of Middoni is my friend. I'll ask him to release your brethren from prison!" So they began traveling to the land of Middoni. On their way there, they met the father of King Lamoni.

Angrily the old king said to Lamoni, "You were invited to a big feast in honor of my sons in front of all my people! Why did you not come?"

Now Lamoni was preparing to go to that feast at the very same time that God empowered Ammon to kill the sheep robbers. When Ammon was brought before the king and told him about the power and love of God and Christ, Lamoni fell unconscious and awoke believing. Instead of going to his father's, he stayed in his own country to preach and build churches.

Lamoni's angry father hated all Nephites. His prejudice against them was so great he ordered his son, "Take your sword and kill this man! Like all Nephites he is a liar coming here to trick us and take our property! Forget about going to Middoni; you are coming back home with me!"



But Lamoni answered firmly, "I will not kill Ammon, and I will not return with you. I will go to the land of Middoni to release these good men who are holy prophets of the true God!"

Now when the old king heard these words, he pulled out his sword to kill his son. But Ammon stopped him and said, "You must stop! If you were to kill your son, an innocent man, your soul could not be saved!"

Furiously the great king answered, "I know that if I killed my son I'd be killing an innocent man. I should kill you because you've tried to destroy everything he believed in!" And he stretched forth his hand to slay Ammon. But Ammon withstood all his blows, and struck the old king's arm so he could not use it.

When he realized that Ammon could not kill <u>him</u>, the old king began to beg Ammon to spare his life. But Ammon raised his sword and said to him, "I will kill you unless you will promise me that my brothers will be freed from prison!"

Now the king, fearing the loss of his own life, said, "If you will let me live, I'll give you anything you ask, even half of my kingdom!"

When Ammon saw that the king was afraid, he said, "If you'll let my brothers out of prison and also let Lamoni keep his kingdom and not be mad at him, and let him do whatever he believes is right, then I'll spare you. Otherwise, I'll cut you down with this sword!"

The old king began to rejoice at these words and was also astonished that Ammon loved his son, King Lamoni, so much. He answered, "Since this is all that you ask, that I would free your brethren from prison and let Lamoni remain king, I'll give you even more. I will allow Lamoni to remain king without me ruling him at all. And I will also grant unto you that your brethren will be let out of prison, and that you will then bring them to see me. I greatly desire to hear your words."

The great king wanted to know more because he was greatly astonished by the words that Ammon and his son had spoken. And it came to pass that Ammon and King Lamoni continued their travels to Middoni to free their brothers, Nephites who went with the love of God to preach God's word among their enemies.

> Sincerely, Sister Janet 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105

WORD SEARCH: See Alma 20

Find the words listed below:

prejudice	Lamanite
Middoni	prison
Ammon	kill
love	word
Lamoni	of
mind	God
preach	Jesus
Nephite	find

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D	Е	I	N	0	М	A	L	Е
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H	L	I	Т	W	D	М	W	U
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50th Anniversary at Detroit, Branch 2

By Loretta Lovalvo

Sunday, December 9, 1984, was a day filled with precious memories for the members and friends of Branch 2 who came to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

There were many in attendance who belonged to Branch 2 or were acquainted with it over the years, some from as far as Arizona and California. The congregation enjoyed singing many old favorites of the Branch. Many of the songs brought a special event or a particular person to mind.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo said a few words on behalf of the General Church, congratulating us on our fifty years and encouraging us to have many more successful years in God's service.

Brother Alex Gentile, Presiding Elder, read a history of Branch 2, which started out with a few brave souls who held their first meeting in the home of Brother Emil and Sister Anna Carlini in Lincoln Park, Michigan. By the time they became an established mission in January of 1934, they had a membership of 52. In October of 1934, they officially became a branch.

Five of the original 52 members of the branch were acknowledged and presented with a flower. They were Brother Joe Straccia, Sister Palmina Straccia, Brother Reno Bologna, Brother John Romano, and Sister Alice Romano. Sister Anna Badalucco is the sixth original surviving member, but she was unable to attend because of poor health.

Brother Reno Bologna then addressed us relating some of his memories from over the years. He spoke of the heritage which the older brothers and sisters left to us now. He said, "They were run-of-the-mill people just like everyone else, but they dared to go against the norm of that time, accept the Gospel, and make a better way for themselves and all of us."

Brother Reno encouraged all of us as children of the saints to continue to pass this Gospel on to our children. "We have everything today—much more than our parents had," Brother Reno said. "Let us appreciate it all and make the best of all that God has given us. Let us adhere to the heritage that was given to us."

Brother Joe Milantoni spoke to us, reciting Mark 16:15, "... Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Brother Joe told us that Branch 2 has always been instrumental in bringing the Gospel to others and has a history of being very active in the missionary fields. He spoke of his own calling and of the spirit that was evident in the membership to spread the Gospel to others. As he looks back at the glories of the past, he is filled with the glorious anticipation of the future, where greater things will come to pass. Brother Joe urged us all to be workers for Christ in whatever way we can.

Brother Dominic Thomas spoke to us of the many opportunities he had by being a member of Branch 2. He told us that many have left Branch 2 to start other works. "We must think not only of our branch, but of the Church as a whole. There is a need everywhere. I hope you heard the message this morning: There is a broadened horizon for us to work for the Church and together we can do the work that needs to be done," Brother Dominic said.

The Presiding Elders that were present (Brother Reno Bologna, Saline; Brother Nick Pietrangelo, Branch 4; Brother Alex Gentile, Branch 2; and Brother Joe Milantoni, Inner-City) were asked to come forward. They joined hands and Brother Dominic prayed, asking God to bless them and their branches and missions, the sick, and the Church as a whole.

Brother Alex asked that we all accept the messages that were given as directed to us, *not someone else*. He thanked all those that had helped with the Anniversary and petitioned all those present to support the Church.

During lunchtime, everyone present had the opportunity to view a video tape of all the members of Branch 2, past and present, plus many other pictures on a bulletin board. As we looked at the faces

(Continued on Page 11)



Left to right: Sister Alice Romano, Brother John Romano, Brother Joe Straccia, Sister Palmina Straccia and Sister Catherine Gammachia

Branch and Mission News

Dedham, MA

By Belle Rose

On January 13, 1985, we witnessed the first ordination to be performed at the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission, that of Brother Donald Valenti, Sr. as a teacher in the Church. His feet were washed by Brother Edward Onorato, and he was ordained by Brother Richard Onorato.

During the ordination, a vision was seen of three personages, one of them holding a book in each hand. A glow emanated from these three to the area around the brothers who were performing the ordination. The gift of tongues came forth at this meeting as well, the interpretation being, "Thus saith the Lord, This day have I begotten My servant."

We thank God for His many blessings in calling workers into His vineyard, and our prayers are with Brother Donald as he presses forward in the Gospel.

Aliquippa, PA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13)

My words cannot accurately nor adequately express the beautiful and spiritfilled message that was brought forth concerning the above-mentioned scripture by visiting Evangelist Rusty Heaps, of the Anaheim, California, Branch of the Church. The Lord truly seasoned the words of our brother as his message was filled with blessings throughout.

Our meeting was opened in prayer on December 4, 1984 by Brother Paul Palmieri, as he asked God to bless our service. Following the prayer we sang the hymn *Let It Shine*. Brother Rusty, in his message, told of many wonderfully powerful experiences had by saints throughout the Church that showed that they had been with Jesus just like Peter

and John. Our brother related his own personal experience of how the Lord called him while he was sitting among 90,000 people at a professional football game. We could have listened to the many experiences that our brother related all day, but the time quickly passed us by. Brother Rusty instructed us to be sure that the world would know whether or not we had been with Jesus. and to strive to keep His commandments, and His light will shine from our lives. Our brother encouraged those yet to be baptized to accept the Lord and repent of their sins, because to be with Jesus cannot be surpassed. We truly enjoyed the wonderful message brought forth by our brother and welcome him back to our branch any time!

We closed our morning service by singing the hymn *Wave the Flags of Zion* and left knowing our cups had been filled by the Spirit of the Lord.

We returned for our afternoon service to find three of our Apostles visiting with us: Brothers Anthony Corrado, Russell Cadman, and Frank Calabrese.

Brother Corrado opened our meeting with prayer and a selection was sung by the Aliquippa Trio, Brothers John Mark D'Antonio, Ryan Ross, and Pete Giannetti Jr., entitled *Because of Who You Are.* All that were present felt a blessing in the trio's singing.

Brother Corrado began the speaking and told of his calling into the Church, and how he was baptized after attending only two meetings! Brother Tony related some experiences, and thanked God for the many blessings and experiences he has received in his lifetime. He concluded by encouraging us to continue to strive for the inheritance that God has promised us. It was truly a blessing to hear the words of our Brother Tony again; he is truly one of the pillars of our Church.

Following the words of our brother we partook of the Lord's Supper, and a very peaceful spirit was felt by all present as we participated in this ordinance.

A joyous and uplifting season of testimony followed communion with both young and old expressing their thanks to God for being called into the Gospel.

Brother Frank Calabrese also bore his

testimony and expressed his joy in hearing the testimonies of the young. He stated that many mothers in the world would give anything to hear their children bear testimonies such as those heard.

Brother Russell Cadman also expressed himself briefly and thanked God for his calling into the Gospel many years ago. Our brother encouraged us to press onward and to continue to rely on God for all things.

We thank the Lord for this day filled with blessings from start to finish. We hope and pray that the Lord will continue to bless us.

Saline, MI

By Roseann Wood

" 'The Toyland Express,' built by members of The Church of Jesus Christ, tracked down a \$200 check from the Chamber for winning first prize. The Saline area church, which is not affiliated with mormonism, traditionally captures one of the top prizes in the float competition." This was the news item copied from the Saline Reporter on the December Christmas Parade held annually in the small downtown section of Saline. Brother Pete Buffa (and son, John, who headed the project) found an opportunity to speak with parade officials of our Church and the Restoration.

Our elation over first prize lent credence to Brother Jim Cotellesse's sermon as we met for our Sunday service the following day. From Alma 26:8-12 he read, "Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks to his holy name, for he doth work righteousness forever. For if we had not come up out of the land of Zarahemla, these our dearly beloved brethren, who have so dearly beloved us, would still have been racked with hatred against us, yea, and they would also have been strangers to God. And it came to pass that when Ammon had said these words, his brother Aaron rebuked him. saying: Ammon, I fear that thy joy doth carry thee away unto boasting. But Ammon said unto him: I do not boast in my own strength, nor in my own wisdom; but behold, my joy is full, yea, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God. Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength, I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God, for in his strength I can do all things; yea,

behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name forever." This speaks well of our feelings surrounding the functions and activities we hold in our town, as it behooves us to make ourselves known and have the townspeople aware of "who we are" and what message we've come to give them. If our joy appears to be boastful, it is because of God's accomplishing in us the task of spreading His word among a town endowed with many churches and faiths and with many, many years of historical presence. Brother Jim concluded his words, "Boasting of what the Lord has done for us is usually derogatory, but boasting in the story of the Lord is acceptable, to be assuredly good."

Brother Frank Morle spoke (in what came to be his last visit with us), reminding us and especially directing his words to the young, "You want to be contributors-don't just come to the service and sit. This morning, we are winners. Give people your testimony. What better way than to run the name of The Church of Jesus Christ down through the streets of town-after seeing the name blazoned across the back of the wagon-and that, above all, we're winners." Brother Frank continued, "The time to do it (testify) is now, while we're on 'top-of-the-heap.' Put faith into these kinds of experiences and make those decisions that would cultivate your lives to such an extent that you would be found worthy.'

We were united in spirit and song as we concluded with Brother Frank's favorite song, God's Still on His Throne.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi

January 27, 1985 was set aside for fasting and prayer and we were very happy to have Brother John Griffith visiting us from the Monongahela, PA Branch, which started the blessings that were to follow. The beginning of the day's blessings were in the Sunday School class with Brother Sam Risola, Jr. conducting the class in which we read and discussed the 24th chapter of Mosiah about the deliverance from bondage of Alma and his people.

Brother John Griffith opened our Sunday Service with the congregation singing *Since God Loves Me*, while the sacrament table was set. Before Brother John Griffith started his sermon, Brother Duane Lowe read a letter of thanks from Sister Sue and Brother Floyd Rossi from Aliquippa, PA. Brother John then recalled how Brother Feo Rossi changed his habits and ways when he embraced Jesus as his personal Saviour, and his great love for all the brothers and sisters of the Church.

Brother John then read the 4th chapter of the Book of Genesis, in which Cain and Abel are mentioned and how God was pleased with the offering of Abel, which was the best of his flock, and was not as pleased with the offering of Cain. Brother John said that we are all born with a portion of the Spirit of Jesus and that this is like an umbilical cord between us and the Lord. He talked about how the sacrifices were made for sin offerings, but now we should not fear unless we break the laws of God.

Brother John then read the 12th chapter of Romans, in which Paul exhorts the brethren to present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. We must love, respect, and feel for each other even as Jesus did for all of us, when He gave His life as a living sacrifice that we may all receive eternal life if we believe in Him and His holy words.

Brother John also said that he felt the same blessings of God here in Tampa with a small group as he did in Monongahela with a large group and that we should never be discouraged even if we are not many. We then sang Weighed in the Balance, after which Brother Merdy Griffith, John's father, spoke about where we will be ten thousand years from now. He hoped that he would be among that number who would be with the Lord in ten thousand years as would anyone who served the Lord in Spirit and Truth. He reminded us that we are living in the last Kingdom.

We then went into our testimony meeting with all expressing the blessings which God bestowed upon them from time to time. We closed by singing *Wave the Flags of Zion*, and Brother Sam Risola, Sr. closed in prayer.

Everyone enjoyed this day very much, feeling the blessings of God, and were happy to be in the service of God.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." (II Corinthians 9:6) 9

Cape Coral, FL

By Hope Eutsey

The saints in Cape Coral have kept very busy this past winter. Our local MBA went Christmas Caroling at the Cape Coral Retirement Center and the Nursing Pavillion. The elderly residents truly enjoyed the singing, but possibly the singers had the greater blessing. Bringing joy to others is such a great gift to give.

Our Sunday School had a wonderful Christmas Program. The young children and teenagers presented the program with the help of Sister Patty Hildenbrand and Brother Bert Sheffler. We were visited by Brother Frank and Sister Juanita Rogolino and Lori Fisher.

We were privileged to have a series of meetings with Apostle Frank Calabrese. We met at the community room of the Coralwood Mall on December 26. Brother Frank related many experiences and spoke many fine words to us.

We met again on December 29 and offered special prayers on behalf of those that were afflicted. Brother Frank told us to continue praying for our children and grandchildren. We then held a discussion-type seminar on the topic of Fasting and Prayer. Among the many points brought out is the fact that fasting and prayer is a powerful tool in our possession. Many wonderful experiences were related in this seminar.

The next day, December 30, Brother Frank preached from Ephesians 6:10-18, concerning the whole armor of God. We are thankful for the opportunity to have spent this time with our brother apostle.

January found us all baking and preparing craft items to sell at a bazaar table on January 26. All went well and we were able to earn some money for our building fund.

Ft. Pierce, FL

Sunday morning, January 13, the Fort Pierce Branch was overflowing with saints from all branches and missions of Florida as well as visitors from New Jersey and Michigan.

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Brother Wilbur McNeil of new Brunswick, New Jersey, opened the meeting asking, "Do we know who we are and where we are?" He then went on to expound on II Peter 4th chapter. We must be about our Father's business. We should deny ourselves and take time to serve God. We have the Gospel and the precious calling of God.

Brother Arthur Searcy of Edison, New Jersey spoke, saying that we should always speak of the things of God no matter where we are. It's the beginning of sorrows as well as the beginning of Zion. Be a witness at all times until death. We as the family of God must carry the Gospel all over. He related an accident he had which could have taken his life. Because of the goodness of God and a miracle, he was spared. We should take inventory and do more to please God.

Apostle Nick Pietrangelo then spoke, encouraging the saints. God wants us to remember His promises. Serve Him and keep His commandments; keep these and we will be delivered from worldly corruption. We should awaken and get closer to God. We have seen wonderful things, but it's only the beginning. Allow ourselves to be clay to be molded. Have understanding, patience, love toward one another, love of God, and charity.

Brother Mike Radd told us to look to the Lord. He does everything right. We should gather together to strengthen ourselves. We were closed in prayer by Apostle Joseph Bittinger.

We can truly say we were glad to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ. It was a day well spent, with much to ponder upon. We must try our best to follow what we heard, and give of our best to the Master.

Detroit, Branch 2

By Lisa DiRado

There was rejoicing at Branch 2 on October 28, 1984 as a new soul rendered obedience to Christ. Sister Lisa DiMelis asked for her baptism early in the week and was baptized on Sunday morning by Brother Joe Milantoni. There was a beautiful spirit at the bank of the Detroit River as many of the saints and friends met to witness Sister Lisa's baptism.

After the baptism, we reconvened at

Branch 2. Brother Leonard Lovalvo opened our service with Mosiah 18:8-9. This is Alma's message to those who were considering a commitment to the Lord, and the duties and blessings that follow them as they join the family of God. Brother Leonard spoke to Sister Lisa, telling her that now she has the hope of eternal life—with the Spirit of God to guide her. He told her that the Holy Ghost would inspire her, warn her, and direct her. Brother Leonard spoke of Zion's coming and said that we are the ones who will work to usher it in.

After we sang Wave the Flags of Zion, Sister Lisa was confirmed. Brother Daniel Parravano prayed before the confirmation, and Sister Lisa was confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas.

Next, Brother Joe Milantoni spoke about the joy in Sister Lisa's decision to become a new soldier for the Lord. He spoke about the Spirit of Zion that resides wherever the Spirit of God is and about God working with our people to bring forth Zion.

It is truly a joy to have our new sister as part of the fold. Sister Lisa expressed her decision to join the Church as something she has been considering for a long time, but as with many raised in the Church, something she has put off. We're very thankful that the Lord's Spirit moved on our sister to make that commitment to join the family of God.



Brother Joe Milantoni and Sister Lisa

Windsor, Ontario

By Olanda Peltier

Ephesians 6th Chapter is the scripture Brother Tony Lovalvo used as he exhorted those who sat under the sound of his voice to "put on the whole armour of God." Brother Tony, from Branch 4 in Detroit, visited us on January 27, 1985. Our cups were filled to overflowing as the Lord used our brother and we were blessed with two souls answering to the call to join His holy band. Matthew and Patricia Collison, son and daughter-in-law of Brother Donald and Sister Adrienne Collison, had their names added to the Book of Life and oh, how our hearts rejoice and we praise our Heavenly Father for his love and richest blesings and allowing us to sit in heavenly places!

We want to share Brother Armand Hotte's experience and Sister Mary Coppa's vision relating to the baptisms.

"It was about November, 1984 when Matt Collison asked me to pray for him because he wanted an experience from God so that he could get baptized. He knew that God had blessed me with many experiences before. I knew that Matt and Pat Collison were beautiful people and that God could surely use them in His Gospel. I told Matt that I would gladly pray for him and his wife. I had already been praying for them, but I could see how much they wanted to get baptized. I kept praying to God, if it was His will, would He give Matt and Pat what they needed to enable them to get baptized. I kept praying for them whenever they came into my mind. There was a moment when the thought entered into my mind that I had prayed enough for Matt and Pat. I knew where this thought came from and I began to pray even harder. I told God that I knew He would call Matt and Pat with His calling Spirit into The Church of Jesus Christ and I wasn't going to stop praying for them until they got baptized.

"On Sunday, January 27, 1985, I was getting ready for Church when God began to speak to my mind. God said to me, "Do you remember the experience I gave you years ago about John and Patti Saliga and the handkerchiefs?" I told God that I remembered that experience. God then told me that John and Patti Saliga would be at this Sunday's meeting (They live in Guelph, Ontario, several hundred miles away.). God directed me to take a red work handkerchief and a blue work handkerchief to church this Sunday. I asked God why should I do this. God replied that the red handkerchief was for a man and the blue one was for a woman. I asked God what man and what woman He was talking about. God told me it was for the baptism of Matt and Pat Collison if they would obey His calling Spirit. When I got to Church and saw John and Patti

Saliga sitting in front of me, I knew what God had in store for Matt and Pat. As I waited on God's direction and guidance, I could see Pat telling Brother Ken Wright as he was passing Sacrament, that she wanted to be baptized and I knew God's calling Spirit would also be on Matt, and just a moment passed before Matt also asked for his baptism.

"I stood up and related the experience God had revealed to me about Matt and Pat Collison's calling. My soul was filled with God's wonderful love. I thought to myself, how wise and understanding God is that He would only reveal the experience he gave me after Matt and Pat Collison had made a commitment unto Him."—Brother Armand Hotte.

On Sunday, January 27, 1985, Sister Mary Coppa had this vision in her own Branch 3, across the river, around 11:30 or 11:45 a.m. While they were singing a hymn, she paused and at once she saw beautiful water, clear as could be, and she saw two white doves flying over the water, side by side. She did not understand the significance of the vision, so she did not say anything. That evening, while she was talking to her daughter Jane Elzby and heard that Matt and Pat were baptized, the Spirit of God overcame her and she understood the vision to mean Matt and Pat's baptism.

God's still on His throne, brothers and sisters, and He still blesses His people with the gifts He has promised. To the saints wherever the Church is established, the saints in Windsor send their love.



Brother Don and Sister Pat Collison



Brothers Don and Matt Collison

50th ANNIVERSARY continued . .

and listened to the voices of many of our brothers and sisters who have gone to their reward, it inspired us to work harder for the Lord so that we might see them once again.

The memories are indeed precious, and we look forward to many more years of service to God at Branch 2.

Attention

The Print House has completed the first volume in a series of volumes containing all *The Gospel News* beginning with the very first issue that Brother Cadman printed in his basement on a trial run in 1938. Two to three volumes will be printed yearly and an index will follow.

Each volume will be hard bound with *The Gospel News* logo embossed in gold on a blue cover. The cost is \$17.50 per book, postage included.

For an additional \$1.00 we will emboss your name on the cover.

Use the order form attached to the center of this months *Gospel News* to place your order.

* WEDDINGS ' ZACCAGNINI-WHITE

John Zaccagnini, son of Martha and Pat; and Colleen White, daughter of Judy and Tom, were united in marriage on May 5, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Windsor, Ontario.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Silverio Coppa, cousin of the groom. Musical selections were presented by Tracey Francione.

Our prayer is that God will richly bless John and Colleen.

MICALLEF-HENDERSON

Joseph Micallef, son of Theresa and the late Joseph and Carolyn Henderson, daughter of Ethel and Douglas, were united in marriage on May 19, 1984 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Windsor, Ontario.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Allen Henderson, grandfather of the bride, and her uncle, Brother Otto Henderson, from Anaheim, California. Musical selections were presented by Sister Diane Hawkins.

May God bless Carolyn and Joe as they journey through life.

New Arrivals

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

Jordan Brent to Michele and Gary Peltier of Windsor, Ontario;

Elisabeth Jane DiMelis to Vicky and Donald Henderson of London, Ontario;

Richard Aaron to Patricia and Matthew Collison, Windsor, Ontario;

Tina Louise to Charles and Barbara Crall of Dayton, Ohio;

Amanda Beth to John and Barbara (Chambers) Strac-

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cia of Sterling Heights, Michigan;

Bruce James to John and Dorothy Grabin of Youngstown, Ohio;

Nicole Marie to Danny and Vickie Naples of Lake Worth, Florida.

Children Blessed

On November 18, 1984, Omega Jamaal Jefferson was blessed in the Church at the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch by Evangelist Cleveland Baldwin.

OBITUARIES

FEO ROSSI

On Sunday, January 6, 1985, Brother Feo Rossi of the Aliquippa Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed away at the age of 66.

Brother Feo was born on June 10, 1918, and was baptized into the Church on April 8, 1957.

Surviving are his wife, Sister Sue Rossi, a son, Brother Floyd A. Rossi, two brothers, Brothers John and Joseph Ross, and two sisters, Mrs. Elizabeth DeFelice and Mrs. Antoinette Sinali.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Charles Jumper and James Gibson.

Brother Feo went out of his way to make everyone feel special. He made a point of getting to know everyone well, and he had a nickname for everyone he met.

Our brother never failed to mention his gratefulness for what God had done for him. He would often testify of the miraculous turnaround the Lord brought about in his life, and our brother's life truly was a living testimony of the goodness of God. The love for God and for mankind that was in his heart will serve as an example to us all.

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Our prayer is that God will bless Brother Feo's family in their time of loss.

ALEXANDRINE BOUCHER

Sister Alexandrine (Julie) Boucher, of Windsor, Ontario, passed away on January 9, 1985. She was born on December 17, 1908.

: Brothers Kenneth Wright and Donald Collison officiated at the funeral service.

Left to mourn Sister Julie are her husband Joseph, six sisters and one brother, and many loving nieces and nephews. She is sadly missed by her brothers and sisters in the Windsor Branch.

ANTHONY SANTILLI

Brother Anthony Santilli, of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to his eternal reward on January 6, 1985. He was born on January 17, 1922 and baptized into the Church on January 27, 1957. He was ordained a teacher in the Church in April of 1958.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Joseph Calabrese, assisted by Brothers Elmer and Richard Santilli. Sister Saundra Cardillo sang a selection, accompanied by Sister Betty Gennaro.

Brother Tony is survived by his wife, Sister Mary; two sons, Howard and Mark; a daughter, Sister Gail; three brothers, two sisters, his mother, and one grandchild.

Brother Tony was truly a gentleman in every sense of the word. He was the presiding teacher of the Youngstown Branch, the Youngstown Local MBA president, and a very good friend to many. He served God in humility, and his works among the brothers and sisters have left a lasting mark on many hearts.

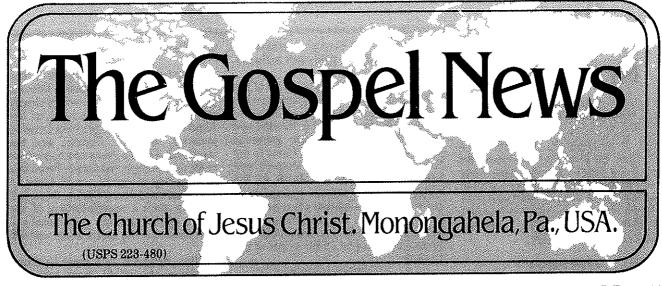
SARAH MANES

Sister Sarah Manes, of Youngstown, Ohio, passed from this life on December 16, 1984. She was born in Montecelfone, Italy, on February 2, 1901 and baptized into the Church on April 27, 1930 after coming to Youngstown in 1925.

Her funeral was conducted by Evangelist Ralph Berardino, assisted by Apostle A. A. Corrado and Evangelist Dan Casasanta.

Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Brother George Manes, who passed away in 1955. Surviving are three sons, Brother John, Brother Nicholas, and Brother Joseph; one daughter, Sister Teresa Pandone; ten grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Although Sister Sarah has been ill for many years, she will be dearly missed and remembered for her good works and cheerful ways.



May, 1985

The Necessity of Good Works

Throughout the scriptures, we find extensive instruction and commandments concerning our responsibility to perform good works in righteousness. As we accomplish these works from the pure desire of our heart, without any ulterior or selfish motives, there are wonderful promises granted unto us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul, in speaking to the Thessalonians, exhorts, "But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing." (II Thessalonians 3:13) We may become tired, weary, or exhausted with many efforts in this life, but let us not forsake helping, giving, sharing, and caring. Paul also repeated the words of Christ, as follows, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." (Acts 20:35) In conjunction with that thought are words of the Old Testament prophet, "Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days." (Ecclesiastes 11:1)

So what is involved in the topic of 'good works'? Good works include—but certainly are not limited to—feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting or administering to those who are sick. The words of Jesus concerning this charge are as follows: "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was an hungred, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." When the question was asked Jesus as to when these acts were done to Him, he responded, "... Inasmuch as ye have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:35-40)

Because the word of God does not change, we can apply these teachings to ourselves as well, knowing that whenever we perform works such as these, the recipient benefits and God is pleased as well. It is just as if we perform that service to Jesus himself.

With these thoughts in mind, we can ask a few more questions. How necessary are 'good works'? Are they required of us or just an option available at our leisure? To this James replies, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." (James 4:17)

It should be our desire to administer to both the spiritual and temporal needs of those around us, whether they be family, friends, or even enemies. So often it is not the desire or the substance that is lacking to fulfill the desires, but it is free time which escapes us. However, we must somehow find or make the time necessary to do those things which are most important in our lives.

Consider which aspects of our spiritual life may be hindered by the negligence of these good works. I believe that if our lives show the fruits of good works, then charity, faith, and hope will abound; our prayers will be answered and our fastings received more readily; our preaching will be more effective and convincing through the Spirit of God.

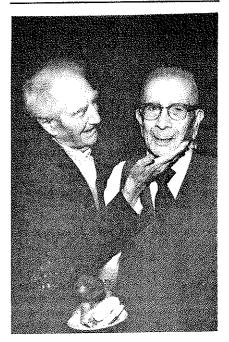
James states that if we meet someone who is hungry or naked and we merely respond, "Depart in peace," or "I'll

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pray for you," when we have the capability to satisfy those needs; then our faith is dead, not being accompanied by good works. (James 2:14-20, 26)

Likewise, a Book of Mormon writer adds, "... after we have obtained a hope in Christ, and if we should be blessed with wealth, the purpose of those riches is to do good." (Jacob 2:18-19) The prophet Isaiah implies that only after we have fulfilled our responsibility to mankind in these areas, shall the Lord answer our prayers and recognize our fastings. (Isaiah 58:3-10)

(Continued on Page 6)



YOU MADE IT! -- 100-year-old Brother Antonio Molisani (right) is congratulated by Brother Carlo Saragosa, who isn't far behind, at a special birthday celebration. Story on page 3.

My Testimony

I have an experience that I want to share with my brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ and all the world. It all began in the summer of 1983 when my problem first began with pain in my lower back and legs. First I want to thank God for His loving kindness and tender mercies and I also want to thank all of my brothers and sisters for their concern, prayers, cards and phone calls in my behalf.

MY EXPERIENCE

The summer of 1983 was very hectic for me, and as the months went by, my situation began to worsen. One morning in early October, as I was about to rise from my bed, I was struck with the most excruciating back pain. I couldn't lie, sit, stand, or walk without pain. I was confined in bed for three weeks and was in a wheelchair for the next four months. Due to my painful condition, I was taken to the hospital. Prior to my admission, I had a dream that a man appeared to me holding a black medical bag. He smiled and said, "I am your doctor and you are going to be all right." This gave me renewed courage. The hospital could do nothing for my severe back pains and the strong medications caused a bowel blockage. I had prostate surgery, but returned home with continued pain.

My condition worsened as the weeks went by, and on December 28, 1983, my sons took me to the Cleveland Clinic where I underwent a series of tests. There was a possibility that I would never walk again. The doctors debated for three weeks whether to perform surgery because of my heart condition. Their decision was to operate on my back, which took three and a half hours. One week later, I was back home, Thank God! My recovery was slow and long, but I was determined and am now doing much better.

In the summer of 1984 I began feeling weak, tired, and run down. I began stumbling as I walked, not knowing the cause. During this time I developed a hernia and had to be hospitalized again. The doctors discovered that my heart rate was as low as thirty-four beats per minute. My heart was monitored throughout my hernia operation and it never rose above forty-four beats per minute. I received a pacemaker implant and in a week I returned home. I am now feeling much better and walking better also. I still need your prayers as I am constantly in pain with arthritis.

I also want to thank the elders of the Cleveland Branch who administered to my needs while I was in the Cleveland Clinic. I am also thankful to Brother and Sister Hufnagle for their generous hospitality in opening their home to my wife for the time of my surgery and bringing her back and forth to the Clinic. This my brothers and sisters is the true **love of God** that silver and gold cannot buy. May the Lord bless you all and may His peace, joy, happiness, and blessings rest upon all the saints of the Church.

I shall always remain your grateful brother in Christ.

Brother Lou Pandone Niles, Ohio Branch

To Provoke Them to Jealousy

One of the greatest hopes and expectations of The Church of Jesus Christ is the day in which we will see the tribes of Israel gathered in to the Church. We earnestly pray for that day to come, knowing that it will be a glorious time filled with latter day blessings.

The Apostle Paul clearly states that the house of Israel has been cast off because of the hardness of their hearts. At one point in the scriptures it states that Israel has a brow of brass and a neck of iron sinew (Isaiah 48:4). Paul explains that the people of Israel were snared trying to establish their own righteousness through the works of the law; they tried to serve God without faith, which is impossible. Thus because Israel made mockery of the law of Moses, because they lusted after foolish and vain things, because of their pride and self-righteousness, because they rejected and crucified their own God-Jesus Christ-God gave them up. (Romans 1 & 9; Jacob 4:14)

Now, in this last dispensation of time in which the true gospel has been restored, the restoration of the house of Israel is foremost in the hearts and minds and labors of many. Yet even though the pure gospel has been restored, the veil spoken of by the Apostle Paul (II Corinthians 3) is still upon their hearts. There are those of the house of Israel who have obeyed *this* gospel, which is that election by grace (Romans 11:2-6), nevertheless the rest are blinded still.

A key to Israel's gathering in to The Church of Jesus Christ found in Romans 10:19 & 20 (please read), which simply states the Gentiles have received the fulness of salvation to provoke Israel to jealousy. We, the Church, are the medium for God's great and marvelous work unto Joseph and Israel. From this small group of saints, which make up The Church of Jesus Christ, there will develop such a manifestation of the power of God that not only Israel will take notice but the entire world will see.

First, however, love must be found among us abounding. Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:35) Thus we must look into our hearts and examine ourselves to see if our first love is as it was the day we were baptized. Has our love for God and our fellow man increased? Has it endured the test of time? Has it flourished?

Moroni says, ".... because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer ..." (Moroni 8:26) If we give ourselves wholly unto prayer, this perfect love that God will instill within our hearts will set us apart from the world. Add to this perfect love the miracles and gifts of the Spirit, and the convincing power of the Holy Ghost. These are the qualities that will distinguish The Church of Jesus Christ from all others.

It is expedient that our faith be accompanied by the works of righteousness that will bring this holy condition about. We must endeavor to separate ourselves from the vain things of the world, to live a life of truth and honesty, filled with the love of Christ. When we come up to this level of righteousness, Israel will behold the bride of Christ; then we will hear proclaimed from the mouth of the children of Israel those words spoken by Jesus Christ, "Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." (Matthew 23:39)

> God bless you, Brother David Nolfi Glassport Branch

It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo



"Be ye not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?" (2 Corinthians 6:14, 15)

I am going to apply the above Scripture to premarital and postnuptial situations. I have received letters from some young people (and from older ones too) asking advice on not only postnuptial questions but on premarital ones as well. Some of the questions are: "What are some reasons which cause disruptions in a marriage?" and "What can I do to find a good mate?"

Firstly, no one can enumerate all the reasons why marriages become troubled and some end up in the divorce courts. Some of the basic reasons of marriage ills and dissolutions are: Lack of communication with each other, disrespect for each other's feelings, negligence, thoughtlessness, lack of romance, and, above everything else, loss of the first love.

When two people are courting, there is always a great amount of affection and tender loving care. There is a biological as well as an emotional attraction to each other. The man is very solicitous toward the girl he wishes to make his wife. The girl, at the same time, is always careful of her appearance and her manners toward the man. The thrill of the coming marriage is very marked in their lives, preceded by the gentle holding of the hands, the shy look of love, and the deep respect for each other's feelings. Then the wedding caps those wonderful days of courtship; and the vows to be true to each other "until death us do part" are spoken with reverence and sincerity. Why then, do all the problems arise

after marriage?

If couples would analyze their lives when problems come about and do some deep soul-searching, the probabilities are that one or the other (or both) parties involved have forgotten the gentle ways they used to act toward each other during the courtship days.

The probability is also there that the Evil One puts in the mind negative thoughts that "maybe we are not compatible to each other, maybe we are not equally yoked." Or, the devil may put thoughts in the mind such as, "We were just physically attracted, and now it's worn off." Rather than listen to these insidious encroachments of evil, speak to one another with an open communication, not aggressively but with the same love that was displayed during the courtship days; being ready and willing to submit to one another when faults develop.

If one thinks that he or she is unequally yoked, let him/her fast and pray individually-and together-asking Christ to heal whatever ailment has raised its ugly head causing the rifts. Remember this: Marriage is like a diamond; before the stone reveals its perfection, facets are created and it is polished until the brilliance and beauty comes through. So it is with marriage; it takes a willingness to communicate, to listen to each other, to anticipate each other's needs, to understand each other, to yield one to another, and to always let the first love come through. This is like polishing the diamond.

As these things are put into effect, the brilliance of a perfect marriage will emerge. Perfection does not mean that there is never a misunderstanding or a problem that arises. But a perfect marriage is one where, when problems do arise, they are met head on with open, frank communication and tender loving care, which results in a beautiful reconciliation. Following are some suggestions that may help:

1. Never air your problems in front of your children, friends, or relatives. Air them to God in fasting and prayer. If you need advice, seek a brother minister whom you feel is adept at counseling. To the women I suggest that you contact a sister deaconess who has a strong, solid marriage in whom you can confide and ask advice. She can help you fast and pray, and together you can reach the throne of God and cause His arm to be stretched out in your behalf. It is written that "where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in their midst." (Matthew 18:20) My wife, a deaconess in the Church, has had occasion to counsel sisters who came to her for marital advice. And very often, by fasting and praying, either by herself, or with the sister involved, the results have been very beneficial, thanks to the Lord. I would encourage you to first approach God in the matter, and afterwards seek a competent counselor among our brother ministers.

2. Do not find fault with each other in public. For that matter, try not to find fault in private either.

3. Spend your vacations together; never separately.

4. Spend a lot of time with your

(Continued on Page 11)

100th Birthday

On March 24, 1985, about 250 brothers, sisters, and friends of Brother Antonio Molisani of Detroit Branch 1 gathered for dessert at a banquet hall to celebrate his hundredth birthday.

Brother Molisani was born in Italy on March 4, 1885 and, having no family and no education to speak of, came to America at the turn of the century. He met The Church of Jesus Christ through the Frammolino and Giansante (Johnson) families and was baptized in 1920, shortly after the Church was established in Detroit. This year Brother Molisani will observe sixty-five years in the Church.

His five children and eight grandchildren—along with their families came from as far east as Metuchen, NJ (Brother Ken Lombardo and his wife, Sister Flo), and as far west as San Fernando Valley, CA (Brother Sam and Sister Alice Molisani and their daughter and son-in-law, Sister Alyse and Brother Enos Genaro), to pay a wellearned tribute to their father and grandfather. Among the speakers at this festive occasion was General Church President Dominic Thomas.

We in the Michigan-Ontario District are very thankful to have known our Brother Molisani and shared the blessings of God with him all these years. Our prayer is that the Lord would continue to bless and prosper him and his family all the remaining days of his life.

An Experience

About a year ago I had a dream that changed my life. In my dream I saw fire shooting up over the tops of pine trees at the front of our home. I asked my friend to look out the front door to see if our neighbor's home was on fire. She said the whole sky was on fire, so I went to the door to see. The whole sky was all lit up with fire, and flames were shooting towards the ground. Sticking up out of the ground was a gigantic hose, spraying water up to the fire. As the water hit the fire, the air was filled with a loud hissing sound. It was an awful sight with steam, smoke, and fire everywhere. Although the fire was way up high, the heat was so intense that it was burning my arms and face. My whole body was hurting, so I stepped back inside the house and shut the door.

I told my friend that I was going to look out the back door to see what it was like back there. As I opened the back door I saw the most beautiful sight. The sky was so bright and clear with nice white clouds, a complete opposite of what I had seen at the front of the house.

The next morning I told my children my dream. I told them I believed the fire I saw represented Hell and the beauty I saw was Heaven. I told my dream and my interpretation of it to Brother Tony Scolaro. He asked me what I was waiting for, why didn't I get baptized? My reply was that I knew I wanted to be baptized some day, but I was afraid because I had seen so many fall away from the Church. I was afraid that I wouldn't prove faithful. He said, "Barbara, just think, you'll have the Lord on your side." I said, "I never thought of it like that. I know the Lord is always by my side, but I never thought of Him as being on my side." Thanks to this good brother; he gave me something to think about.

I thought about his words and my dream quite often. I testified about my dream but never told anyone that I was puzzled about the hose I'd seen in the ground. After thinking about it for a long time and not being able to figure out what it meant, I prayed about it. I knew there had to be a reason why I had seen it. One morning I woke up and started singing a song before I got out of bed. As I wrote the words down later, I realized that I had never heard them before. This was the second time that this had happened to me and both songs were about getting baptized. That evening as I was listening to the members of the Area MBA singing on tape, I received an answer to my prayers. The gigantic hose I saw in my dream was again on my mind. All of a sudden the meaning was as plain as could be. I knew that hose represented baptism.

On November 18, 1984 I was baptized by Brother Norman Campitelle and confirmed by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo. I thank God for giving me the dream and the interpretation. He showed me a little bit of Hell and a little bit of Heaven. My goal is to see the true beauty of Heaven.

I started attending The Church of Jesus Christ when I was nine years old, and attended regularly until I married and moved away. Then I only attended whenever I could find a ride, sometimes by taxi. Since I was a child I've believed in this merciful and loving God. To me He has been so real, proven over and over again by many miracles, and by answering prayers. I myself am a living testimony to the great mercy and love of our God. A few years ago I was in the hospital with a very serious illness. My doctors didn't have much hope for me I was so ill. God answered all those prayers that were said for me and I am alive today to testify of His goodness and mercy.

Prayer is such a big part of our lives, especially a prayer of thanks. We all have so much to be thankful for. I realize that since I have been baptized the devil is going to try and tempt me. I remember Brother Tony's words and I know with the Lord on my side I can hurdle any obstacle the devil will put in my way. I thank the brothers and sisters that were praying for me as I was struggling to make my decision. I know this is the most important and best decision I've ever made. Continue to remember me in your prayers that I will prove to be a true and sincere member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

> God bless you all, Sister Barbara Jaques

REMEMBER YOUR COVENANT WITH GOD

I'm sure you remember the day you were baptized,

And the promise you made to God. You promised to live your life for Him, And in His footsteps you would trod.

That promise was easy for you to keep, And your love for God was sincere. You preached to others, you spread His word,

To you there was no one else so dear.

For many years you were so faithful, Then a change came over you.

You turned your back on your Church and God,

The God that loves you so true.

It's never too late my brother, To amend the wrong you have done. For you can receive your salvation, Through Jesus, God's Heavenly Son.

Think of the love He has shown you, Search down to the depth of your heart. My brother is your life really happy, Since you and your God did part?

Remember the covenant that you made, As you were buried in the water that day.

Remember the joy that filled your soul, And come back into the fold I pray.

- The brothers and sisters will rejoice with you,
- And spread the good word to each other.
- Search your heart and you will find, That you don't want to be lost as a brother.
- How can you turn your back on God? When to you He has always been so good.
- Just think of the covenant you made with Him,

And live your life the way you should.

We will pray that you return to Church, And we will all be happy when you do. Think of what would happen, dear brother,

If God would turn His back on you.

Sister Barbara Jaques Six Nations Mission



Brother Norman Campitelle and Sister Barbara Jaques

Editorial Viewpoint . . . Where Are We Going?

One of the most thought-provoking accounts in the scriptures is that of the Israelites' journey to the promised land. The notion of stretching what should have been an eleven-day journey into a forty-year odyssey is hard to embrace with the human mind all at one time. Consider some of those things that the Israelites had going for them:

leaving a life of bondage

- miraculous assistance against obstacles •
- promise of a new home in a prosperous land ٠
- divinely inspired leadership •
- special status as God's chosen people .

Such a list of advantages would seem to guarantee rapid success in any endeavor, most certainly in covering a mere span of eleven-days' journey. However, as we follow the scriptures we can easily observe how, through mismanagement of their lives, the Israelites failed. In fact, those who had seen God's glory and miracles in Egypt and in the wilderness so provoked Him with their murmuring and unbelief that God banned them from even the sight of His promised land and allowed their wandering through the wilderness until only their children were left (Numbers 14). Note that their problem was not their rate of travel but their direction, or their lack of it. Because they failed to follow God, failed to dwell upon His strength, His assistance, His promises, His leadership, they ceased to benefit. God did not impose His direction (nor His benevolence) upon them once they convinced Him that they did not want it.

God showed Lehi (I Nephi 8) that the best route through life is the straight and narrow one which is accompanied by the word of God to be grasped and clung to when mists of darkness might otherwise cause us to stray from His path. He saw that those who lose their direction become permanently lost and never enjoy the fruit of the tree of life.

We, along with all mankind, have embarked upon a journey through life. It is paramount that each of us pay special attention to our direction. God has made wonderful promises available to all mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ; but beware, as the Israelites proved, He will lead us, not force us, to the inheritance of those promises.

If we have believed in Jesus, repented, and been baptized by His authority into The Church of Jesus Christ, we make that journey together, not unlike the children of Israel. Consider some of those things we have going for us:

- leaving a life of sin and bondage
- miraculous assistance against obstacles •
- promise of a new home in God's kingdom .
- leadership of the Holy Spirit ٠
- special status as God's elect ø

Our list of advantages compares very favorably to the impressive one of the Israelites embarking from Egypt. Certainly our journey is assured if we have learned the lesson of the Israelites and can concentrate upon the direction provided by the Holy Spirit as we cling to the word of God.

Let us not be distracted by "mists of darkness," but hold our mindset upon successful service to God.

Check your compass:

- Are you able to maintain trust and reliance upon God whatever comes your way? Do you recognize our troublesome times as fulfillment of prophecy while you continue
- to hope in the promises of God?
- Is your time and energy available for the strength of the Church and the building of God's kingdom?
- Are you concerned for the welfare of mankind, body and soul?
- Do you strive to be conscious of God's will and responsive to Him? .

If you answered yes, maintain your direction!

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

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The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Brothers of Ammon

Dear Girls and Boys,

Nowadays if some of our brothers in The Church of Jesus Christ went to do missionary work and were spit upon, argued with, beaten up, stripped of their clothes, and tied up in a terrible prison, we would probably be very upset and want them to come home where it was safe. Yet the brothers of Ammon; Aaron, Omner, Himni, and their church brothers, suffered all these tortures and waited patiently for God to do as He would.

These men were the sons of a Nephite king in their home country. At one time they had done their best to be wild and sinful and lead others to follow their ungodly ways. They had caused much confusion and sin in those days for the Church people and much shame and pain for their parents. After years of prayers by the Church people, God sent an angel to shake the earth and tell them to stop stirring up trouble or they would die. Ever since that day, these young men quit their evil ways and were filled with love and joy of God. They rejoiced to tell unbelievers about God's love and care. They told their father they did not want to be the king when he retired. They wanted to leave their beautiful, comfortable homes and journey through the jungles and across mountains to the land of their ancient enemies, the Lamanites, to tell them about God.

Taking their bows and arrows, slings, swords, and spears to hunt their food, they asked their father for his prayers and a blessing. God promised their father that they would not die; that if they patiently suffered and trusted in Him, thousands of Lamanite people would hear them and serve God.

The Lamanites at that time did not have the same written language as the Nephites. Many lived in the wilderness roaming and hunting and attacking travelers. They were known for being a wild people that loved war and tricking and killing Nephites. They were proud that they could get their gold and riches without working. Their hatred and prejudice against the Nephites went back for hundreds of years.

At the borders of the Lamanite country, the men of God stopped to fast and pray and ask God what to do. The Lord said, "Go among the Lamanites, and establish My word. But be patient in long-suffering and afflictions, that you may show them good examples. Then I will make you an instrument in My hands to save many souls!"

Ammon went to the land of Nephi where he met and God changed King Lamoni. Aaron journeyed to a large city called Jerusalem in the land of Jerusalem. The Lamanites lived there with a people called Amalakites and Amulonites. These were people who had once served God, but now hated all servants of God. They were worse than Lamanites and encouraged the Lamanites to be even more wild and vicious.

Many of these people worshipped idols; others built their own type of churches and said they believed in God. but refused to believe the promises of the scripture that Christ would come. Aaron entered one of their churches and began to preach and talk with the people. One Amalakite rose to argue with Aaron that God would save all men, and that it was just a foolish old belief that God would show people the future or the past. When Aaron spoke about Jesus and how God would send Jesus to save those who would repent and be baptized, they became furious and mocked him.

Aaron sadly left and met his brother Muloki preaching in a village. These people also hardened their hearts and rejected these good men. Aaron and Muloki and several others journeyed then to the land of Middoni. They were attacked by a mob and some of the brothers escaped into the jungle. But Aaron and Muloki were beaten, stripped of their clothes, tied terribly with strong cords, and thrown into prison. They were given little food or water as they suffered there.

But these peaceful men of God did not give up, and the Spirit of God spoke in the meantime to their brother, Ammon, who was living with and preaching to King Lamoni in the next country. Ammon told King Lamoni what was happening and they left for Middoni where Lamoni talked the king there into freeing the men of God. After this terrible suffering, the Lord sent these good men to the king of all the Lamanites. Through their good words this man and eventually thousands of others were brought to believe in our wonderful Lord, Jesus Christ, and God, our Heavenly Father.

> Sincerely, Sister Janet 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105

GOOD WORKS continued . . .

The pertinent question is, can we improve? Can we perform these wonderful works without expecting anything from those who receive the favor? Can we love and assist our enemies? Do we occasionally find ourselves thinking, as King Benjamin expresses, that perhaps this individual has brought this condition upon himself, so he deserves his plight and is not worthy of our assistance? Are we not all beggars, depending upon God? (Mosiah 4:16-26)

In conclusion, I believe that we can love, give, and help with no strings attached, making no special conditions and offering no excuses. In doing so, we will shine the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and affect the lives of those whom we contact in our daily lives.

May God truly bless our efforts in righteousness.



Our Women Today

Special Circle Meeting at Detroit Branch 4

By Lisa DiFalco

Tuesday, March 12, was a cool night, but as members of the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Circle gathered at Branch 4 we all became warm in many different ways. We went to Africa for a night through a beautiful slide presentation given by Sister Lorraine DeMercurio.

Just looking at Sister Lorraine made us feel one step closer to our sisters in Africa. She was dressed in her best Sunday *wrappa* (dress) in the latest of Nigerian fashions. It was given to her as a present before she left Africa. It is interesting to note that our African sisters hold fast to the words of the Apostle Paul concerning head coverings. Sister Lorraine had a matching yellow head covering for her dress, and she explained that our sisters believe it shows submissiveness unto their husbands and unto God.

After the explanation of Nigerian fashions, Sister Lorraine began the slide presentation. The slides covered the "modernization" of the mission house, everyday life at the market, and the celebration of Christmas through cultural dances performed by the children.

Many of the slides were dedicated to the hard work and beautiful talents the Nigerian people used everyday. There was one slide showing a woman carrying her sewing machine on her head on her way to market to sew. The Nigerians' life is far from easy. There is much poverty, very few sanitary areas, and their water is infested with parasites. Yet, the people are strong physically and mentally, and what few things they do have they are more than willing to share. In spite of all their hardships, they seem to be a very happy and easy-going people.

One of the greatest sources of happiness for our sisters in Africa is their relationships with others. The family unit is close knit; so close, that when a loved one dies they bury him near the house. The family and especially the children are highly valued. Sister Lorraine once mentioned that nothing is more important to the parents than their children. Couples are scorned if they do not have children. Friends are also very important to them. Sometimes a child will take on the name of a parent's close friend. There is one child in Africa that was named after Brother Nephi.

Before the night was over we saw slides of Brother Arthur and his family, and the school that Sister Lorraine and other missionary mothers set up for their children. A lot of wonderful work has been done in just these last few years. Then we had the Grand Finale. Sister Lorraine played a tape of the brothers and sisters in Africa singing the Songs of Zion *a cappella* in English. The whole night was "Wonderful and Marvelous" to all our sisters, and we thank Sister Lorraine for sharing a taste of the blessings of our African sisters with us.

Dedication of McKees Rocks Branch

By Diane Ciotti

The time finally arrived that the brothers, sisters, friends, and young people of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch had been awaiting, the dedication of our new church building located at 227 Herbst Road, Kennedy Township, Coraopolis, PA 15108. We will still be known as the McKees Rocks Branch.

It all began with an Open House on Saturday, February 16, 1985. Invitations were extended to many of our friends, and our young people went door to door in our new neighborhood inviting all to come. How wonderful we felt when many came to view our church building; most of whom were there for the first time. It was also an afternoon of fellowship as refreshments were served, and we sat and talked to many about our glorious Church, restored by the power of God.

As Sunday, February 17, 1985 arrived, the excitement continued to grow. Our service began at 10:00 a.m. with approximately 250 people in attendance. We had visitors from New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia, and Pennsylvania, as well as many relatives and friends of the saints.

Our service began with opening

prayer by Apostle Russell Cadman. Brother Richard Lawson, our presiding elder, then gave a brief history of the McKees Rocks Branch. Our brother stated that the Gospel was first brought to the McKees Rocks area by Brother Dominic Dentino of Glassport, PA in 1923. Four people were baptized and attended church in Aliquippa, Pa. In 1929 a mission was established in McKees Rocks with Brother Vincent Clements as presiding officer. The meetings were held in a storefront. In 1931 a church building was built and dedicated in October of that year. In attendance at that first dedication was the General Church President, Brother William H. Cadman. The original building housed the saints for 54 years. Those in attendance today who were at that dedication are Brother Dan and Sister Fannie Casasanta, Brother William Colangelo, Sister Anna DiAntonio, and Sister Hilda DeVito.

It was decided in 1977 to consider a new church building. With this in mind, a building fund was established. Eight years later the dream is fulfilled, with a lot of hard work and dedication by many. Much appreciation is extended to our trustees: Chairman, Ralph Ciotti; Walter Laird, Joseph Rogalla, John Manes, and Frank DiAntonio; as well as to all that gave of their time and energy.

The members of the McKees Rocks Branch then sang, The Family of God and Our Church. The dedication prayer was offered by Brother Dan Casasanta. The McKees Rocks Quintet sang God's House. Brother Joseph Ross of Aliquippa was our opening speaker. His message was the portion of the Sermon on the Mount, wherein Jesus told of a wise man and a foolish man each building a house. The wise man built his house on a rock, whereas the foolish man's house was built on a sandy foundation. Our brother stated that inasmuch as this new church building has been built on a solid foundation, so must our spiritual house be built so that we will be able to stand when the trials of life come upon us. He further stated that our spiritual lives must be firm, standing on God's truth which we have found in The Church of Jesus Christ, and that this new church building will be a place where we can share in much joy as events unfold before us.

The next speaker was Brother Dan Casasanta of the McKees Rocks Branch. Our brother was baptized 61 years ago at the age of 14. He shared his past experiences with us and ex-

Mini-Conference Sponsored by Evangelists

By Josephine Jasmin

On February 10, the saints from Ft. Pierce, Miami, and Hollywood gathered together at the Lake Worth Branch for a Mini-Conference. We also had visitors from Tampa and Michigan.

After a season of singing praises to our Lord, we made preparation to open our service. Brother Gene Perri presided over the conference. The sacrament table was prepared while the congregation sang *The Christ of the Galilee Road*.

Brother Marc Rogers from the Miami Mission gave a beautiful testimony of how he found the Gospel. Brother Marc

A Tribute to Mom

It seems like only yesterday I stood at the river's edge;

- Promised to serve God always . Made that life-long pledge.
- Today I sit and ponder how
- God's blessed me from the start, From the arms of a loving Mother
- brought to Jesus, Never to depart. A mother's job is not easy;

she cannot do it alone, She meede Cod'e midane

- She needs God's guidance along the way; From babyhood till her child is grown.
- I have that kind of a Mother;
- through her my life was blessed; There were times I thought I knew better, but her way was always best.
- Fond memories of Sunday School when I was very young,
- She said that's where to learn
- all about what's right and wrong. Many lessons I will never forget . . .
- A way of life... a definite pattern set! At the age of understanding
- I knew I must decide; What better choice than Jesus!
- He was always at my side. From my Mother's arms to Jesus',
- To Him she led the way; I've made my "home" in His house, not just for today, but always!

To my mother, Sis. Josephine Benyola Sis. Carol Higgins is of the house of Israel and made quite an impression upon all of us.

Brother Dominic Moraca opened with prayer and Brother Silver Coppa was our first speaker. He used as his text the 27th chapter of III Nephi. With the concern of so many different religions in the world, he told us how and why the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the only *true* church built upon the true doctrine which Jesus set up.

Brother Dominic Moraca followed and expressed how the *Book of Mormon* has been a great comfort to him especially lately. There are no complications with God and serving Him. All things are taught in truth and simplicity. The beauty of the Gospel is the oneness of all people in the sight of God.

Brother Dennis Moraco continued, expressing to us the many simple ordinances of the Gospel and the beauty of their simplicity. Through the Gospel, we are carried through many trials and afflictions. It is the simple belief, simple hope, and simple unwavering faith that is experienced in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Gene Perri encouraged us to live after the pattern which Jesus Christ set up. Brother Gene proclaimed, "Every day is a new experience for us in the Gospel." This quotation was said often by our late Brother Alvin Swanson, who lived his life in the Gospel to its fullest. Brother Gene reflected on the leadership and beauty of our brother's life. We should always look to Christ, who is our powerhouse of strength.

After the Lord's Supper was served, Brother Chuck Smith addressed us with some beautiful thoughts, reminding us to serve God with all our minds, hearts and souls. We must show the light to those about us. Unhappily, our conference came to an end, but our souls were overflowing with manna from heaven. Apostle Joseph Bittinger closed in prayer.

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 1

By Lisa DiFalco

"Bringing in the New Year" of 1985 was a joyful event for Detroit Branch 1. Brothers, sisters, friends, and family of Branches 1, 4, Sterling Heights, Inner-City; Lorain, Ohio; and San Diego, California gathered together for the festive moment.

To open our meeting we sang the hymn Sing Hallelujah and Brother Eugene Amormino opened in prayer. Then brothers Larry, Gary, Steve, and Claude Champine inspired us all as they sang Do You Remember?

Following the selection, Brother Ralph Frammolino of San Diego, California delivered a message to us under the inspiration of the Lord. He read four passages of scripture, each pertaining to the God of the living. Brother Ralph then elaborated, saying that in Abraham's day, God was called the God of Abraham, and when he passed away God was called the God of Isaac. When Isaac died, God was called the God of Israel—always the God of the living.

Brother Ralph proceeded to say that

in this past year, children were born, engagements were made, weddings took place, and sports fans were making predictions about their favorite teams. But 1984 is gone now, and God is not the God of the dead or 1984 anymore, but the God of 1985.

When Moses stood before the burning bush he inquired of the Lord, "Whom shall I say sent me?" The Lord replied, "I AM THAT I AM." I am. Not I was! 'Am' means now, present tense. 'Am' is also a verb, Brother Ralph said. It takes action!

Brother Ralph then beautifully illustrated an incident in the Bible where the Lord of the living "took action." The prophet Elijah once challenged the socalled "prophets" of his day. They each built altars, Elijah's unto God and the others unto Baal. Much time passed by as the other prophets wailed, prayed, and in desperation began to cut and injure themselves in hopes that Baal would hear them. Their sacrifice was left untouched. Their God seemed to be sleeping. Now Elijah, seeing this, decided to make his task more difficult by drenching his sacrifice with water to the point where it spilled into puddles around the altar. The instant Elijah prayed, to the amazement of the other prophets, his sacrifice was consumed by

fire from Heaven. It didn't take half an hour or ten days because the God of the present, of the living, and of action was there!

Brother Ralph continued on the subject, speaking of other occasions where the Lord continually proved himself to be a living God. Jesus was approached by Lazarus' sister after he died, and she told the Lord that had he been there Lazarus would not have died. Jesus then proved to her that he was not a dead God, but a God of wonder-working and life. He called Lazarus to come forth from his tomb. Brother Ralph said it was a good thing the Lord called him by name otherwise the tombs of all the dead would have opened with resurrected bodies inside!

Then Brother Ralph closed by reminding us what the Apostle Paul said—to keep our eyes dead to sin because it's dead and gone, but to march forward in this year of 1985, and listen to the message of the Lord as he speaks from generation to generation—"I AM THAT I AM."

After Brother Ralph's inspiring message we all felt as if we were marching to Zion as we sang God's Still on His Throne. Then there was testimony as we brought out the old year, and prayer and meditation as we brought in the new.

San Diego, CA

"... Have miracles ceased? Behold I say unto you, Nay; neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness." (Moroni 7:29,30)

When Brother Ray Saczko (deacon) left his house for Sunday School February 24, he had no way of knowing that God had a mighty experience prepared for him and all the saints.

Brother Ray drove his customary route that morning on his way to pick up an elderly member. And, as is his habit, he stopped at a gas station to telephone another deacon in the branch to make sure the building would be open in time for the saints.

But just as Brother Ray was hanging up the phone, he noticed a stranger walking toward him. The old man, dressed in rags, walked up to him and stopped. The man, who had a gentle face, pointed a crooked finger at Brother Ray and without introduction said, "Remember the day of your baptism, and tell the brothers and sisters to do the same."

Brother Ray was so astounded, he couldn't move his feet. He leaned forward. "Who are you?" he asked.

"Never mind," the man said, "just do what I say." Brother Ray said that, dumbfounded, he watched the man walk away.

Out of breath and barely able to keep his composure, Brother Ray came back to church. He gathered the elders in a room and related the experience. It was the immediate conclusion of the brothers that the humble man was a messenger of God. The message was plain: Recapture that unconditional love we felt the day we surrendered our lives to the Lord.

But that was not to be the only experience that day. God works in small ways, too. As the brothers were discussing the experience in a room, Sister Marcia Liberto walked into the auditorium where the brothers and sisters were waiting for the ministry to return.

Instead of taking her customary seat, however, she was directed to do something different. She went to sit next to her father-in-law, Brother Nick Liberto (teacher) and it was then she felt a sensation of deja vu. Nearly 35 years before, in exactly the same seat, sitting next to Brother Nick, she had called for her baptism. This thought lingered with Sister Marcia while the elders concluded their private discussion with Brother Ray and took their places on the rostrum.

Coincidence? Consider this: Throughout the week, Brother Paul Liberto (evangelist) had been entertaining thoughts about a possible sermon. Since we had had District Conference a week before, and we enjoyed many discussions about the work with the Seed of Joseph, it would have only been natural for Brother Paul to dwell on one of his favorite subjects—Zion.

But God directed his mind to something else, and soon a theme emerged in his mind. Before he stepped into the building and ever shook hands with Brother Ray, he had intended to speak about the feelings we had on the day of our baptism.

Brother Paul introduced the service by reading a familiar passage of scripture, Matthew 5:3 & 4. He called to our minds how, on the day of our baptism, we were poor in spirit because we were humble. We mourned a special kind of mourning, where we would "show God we desire the things of the kingdom."

Drawing on other scriptures—Isaiah 57:15, II Nephi 4, II Colossians, among others—Brother Paul expounded on the virtues of a broken heart and a contrite spirit. "Have we had the feeling of the broken heart and contrite spirit? Is this why this visitor came to Brother Ray this morning?" he asked.

Brother Paul then warned us against becoming too modern, too sophisticated, too accepting of the profanity at the workplace, the subtle influences of television, the philosophy that things like homosexuality are normal.

We must always preserve the feeling we had at the water's edge, he said. "Beware of the gods we have in our lives. The god of money. The god of success. The god of status."

The brother elders followed this theme. Brother Tom Liberto (evangelist) recounted the story of Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, who felt the message as he read the scripture. Brother Ralph Frammolino (elder) then said the messenger was wearing rags, depicting the humility of the day when we stood before God with the rags of our sins and asked forgiveness. Through our covenant at the water's edge, he said, God exchanged those rags for a robe of righteousness.

The theme of our day of baptism continued into the afternoon meeting, when the members gave their testimonies about their calling into the Church. One brother from Mexico testified how he left a world of sin when he heard the Gospel preached in Tijuana. During that service, he had several experiences of God but passed them off as just his imagination. Sister Marcia related her feelings sitting next to her father-inlaw. Brother Lou Ciccati (elder) stood on his feet and thanked God for his baptism and the precious day when his children were baptized.

Through the remarks, we were able to see how God had worked with everyone in different ways. While some like Brother Joel Christman (deacon)

10 May, 1985

had testimonies of confirming experiences given by the Lord, others like Sister Norma Kennedy said they had read the scriptures and reasoned that baptism was necessary for their soul's salvation.

During the afternoon, we laughed together and cried together as we told about the most important decision of our lives. There were no complaints when we finally brought the afternoon service to a close shortly after 4 p.m. Several of our more seasoned saints said they were delighted by the blessings that day because it was "just like the old days."

And that is precisely the point. In small ways or more dramatic ways, the Lord waits to bless us today just like he did in the days of our fathers and grandfathers. We must keep the past in mind, just like the messenger commanded the members of the San Diego Branch—and all members of the Church—to remember that glorious day when they went to the waters of regeneration.

But the result of that exercise was something more than wistful memories. By recapturing that feeling, the saints were able to enjoy God's blessings today. We must not seek to live in the past and curse the present. Our task is to draw upon the past—experiences, the teachings, the sermons, the love—and apply it to our time and beyond.

If we don't, it will be like riding a horse that keeps looking behind him because he wants to see where he has been. His appreciation for what has passed is admirable, but his direction for the future is in serious doubt.

Muncey, Ontario

By Barb Racz

What do you get when you combine guitars, piano, and a harmony of voices? We, the brothers and sisters of the Muncey Mission, heard these talents combined for the honor and glory of God in teaching us the Songs of Zion, as the Champine brothers came up and taught us on the weekend of March 16 and 17, 1985.

Saturday evening's outing was small in number, but nothing could discourage the joy and hope that is contained in these songs. The Spirit of God truly blesses our souls each time we seek to grow in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord. Our three brothers placed the Lord first in prayer before teaching us the songs, and God truly blessed them as they bore their personal testimonies of The Church of Jesus Christ.

This evening we were all in unity of purpose, and the Spirit of God was like a fire burning on our souls. Yes, brothers and sisters and friends, we need Our Shepherd, for there is healing in His wings.

We looked forward to the Sabbath, waiting upon the Lord in anticipation of hearing more wonderful words of life. We treated the Sunday School children to a taste of the Spirit, as we dismissed their regular classes and sang the Songs of Zion to them. These are their songs, too!

Our elders today were Brother Pete Capone and Brother Nephi DeMercurio. Brother Nephi's text was Isaiah 58. Our brother was endowed with God's Spirit, that same Authority given to the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. No written sermon could compare. One has to experience and witness the words of God which are sharp as a two-edged sword, rightly dividing the good and the bad.

Sister Rosanne Champine sang Stand Up for the Restoration, which was very inspiring. The Champine brothers favored us with many songs also.

We enjoyed a season of testimony and sacrament together, and an anointing took place. Tears of joy flooded our eyes, for God gave us liberty once again to leave our worldly cares at home and meet in one body, one mind, and one faith in His house.

I must say God has blessed these brothers who are seeking to fulfill the first commission of the Church, which is to take the pure and unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ among the seed of Joseph. Yes, this understanding must be taken hold of first. Behold, now is the time to labor among your Lamanite brothers and sisters in Christ. We have so much to share—our lives, trials, and testimonies of the victory that is in Jesus Christ. God smiles on The Church of Jesus Christ, because His people have no more barriers, no hatred, or regard of nations.

AN EXPERIENCE

After a beautiful service this afternoon, my husband and I decided to listen to a tape of the songs our brothers in Christ had sung to us on Saturday night and during our Sunday service today. We heard Brother Gary Champine sing *The Latter Day Theme*. I had shut my eyes to listen to him sing, and as he was singing, I heard a choir of voices singing along with him. It was like I was carried away to an auditorium, and there were a lot of voices singing with him. Then I saw two Indian men come in, and they came to listen to this song.

> Sister Marie Lunham Muncey, Ontario

Prelude to Zion

A spiritual awakening Is coming upon this land To unite the righteous, And gather the Indian bands. We are brothers and sisters of Israel, Our forefather knew God's perfect plan, Upon this sacred land, Jesus Christ will come again. The nations are the tribes of Israel; Our hatred shall end.

America was chosen As a gift to Joseph's seed, It shall be theirs, But it shall not be through greed. A leader from their loins, A man of Indian blood, Joseph, a choice seer, Shall lead them to God's love.

What a great man Shall unite the tribes to One. The Book of Mormon Is their record of God's Son. Their tears of sadness turn to joy; Pride has vanished. Love has conquered all, In God's house we'll be banded.

The priesthood knew That this was coming near. It's time to warn the saints To live above fear. There is a day coming When God shall call our workers; More of your time is required, There's no room for shirkers.

It's time to labor, No matter what your age. Your talents will be needed, God's love there will be engaged. Old memories will come back Of the victories God has brought us through, Let us seek first the kingdom of God: It's up to ME and YOU. Amen.

> Sister Barb Racz Muncey, Ontario Mission

Hopelawn, NJ

Sunday, January 8, 1985 was a day the Hopelawn Branch will remember. Our cups surely overflowed with God's wonderful blessings. Sunday morning we had a large number of visitors in our meeting because it was the last Sunday Brother Joe and Sister Mary Perri would be spending with us before they left to do the Lord's work in Africa.

Among our visitors we had Brother Paul Benyola, the president of the Atlantic Coast District. Brothers Paul and Joe both spoke beautifully that morning, Brother Paul specifically on baptism which was very touching to everyone present. We then dismissed the morning meeting and had lunch. The Metuchen Branch closed their afternoon meeting and spent it with the Hopelawn Branch to say good-bye to the Perris.

While we were having lunch, Colleen Davella Pittius asked for her baptism. The saints were surely happy and overflowing with joy. Brothers Paul and Joe suggested that we all go down to the water before we started the afternoon meeting. It was a cold and windy day. Brother Paul Benyola baptized Sister Colleen and later Brother Joe Perri confirmed her.

We had a beautiful afternoon meeting with beautiful testimonies and beautiful singing. We could surely say God was there with us. But the goodness of the day did not end.

When the service was dismissed, we had a delicious dinner that the sisters prepared for Brother Joe and Sister Mary. We all wanted to let them know that we were going to be praying for them and would miss them both. This was a beautiful and glorious day for all of us to remember.

Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On February 10, 1985 the Rochester Mission had Brother Frank (Flip) Palacios, a teacher of the Church, and Sister Karyn Vitto from Detroit, Michigan.

On February 24, 1985 we had Brother Joel, a teacher, and Sister Ruth and their son Christopher Gehly from Erie, Pennsylvania. On March 17, 1985 we had Apostle Frank Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio. His three-day visit with us was a great encouragement; he strengthened the weak, blessed the strong, and comforted the afflicted.

On Sunday morning we had community singing and were led in prayer by Brother Ansel D'Amico. Brother Frank chose for his text the 23rd Psalm. David challenged the giant, "You come with swords and spears, but I come in the name of the Lord." The Lord is our Shepherd and we shall not want. The rod is the word of God and we should fear God and Him only.

We sang, Ye Who Are Called To Labor as Brother Andrew Locci was preparing to be ordained as a deacon. Brother Frank Natoli read the deacon's duty, and Brother Ansel D'Amico washed his feet. Brother Frank Calabrese ordained our brother. The meeting was opened for testimony and many wonderful testimonies were given verifying the calling of Brother Andrew Locci as a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sacrament was administered and we were dismissed by singing God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again. Brother Frank Natoli closed in prayer.

We enjoyed the visits of our brothers and sisters and are happy to share God's love and blessings with them. Pray for our little mission as well as for our newly ordained brother, that God would begin to bless us with more of His Spirit and power.

Note of Thanks

We wish to express our appreciation to all who remembered Sister Grace during her stay at the nursing home. We would like to thank all of you who were so kind to us during the loss of our mother. Your prayers, cards, and your expressions of love and comfort were a source of great strength to us. May the Lord bless you all.

> The Family of Sister Grace Francione

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

hildren (if you have any). They will lways remember this.

5. Compliment each other often; this helps to develop greater affection.

6. Be kind one to another; this develops more love.

7. Never go to bed if you have any differences against each other. Reconcile first, and then let the slumber of peace rest upon you.

8. Pray together daily, and if you have children, pray together as a family.

9. Be active in church affairs. Be a witness for Christ everywhere. Also, give your testimony in church whenever the occasion arises; this develops more spirituality.

10. Remember your courtship days, and let the same attractions hold full sway in your lives.

I could go on and on, but I leave you who are married to work out your problems amicably and in the love of God.

In next month's column, Brother Jim will address those who are not yet married and are seeking a suitable mate. Ed.

DEDICATION continued . . .

pressed his thankfulness to God for allowing him to share in this, his second dedication at McKees Rocks.

Many beautiful words were heard from Brothers Paul Gehly, Walter Cihomsky, Robert Buffington, William Colangelo, Paul Ciotti and John Manes. The McKees Rocks Quintet sang Only Jesus Can Satisfy Your Soul. Our service was closed in prayer by Brother Fred Olexa.

Our fellowship continued as lunch was served. We of the McKees Rocks Branch are thankful to God for providing this new house of worship. May God richly bless all--please come and visit.

* WEDDINGS *

POWELL-FRANCIONE

Brother Kevin Francis Powell and Sister Dawn Francione were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, March 16, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan-Branch 3.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Paul Whitton, the bride's uncle, and by Brother Alex Gentile of Branch 2.

Musical selections were presented by Sister Rosanne Champine on the piano, with Steven Munger and Sister Tracey Francione as soloists.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Michigan. May God our Father bless their life together with lasting happiness.

New Arrivals

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

Jessica Bryn to Bob and Ruth Batson of Niles, Ohio;

Nicole Suzette to Nicholas and Susan Davella of Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Children Blessed

On February 17, 1985 Kristina Marie Carson was blessed in Monongahela, Pennsylvania by Brother Richard Scaglione, her grandfather.

Jennifer Rose Guerrero was blessed in Niles, Ohio on December 16, 1984 by Brother Don Pandone.

Address Change	
Name Address	
Phone	

OBITUARIES

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

GRACE FRANCIONE

Sister Grace Francione was born in Roccamorice, Italy on August 28, 1894. She passed on to her eternal reward on February 15, 1985. She was baptized in Detroit, Michigan Branch 1 on August 18, 1929 and was ordained a deaconness in Rochester, New York on April 10, 1938. For the past six years she has resided in Tucson, Arizona.

The funeral service was held at Eastlawn Mortuary Chapel in Tucson, Arizona. Brothers David Majoros and Reno Bologna officiated.

Sister Francione is survived by two daughters, two sons, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

She was a very faithful sister who loved the Lord and His Church. She never hesitated to testify of God's goodness and her desire was that everyone might serve the Lord. She will be missed very much by her family and all those who knew and loved her.

JENNIE DITMORE

Sister Jennie B. Ditmore, a member of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, passed away on February 13, 1985. She was born on November 6, 1894 and was baptized on September 30, 1949.

Sister Ditmore is survived by two daughters, four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

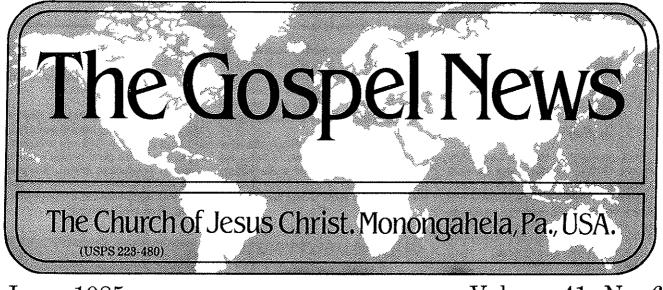
Brother Richard Scaglione officiated the funeral services, assisted by Brother Idris Martin. Our faithful sister will be sadly missed by all.

HENRIETTA SHARRER

Sister Henrietta Sethman Sharrer passed on to her reward on February 22, 1985. A member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, she was born on November 27, 1889 and baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 23, 1904, making her one month short of spending eightyone years in the Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Matthew Laktash and Idris A. Martin.

Sister Henrietta is survived by two daughters, one son, twenty-eight grandchildren, fifty-three greatgrandchildren, and six great-great-grandchildren. Two sisters, Josephine Bucolo of New Jersey and Flossie Molinatto of Hammond, Indiana also survive her.



June, 1985

News from Africa

Submitted by Joseph Ross Secretary-Treasurer Foreign Missions Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Carr family sends you greetings from the land of Nigeria. We again want to thank you all for your prayers in our behalf. We have learned to depend on your prayers daily.

We are all fine at present and are enjoying the blessings of our Lord. We are traveling throughout the Church in Nigeria. There are many that have accepted the Gospel, and many more that want to hear of the Gospel and our Church.

While Brother Joe Perri and his wife, Sister Mary were with us, we brothers traveled to Ghana, where we met with Brother Ford Boadu and the saints there. We had an opportunity to travel to Tema Port (a city in Ghana) with Ford Boadu on business. Brother Perri began to speak to some young men about The Church of Jesus Christ. They were very interested in the Gospel. After a while, we prepared to leave. These young men requested us to "please come back and tell us more about your church." They also promised to take us to their homes so we could speak to the rest of their people.

We also met some interested people while in the city of Kumausi. We talked to them about the Church. They asked many questions and were sincerely interested in the Gospel. The Lord was so correct when he said, "The harvest is great and the laborers are few." There is much to be done by our Church.

We would request that each one of us consider the part that the Lord has entrusted us with and answer the call of the dying sons of men by dedicating our lives to God's service. The Lord wants to use each of us and the knowledge we have received. Whether you are an office worker, nurse, salesman, teacher, or a construction worker, God gave you a talent for His work; use it!

We are all needed in the mission fields. Even as the words of that hymn states, "If Jesus goes with me I'll go, anywhere!" So the Lord is waiting for each one of us to answer the call to work for His Church today.

If you are interested in serving in the foreign missions field in any capacity, please contact either John or Joseph Ross of the Foreign Missions Committee. Ask them how you can best serve the Church in the foreign missions.

Until next time, farewell for now. I will try to periodically write to all of you via *The Gospel News*. Continue to pray for us; we depend on your prayers!

> God bless you all, Paul and Thressa Carr and family

Hallowed Be Thy Name

By George A. Kovacic

Recently we have been studying in our MBA about the life and experiences of Abraham. My mind was enthralled

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with the last part of the 4th verse of Genesis 13, which reads, "... Abraham called upon the name of the Lord." For some reason it was impressed upon me by the Holy Spirit that when men such as Abraham called upon the name of the Lord, it was done with great deliberateness and reverence.

It is recorded in scripture that from the time of Enos, the grandson of Adam, men began to call upon the name of the Lord. One of the most common titles for God in Hebrew is Adonai, which is generally translated as 'Lord.' There are several other names also listed in the Old Testament. One of the most interesting is the name YHWH, which the Jews believe is the sacred name of God which cannot be spoken. In some translations these four letters have been written as 'Yahweh,' but there is not enough basis for this transliteration. Digging further concerning the various names of God brought some interesting results in the New Testament.

The Greek word for Lord in the New Testament manuscripts is *kurious*. This word has several meanings and expresses well its relation to Jesus as our Lord.

First, the word 'kurious' means owner or someone who is in possession. How well we can relate this to the covenant we make with the Lord at the water's edge. Jesus becomes the possessor of our soul, mind, and body as we yield to the Holy Spirit.

Secondly, it refers to one who is master. I was reflecting upon this and thinking of the words of a beautiful

(Continued on Page 11)

Which One Would You Choose?

By Ralph Frammolino

Two cars are in the driveway. The engine of one is tuned and its body polished; it has never failed to start. The engine of the second is plagued with problems, its dashboard has an annoying rattle and its battery is weak. When it comes time to take an important trip, which one would you choose?

Two television sets are in different parts of the house. One has a clear picture, free of interference. The picture on the other rolls because the horizontal hold is broken. When it comes time to watch your favorite program, which one would you choose?

Two pianos are side by side in the auditorium. The first features a dark wood cabinet and a rich tone, with a key action that is pleasant to the touch. The second sounds tinny and its keys stick. When it comes time to make your concert debut, which one would you choose?

Two saints sit in the same row in church.

One is given to much fasting and prayer. He diligently searches the scriptures and freely offers his insight during Sunday School and MBA classes. He attends as many services as possible, even forcing himself out of bed Saturday mornings for the monthly fasting and prayer service. He loves his brothers, sisters and friends, devoting many hours to visiting homes and hospitals. He sends cards and letters to encourage the weak and afflicted. He gives freely of his substance and he loves the Restoration story with all his heart. During prayer, he closes his eyes; during community singing, he lifts his voice in praise. He testifies often because he is quick to see the goodness of God in his life, even in the little things.

The other saint likes to whisper jokes and play tic-tac-toe during preaching service. The only time he cracks the Bible or Book of Mormon is on Sunday and weeknight services, when it is his turn to read a verse. Sometimes, he feels he can worship God just as well in his living room during the telecast of a professional football game as he can in testimony service Sunday afternoon. He likes his brothers and sisters, but a lot of them get on his nerves. It is difficult for him to bring any of his friends to church because he is ashamed of all the "faults" of the members. Once in a while he'll get worldly, but he feels there is always instant forgiveness.

If you were to see through the eyes of God, and it came time to hand out blessings, experiences, or make callings into the various offices of the Church, tell me, which saint would you choose?

50th Anniversaries

By Paul Francione

We would like to share with you the beautiful service that we of the Tucson, Arizona Branch experienced on March 10, 1985 as we celebrated Brother Pat and Sister Connie Marinetti's Golden Anniversary in the Gospel.

We were joined by family and friends along with brothers and sisters from Phoenix, Arizona; Saline, Michigan; and Rochester, New York; as we acknowledged this milestone in their lives. Brother August Perlioni spoke from John 17 about the prayer of Christ to His Father for all those that were believers. He referred to the choice we all had to make, much like Ruth in the Old Testament.

Brother Pat was baptized on September 30, 1934, and Sister Connie on March 10, 1935. Speaking on behalf of the Tucson Branch, Brother Paul Francione related some early facts concerning their baptism. Over the years, God has blessed them and their family. They have both held many offices and have worked hard to further the Gospel wherever they have been. Their home was open to all and a great many have enjoyed their hospitality and generosity. In recognition for this dedicated service these past 50 years, the branch then presented Brother Pat with a boutonniere and Sister Connie with a corsage of carnations.

Brother David Majoros, Presiding Elder of Tucson, then sang Good Morning, God! and dedicated it to Brother Pat and Sister Connie. They both expressed themselves briefly, thanking God for calling them into the Gospel and for His help to them over the years; they are both still active and they desire to do the best they can to see the Church grow. During the testimonies that followed, many of the saints remembered their earliest meeting with the Marinettis and reminisced about the past. We had a wonderful fellowship together and everyone enjoyed the dinner and cake that followed.

We of the Tucson Branch are very happy to have them here in our area. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless them with good health and more years of productive srvice. We praise God, and His Son, Jesus, for the spirit that was manifested and enjoyed by all today. God bless you all!



Bro. Pat and Sis. Connie Marinetti

By Pearl Zinzi

March 17, 1985 was a memorable day for the Tampa Branch. On this day Brother Saverio (Sam) Risola was surprised with a tribute given him for his 50 years in the Church. His wife, Sister Rose, pinned a white carnation on him. Then Sister Pearl Zinzi presented him with a "This is Your Life" tribute.

Brother Sam was born in Bari, Italy on August 27, 1914. He came to America at the age of fifteen, with his mother and two brothers. They finally settled in Metuchen, New Jersey. One day he met Brother Domenick Scala, who was instrumental in introducing the Gospel to Brother Sam, and when Sam visited the Church he was very impressed with the love of the brothers and sisters. Brother Sam chose one of Brother Scala's daughters, Sister Rose, to be his wife.

On March 17, 1935, Brother Sam was baptized by Brother John Contamessa and confirmed by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. On June 26, 1938, Brother Sam and Sister Rose were united in marriage.

(Continued on Page 4)

It Is Written

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo



I received a letter from a young unmarried man recently which I will quote in part: "I especially enjoyed listening to your counsel on 'Love and Marriage.' I am not married yet, but I sure do want to be; It's tough being alone. But the Lord knows all things."

In the heart and mind of this young man—as in the hearts of all young people—there is a desire to find a good mate; one that will be "until death us do part." First, of course, there must be a lot of sincere prayers sent to the Lord, asking Him for guidance, and that He will provide a suitable mate. Next, one must take inventory of himself (or herself) and ask, "Am I ready for marriage?" Will I make a good husband (or wife)? Will I be able to give love as well as receive it? Will I be willing to adapt to my mate? Will I be able to concede a little, to yield a little?

Some of the above questions may sound hypothetical but are relevant nonetheless. Principally though, the most important thing is: Is God in the matter? Read how Abraham sent his servant to the house of his kindred to find a wife for Isaac. Abraham told his servant that the Lord had revealed to him to send his servant to his family for his son's wife. When the servant reached the city of Nahor he prayed by the well:

"O Lord God of my master Abraham, I pray thee, send me good speed this day, and show kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand here by the well of water; and the daughters of the men of the city come out to draw water; And let it come to pass, that the damsel to whom I shall say, Let down thy pitcher, I pray thee, that I may drink; and she shall say, Drink, and I shall give thy camels drink also; let the same be she that Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac; and thereby shall I know that Thou hast shown kindness unto my master."

The story goes on to relate how that Rebekah came to the well and fulfilled the prayer of the servant to the very words he had desired of God. Rebekah, of course, became the wife of Isaac. I believe very much that those who are seeking a mate can also have direction from God. Marriage is the most important step to take in one's life. Therefore, it is indeed necessary that one seek divine revelation from the Lord when looking for a wife (or a husband). Don't let physical attraction alone be the criterion upon which you base your selection (although this too, is an important part), but rather seek to know God's will. Some people spend more time today in selecting an outfit of clothing than taking great pains and care in selecting a spouse. When hus-band and wife are "equally yoked" together by the will of God, they can go together to the Lord in mighty prayer and fasting when problems arise and plead with Him, saying, "Lord, You have brought us together in marriage, we need You now, please help us." I can asure you that God will hear your prayers. From time to time, pray and fast that the Lord will bless your union and your children.

I distinctly remember that prior to our marriage, my fiancee (now my wife) and I fasted often and prayed that God would bless our union. We went a step further; we asked the Lord to witness our marriage by showing someone on our wedding day that He was pleased with us. Later on, we were told by the late Sister Helen Campitelle that while the minister was performing our wedding ceremony, she saw two lights approaching him and us, and when he pronounced us husband and wife, the two lights became one large light, and a voice from heaven spoke and said, "This day, these two shall be united in My name."

When I fell in love with my wife (Brother Sam and Sister Fara Randazzo's daughter) I did not let her know of my intentions until after she was baptized. I firmly believed that if God was pleased that we should be husband and wife, He would touch her heart without my letting her know of my hopes and prayers. To this day, God has blessed us immensely.

I would suggest also, that young men and women who are contemplating marriage seek counsel with one of our competent ministers prior to the wedding day. Much good will come out of this counseling, I can assure you.

The "bottom line," however, is still this: Make sure that the Lord is in the matter. I counsel all and everyone to remain pure and chaste, and bring this purity and chastity to your nuptial night. Let no one defraud themselves before marriage, thinking perhaps, "As long as we are going to be married, we can have an affair; it is no sin." Don't delude yourselves by this kind of thinking, for this kind of an affair before marriage is **adultery** in the sight of God even if you are going to be married.

There is a grossly mistaken conception in the world concerning the word fornication as meaning an "affair" only between unmarried people. This is the definition of the world, not God's. In the Ten Commandments given to Moses by God, there is one that says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery. To show that fornication is also **adultery**, I quote the words of Jesus Christ, "Whosoever putteth away his wife, except for fornication, and marrieth another committeth adultery; and whoso marrieth her that is put away doth commit adultery. (Matthew 19:9) Please note this scripture carefully. "Whosoever putteth away his wife" refers to a married man and a married woman. He can divorce her for committing fornication. She is a married woman, not unmarried. So, remember this, an "affair" between unmarried persons is not only Fornication, but Adultery.

In conclusion, let me say further, seek God in the selection of the "right" mate and you will be "equally yoked together." If people do not seek the will of God in their selection of a mate and plunge into a marriage where there is no spiritual compatibility, and subsequently, arguments and misunderstandings arise, they cannot blame the Lord for their "unequally yoked" marriage. I encourage everyone to pray to the Lord for His divine help in not only the selection of a mate, but that He also will be sought in fasting and prayer to adjust whatever differences may arise so your marriage will not end up in a divorce. God is gracious; He will lend His ear to your supplications. Thus IT IS WRITTEN.

Quincy, Florida

By M. Martin

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." This is the reassuring expression of David unto the people of God.

Friday evening, February 15, 1985, the saints of the Quincy, Florida Mission intently tried to capture the labored mumbling sounds of one walking through the shadow of death, the breath of life seemingly requested by the giver thereof. "Play softly, sing hymns to me." A flicker of the finger, struggling movements of the lips, color drained, breaths shallow, as if any second, it would be final. A cold clammy body lay before the saints as they tried with heaviness of heart to fulfill the request, "Sing hymns to me." The saints sang spiritual songs throughout the evening.

Our beloved Brother Cleveland Baldwin, who administers the word of God to us, exercising the Divine Authority on our behalf, now lay waiting: Was death's door going to open and receive him, or would life be extended to him? At this point only God knew.

We acknowledge soberly that God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. We didn't realize that this was the weekend for the rotation of the district elders to come to Quincy, but God knew. Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. called, stating that he and others would be arriving the next day.

Continuous vomiting throughout the night, extreme dizziness, and weakness turned Brother Baldwin overnight into a cold, lifeless form. The saints used lamps, heating pads, and hot water bottles, trying to bring warmth back to his body. Then came the muscle cramps, one after another, from one muscle to the next. In the midst of this, Brother Cleveland would get enough strength to whisper, "Let's pray." As he labored in prayer, we all felt that "Amen" would be his last and final word. Was he going to make it to be anointed? We were waiting for our brother elders, with the medicine of the saints, to arrive and administer unto him.

The chain call was initiated. As the word of Brother Cleveland's condition reached the saints, we could feel a mighty fortress, a strong bulwark, a defensive barrier against death being created by the brothers and sisters. As the prayers increased, faith and hope began likewise to increase.

All the brothers, sisters, and children from the Quincy Mission were present, waiting for the elders, who were like heavenly beings to us when they arrived, angels of hope, sent to administer to our brother. Brothers Eugene Perri Senior and Junior arrived Saturday around 3:00 p.m. We all left the room and the brothers anointed Brother Cleveland and prayed.

Immediately he began to look toward life again. The saints began to sing and the entire atmosphere of the house changed from the dark heaviness of death to the bright hope of life. Around 7:00 p.m., as the saints were singing and rejoicing, Brother Cleveland got up and walked with assistance, then sat up in the living room a short time, sharing his experience of lingering at death's door. He exclaimed, "The Gospel of Jesus Christ truly is something you can live by, and something you can die by."

All of Brother Cleveland's children arrived from New Jersey around 3:00 Sunday morning. They had been raised in the Gospel, with examples of truth set before them. They rushed to the bedside of their father now, moments of soberness overpowering them, recapturing now that example, expressing now appreciation for sternness, firmness, and the blessing of having Godly parents. Moments now, of "It's time to make a change." Brother Cleveland had suffered nigh unto death, and now all his children were reflecting back on how the family used to sing together, pray together, and go to church together.

Later that morning, Brother and Sister Perri, Sr. stated how they had prayed through the night, desiring God to give Brother Cleveland enough strength to attend the meeting. These prayers were answered. Brother Cleveland, though weak and unsteady on his feet, was able to attend the meeting. He said he felt that he would be ungrateful to God were he not to attend. All of his children were there that day.

The sublime exaltation of joy was experienced as we sat under the power of God's blessings and listened to Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. speak, injecting us with joy, new hope, courage, and renewed strength as he unfolded before us a

(Continued on Page 11)

ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .

On October 18, 1942, Brother Sam was ordained an elder in the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch and served there for forty years. He was one of the first organizers of the MBA in the Atlantic Coast District and in 1936 was the local MBA president. He also served as Chaplain and while a member of the MBA he never missed any of their meetings. Brother Sam always had a love for the young people of our Church. He was a Sunday School teacher for many years.

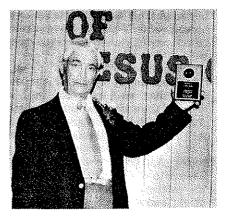
Being a master carpenter, he gave his talents to the Lord, building branches in New Brunswick, NJ; Edison, NJ; Hopelawn, NJ; Levittown, PA; Brooklyn, NY; and Metuchen, NJ. He also was a member of the United American Indian Organization of Delaware Valley. He helped in the construction of the center and donated much of his time bringing the Gospel to those people.

In September of 1982 Brother Sam transferred to Tampa, Florida, where his services were needed in the Church.

Today, Brother Sam's family consists of three sons and daughters-in-law, a daughter and son-in-law, and six grandchildren.

Our presiding elder, Brother Duane Lowe, presented Brother Sam with a lovely plaque from the branch members. The tribute came to a close with his entire family singing *Blessed Assurance*.

This was a day well spent and we all enjoyed the blessings of God. We trust that the Good Lord will give Brother Sam many more years of good health, enjoying His blessings to the fullest. With much love from the Tampa Branch.



Brother Sam Risola

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is 46.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

This is the time of year when many young people are graduating from high school or college and are making decisions and plans for the future. These very critical and important decisions may include vocational, educational, or marriage plans and need to be made with much prayer, thought, and counsel. In addition, where you establish residence needs special consideration.

There has to be *one* central issue that must influence all of your life's decisions: Concern for The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Church absolutely needs her young people, now and for the future. Today there are countless responsibilities that you can assume, and tomorrow's Church will need you even more to continue the work of the Lord. Too often we tend to think that the ministry or perhaps someone else will maintain the Church's activities, but it is time that everyone seriously consider his or her own role in further establishing the kingdom of heaven here on earth.

Serving the Church ought to be your first priority in life, and living within a relatively close proximity of a branch or mission should be your second consideration. This not only lends itself to your spiritual employment, but it also increases your opportunities to be spiritually nurtured and educated. The decisions you make now will have a definite impact on whether or not you will serve the Church and how much time you will be able to devote. Vocational choice and location of employment will have a direct bearing on your ability to help.

Beyond the fact that it is your duty and obligation to assist the Church, there is a great deal of personal satisfaction in observing the work of the Church first hand. To witness the spiritual growth that occurs in adults, young people, and children is most gratifying. To witness the reconciliation to God of a sinner is most joyful. To witness the manifestations of God's Spirit in the Church services and in the daily lives of the Church members is most exhilarating. And yet, there is a greater satisfaction when you have had a part in all of these activities.

You must consider how appreciative the Lord is as He observes you working in His vineyard. The Church needs your vitality, daring, energy, knowledge and spirit.

Give of your best to the Master. Give of the strength of your youth. Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor Into the battle for truth!

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Lamanites Who Never Fell Away

Dear Girls and Boys,

Aaron and his brethren had been beaten up, spit upon, and put into prison in the land of Middoni until their brother Ammon came with King Lamoni to deliver them. They never decided they'd suffered enough and should go back to their homes in Zarahemla. Instead, they prayed and asked God where to go next. They were told by the Spirit to go to the palace of the king of the entire Lamanite nation. This was the father of King Lamoni, a man who'd always hated Nephites and who had tried to stop his son from going to Middoni to free these men. But the Spirit of God told them to go see him, and they went.

When Aaron entered the king's palace, he bowed and said, "We are Ammon's brethren. If you will spare our lives, we would like to be your servants.

The king replied, "Get up. I will let you live, but I won't let you be my servants. I want you to teach me. I've been troubled in my mind since I met your brother; by the great things he told me and because of his generosity. But why didn't he come back with you?"

Aaron explained to the great king that the Spirit of the Lord called him another way and Ammon was with the king's son teaching the people of that country. The king said to Aaron, "What is this you've said about the Spirit of the Lord? This is what troubles me. Also, what is that your brother Ammon said: 'If you will repent you will be saved and if you will not, you'll be cast off at the last day.'?"

Aaron asked him, "Do you believe there is a God?"

This Lamanite king had been raised in a land where people did not have records about God's power and laws. The ancient records had gone with the people of Nephi when they had to flee from their brothers and cousins, the people of Laman.

The king answered Aaron, "Some of my people say there is a God and I've let them build large buildings to meet together in. Now, if *you* say there is a God, I will believe."

Aaron's heart rejoiced and he exclaimed, "As sure as you are alive, there is a God."

"Is God the Great Spirit who brought our ancestors out of Jerusalem?" the king asked.

Aaron agreed, "Yes, He is that Great Spirit, and He made everything on earth and everything in heaven. Do you believe this?"

Joyfully the king replied, "Yes. I believe this, and I want you to tell me everything about God and I will believe you."

When Aaron saw the king would believe, he started from the very beginning, reading the scriptures, explaining about Adam's weaknesses and telling him about God's wonderful plan to save the world by sending His son, Jesus.

The king begged, "What do I have to do to be born of God and have this wicked spirit of mine rooted out of my body to receive His Spirit so I can be saved? I will give up everything I have and quit being the ruler so I can have this great joy!"

Aaron explained, "If you will bow down before God and ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and call on His name, in faith believing you will receive, then you will receive the hope you desire."

At these words the great king bowed to his knees in front of all his servants and began to call on God. He fell to the earth crying, "O God, Aaron said there is a God. If there is, will You make Yourself known to me, and I will give away all my sins to know You so I may be raised from the dead and saved at the last day." When he said these words, the king was struck as if he were dead.

Terrified, his servants ran to get the queen. When she saw her husband lying as if dead and Aaron and his brethren standing there, she commanded the servants to seize them and kill them. But the servants had seen the cause of the king's fall and they did not dare touch these men of God. They were afraid of Aaron and so was the queen. Furiously she told the servants to run outside and call a crowd of people to come and kill Aaron.

When Aaron saw her determination, he knew how hard-hearted the people were, and he feared a terrible fight so he put his hand out and touched the king, saying, "Stand."

The king stood and with great joy began telling his wife and servants about God. When the crowd came, he calmed them down and told Aaron to speak to them. Many, many believed.

The king sent a law through all his lands that no one was to hurt these men of God and that no one was to stand in the way of having the word of God preached. As the days and weeks passed, Aaron and his brethren went from one place of worship to another, establishing churches and ordaining teachers and elders. Thousands were brought to believe in God, to throw down their weapons of war, to believe all men were brothers and to serve God. These good believers chose a new name for themselves. They decided not to be called Nephites or Lamanites, but the Anti-Nephi Lehis. These new followers of God, full of joy and the Holy Spirit, were so strong in their beliefs that once they were converted, none of them ever fell away.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105



Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario District Hosts General Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino, General Circle Editor

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Branch 1, Detroit, Michigan on March 30, 1985. The sisters in attendance were from California, Canada, Michigan, and a chartered bus from Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Sister Mabel Bickerton, the president, talked about the name of the Circle. Sister Sarver had the name THE LADIES' UPLIFT CIRCLE come to her as it was organized in 1920. She went on to say this is not a social Circle but a spiritual one; we are together to help the poor and needy financially. We are thankful that we are able to do some good deed.

The Michigan-Ontario District Circle sang *Open My Eyes* and read scripture concerning the Virtuous Woman (Proverbs 31:10-31).

The business of the Conference was

started with the roll call of officersmost were present. The minutes of the last Conference held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania; the Districts; and the local Circle reports were read.

The answer to our question, "What man was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses laid his hands on him?" was found in Deuteronomy 34:9.

Brother James Gibson gave the report on the African relief. The local Circles donated \$2300.00 towards the project the past six months. Sister Mary Criscuolo mailed eighty-four cards. Brother Joseph Calabrese sent a report on the India work, thanking the sisters for their support. Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sisters Marie Brainard, Florence Leiser, Elma Gross, Theresa Gennaro, Muriel Miller, and Brothers Henry Gibson, Harry Nicholson, Luigi DeLuca, George Funkhouser, Sr., and Mike Dragonetti. The 65th anniversary will be held at the Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, on June 22, 1985. The Pennsylvania District will host the event. Money from the treasury was donated to the Church Indian Missionary Fund, tuition for two African students, the 65th Anniversary Book, and Africa and India relief.

The project for the next six months is to continue to send donations towards African relief. The next Circle Conference will be held at Hopelawn, New Jersey, on October 5, 1985. A vote of thanks was given to the Michigan-Ontario District for their hospitality.

Brothers Paul Whitton and Nephi DeMercurio spoke to the sisters at the close of the Conference. Each thanked the Circles for their support in the Missionary Work.

Branch and Mission News

Harrison, MI

By Mary Criscuolo and Cathy Mulla

On March 3 the Harrison Mission was to meet at 9:30 a.m. for a fasting and prayer service in behalf of our Brother Silver Criscuolo, who had asked for prayers the week before because of his physical condition that was not permitting him to spend time studying the scriptures so he could be prepared to preside over our meetings here. By the third of March he was in the hospital. We proceeded with our fasting and prayer service, but God had a blessing in store for us. Brother Joe Furnari from Cincinnati, Ohio came to spend the Sunday with us.

It was great seeing Brother Joe after a long time apart. We had worshipped together for many years at Branch 3 in Detroit. Since Brother Joe had been recently ordained an elder, we were thankful to have him with us to conduct our two meetings. God blessed us in our fasting and prayer service with a beautiful spirit of prayer prevailing. Our morning service after a short recess brought us some visitors, and Brother Joe told us of his coming into the Gospel and how much he had learned under the sound of Brother Silver's teachings. We really felt that Brother Silver was with us in spirit today.

Brother Joe brought many scriptures to light, encouraging us along and teaching us of God's love. A lunch was served afterwards and we went to visit Brother Silver in the hospital.

It was a day well spent in God's Spirit, and we topped off the day in prayer around Brother Silver's hospital bed. God truly blessed us so we could have an elder with us and observe the Lord's Supper. We thank God for sending our Brother Joe Furnari to Harrison this Sunday.

On Sunday, March 10, 1985, the brothers and sisters of the Harrison Mission received a great blessing as they witnessed the ordination of a new deacon and deaconess. It was truly a special day for all who attended as well as for Brother Lyle Criscuolo, who was ordained a deacon, and Sister Mary A. Coppa, who was ordained a deaconess.

Approximately forty-seven brothers, sisters, friends, and neighbors attended this service. Many extra chairs were set up to accommodate the many visitors, including, brothers and sisters from Detroit's Inner-City Branch, Branch 2, Branch 3, and Branch 4. All glory be to God for inspiring many friends and neighbors in the surrounding area to witness this great event!

Prior to the opening of the service, two new wine glasses were presented to the Harrison Mission. Brother Jack Pontillo took the honor of blessing and dedicating these vessels.

Brother Peter H. Capone opened the service, speaking words from the Old Testament of the *Bible*. Brother Pete indicated the significance of the ordinance of anointing with oil and the laying on

(Continued on Page 8)

8 June, 1985

HARRISON continued . . .

of hands. He emphasized the anointing of Saul as king of Israel. He also made us examine the anointing of David as king of Israel and the importance of this second anointing. It was God's plan to appoint David as king of Israel over and above all his tall and handsome brothers. More significantly, David, being the youngest of Jesse's sons, was a good candidate because he was one who chose what was in his heart and acted on that choice.

Following Brother Pete's sermon, Brother Gary Coppa continued by reading passages from the book of Acts pertaining to Stephen's great faith that led to his ordination as a deacon. Stephen had the proper requirements to qualify for the position of a deacon. He was a man of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom (Acts 6:3). Furthermore, he was a good servant of the Lord.

During Stephen's time there existed a certain council of people known as the Sanhedrin, who were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which Stephen spoke (Acts 6:10). These people arrested Stephen after falsely accusing him of blasphemy. In his defense, Stephen attempted to help the Jews understand God's ways by rebuking their ways, and, as a result, they stoned him.

Brother Gary continued by expounding the qualities of a deaconess as exemplified by Dorcas. Dorcas was a woman full of good works and almsdeeds (Acts 9:36). She was instrumental in making coats and garments for the people. But her one outstanding quality was her great faith in the Lord. It was this faith that allowed her the opportunity of a miraculous resurrection from the dead. As God used Dorcas in demonstrating the power of the Holy Spirit, He has a great work for His deacons and deaconesses in our day and time as well.

In order to provide some insight and a better understanding for the benefit of those newly baptized and first-time visitors, Brother Gary read and discussed scriptures from the thirteenth chapter of John concerning the ordinance of feet washing. He then read the duties of a deacon and deaconess from the *Law and Order* of the Church.

After the administering of sacrament, the ordination commenced with the washing of feet. Brother Mike Coppa was inspired by the Spirit to wash Brother Lyle Criscuolo's feet, and Sister Mary Criscuolo washed Sister Mary Coppa's feet. Brother Jack Pontillo ordained Brother Lyle and Brother Gary Coppa ordained Sister Mary. A beautiful spirit was felt throughout all the congregation this day. In fact, Sister Mary Coppa later mentioned that she felt as though a crown was being placed upon her head at the time the elders ordained her.

Following the service, the brothers and sisters of the Harrison Mission provided all those visiting with a gracious luncheon buffet. As a result of Brother Silver Criscuolo's serious affliction, he was unable to attend this service. However, three carloads of brothers and sisters went to visit Brother Silver in the hospital.

Surely, there is no doubt that God was in our presence this day. We enjoyed the blessings God has afforded us and we pray that God will bless Brother Lyle and Sister Mary as they endeavor to do His will.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel E. Zoltek

We witnessed the baptism of Doreen Everett on Sunday, September 30, 1984. She called Brother Spencer Everett from her home on Saturday night, telling him she felt the spirit of repentance upon her and wanted to be baptized.

We had many out-of-town visitors at our branch on this day. They all sang *He Planted Me Deep*, and Brother Bill Colangelo of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania opened our service with Matthew 13:1-9, concerning the parable of the seed.

We sang *There's Power in the Blood* and Brother Paul Ciotti spoke, saying that God made a promise to us that we would bring forth fruit. We must reach out and believe God. We must demonstrate our fruits as we are possessed by the Spirit of God. Our roots must become strong; we must keep His commandments. We should be like a tree planted by the river, with our roots well nourished. We must delight in the Lord morning and night.

We met at the waters and our new Sister Doreen was baptized by Brother Spencer Everett, her father-in-law. Back at the church, Brother Sam DiFalco read from III Nephi 11, concerning baptism and laying on of hands as taught by Jesus Christ on this land. If we are open to the Spirit of God, He will lead us on this beautiful path. We sang Ready and the elders knelt around Sister Doreen and prayer was offered by Brother Dominic Moraca. She was confirmed by Brother Louis Vitto, fulfilling a dream she had had two months earlier, in which she saw herself calling Brother Spencer late at night. She then saw herself being baptized by him with the assistance of Brother Lou. Sister Doreen gave her testimony, thanking the Lord and everyone for this most wondrous day of her life.

We met in the basement for refreshments and a social hour. Sister Doreen has been attending this branch for about two years and she related the experience that prompted her to call for her baptism. She had been growing closer to the Church for the past six months, with her husband teaching her much about our doctrine. The night before, she was listening to a missionary from India tell how he had been working with the young children there. He told of how one of the children became lost and he went searching for him, and when he finally found him, the child had been badly injured by a wild animal. Sister Doreen began to relate to her own child in this predicament and wondered what she would do. The spirit of repentance fell upon her and she called Brother Spencer, telling him she was ready to go to the waters. She said she had learned much from hearing the testimonies of the saints in the Church. She heard and responded to the calling of the Holy Spirit.

Our advice to anyone who is searching is to reach out to Jesus—take one step toward Him and He will take two toward you.

Lake Worth, FL

By Josephine Jasmin

It has been a pleasant winter in Lake Worth with many visitors from the North. No need to say what joy this brings to our hearts seeing the saints from afar.

Sunday, February 3, Brother Jesse Carr opened our service and used as his text Isaiah and Mark, Chapter 5. Brother Jesse talked on the touch of faith, bringing to our memories the woman with the issue of blood, and how the virtue had gone out of the Lord because of that special touch and abiding faith.

Brother John Griffith from Pennsylvania continued, encouraging us to keep our faith and to develop it so it can grow stronger. With the real touch of faith our prayers are answered many times before we even ask. We need to keep our reservoirs of faith full.

Brother Meredith Griffith from Tampa followed, expressing his great love for the Lord and the Gospel. He told us of the Lord being the same today as He was yesterday. We must be alive in the Spirit because we are a living Gospel. We were raised from the death of sin and brought alive in Christ.

It was a beautiful day and as the author penned, *Let us pray, gladly pray, in the House of Jehovah.* What better place to be, than in the house of the Lord on His day.

Cleveland, Branch 1

By Margaret Abbott

Sunday, March 17, 1985 was a wonderful day at our branch, with two new names written down in Glory.

After opening prayer, Sister Roberta Hufnagle sang a solo, *Fill My Cup*, *Lord*.

Brother Vince Gibson spoke of the bread of life, and serving one God only; the little things of life that only come from the Lord, and how baptism means a new way of life, a way of humbleness in serving the Lord.

Brother Bill Prentice spoke of the freedom of choice, the responsibility of that choice, how Christ was persecuted in His mission to save mankind. The importance of our lives is measured by our works and what we do for others.

We broke for a light lunch, then went down to Sim's Park where Brother Bill Hufnagle officiated in the baptism of Barbara Pittaway and Carmela Gray, amidst high winds and very high strong waves.

After our return to the church building, Sister Barbara was confirmed by Brother Vince Gibson and Sister Carmela was confirmed by Brother Bill Prentice.

Feet washing service followed, in which our young sisters participated in all humbleness; this also was the first feet washing service for our young Brother Frank Hufnagle.

During testimony service our sisters spoke of the experiences they had that led them to know the Lord was calling them. Indeed our cups were filled to overflowing with the blessings of the Lord.

Remember our new sisters and all the young in the Gospel that the Lord will guide and protect them. Remember the ill and the elderly of the Church in your prayers.

May the Lord be with you all is our sincere prayer.

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

Let me tell of a few good things that have happened with the saints in Riverside. Do you believe that God still has the same power as in times of old? Do you believe that God still loves His Church and will hear His people when they are united in prayer? A few weeks ago after another powerful meeting, we were ready to dismiss, when our Sister Josephine Palermo suddenly became deathly sick with terrific pain in her legs. I thought she was going to pass out with the pain. She being unable to come to the front for anointing, I immediately went to where she was sitting and called upon God in her behalf. She then arose and cried, "I'm healed, I'm healed." Praise God for His power.

The following Sunday Sister Paz had a beautiful vision and heard the voice of God. As some of you know we are renting the building in which we hold services. I was asking the brothers and sisters to fast and pray for this cause, when Sister Paz saw a bright light come down from Heaven and a voice said to her, "Your building is already built." I urged the brothers and sisters to stay united and watch God direct us to the building.

One day a few of the brothers and sisters went to look at a building that was for sale and because of the heavy rain, one of the cars got stranded in the mud. We tried without success to free the car from the mud. As we struggled with the car, Sister Josephine Palermo began to pray that God would send help. A large truck soon came by and pulled the car free from the mud.

It's very exciting to watch the hand of God move among His people. Pray that God will bless us with more of His Spirit and healthy bodies, because there is much work to do in this part of his vineyard.

Anaheim, CA

By Pam Capone

We in the Anaheim Branch want to thank God for being so good to us. Our words are inadequate in praising the Lord for what He has done for us. Satan continually tries to damage and destroy, but our Almighty God has loved us, cared for us, and protected us. We love the Lord and we thank Him for being our Father and caring and guiding the way He does.

God gives us a touch of His spirit (if not more) every time we meet together, and for this we are so grateful.

Besides meeting twice a week for Sunday and Wednesday night (and MBA) services, Anaheim also has several other types of meetings, usually held once a month. They are as follows:

- Young people's meeting, taught by Brother Jim Huttenburger
- Married couples' meeting, taught by Brother Walt Jankowski
- New members' meeting, taught by Brother Paul Gray
- Wednesday morning prayer service (held weekly)
- Men's class, taught by Brother Rusty Heaps
- Ladies' Circle, taught by Sister Elizabeth Simpson and Sister Gertie Alms (held twice monthly)

These meetings have proved to be a blessing and enrichment in our lives; we thank God for working through these brothers and sisters who teach us the word of God and how He wants us to conduct our lives.

(Continued on Page 10)

ANAHEIM continued . . .

The fourth annual California District Ladies' Circle prayer retreat was held on March 16 and 17 at the Hilton Inn in Bakersfield (a central location in California). Sister Elizabeth Simpson from Anaheim once again did a beautiful job in planning the retreat and teaching the sisters.

On Sunday, March 3, 1985, we were visited by Brother Nephi DeMercurio from Detroit, Michigan. Brother Nephi spoke to us from James Chapter 1. The theme of the sermon was for us to let go, and let God. He explained how we try to do things in our own strength, rather than giving it to God, and so we fail. He stressed that through Christ we can do all things. We were also happy to have Brother Gorie Ciaravino and Sister Antoinette with us, along with many other visitors from other branches.

On Sunday, April 14, 1985, Sister Lydia Knowles was ordained into the blessed office of deaconess. Sister Lydia's feet were washed by Sister Nancy Ciotti, and she was ordained by Brother Walt Jankowski. May God bless Sister Lydia with continued humility and love.

Brother Paul Liberto from San Diego was visiting with us that day and he gave a beautiful sermon. Brother Paul spoke on the story of Samuel, who was in bed at night when he heard the voice of the Lord calling his name. Brother Paul focused on how Samuel said to the Lord, "Speak, Lord, for thy servant heareth," rather than "Hear, Lord, for thy servant speaketh."

The Anaheim Branch has been blessed with many new faces and new testimonies, as well as those of the saints that have been with us throughout the years.

God is with us and He continues to hold our hand and keep us safe. May He bless you just as He has richly blessed us.

Phoenix, AZ

By Frances J. Capone

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I want to tell you about Brother Sam Taormina. Brother Sam came to the Phoenix Branch with his wife, Sister Grace, a few months ago from Branch 3 at Detroit, Michigan. On Sunday, March 3, 1985, Brother Sam asked for permission to sing us a solo. He gave a beautiful rendition of *In the Garden*. As he sang, we all felt the blessing of the Holy Spirit.

After Brother Sam and his wife moved in with their daughter, Sister Grace King and her husband, Joseph, he became ill and had to be hospitalized for many weeks. His condition became critical, and he was not expected to live. However, God had different plans for Brother Sam.

He recovered, came to church, gave his testimony of the goodness of the Lord, and sang a hymn. Why is it so amazing?

Brother Sam is 91 years young, and he has the same zeal for serving God that he had nearly 50 years ago when he called for his baptism. Wonderful, isn't it?

Santa Ana, CA

By Ken Jones

March 10 was a happy day for Brother John Vela of the Santa Ana Mission, as he was ordained into the ministry. The meeting was well represented by brothers and sisters from different parts of the land. Since his arrival at the mission a few years ago, God has blessed Brother John and increased him with wisdom and knowledge of the scriptures.

His feet were washed by Brother Frank Ciotti and he was ordained by Brother Tom Liberto.

Brother Joe Lovalvo opened the meeting with very inspiring thoughts for the ministry to preach to the world. Brother Jim Lovalvo followed along the same lines. Several musical selections were sung by different brothers and sisters.

Brother John Vela and Brother Paul Liberto then passed Sacrament. While the wine was being poured into the glasses, Brother Luis Pacheco had a vision where he saw the head of Christ with the crown of thorns, and His blood filling the glasses.

We hope and pray that many other young men will be called into the work of the Lord.

San Diego, CA

By Ralph Frammolino

Another soul entered the fold of the Restored Gospel when Charles Edward Walker was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 10.

Our new brother was baptized by Brother Ralph Frammolino and confirmed by Brother Ken Surdock, both elders of the San Diego Branch.

Even before his baptism, Brother Walker testified every Sunday and never failed to comment on how much love he felt among the saints. He was first introduced to the Gospel by Brother Ray Saczko, who gave his testimony to Brother Walker at work and invited him to experience the Spirit of God during church services.

It was truly inspiring to see Brother Walker grasp the tenets of the Restored Gospel, especially the truth of the *Book* of Mormon. He always displayed a willingness to call upon the ministry in time of spiritual and physical need, and has attended meetings faithfully.

It is our prayer that God will continue to work with Brother Walker, who has been blessed with humility and sincerity.

Tampa, FL

By Pearl Zinzi

The Lord's blessings are always amazing when we think we are but a handful for a Wednesday night meeting. On Wednesday, March 20, 1985 God blessed us with many unexpected surprises. First was the arrival of Brother James G. and Sister Nancy Speck from the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch, secondly Brother Richard and Sister Annabel Santilli from Youngstown, Ohio, then Brother Merdy and Sister Irene Griffith of our own Brnach, fourthly, Sister Diann Romano from the Fort Pierce Branch and her school friend Linda Oliver, and lastly Sharon Boykin, Brother Cleve Baldwin's daughter.

All surprises, but best to come was when God blessed Brother Santilli in opening the services. We sang *The Peace That My Saviour Has Given*. Brother Santilli spoke on light and power in the natural sense and the spiritual sense. He spoke about how the Lord blessed Christopher Columbus to find this land. He touched on the apostasy, the dark ages, the Reformation and the Restoration. He read Romans 11:25, which says, "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." Brother Santilli spoke of many experiences, all to the glory of God.

Brother Griffith then spoke on the words of the hymn, Happy the Souls That First Believed. The meeting then was turned over for testimonies. Brother Jim and Sister Nancy Speck gave their experiences on how they found the Lord and His Church. Sister Annabel Santilli related her experience when God gave her a dream about the Chief of an Indian Tribe which they visited on many occasions. This Chief passed away and she thought that their work there was finished. However, in this dream the Chief handed Brother Santilli a Book of Mormon and then he left and returned with another book opened to the settlement of Lehi and his family in this land, confirming that the work is not finished. Mrs. Sharon Boykin, Brother Cleve's daughter, testified on how God blessed her father at the point of death when the brothers anointed him; also she related that her brother was renewed in the Church. "God works in a mysterious way, his wonders to perform." Brother Duane Lowe then spoke briefly on how God is so good. The meeting was closed with the singing of America the Beautiful.

The blessings of God continued on Sunday, March 24, 1985 with Brother Santilli speaking on the 2nd chapter of Daniel on how God reveals to his servants the great mysteries that man cannot fathom. Brothers Merdy Griffith and Sam Risola, Sr. followed on the same subject.

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On Sunday, March 31, 1985 additional blessings were received when the Branch prepared to anoint Brother Howard Noble as a deacon. Brother Ike J. Smith, our presiding deacon, washed Brother Noble's feet, Brother Sam Risola, Sr. then ordained Brother Noble into the office of deacon. Brother Duane Lowe read Acts 6:1-6, about the office of a deacon. Brother Noble was baptized on March 29, 1981. On this day we had fasting and prayer, feet washing, and an anointing, in which we all felt the blessings of God. After the meeting we had a "Pot Luck" dinner in our fellowship room.

QUINCY continued . . .

picture of Jesus as he walked among the seven golden candlesticks in the book of Revelation. He told us the characteristics of and the consequences that befall one that is lukewarm in the Spirit.

He also demonstrated by testimony and experiences the beauty of that first love. We should seek to regain it and maintain it in our hearts forever. He told us how to strive for spiritual riches, for God wants to make us spiritual millionaires, gold tried in the fire. This refining process makes us more precious and full of beauty. Brother Gene mentioned that he was about sixteen years old when he met Brother Cleveland, living on Second St. in Edison, New Jersey.

Brother Perri, Sr. followed, barely able to contain the joy he felt as he spoke of the goodness of God.

It was requested that the Baldwin family sing An Angel Came Down. The Spirit of God came into our midst and under its inspiration, the ministry laid hands on all the Baldwin children and prayed for them. Then came the meaning, the depth of Brother Cleveland's experience: Lying at death's door, for

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the cause of his children. It took such an experience to bring them together that the Spirit of God might again strive with them.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin extends his thanks to all the saints for their prayers, calls, and love expressed to him and his family during the time of his illness.

HALLOWED continued . . .

hymn written by one of the saints, which says, "How great the Master is." In our lives we desire to follow the teachings of Jesus because we have willingly accepted him as our Master and desire to walk in His footsteps.

The third meaning of 'kurious' is one of royalty and majesty. It was a term applied to only a few people at the time of Jesus who were heads of governments such as Rome. Jesus is king of the kingdom of God and we believe the Church to be the first fruits of the kingdom that will be established in this land during the Peaceful Reign.

Lastly, 'kurious' signifies a title of respect and courtesy. What other name under heaven would we want to use to describe a person who gave himself to evil men, to suffer pain and humiliation in order to fulfill the plan of salvation? Not to save himself, but to save us.

Jesus, in instructing His disciples on prayer, offered the beautiful words, "Our Father who art in heaven, HALLOWED BE THY NAME." The word 'hallow' is translated from the Greek word *hagiazo*, which means to make holy or to sanctify. Let us pray that the Lord's name is sanctified and made holy amongst the children of men. Also, consider the various meanings of 'Lord' and contemplate them in your thoughts and prayers.

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WEDDINGS *

HENDERSON-TROVARELLI

Brother Kenneth David Henderson and Miss Donna Trovarelli were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, April 27, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan-Branch 3. The ceremony was officiated by Brother Nephi DeMercurio, the bride's uncle.

Musical selections were presented by Virginia Rivard on the piano, with Sister Diane Hawkins as soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Windsor, Ontario in Canada. May the miracle of love that captured their hearts grow deeper as they share their lives together. June, 1985

New Arrivals

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

Lisa Marie to Jim and Patty Kerby of Anaheim, California.

Matthew Robert to Michael and Sue (Noble) Benovic of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Dennis Joseph to Dennis and Angela Colpitts of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Kristen Marie to Lloyd and Karen Elzby of Bell, California.

Luke Roth to Luther and Marilyn Long of Lorain, Ohio.

William Frederick, Jr. to William and Jeanette (Weatherford) Quinn of Lorain, Ohio.

Brittany Ann to Bruce and Mary Jo Jones of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1.

OBITUARIES

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

BERNADINA THOMAS

Sister Bernadina Thomas passed on to her eternal reward on October 17, 1984, after having served God faithfully in The Church of Jesus Christ for 59 years. Our sister, age 97, was a pillar in the Church and will be missed by her natural and spiritual family.

The funeral service was conducted at the San Diego Branch by Brothers Tom Liberto and Paul Liberto, her grandsons. Singing a selection at the service were Sisters Debbie Jackson, Lynn Womack and Nancy Hemmings, her great-granddaughters.

Sister Bernadina is survived by her family and a host of brothers and sisters.

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CHRIS THOMAS

Brother Chris Thomas, 67, passed away from this life on March 17, 1984. Originally from Glassport, Pennsylvania, Brother Chris was baptized in San Diego.

Services were conducted in the San Diego Branch by Brothers Tom Liberto and Paul Liberto. Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Violet, a daughter, and two granddaughters.

MANUELA LUNA

Manuela (Nellie) Luna passed away on February 18, 1985. She was the mother of Brother Alfred Luna.

She was born in Rosehills, California on July 7, 1906.

She leaves to mourn her passing three sons and one daughter, twenty-four grandchildren, thirty-two greatgrandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

Evangelist Stephen Saffron of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch officiated. He was assisted by Evangelist Peter Capone. Grandson Edmund Luna sang *In the Garden*.

Mrs. Luna was a dear lady who maintained a loving interest in her family all the days of her life. She will be sorely missed.

ARTHUR P. LANDREY

He was in our midst smiling, giving each one a warm handshake, and speaking words of encouragement. Then he was gone. For Brother Arthur P. Landrey, the transition from life to death came on Sunday, January 27, 1985, when he fell victim to a massive coronary attack. Brother Arthur was a kind, gentle person loved by all who knew him.

He was born in Steubenville, Ohio on December 18, 1917, baptized into the Church in 1944, and ordained a teacher in 1952. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Sister Grace (Cadman), two sons and their wives, and seven grandchildren. He also leaves three sisters.

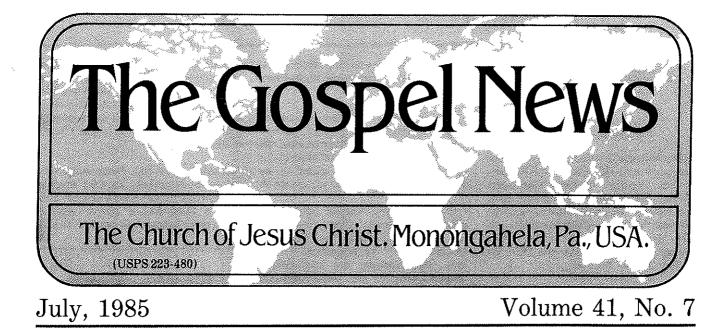
Brothers Barry Mazzeo and August Perlioni, both of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch, conducted the funeral service. Brother Landrey will be missed by all of us in Phoenix, as well as everyone who knew him.

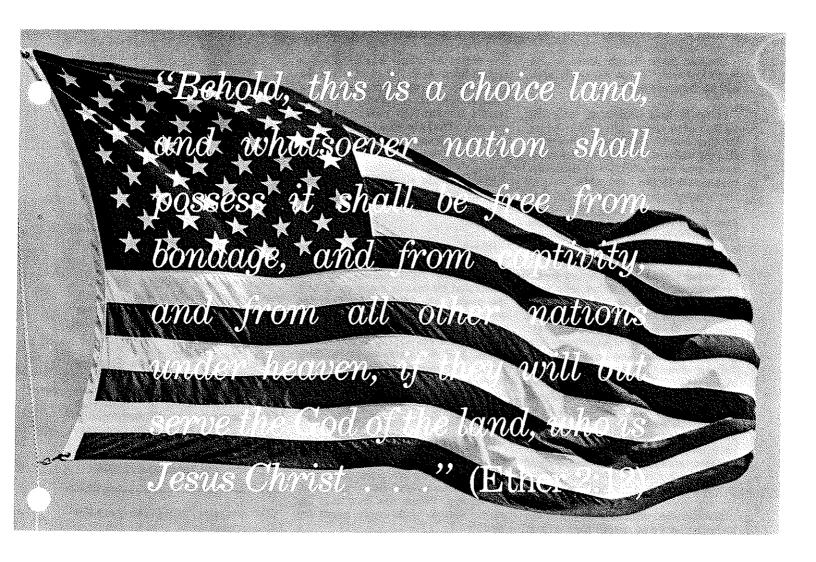
STEVE NAGY

Brother Steve Nagy, a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, passed from this life on February 11, 1985. He was born on October 8, 1919 and baptized on July 9, 1939.

Brother James Benyola officiated at the funeral.

Brother Nagy is survived by a wife, one son, and one daughter, all of Hopelawn, New Jersey.





Arizona District Conference

By Frances J. Capone

The Arizona District Conference took place on March 31, 1985, in the Phoenix Branch. Brother Richard Christman asked all the evangelists to stand as he presented a plaque to Brother George Johnson for his years of excellent service as an evangelist (1964-1984). Thought-provoking excerpts from his sermon are as follows:

"America has more freedom than any other country in the world. More freedom involves more responsibility. Will the new generation use freedom in a way to please God?

"I have not retired from the latter day work. I learned about the Restoration from my father, although I rebelled against the Church until the Spirit touched my heart."

Brother Isaac Smith arose in the Spirit and said, "Praise the Lord! Israel will be free one day!"

Sister Melissa Christman sang The Valleys Are Green, Sir, after which Brother Joseph Calabrese delivered a stirring sermon. He said, "Forty years ago I was very afflicted. I made my covenant with the Lord while I was in the hospital. I repented from a life that was not so good." He went on to describe at length the problems Nephi had with his family as he sought the promised land.

Brother Calabrese recounted an experience involving his father, who went to Palmyra, NY to see Hill Cumorahsomething he had wanted to do for a long time. He decided to fast and pray. Taking the group to Hill Cumorah, the guide stopped at one spot and said, "This is where the angel gave the plates to Joseph Smith." Brother Joe's father spoke the tongues. At other significant points he also spoke the tongues. After the pageant he asked for food. By then he had fasted for three days. A short time later he passed away. This experience reminded Brother Calabrese of Simeon in the New Testament and the joy he felt after he saw the Christ Child.

Brother Joe recalled a dream where he heard heavenly music coming from a temple. Multitudes of people were entering, so many that the walls of the temple came tumbling down. The scene was beautiful beyond description. He looked and saw Joseph and his brothers in the dream.

In conclusion, Brother Calabrese urged everyone to be patient, because the promises of the Restoration are close to fulfillment. Sealed records are to come forth, and the sound of the Gospel will be heard o'er all the earth.

Brother Larry Watson followed by asking pertinent questions, such as: "How will it change you? What will you do with it?" He pinpointed the fact that some people are fault-finders because they do not understand the other fellow's problems. At this moment Brother Peter Genaro arose and spoke these words: "We will draw closer to God!"

Emphatically reminding the audience that we have a tendency to take freedom for granted, Brother Larry added, "We, the people of God, must focus on God's work. Otherwise, we shall be a hindrance to the Church."

A series of crises which caused a severe financial drain, right when the Tse Bonito church building was being built, evolved into some very gratifying results for Brother Larry. He commented, "That was true Christianity in action! We must fight together, if we are to overcome!"

Elder Claude Kayson (San Carlos) was anointed. He recently suffered a stroke and needs our continuing prayers.

Starting his sermon with "Your ways are not my ways; your thoughts are not my thoughts," Apostle Joseph Lovalvo illustrated his text by mentioning how the people who crossed the Red Sea were laughed at; and how Joshua was ridiculed when, at the Lord's command, he encircled the city of Jericho seven times, and the walls came crashing down. He included the healing of Naaman, who was afflicted with leprosy. Elisha told him to dip himself seven times in the River Jordan, and he was healed. *This* is God's way.

Referring to the current trials of the Church, Brother Joseph Lovalvo felt strongly that we are being put to the test. He encouraged the congregation by saying, "Steer the boat into the storm—for we shall surely reach dry land!"

He continued, "Yesterday when I called the hymn I Want to Be a Builder, I

felt a fire in my soul." He then asked, "Do you want to be a builder? I have been a builder for fifty-one years, and I am still asking God for more lumber!" With arms outstretched, he declared in a loud voice, "I rejoice in The Church of Jesus Christ!"

A group from San Diego sang Singing on the Mountain. Brother Stephen Saffron offered the closing prayer. Thus with a song and a prayer another blessed conference had come to an end.

Greetings with God's Love



This picture was taken of me on my Spiritual birthday, December 14. 1984, when I completed 65 years in the Church. I was 13 years old when I got baptized and I'm still standing on that Solid Rock. I'll never regret that day. It becomes sweeter as the years go by. I was baptized in 1919, one of the senior members of the Church.

My brother is Evangelist T. D. Bucci. He has a wife, two daughters, and his two grandsons are George and Mark Kovacic.

I hope to prove faithful to the end, to get that promise that God has made each of us, everlasting life with God and all the saints. We shall meet and be together someday.

Remember me in prayers; I am not too well. But thank God I am able to attend all our services at Youngstown, including Ladies' Circle and MBA. I am always happy to be with the people of God. Respect and love goes a long way.

Sister Minnie DePiero Youngstown, Ohio

"For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? But if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God." (I Peter 2:20)

50th Anniversaries

Yucaipa, CA

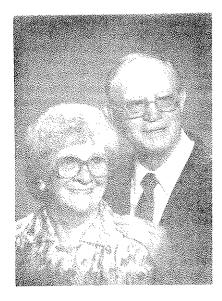
Brother Clarence and Sister Anna Kirkpatrick celebrated their 50th spiritual birthday on March 24, 1985.

Brother Kirkpatrick related how years ago he was ill with cancer and the doctors told him that all the money in the world could not buy him another day, and sent him home to die. Upon hearing this, their friend asked him if he would like to try his doctor. He said, "Sure."

His friend brought him to The Church of Jesus Christ and the ministry anointed and prayed for him and he was healed. This took place on March 3, 1935 at the Little Red Stone Branch in Pennsylvania. Three weeks later, they were both baptized.

Sister Anna sang *He Gave Me* Something Worth Living For, and proceeded to give her testimony of how the words of the song were so true to their lives and God surely gave them something worth living for. We all felt a beautiful spirit in this and were blessed to know that we all have been given something in our lives worth living for. If the Lord wills, they will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary this December.

May the Lord continue to be with them throughout their years. Sister Anna baked a cake depicting the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* for this occasion.



Bro. and Sis. Kirkpatrick



Sis. Rose Ali and Sis. Helen DiPiero

July 25, 1984 was a happy day in the Glassport Branch. We had gathered to celebrate a special occasion—the fiftieth "spiritual birthdays" of two of our sisters. We managed somehow to keep it a surprise, not letting them know that our meeting that Wednesday night was for them! We invited the families and friends of our sisters to share with our happiness and we filled the branch!

Brother John Ali introduced the meeting by letting Sisters Rose Ali and Helen DiPiero in on our secret. Our sisters were given corsages and a small commemorative gift from the branch. Brother Richard Lawson, district president, who was visiting from McKees Rocks, spoke about the accomplishment of so many years' service in the Gospel. He compared the relationship to a marriage, which also grows as we continue, day by day and month by month, to give our determined service and dedication to the task. The fifty years did not pass easily, but taken one day at a time, we see that progress has been made.

The Ladies' Circle sang Sister Rose's favorite hymn, Just As I Am, and I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, which is Sister Helen's favorite, and afterward presented them each with a decorative plaque of their favorite hymn. Brother Dan Casasanta spoke briefly, and continued with the theme of having to be determined and to persevere in our service to God. Brother David Nolfi sang a solo, One Day at a Time, and we retired to the basement for refreshments.

We thank God that He has given both our sisters that desire to serve Him and that He's given them the health and strength they have enjoyed. We look to our older brothers and sisters for guidance and support and we hope and pray that God will continue to bless our sisters for many years to come.

AN EXPERIENCE

One Saturday morning I decided to visit my sister Pauline, who lived in Pittsburgh at that time. After I was there for a while, I got a severe pain and I thought that I was dying. I said out loud, "Lord, have mercy on me!" and I must have fainted. When I fainted, I found myself in a place looking up at the Lord, who appeared to me in the way that I had pictured Him at that time, with a halo. He was looking down at me and it was so bright that I cannot even describe the brilliance. When I opened my eyes, I found myself in my sister's bedroom. I looked at my hands, which were all bent so that I couldn't open them and the room seemed so dark in comparison to the light that I had just seen. My sister and her husband took me to the hospital; I was there for a week, but they found nothing wrong with me. I finally went home, but I was so weak that I could hardly get around.

One day, someone knocked at my door. It was two of my neighbors (whom I had never met before) who had heard that I was sick, so they came to visit me. I asked them to come in, and they asked me if I believed that the Lord could make me well. I answered that I did, and they said that I could come to their church and be anointed. I said that I would when I was able. They stayed for a while, and, as they were leaving, I heard a sweet voice say into my ear, "I saved your life so you can save your soul."

When I was able, I did go to church. (The Glassport Branch held their meetings in a storeroom at that time.) What a welcome I received! I felt the true love of God, and I was not only anointed, but I asked for my baptism! The two neighbors were Sister Adeline Depiero and Sister Virginia Doratio and this all took place fifty-three years ago. I have had a beautiful life in this glorious Gospel since the days of my youth and I thank God that I'm still able to thank Him and glorify His high and holy name.

> Sister Rose Ali Glassport, PA

"Yea, and wo unto him that shall deny the revelations of the Lord, and that shall say the Lord no longer worketh by revelation, or by prophecy, or by gifts, or by tongues, or by healings, or by the power of the Holy Ghost!" (III Nep. 29:7)

A Letter from Africa

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Sister Thressa and I along with our children send our love to you from Nigeria.

This weekend we in the Abak Division or District had our Semiannual Convention. What is a Convention? It's meetings that take place over a weekend starting on Thursday night and ending on Sunday. These series of meetings are like District Conference and Campout all rolled into one. On Thursday evening the elders gathered at the appointed location to 'Arm the House,' in other words, fast and prav that God would guide the forthcoming meetings. There was no business done with the exception of being about Our Father's business in fasting and prayer. The Thursday night meeting lasted until 12 midnight.

On Friday morning all were awakened to meet the brothers and sisters, who started to arrive at 5:30 a.m. The day was spent in fasting and prayer and again closed at 12 midnight.

On Saturday morning services started at 5:30 a.m. All present went on a walk through the villages, singing songs of praise as they went. This walk lasted three hours and covered over nine miles. Upon our arrival at the convention site, a break was declared and we rested and visited until 4 p.m.

At 5 p.m. all went to a place designated for an open air service, about a one-mile hike to a junction on the village road near a marketplace. Loudspeakers were set up using a small generator, for there is no electric power in the bush area. About one thousand people gathered there, including many visitors from the neighboring fourteen villages. What a wonderful and beautiful experience I had preaching to all who would listen to the story of Jesus Christ. The Lord surely blessed the services. After about an hour and a half. we all went back to the convention or campgrounds and resumed services at 8 p.m. After opening and hearing from some of the choirs, I was given the opportunity to teach the Restoration of the Church and the events that took place with Joseph Smith. Then the choirs again sang songs commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

On Sunday morning, 1,500 brothers, sisters, and friends gathered to hear a very inspiring sermon by our president here in Nigeria, Brother E. U. A. Arthur. Although our brother is experienced with an extremely long life, and many years of service to God, he again set an example to us all with his enthusiasm and vibrance. God is surely blessing him in guiding the Church in Nigeria. Brother Arthur's sermon was based on Matthew 28, the resurrection of Christ. In closing, he reminded us of the commission that Christ gave us, taken from Matthew 28:18-20: "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." Then Brother Arthur turned to me and said, "Tell them in America that the harvest is ripe and the laborers are few; send more laborers to the vineyard of the Lord."

Our Sunday services concluded at 1 p.m. Our brothers and sisters then began returning home. I would like you all to know that most of these brothers and sisters had to walk to our campout. I drove and it took me one hour. Our brothers and sisters are very determined to serve the Lord. As I write this small account, I am very thankful to God for giving us the opportunity to serve God. Glory be to His name.

Pray for us that God will continue to guide us in His work in this part of the vineyard.

Sincerely in the Love of Christ, Bro. Paul and Sis. Thressa Carr; Bro. Paul Jr., Cheryl, and John

Ohio District Conference

By Stacey Light and Frank Natoli

Sister Lisa Miller sang Reach Out to Jesus to open our Sunday service on April 14, 1985. Brother Elmer Santilli made a few opening remarks and introduced Brother Ron Genaro, Brother Hank Cardillo, and Brother Phil Jackson as the new Ohio District President, First, and Second Counselors. Brother V. J. Lovalvo opened the service from I Nephi 16 & 18. Many times God uses small means to bring about his great and marvelous works. He has taken unlearned men such as Lehi and Nephi and made them into great men, even prophets . . . all because they believed on God.

God showed Nephi how to build a ship because he *asked*. Even through this, his brothers still mocked him, just as the children of Israel mocked Moses for taking them into the desert for so many years. Yet after the ship was built, Nephi's brothers said that it was a good ship and that Nephi was a shipbuilder. They all got on the ship and began to make merry. As a result, the Liahona ceased to work.

Brother Jim then spoke of the things in *our* lives . . . dancing, movies, HBO in our homes. Are we dancing and having a good time on our ship? Are we hurting anyone? Has our Liahona ceased to work? It is hard for people who are indulging in sin to hear the truth and be led by God!

If you recall, they mocked Jesus on the cross, saying, "Save yourself." Yet He said, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do." Alma said to his son that this was a type and shadow of looking to Jesus Christ, who will lead us to a far better land. Unfortunately, many fall because of the easiness of the way. Even the man with leprosy did not want to go to the water seven times because it was too easy. There is nothing hard about serving God, it is easy. We of the Church are the kingdom of God, the ship of Zion. All we have to do is obey His commandments and look to Him, do nothing to displease Him on this ship of Zion or else we will bind the hands of God. All that we need is the love of God and fear of the Lord. When we have both feet in the Gospel, it is easy to serve God. The Gospel was always easy, but men changed the way. "My burden is light and my yoke is easy . . '

Brother Ike Smith followed, speaking on that curious ship which was built by the hands of God, The Church of Jesus Christ. We are not led by man, but by Jesus Christ Himself. We are separate and different from *all* other people. Nephi was alone and refused to go along with his brothers. We are alone and refuse to participate in the world and even in the other factions of the Restoration. We are bound in the Restoration. We must be ready to do

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A Land of Freedom

This month marks the beginning of our nation's 210th year of freedom from the rule of kings and monarchs. Those of us who have never lived under any other system of government may at times take this freedom for granted, but as we read the scriptures, we realize what a very special blessing it is to live on this great land of America. The liberty that we enjoy here every day is nothing less than the fulfillment of prophecies given to the early inhabitants of this land. It is something that was ordained by Almighty God long before any of mankind dwelt here.

When our country's founding fathers assembled together to lay down the principles by which this land shold be governed (a task which took nearly five months to complete), it was no coincidence that they took great pains to preserve and maintain the liberty of each and every citizen. No doubt the Lord inspired them to establish a kind of government which would allow Joseph Smith to proclaim the Restored Gospel to others freely. Several thousand years earlier, the Lord gave Jacob, the son of Lehi, to understand that "this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles, and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles." (II Nephi 10:11)

It is interesting to note the similarities between our own government and the government King Mosiah set up to succeed his reign. Beginning with Mosiah 29:25, he describes a government based upon the voice of the people, rather than subjecting the Nephites to the possibility of being ruled by an unrighteous king. His inspiration for this change in government can very likely be traced to his having just translated the twenty-four gold plates which Ether had left for the people of Limhi to find. From these plates, Mosiah was privileged to read first hand of the treacherous Jaredite kings, who stopped at nothing to gain power for themselves. After reading how a mighty nation of people was completely annihilated in a civil war, Mosiah no doubt felt a strong need to establish the democratic reign of the judges: "... I desire that this land be a land of liberty, and every man may enjoy his rights and privileges alike, so long as the Lord sees fit that we may live and inherit the land, yea, even as long as any of our posterity remains upon the face of the land." (Mosiah 29:32)

Even from the time of the great flood, the Lord set aside this continent for a special purpose. "... 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)

In light of all the promises that God has made to the inhabitants of this continent, it would seem impossible for any evil to come upon this land. But, as with all of His promises, the Lord has placed a condition upon this blessed state of liberty. The Book of Mormon plainly states, in a number of places, that the inhabitants of the land shall remain free for as long as they shall call upon the name of the Lord and diligently seek to do His will. "And if the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; yea, then is the time He will visit you with great destruction even as He has hitherto visited this land." (Mosiah 29:27) When we read of what ultimately became of the people of Nephi, and of the Jaredites before them, we realize how important it is that those who dwell upon this land keep the Lord's commandments.

As we celebrate our independence this year, let us rejoice in the privilege we have of knowing whence our freedom truly comes, and give thanks and glory unto God for the liberty He has bestowed upon us. Above all, let us do our utmost to serve Him, knowing that whatever may befall this land in years to come, the Lord will preserve His people, and allow them in the end to help build that city of Zion upon this blessed land of America!

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is \$6,00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Every human life will someday come to an end. All those that marched to death that day were joyfully accepted into the kingdom of God. Each new soul also found a place and a purpose in life. Never before had such a great determination to serve God been seen on the face of this Promised Land.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105

The Nation That Refused to Go to War

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Nephites and Lamanites had hated and hunted each other for many years. So when Ammon, Aaron, and their brethren first told their Nephite friends that they wanted to go and tell the Lamanites about God, their friends laughed at them for being so foolish. And they told these men of God, "Why do you think you can bring the Lamanites, those hard-hearted sinners and murderers, to understand God? What we should do is take up weapons and kill every one of them so that they never grow to outnumber us!" (See Alma 26:23-25)

But the Lord worked with these good men and they preached and suffered much until King Lamoni became a believer and allowed religious freedom in his kingdom. Ammon stayed with Lamoni, but his brothers left prison and went straight to Lamoni's father, the great Lamanite king.

This man and his family were converted to believe in God, and the king sent a law out to allow everyone to serve God as they believed, and a law giving Aaron and his preacher-brethren freedom to go anywhere to preach and teach the Gospel. Many of the Lamanites were converted by the beautiful word of God. These people changed their name to Anti-Nephi-Lehis, and before the great old king died, he changed the name of his son who would succeed him to Anti-Nephi-Lehi as well.

Now trouble rose up throughout the Lamanite kingdom. The other groups of people living among the Lamanites, called Amalekites and Amulonites, had the hardest hearts of all. Even though they were once Nephites and knew about the Lord, they refused to be loving, caring people. They violently hated all

followers of God and all Nephites. They began to make secret plans to kill their godly king and all who followed the Lord.

King Anti-Nephi-Lehi and his brother, King Lamoni, met with Ammon and Aaron and other converted rulers to pray and seek God's direction in what to do. The Nephites who followed God never killed except to protect themselves, but these newly baptized converts were determined never to kill again, under any circumstances. They were not afraid of death because they knew it meant they would be living with God.

As a sign of their determination not to kill, they gathered together all their swords and knives and weapons of every sort and buried them deep in the earth. "Never again will we stain our swords with the blood of our brethren," they promised.

When the day came that their Lamanite and Amalekite enemies marched to their city to fight them, they went out, singing praises to God, and marched into death. Over a thousand were cut down as they knelt on the ground, calling upon God and telling their enemies that they loved them.

The Lamanites could take no more. It I died to self that He might live ripped their hearts to see how their brethren had changed. These oncefierce fighters now preferred to die, singing God's praises.

That day, over a thousand new Lamanite warriors threw down their swords, like their brethren before them, and begged God to lead them and accept them as His own. The rest of the army was so upset that they guit the battlefield and made plans to go attack the Nephites instead.

Vesterday

When I recall the yesterdays, The rubble, storm and strife; I thank my Precious Lord again For giving me new life. There was a time of darkness and I'd surely lost my way. My life was empty, meaningless; I could not even pray.

Rejection heightened feelings of My lack of self-esteem;

Failure ate my peace of mind, Destroyed my every dream.

The mornings that I wakened to

Held nothing more than dread; My hope for happiness dissolved,

I wished that I were dead.

But then, one single word, "forgive," Was spoken from His throne,

And in my spirit beamed a light . . . He beckoned, "Child, come home."

Within the heart of me:

I chose the certain route to peace. My shepherd, now is He. I'm walking in His victory,

A child of Christ, my King,

In Him I find fulfillment and To Him my praise I sing!

> By Anna Lee Edwards McAlpin Submitted by Sister Patti Gianfermi

Our Women Today

California District Ladies' Circle Retreat-Seminar

By Margaret Henderson Excerpted from The Anaheim Newsletter

The fourth annual seminar and retreat for the ladies of the California District was held at The Hilton Inn, Bakersfield, California on March 16 and 17, 1985.

The sisters that attended the retreat were from Anaheim, Bell, Lindsay, Modesto, Riverside and Hinkley, California. Sisters Jean Moore of Imperial, Pennsylvania and Rose Palermo of Phoenix, Arizona were also in attendance.

The morning session started on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. The theme of the seminar was words beginning with "RE" (meaning to do again). Sister Elizabeth Simpson was in charge of the retreat and she took the subject matter from the Book of Nehemiah. She made the Book come alive and interesting. It is all about REbuilding the walls of Jerusalem, REstoring the gates and the REnewing of the faith in God of the Jewish people.

In the afternoon the sisters shared the "RE" words that they chose to study. In these sessions they had words of REdedication, REhabilitation, REnewal of their faith, REjoicing in the things of God, REmembering all the things God had done for them and many more "RE's". Many young sisters REaffirmed their faith in God, and their love for the Church and the saints.

In the evening a delicious buffet dinner was served. A meeting was had summarizing the seminars, and a slumber party was held in Sister Kay Gray's room.

On Sunday morning *The Songs of Zion* were sung and testimonies were had. The sisters told how much the weekend had meant to them inasmuch as they were ready to REnew themselves in their effort to serve God. After the meeting a brunch was served.

Throughout the weekend there was some special singing from Sister Rose Lovalvo and the Lindsay group. There was much fellowship and joy in being together.

Pennsylvania Circles Organize As a District

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle of Pennsylvania organized as a District on May 11, 1985 at McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. Sister Carol Monahan, president of the McKees Rocks Circle, welcomed all that attended the meeting.

The Chairman of the district is Sister Elsie Gehley; Secretary, Sister Diane Ciotti; and Treasurer is Sister Eva Ondik. All were elected by motion. There will be two meetings held in a year. A seminar will be held at the next meeting on November 3, 1985 at Fredonia, Pennsylvania.

MBA Highlights

Lake Worth, FL

By Dianne Maddox

The saints in the Lake Worth, FL MBA have kept very busy these past few months. We held a "Family of God Thanksgiving Dinner" at the branch on the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 25. The meal was followed by a program prepared by Sisters Evelyn Swihard and Carmella Mazzeo. This was enjoyed by all in attendance.

In December we enjoyed a Christmas program prepared by Sisters Josephine Jasmin and Beverly Schuette and presented by the children of the branch.

March brought our annual area campout. This was attended by almost all those in our local and the Spirit of God was truly felt.

We are thankful for the strength of our youth in our MBA and praise God for all things!

PA Area MBA Spiritual Meeting

On Saturday evening, March 9, an Area MBA spiritual meeting was held at the Imperial Branch. A good turnout from the area filled the building to capacity.

After a season of singing Brother David DeLuca, our area president, welcomed everyone. Brother Paul Ciotti, area chaplain, introduced the theme of missionary work in the Church. The brothers who occupied the rostrum are currently involved in some phase of missionary work.

Our first speaker was Brother Robert Nicklow, chairman of the district Urban Indian Committee. He read the words of Enos from the Book of Mormon, "And I had faith, and I did cry unto God that He would preserve the records, and He covenanted with me that He would bring them forth unto the Lamanites in His own due time." That time has come. Only we, The Church of Jesus Christ, can take the true message to the Seed of Joseph. We must not wait any longer! There is a job for everyone to do in this work.

Brother Paul Palmieri, our district Mission Board Chairman, then spoke of Ammon and his efforts in preaching the Word of God. As a servant of the king, Ammon was faithful and remained at his post of duty to defend the king's flocks. This gave him the opportunity to preach about Jesus Christ and convert the king and his family. Like Ammon, we must be faithful and diligently fast and pray. Brother Paul related a dream that was had in California, where a brother saw a ship sailing on a calm sea. Suddenly, a great storm arose. It was given to the brother that you can't turn the ship to the left or to the right, or try to run away from the storm. You must head the ship straight into the storm, because after the storm comes the calm waters. Most importantly, do not get off the ship or you will surely drown.

The next speaker was Brother John Griffith, the chairman of the General Church Board of Missions. He said that it is easy to feel comfortable in the Church, sitting in the back pews while

Branch and Mission News

Omaha-Bedford

By Dorothy Miller

8

Greetings from the Omaha-Bedford Mission. We praise God for the blessings we have received and we would like to share our progress with the readers of The Gospel News. The work here continues to grow according to God's plan. It's a blessing to watch the work unfold, proving that God is true to all His promises. On Sunday, December 16, 1984 we gathered at our baptismal site on the Missouri River. Two new names were written down in heaven. Beverly Allen and Debra Reese were baptized into the fold by Brother Vince Gibson. God truly prepared the day for us. The weather threatened and appeared to be our enemy. Heavy snow and freezing rain had fallen the day before and all through the night, but by morning the storm had cleared, leaving us a beautiful day for the baptisms. We rejoiced to see our two new sisters come up out of the water new creatures in Christ.

After the baptisms we returned to our meeting place in Omaha for services. Brother Vince opened the service using Matthew 11:28 as his text. He spoke of how our new sisters had heeded the great invitation that Jesus offers to all who are weary of the things of this world. Through their obedience to the Gospel their yokes were made easy and their burdens light. We sang Ring the Bells of Heaven as our sisters came forward for confirmation. Both were confirmed by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Spirit by Brother Vince. Both sisters testified, thanking God for the joy they felt. We were also pleased that day to have Brother Adam Costarella from Youngstown, Ohio visiting with us. In his testimony he spoke of the blessing he received just being with us and he encouraged us to continue in the work of the Lord.

Sister Debra's daughter, five-year-old La-Tikka Reese, was presented to be blessed. The spirit of God sealed this blessing upon her through Brother Vince's prayer. Sister Beverly's three children were blessed in the Church in 1981.

Our new sisters are welcome additions to the family of God. God has revealed that more will come by their testimonies. Remember them in your prayers.

Growth, both spiritual and natural, is very evident in our mission. We thank God that He has extended our brothers. Brother Clifton Wells and Brother Calvin Matthews, both ordained teachers, are in charge of our mission under the direction of the Ohio District Mission Board. Since we have no resident elder, they lead our services. We thank God for the word He has put in them for us to feed on. God knows our needs and we are confident of His promise to supply all that we stand in need of. Pray for our brothers; we know that they are part of God's plan for the mission here.

On Sunday, January 25, 1985, we were privileged to have Brother David Majoros from Tucson, Arizona visit us. His kindred spirit went out to meet ours and what a blessing we all received. He spoke to us about the Plan of Redemption using I Peter 1:18 and Genesis 1:3 as his text. Jesus Christ, the rock and foundation of our redemption, brings all mankind back into the presence of God. We know that God sent Brother David to our mission with a message for us. Our spirits were lifted and we were encouraged. Brother David remained with us for over a week and while here, he taught us the commandments of Jesus Christ; the "Christ in you" establishing the work of the kingdom on earth. What a blessing! We thank God for sending this brother to us and our prayer is that we were as much a blessing to him as he was to us.

As you can see God has abundantly blessed the Omaha-Bedford Mission. All of our members are in good health and we praise God for the strength He has given us to do His work. We love Jesus Christ, we love His Church and our desire continues to be that all may know that the Gospel in its purity has been restored in these the last days.

Detroit Inner City

By Diana Stigleman

Wanted—Men and women to work for the Lord. Hours are long and demanding. Reward for service comes only with total commitment and much sacrifice. As an onlooker viewing Detroit, Michigan's Inner City Branch, that is how I regard the brothers and sisters who work there.

The needs of the area residents and new members coming into the branch are so varied that our elders seem stretched to their very limits. Into individual homes our brothers and sisters go, bringing with them love, food baskets, and help in whatever form they find necessary. Through it all they still manage to accomplish their true mission, that of showing the area residents what the love of God really is, and telling them about our wonderful Restored Gospel.

When I view the work being done in the Inner City, I equate it with the mission given to the Apostle Paul. Paul's heart as well as his feet entered into unknown and yet unbroken ground. Although he suffered much, the fruits of his labor benefit all mankind even today.

Our brothers and sisters likewise are treading in unknown but fertile ground. The elders are particularly aware of the fact that anything less than a total effort will result in failure. For this reason you will find that their roots have become embedded in the Inner City, and much of their life revolves around it.

Are you asking what brings about such devotion?

I believe the answer lies within the Inner City people themselves. When they learn to trust you, you will be embraced by their sincerity and warm, yet fragile love. Their testimonies in praise to God are very special also, containing the qualities of simplicity and humility. Their voices in song equally share those same two qualities. God's Spirit truly abides with them.

Not all of us were equipped to be an Apostle Paul. We each have our own special calling in God's wonderful work. For the brothers and sisters whom God has chosen to establish and care for the Inner City Branch, I ask an interest in your prayers. They deeply love the work God has called them to do.

I ask an interest in your prayers for our Inner City members and friends, also. Many facing the cold realities of city living must fight on a daily basis just to stay afloat.

May God's richest blessings be with you one and all.

Valley Branch, CA

By Joyce Azzinaro

This year has been a blessed one for all of us at the Valley Branch in California. We had a baptism on March 10. Larry Clayton committed himself to the Lord on March 3. The following week he was baptized, but oh how the Lord worked with him in that week! Larry moved to California in May of 1981 from Madison Heights, Michigan. On visits back to Michigan he met Sister Debbie Busch of the Sterling Heights Branch. He first attended The Church of Jesus Christ in May of 1984 and was married to Debbie on August 4 of that year. They've both attended church regularly since moving here. When Larry asked for his baptism, he had been trying to get a better job. That week the Lord opened the door for him and he got a very good job as a Product Development Engineer. It is a pleasure and an uplift to have a new brother and sister in our branch.

We were privileged to have Brother Paul D'Amico in our branch for two months. He and his wife, Sister Grace, came for the birth of a grandchild from their daughter, Sharon Church, who had moved to California with her husband. Sharon gave birth to a boy on April 2, Joshua Paul Church was blessed on Easter Sunday by his grandfather, Brother Paul D'Amico. We surely enjoyed having Brother Paul in our midst and we miss him.

Our Valley Branch has struggled without our own building for about four years. Buying land and not being able to build a church on it set us back a bit. We tried to change the court's ruling, but to no avail. We had to sell that property and buy somewhere else, which seemed to take forever. But standing firm on the Gospel of Jesus Christ, in faith believing, holding many fast and prayer services, the Lord made a way and we did sell and buy new land in March. We are looking forward to having ground-breaking and start building the church soon.

Even though we've seen our membership reduced as many of our brothers and sisters have moved to various missionary locations in the past thirteen years, we're holding strong in faith and praying that after our new church building is completed, we will grow and multiply.

The building will be in Simi Valley,

CA and there are a lot of people in the area happy to know that a church is going up. They will be watching us and through God's guidance we feel it will draw them to The Church of Jesus Christ.

We are greatly anticipating a new spiritual uplift through the Holy Spirit and ask for your prayers in this regard.

We know the Valley Branch has a lot of work ahead of us. We look forward to this work for the honor and glory of God.

Monongahela, PA

By LuAnn Carson

On February 24, 1985 the Monongahela Branch was blessed as we witnessed the ordination of Brother Charles Kogler to the office of deacon. Every meeting throughout the day, from Sunday School to MBA, was touched by God's spirit.

Brother Walter Jankowski from Anaheim, California opened our preaching service, requesting us to consider the basics of life. Instead of dwelling upon life's complexities, we should see life as a gentle, peaceful walk with God. Brother Walter then read Genesis 5:21-24 which states, "Enoch walked with God: and he was not, for God took him." The Hebrew interpretation of 'walk' is 'to live a lifestyle according to God's will.' If we do this, God will take us as He took Enoch.

Our lives are journeys toward the tree of life, as Lehi saw in his vision. As we travel, we follow God's direction, His word, the rod of iron, which will lead us to our spiritual goal.

Brother Idris Martin followed, stating that we obtain this walk with God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Our afternoon meeting was opened by Brother John Griffith, who read I Timothy 3:1-13, an exhortation to the deacons of the Church. He reminded us that though Brother Kogler has been baptized for less than a year, through his faith he can be used of God. The duties of a deacon were then read by Brother Bob Nicklow. He related an experience he had during a meeting when Brother Chuck's name came to him, and when Bob looked at Chuck's face his beard and face appeared white. We proceeded with the ordination, with Brother William Chepanoske washing Brother Chuck's feet. He was then ordained by Brother Richard Scaglione.

After a season of testimony, the meeting was closed with all in attendance feeling a portion of God's spirit.

We reconvened that evening for another outpouring of God's blessings. A meeting of testimony, singing, and speaking was enjoyed by all. Several brothers and sisters testified that they were given to know that Brother Scaglione would be the one to ordain Brother Chuck that afternoon. Also, a sister was given to know that Brother Chepanoske would wash Chuck's feet. We are thankful for this confirmation by God's spirit. We thank God for filling our cups and pray that He will bless our Brother Chuck in his new office.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

On Sunday May 5, 1985 the Sterling Heights Branch held a special service in commemoration of ten years as an independent branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Everyone in attendance felt blessed to be part of the great work of the Lord.

Many pioneers of the branch and of the district were there, including Brother Lou Vitto, visiting Brother Tony Gerace from the Inner City Branch, and Brother Querino Bologna from Saline, MI. We were also privileged to have Brother George Benyola from the Dallas, Texas Mission, who exhorted the saints with words from on high. Our Brother George noted how beautiful it is to see the Lord prospering His saints at Sterling Heights as well as at Dallas, where the saints are few but growing.

The luncheon after our Sunday service was delightful and we all thank the sisters for bringing food and preparing a delicious meal for the saints.

We also want to thank the ministry for their untiring efforts in this part of the vineyard. We must all maintain a missionary spirit and an intense study of God's word at all times.

We thank you, Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Detroit, Branch 2

By Lisa DiRado

We felt a double blessing on March 17 at Branch 2 because of two events which will help to further God's kingdom here on earth—the ordination of Brother Andrew Parravano as deacon, and the baptism of Darleen Pursly.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo opened our meeting, speaking about how the prophet Samuel was dedicated to the Lord by his parents when he was a small boy. We as parents feel the same when we bring our children to be blessed. We want them to work for the Lord and be interested in the Church all their lives.

He also spoke from Acts 6 about Stephen, who was a deacon. "And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people." Brother Leonard reminded us that there is a great spiritual responsibility in being a deacon.

Brother Leonard also spoke of Isaiah and how the seraphim touched his lips with a burning coal to purge his sin, after which he heard the voice of the Lord say, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Isaiah responded with, "Here am I; send me." Brother Leonard forwarded the question, "Who will go? We are here to establish Christ's kingdom—to offer salvation to all."

Brother Andrew's feet were washed by his father, Brother Dan Parravano, and he was ordained by his uncle, Brother Jack Pontillo.

Right after the young people sang God's Still on His Throne, Darleen Pursly stood on her feet and asked for her baptism. She had been attending our branch two years ago and had expressed her joy at the spirituality of the Church.

Sister Darleen was baptized by Brother Alex Gentile and confirmed by Brother Dan Parravano. She has had experiences confirming her faith in the Church. When she last attended one year ago, she felt an angel behind her as Brother Dominic Thomas closed the meeting in prayer. Even today, she saw a golden glow around Brother Leonard as he was speaking and she knew he was speaking the truth.

We know the Church is moving for-

ward to greater things, and we are grateful for the willingness of our newly-ordained brother and newlybaptized sister to help in this great work.

Erie, PA

By Phyllis Kovacic

Family Spring Fellowship was the title of the special meeting we had in the Erie, PA Branch. Cards were sent out to family and friends, inviting them to this meeting to introduce them to the Church. It was a wonderful and refreshing day spent in giving thanks to God and praising His name. Our first visiting speaker was Brother Russ Martorana of the Niles, OH Branch. Brother Russ spoke concerning families, both natural and spiritual. His words were, not to put faith in man but put our faith and trust in God. To go from sinner to saint is the greatest thing that can happen in our life. Christ changes lives. We feel a kindred spirit in the family of God.

Brother Art Gehly continued on the same thought, stating that the natural family is not enough. Only through God can a family unit survive as one. He also commented on the astounding number of broken homes today, divided families. A family unit must be led by God. Consider God first and foremost.

Brother Harold Burge had some closing remarks, and after the meeting a lunch was served. It was an exceptional day for Erie Branch and we thank God for our visitors and our Spring Fellowship Meeting.

On Easter Sunday we were again blessed with visitors. Our meeting was opened with our visiting speaker, Brother T. D. Bucci. Brother Bucci's topic was "God's Still on His Throne." He gave an account on an experience of seeing God on His throne. We are truly lifted up when we hear the experiences and revelations of the saints. Brother Bucci also spoke of the Resurrection. How wonderful it is to hear the testimonies of our visiting brothers and sisters.

This was the last Sunday brother Stacey and Sister Carolyn Light would be in our branch. They are making a move to California. Though we are saddened by their departure, we pray that God would bless them and use them as He sees fit. May God bless our spiritual families all over the earth.

Detroit, Branch 4

By Marie Fera

The saints of Branch 4 send their love to all the brothers and sisters throughout the Church everywhere, and also want to let you know that we are enjoying blessings bestowed upon us as we continue to praise and glorify the name of the Lord. Jesus promised, "For where there are two or three gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them." We truly can say that we have felt His presence in our midst many times.

A couple of years ago, Brother Carl Frammolino transferred to our branch with his wife, Sister Joanne, and Brother Norman and Sister Rosalie Campitelle. We shared and enjoyed many wonderful times such as holding a "Getting Re-acquainted Meeting," sending invitations to many brothers and sisters all over Detroit and also to friends that had not attended for many years. We had a large turnout and a memorable evening.

Later that year we chartered a bus and went to Hill Cumorah to the pageant that is presented there. The next morning we went to Lockport, New York, to be with the saints there. We had a wonderful time. All the elders took part in the service in a few minutes of praising God. The sisters served a delicious lunch, and we were very happy to see all our brothers and sisters there. Before we left we formed a circle, holding hands, and Brother Paul D'Amico offered a prayer for our departure home. We had a marvelous time on the bus; we sang hymns and had a meeting. Many of us got up and testified. We even had the bus driver singing!

Since then Sister Rosalie Campitelle was ordained a deaconess in our branch. Brother Norman Campitelle had heart surgery in December of 1984, and with our prayers and the hand of the Lord, Brother Norman had a quick recovery and was back in our midst within a month. Brother Angelo Maisano had a stroke and still can't walk or speak. Brother Jerome Palermo has been in a nursing home for the past four years. Sister Alice Mazade hasn't been able to come to church due to her ill health. Also, our Sister Catherine Benedetto's health has been failing and she asked to be released of her duties as our head deaconess for the last 38 years. All of the above brothers and sisters need our

We want to extend our personal sympathy to Brother Dennis Moraco, his family, and Brother Dominic and Sister Connie Moraca and family for the passing of their beloved wife and daughterin-law. We hope and pray that the Lord will comfort and bless them.

With all the sad news above we also have good news. We've accepted the transfers of Brother Nick Pietrangelo and his wife Sister Yolanda from Branch 1. Brother Frank and Sister Kay Vitto from Branch 3, and Brother Kerry and Sister Salina Carlini from the Saline Mission and Branch 1 respectively. Brother Dennis and Sister Debbie Bruno returned to our branch after living in New Jersey for one year. We are very happy to welcome our brothers and sisters and anyone else who wants to come to our branch; we have plenty of love for everyone here. Apostle Nick Pietrangelo is our presiding elder now and we pray and trust that the Lord will be our brother's guide and helper.

We had visitors in our branch from California; Brother John Capone Jr., Sister Lucy Hemp, Brother Randy Ciccati and Sister Jill Coppa.

On May 10, 1985, Branch 4 held a Social Night. We reminisced and watched with glee some of the home movies the saints brought of themselves and of their children of years gone by. These movies included weddings, baptisms, and many church functions. Of special delight was seeing some of the past church leaders such as Brothers Alma and William H. Cadman. We all enjoyed seeing ourselves as children, young men and women, in many instances with trimmer waists and darker, fuller heads of hair.

On Sunday, May 12, a beautiful

tribute to mothers was given by Brother Nick Pietrangelo on Mother's Day. Following Brother Nick were Brothers Norman Campitelle and Tony Lovalvo, who also related personal and touching memorials to their mothers.

We at Branch 4 are most grateful and appreciative of the many blessings God has bestowed upon us. We pray that God would continually manifest His Spirit within your daily lives. May God keep you and bless you always.

New Brunswick, NJ

Praise God!

A Blessing! A Miracle!

Sister Regina Irsig, a newly-baptized member from the New Brunswick Branch, was able, through the Spirit and strength of our Lord, to give up smoking after 31 years. Praise the Name of the Lord!

Sister Regina lives in a nursing home. She is blind from diabetes and is quite ill. Please remember her in prayer. She loves the Lord and His Church. She loves her brothers and sisters. Please send cards of encouragement to her.

Her address is:

Regina Irsig, Room 236 Edison Estates 435 Plainfield Av. Edison, NJ 08817

PA AREA MBA continued . . .

the elders sit up front on the rostrum. But what if the elder would walk to the back of the building to preach? Would those in the last rows still feel comfortable? To illustrate this point, Brother John walked off the rostrum into the congregation and continued his speaking. His point was made—we should not feel comfortable in our pews in an established routine. We must draw ourselves out more, including going out to take the Gospel to others as our missionary effort.

The final speaker was Brother Dick Lawson, our district president. He stated that missionary work is not just for the officers or mission board members, but it begins with everyone. We must be enthusiastic about the Gospel so we can convey the message to others. We should not see how much pleasure we can get from the Church, but how much service we can give. We must not find ourselves becoming complacent.

All in all, we were given much food for thought about our part in spreading the Gospel to others. We can be actively involved in our own communities as well as in foreign countries, but at least do something to help bring others to the knowledge of The Church of Jesus Christ.

OHIO CONFERENCE continued . . .

whatever the Lord and the Church needs.

Brother Frank Giovannone then told us of a dream which he had six months after he was baptized. The Lord showed him where he would be if he did not serve Him and he was shown the mansion where a room was prepared for him if he would serve God.

Sacrament was administered and all of the young people came forward to sing *Wave the Flags of Zion* to bring our conference to a close.

* WEDDINGS

CRANDALL-FURNIER

Frank Crandall of San Francisco, California and Nickie Furnier of Santa Barbara, California were united in holy matrimony on November 23, 1984, in a garden ceremony at Santa Barbara.

Evangelist Ether Furnier, father of the bride, officiated.

May God bless this couple with guidance and love in their new life together.

MELLOR-KUCHERA

Kenneth Bradley Mellor and Kim Kuchera were united in holy matrimony on March 23, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, PA.

Brother Lirio Fallavollitti officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were rendered by Brother Joe Saeli and Sister Lana Fallavollitti. Organist was Sister Erma Draskovich, and pianist was Sister Alice Saeli.

The newlyweds will reside in Cleveland, Ohio.

12 July, 1985

OBITUARIES

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

ANTONIO VIECELI

Brother Antonio Vieceli of Detroit, Branch 4 passed peacefully unto his Eternal Reward on May 6, 1985.

He was born July 21, 1901 in Fondazo, Province of Bologna, Italy. This wonderful brother has been in a convalescent home for several years. He never forgot the brothers and sisters and was always very grateful and mindful of the Church.

He leaves to mourn one son, John, and two daughters, Cora Mayer and Anita Zoratti.

The funeral service was officiated by Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo, assisted by Brother Norman Campitelle and Brother Frank Vitto.

WELLOR LITTLE

Brother Wellor Little of the Glassport, PA Branch passed away on July 11, 1984. He was born on November 16, 1894 and baptized into the Church on May 1, 1949 by Brother Alvin Swanson. He was confirmed by Brother Antonio DiBattista.

Funeral services were held by Brother Alma Nolfi on July 14, 1984.

In his later years, our brother was unable to leave his home due to illness, and we thank God that he has found an end to his suffering here below.

DOROTHY HUMPHREY

Sister Dorothy (Little) Humphrey of Glassport, PA died on November 9, 1984. She was born on March 18, 1919 and baptized on August 10, 1947 by Brother Antonio DiBattista.

	Address Change
Name	
Phone _	

Funeral services were conducted by Brother David Nolfi.

Sister Dorothy is survived by four children and many grandchildren.

HARRY LITTLE

Brother Harry Little died on December 11, 1984. A member of the Glassport, PA Branch, he was born on November 10, 1932 and baptized into the Church on April 20, 1947 by Brother Valentino Fernandez.

Brother Alma Nolfi led the funeral services. Brother Harry will be missed by his family and all the saints at Glassport.

JAMES CARNEVAL

Brother James Carneval passed from this life on February 17, 1985. Born September 3, 1900 in Italy, he was baptized into the Church on August 30, 1931 by Brother Antonio DiBattista at Glassport, PA.

Graveside services were held in Lindsay, CA by Brother Tony Picciutto. Brother Jim leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Sister Catherine, a son, Brother Delio (Del), and a daughter, Theresa Biddle. We are thankful that the Lord has called our brother home.

ELIZABETH PARLOR

Sister Elizabeth (Lynch) Parlor passed away on April 7, 1985. She was born on October 14, 1893 and baptized into the Church on July 6, 1925 at West Elizabeth, PA by Brother William H. Cadman.

Funeral services wre held at the Greensburg Branch by Brothers James Campbell and Dan Casasanta.

Our sister was dearly loved by all who knew her and we will miss her.

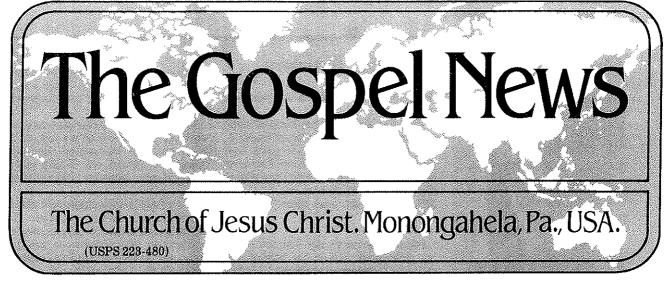
JOSEPH NICOSIA, SR.

Brother Joseph Nicosia, Sr. of the Anaheim, CA Branch passed from this life on April 15, 1985. He was born in San Marcos, Sicily, on December 13, 1908 and baptized by Brother V. James Lovalvo on September 5, 1954.

His funeral was conducted by Brothers Rusty Heaps and Frank Ciotti.

Brother Joseph is survived by his wife, Sister Sadie; three sons, John, Joseph Jr., and Leo; eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Although Brother Joe will be greatly missed by many brothers, sisters, and friends, we rejoice in knowing that he is in a much better place, and walking with our Lord.



August, 1985

Volume 41, No. 8

May GMBA Conference: On to Higher Spiritual Ground!

Following the hymn I Know Whom I Have Believed, GMBA Chaplain Paul Ciotti prefaced the upcoming business of the day by comparing the role of the GMBA to that of Aaron and Hur, who stayed up Moses' hands until the Israelites overcame the Amalekites (Exodus 17:8-13). In our day and time, to paraphrase Brother Paul, the GMBA must likewise support the work of The Church of Jesus Christ so that the Latter Day Kingdom of God can conquer the powers of Satan, which seek to stop the gathering of Israel.

GMBA President John Griffith greeted the large group of saints representing the Atlantic Coast, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Areas, and welcomed them to the Euclid (Ohio) Middle School Auditorium. Reports on unfinished business commenced with GMBA Vice President Charles Jumper's progress report on the Religious Awareness Pamphlet project, a booklet intended to provide a comparative analysis of many of the major religions' points of doctrine. Two religions remain to be surveyed in order to complete the project. Material for the pamphlet will be submitted for review and approval of the General Church before further action is taken toward printing.

The **Pen-Pal Program**, established to enhance communication between American and foreign members of the Church, is gaining momentum, according to a report given by Brother John Griffith.

More good news followed in the form

By Ryan Gene Ross, GMBA Editor

of a progress report by Brother Alex Gentile and Sister Lydia Link, indicating that the **Book of Mormon Concordance** project is nearing completion. About 80% of the typeset pages have been proofread, and 1000 copies of the concordance are expected to be printed by November 1985. The book will probably sell for fifteen dollars.

The revisions to the GMBA by-laws were approved by a majority of the locals which participated in the survey. The revised by-laws will be submitted to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles for approval, and until that time, the existing by-laws will govern the operation of the GMBA.

Following the discussion of unfinished business, the GMBA officers alternated their reports with those of the delegates, which were uniquely presented in an area-by-area sequence. Details of the officers' reports will be available in the GMBA minutes, which should be read aloud in your local MBA. If you are truly *involved* and *interested* in the MBA, you will be guaranteed not to find these minutes boring.

Under the heading of new business, the GMBA committed itself to the development of a new project, a **Welcome Packet**, to be provided for purchase and use in all branches and missions as a step-by-step guide for first-time visitors to our Church. This pamphlet would provide scriptural basis for each of the proceedings of our meetings, from studying the scriptures in Sunday School to the ordinances of Communion and Feet Washing. This conference also elected to support the printing of the paperback *Book of Mormon* to be used in the missionary endeavors of the General Church.

It was also passed at this conference that we continue the Special Projects Fund, with a goal of \$250 per local. This money is dedicated strictly to the missionary work of the Church and we hope that even if a local cannot reach their goal of \$250, that each and every local MBA would at least participate in the campaign by making a best-effort donation toward this project, which benefits all areas of missionary endeavor, foreign and domestic, to Israel and to the Gentile. The Special Project for this six-month period (May-November 1985) is the Paperback Book of Mormon Printing Fund.

This same fund was supported when the topic of disbursement of funds reached the conference floor. The membership voted to set aside \$1000 of our funds toward replenishing this worthwhile project. To continue in the support of the Nigerian youth, this conference committed \$210 to cover the first-year expenses of a student at our secondary school. Brother Nephi DeMercurio, formerly a missionary in Nigeria, later gave us a personal insight into the importance of this type of support when he narrated a slide presentation of the Church in Nigeria, featuring our secondary school, which is esteemed very highly there. We voted to turn the remaining \$3220 at our disposal over to the General Church

Greetings in Christ to All Readers



"Train up a child in the way he should go and, when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

For years Modesto talked about the subject of training children scholastically. It finally came to pass in 1982. It can be said that without the help of Phil and Val Van Allsburg, this would have been a much more costly and difficult task. And without Jody Wilcorson and Lydia Dulisse, the task would still be a climb to a high mountain. But without the help of so many of you who gave so generously of your resources and prayers, there would not be a school. I wish you all could be present to witness these children putting on a program.

You should also see the faces of their parents and grandparents as these 3and 4-year olds recite their parts and sing praises to God and Christ. I wonder how Isaiah felt when he saw the vision of peace on earth, and wrote, "... a little child shall lead them." (Isaiah 11:6)

Isaiah goes on to say that the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den, and they shall not hurt nor destroy. These are not impossible dreams, for the Lord has spoken, and it shall come to pass. Show not a bad example to a child, but teach them the right way of the Lord and they will bless you. Modesto is truly grateful for each of you who have supported these little children and those who teach them because they care enough to.

Remember, children are our greatest heritage and resource of the future. No wonder Jesus blessed them and taught the adults to be as a little child. "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) These pictures will give you a small view of our little school. Truly a small beginning, but a giant leap forward.

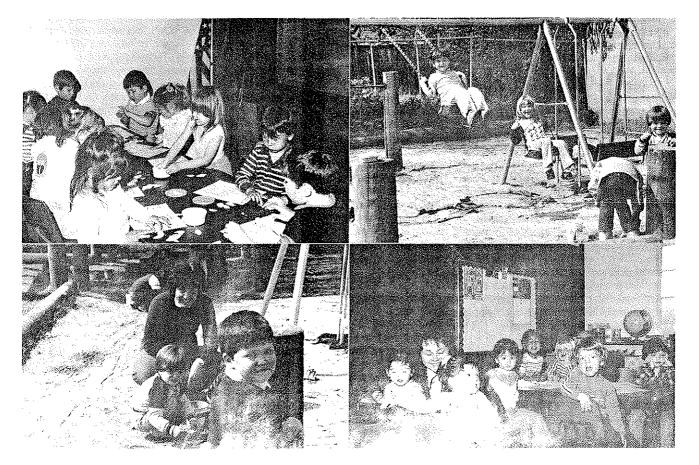
Please pray for those who care and work for the success of the school. We know you will. We named the school Greenoak, because our Church had its beginnings in Greenoak, Pennsylvania.

The school is state approved and the teachers are state certified. Our building meets both local and state requirements. We thought you would all be glad to learn that this little school is alive and well, with all thanksgiving to our God and those who labor for its success.

Drop a note to Sisters Judy and Lydia. You will be cheering them, and they will be glad to hear from you. Do it today. Inasmuch as our Church is a family of Jesus Christ, each and every one of us is a part of the family, an important part.

> God bless each of you, Mark Randy

Greenoak Christian School The Church of Jesus Christ 329 W. Briggsmore Avenue Modesto, CA 95350



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo



"O fear the Lord, ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear him." (Psalm 34:9)

"God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him." (Psalm 89:7)

To begin with, let me explain what I believe is the "fear of the Lord." It is simply this: The deep awe, reverence, and respect towards God. To those that truly believe in God, fear towards Him is not a terror-filled emotion, nor a physical dread. It is rather a loving kind of reverence and an awe-filled respect for a God who is merciful, just, and compassionate.

The fear of God is also a filial one; as a child to its father, a holy affection which motivates one to keep His commandments with reverence and deep respect. It is not a slavish type of fear; as a slave to his master; subjugating himself because of corporal punishment following any sort of disobedience. There is also a fear of God which comes from guilt, such as Adam and Eve's hiding from the Lord (Genesis 3:8-13); the guards at Jesus' tomb (Matthew 28:4); Judas (Matthew 27:3-5); the devils (James 2:19); and others. Pages could be filled on the different types of fears, but I shall concentrate on the "fear of the Lord" in the hearts of those who love Him, and the consequences when they depart from it.

Traditionally, under the law of Moses, many believed that God was a being of vengeance and terror. Jesus, however, quelled those beliefs when He taught that God was a loving Father, one of mercy, kindness, justice, and forgiveness (as illustrated in the parable of the Prodigal Son). Nowhere in my research (unless I am mistaken) do I find any prayer to God wherein he is not called Father. Jesus, instead, taught His disciples to start their prayer with, "Our Father which art in heaven." And in John 17 He continually calls the Lord "Father."

Under the law of Moses, many feared God because they thought He would wreak vengeance upon them at His own personal whim. But it was not so. God promised them that He would bless them if they would keep His commandments. His punishments came about because they broke His law and commandments while claiming to believe in Him. This was the ultimate hypocrisy. A people who saw the pillar of fire at night and the cloud by day during their sojourn in the desert would have no excuse for their punishment when they continually rebelled against Him and set at naught His commandments.

It is possible for a people to profess a belief in the Almighty and yet have no true fear of Him; no real reverent, respectful awe of God. It is written: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." (Psalm 111:10); "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge . . . " (Proverbs 1:7); "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." (Proverbs 9:10). Hundreds of years before David and Solomon lived, Job said, ". . . Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is unsdom." (Job 28:28) By the above we understand that he who has a reverent fear of God is truly a wise man.

The Lord is always seeking for those who will fear Him out of a deep respect; a filial type of fear motivated by reverence and love. In the book of Deuteronomy it is recorded, "O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever." (Chapter 5, v. 29) The following scripture reveals how God will bless those who reverently fear Him:

"What man is he that feareth the Lord? Him shall He teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him, and He will show them His covenant." (Psalm 25:12-14)

"He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him; He also will hear their cry, and will save them." (Psalm 145:19)

"The fear of the Lord prolongeth days." (Proverbs 10:27) August, 1985 3

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another: and the Lord hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon His name. And they shall be mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him." (Malachi 3:16, 17)

The above are merely a few of the blessings promised to those who fear the Lord. The scriptures abound with the promises of God toward the ones that will have this reverent fear of the Almighty. It is written and addressed to the saints: "... for there is no want to them that fear Him." Let me cite just a few passages on this theme:

"The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1)

"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Jesus Christ." (Philippians 4:19)

"Unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings." (Malachi 4:2)

"By humility and fear of the Lord are riches and honor, and life." (Proverbs 22:4)

"His mercy is upon them that fear Him from generation to generation." (Luke 1:50)

Wherefore, we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear. (Hebrews 12:28)

Continued in next month's issue.-Ed.

Dear Readers,

Just a reminder that all material to be considered for publishing in *The Gospel News* must be mailed to the Editor-in-Chief's home address. Please send all articles to your District Editor, Area MBA Editor, or Area Circle Editor for proper processing.

Please send your address changes and subscription renewals to the General Church Print House.

> Sincerely, Anthony J. Scolaro Editor

Restoration Evangelist

By George A. Kovacic

At the beginning of the 19th century a religious revival was sweeping America. Along with the growth of the mainline denominations numerous splinter groups appeared. But there were many people confused with the various sects "who all declared, lo Christ is here or Christ is there." We have read about many who have struggled with this very issue. We will be taking a brief look at the life of one man in particular, who after meeting the Restored Gospel became one of the early Church's greatest evangelists. Evangelist comes from the Greek word evangelistes (eu, good + angel, messenger) being interpreted, a person who proclaims glad tidings or good news.

Parley Parker Pratt was born in the year 1807 and grew up in the area of Canaan, NY. As a young man he had the same questions about the existing religious systems that Joseph Smith had as a youth. Parley remembers questioning his father concerning the differences between the Church which Jesus had set up during the Apostolic Era and the churches that proclaimed Christ in the 1820's.

From an early age Parley Pratt enjoyed studying the word of God and spent a good deal of time reading scripture. The more knowledgeable he became, the more he realized the insufficiencies of the present religious factions. He was greatly moved by a Reformed Baptist minister who was a powerful preacher. In 1829 he accepted the Reformed Baptist faith and set out as a traveling preacher, speaking to anyone who would listen. While traveling in upstate New York, a man told him a remarkable story about an unusual book that was translated from gold plates. Parley traveled immediately to Palmyra where he met Joseph Smith's brother Hyrum. Spending the night together, Hyrum reviewed the facts concerning the experiences of his brother and the translation of The Book of Mormon. The following day Parley took leave of Hyrum to continue with his schedule but carried a Book of Mormon with him, stopping often in the day to read it as he walked to the next town. What he read in that book made such an impression on him that he exclaimed, "I esteemed the book, or the information in it, more than all of the riches

of the world." He returned the following day to Hyrum Smith's house to be baptized and had hands laid on him for the gift of the Holy Ghost by Oliver Cowdery. Parley was then ordained into the Priesthood, which gave him total satisfaction that he now possessed the true authority of the Ministry of Jesus Christ.

Parley Pratt's obedience to the Gospel was an important step for you and me. Why? Well, in the fall of 1830, he set out with several other brethren on the first missionary trip of the infant Church. While heading west they stopped and visited an old colleague of Parley's, the Reformed Baptist minister Sidney Rigdon, whom they introduced to *The Book of Mormon*. Rigdon and his whole congregation accepted the faith of the Restored Gospel and it was Rigdon who years later ordained William Bickerton into the Ministry of Jesus Christ.

After many years of traveling across the United States, preaching the n. isage of the Restored Gospel, Parley Parker Pratt was assassinated in Arkansas at the age of fifty.

Florida District Conference

By Louise Micale

On Sunday April 7, 1985, all the branches and missions of the Florida District met at the Lake Worth Branch in anticipation of God's blessings.

Brother John Gray, our newly ordained elder from Quincy, introduced the service using Isaiah 2:2-4, "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths."

Brother Gary Coppa from Detroit Branch 3 followed, asking us the question, "Where is God?" His answer to us was that each of us seek Him out. If we have a contrite and humble spirit, the Lord will work with us in a mysterious way.

Brother Gene Perri, Jr. continued, portraying the sufferings of Christ from Isaiah 53, "Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows . . . He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and with His stripes we are healed." God is able to deliver us from all trials, if we trust Him. He is our spiritual powerhouse from which we draw our strength.

Our eldest evangelist, and a member of the Church for sixty-five years, continued, admonishing the saints to serve God in spirit and in truth and abide by the written word. Brother Eugenio Perri, Sr. has been a pillar in the Church for many years.

After the Lord's supper was served, Brother Cleveland Baldwin conveyed his thanks to God for bringing him back to life after a very serious illness which he suffered recently. Brother Joe Bittinger gave a report on Brother George and Sister Agnes Arthur, and asked us to remember them in prayer.

As we sang *The Christ of the Cross*, Sharon Baldwin Boykin was touched with repentance and asked for her baptism. Everyone rejoiced as a new name was written down in glory. Brother John Gray performed his first baptism in Lake Osborne and Brother Gene Perri, Jr. confirmed our Sister Sharon as a member of the family of God.

Easter Sunday came to an end, but it was also a great beginning, for because He lives, we can face tomorrow!

50th Anniversary

By Louise Micale

Sister Sally Romano, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ since March 31, 1935, celebrated 50 years in the Church. Her mother and father were members of the Church, but it wasn't until some time after she was married that she and her husband Carl were baptized.

Sister Sally's mother cooked for the Church at their various meetings many times. Sister Sally took over after her mother was unable to do it any more. She also was a deaconess for many years in Detroit, a local Ladies' Circle president, and a very active sister, doing her duty and helping out in any way she could.

After transferring to Fort Pierce, Florida, Sister Sally again took care of the cooking for conferences and other church activities. She was also presiding deaconess for several years. Sister Sally has a son, Brother Carl, and a daughter, Sister Dorothy Pastorelli of Detroit Branch 3. Two of her grandchildren are also baptized. Sister Sally has been a good example to the Church and to her family.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .



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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is 66.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Awake and Sing

By Dominic Moraca (Reprint-March, 1983)

The Prophet Isaiah proclaimed the glad news of the resurrection:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever."

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

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

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The People of Jared

Dear Girls and Boys,

When the Lord confounded the languages at the Tower of Babel, the confused people began to flee the city and scatter themselves all around the earth.

But the mighty man of God, the brother of Jared, cried unto the Lord, and God agreed not to mix up the language of his family and friends. The Lord said that He would send them all to the best land in the whole earth, a land that would always be protected from enemies as long as the people there followed the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The friends of Jared and his brother believed the Lord. About twenty-two of them began gathering seeds and animals, bees, and fish for their long trip to a new land. They walked into a part of the world where no one had ever been before. There were no paths or trails or roads ready for them. When they didn't know which way to go, the Lord talked with them, standing in a cloud to give them directions.

He taught them how to build barges and boats to cross the rivers and a sea. They wanted to stay back when they came to the sea, but the Lord wanted them to travel on. Years passed. Finally the Lord brought them to the shore of a great ocean. They pitched their tents there and named the place Moriancumer.

You can imagine how glad they were to stop walking. They had traveled far and seen sights that no other people had ever seen. They had climbed rough land and been through scary waters. Now they could finally rest. They stayed there by the beach, those twenty-odd people, resting with their flocks and pets. Somewhere during this vacation,



these people began to forget how important it was to call upon the name of the Lord.

After four years, the Lord came to the brother of Jared again and stood in a cloud and talked with him for three hours. The brother of Jared begged the Lord to forgive him and his brethren for forgetting to call upon the name of the Lord.

The Lord did forgive him, and He sent the brother of Jared to start building the boats they would use to cross the great ocean on their way to the land of promise.

Now these boats, or barges, as they were called, were very interesting. They were small and totally closed in. They were not like other boats that traveled only on top of the water. They were designed to be tossed upon the waves of the sea ahead of a great wind that the Lord would send, and to be buried from time to time in the depths of the sea. They left a hole in the top and a hole in the bottom that could be unstopped for air. These barges were as long as a tree, peaked on the ends, and tight as a dish.

Yet there was one problem: they couldn't have windows, for they would be broken by the powerful waves. And they couldn't bring fire with them, either.

The brother of Jared cried unto the Lord to help them so his people wouldn't have to cross the ocean in darkness. He went to Mount Shelem and heated the rock there to melt out sixteen small, clear stones. He carried these stones, which were as transparent as glass, to the top of the mountain and there he cried unto the Lord, "Oh Lord, I know that you have all power and can do whatever you will to help man. Touch these stones with your finger, and prepare them so they will shine for us in the darkness so they may be lights for us in the barges." The brother of Jared earnestly believed that the Lord could do this. Because of his faith, the brother of Jared was able to see the finger of the Lord Jesus Christ. No other man up to that time had ever believed in Jesus as this man did. Although the brother of Jared fell on his face in fear, the Lord comforted him and showed him many wonderful things. He even showed him all the people of the world that ever had been or ever would be. (That means he even saw you and me.)

The rest of the world was not to know all the things about Jesus until the future when Jesus would be on earth, born of Mary. The brother of Jared wrote the things he saw in a language that the world could not read. He was given two stones by the Lord which could be used to interpret his writings. Everything was to be sealed up until the day the Lord decided to bring it forth.

This faithful follower of Jesus Christ took his sixteen stones and placed two in each barge. At last the people and their property were ready to finish the last leg of their journey to the promised land, the land saved for those who would serve God.

As we travel through the problems of life using the teachings of Jesus as our light, they traveled through the dark ocean using these stones for a light.

GMBA continued . . .

Board of Missions to be used at their discretion.

Brother Brian Martorana, 1985 Camp Director, gave us a preview of the GMBA Campout, which is to be held at beautiful White Oak Conference Center, in White Oak, South Carolina. Camp will begin on Saturday, August 17, 1985 and last until Saturday, August 24. So 'come on down' and enjoy some of that Southern Hospitality.

On Saturday evening, we all sat back and enjoyed the "Motown Sound" of a spiritual kind, as the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA presented a program centered on the theme of "Higher Spiritual Ground," featuring many of our traditional hymns as well as several of the Songs of Zion. Using a creative skit presentation, the players, speakers, and singers reminded us not to "rock the boat," but instead to "pull our weight" and follow the direction of the

(Continued on Page 11)

Our Women Today

Mich.-Ontario Circle Visits Inner City

The Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle visited the Inner City Branch of the Church in Detroit, MI.

Brother Eugene Amormino welcomed all the sisters, including Sister Lucy Hemp from Anaheim, CA. He thanked the sisters for their help and support and gave a brief history of the Inner City Branch. There are approximately sixty members and friends from all walks of life that attend services there. He told of an experience he had that the Lord would be by his side wherever he would go.

Brother Norman Campitelle expressed his gratitude and thanks to God and the brothers and sisters who prayed for him during his recent heart surgery. He emphasized how important prayer is in our everyday lives. There were many wonderful experiences related and much beautiful singing.

We were encouraged and had a very enjoyable day with the brothers and sisters of the Inner City Branch.

65th Anniversary

By Mary Tamburrino General Circle Editor

Congratulations are in order for the Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ for reaching its sixty-fifth anniversary.

An anniversary meeting was held at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on June 22, 1985. The Pennsylvania Area Circles hosted the event. The day's theme was "A Virtuous Woman." Proverbs 31:10-31, concerning a virtuous woman, was read. Greensburg Circle President Sister Carol Emerick and General Circle President Sister Mabel Bickerton spoke, welcoming everyone and relating the history of the first Ladies' Circle. The name for the organization was given in an experience and two circles were organized. Today, there are seventy local circles.

A letter was read from Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church president, congratulating and encouraging the sisters to continue to support the work of the Church.

The officers of the General Circle were introduced and the circle highlights from 1980 to 1985 were read by Secretary Lucetta Scaglione.

The afternoon service began with all the Italian sisters singing Showers of Blessing in the Italian language. The Aliquippa Circle was in charge of the memorial service for the forty-one sisters who passed away in the last five years. Their names were written on a scroll and a rose was placed in a vase in their memory. Sisters were present from Arizona, Canada, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Throughout the day we heard about "The Virtuous Woman." We hope that throughout our lives we can become and remain "virtuous" in the sight of the Lord.

plenteous but the laborers are few.

Branch and Mission News

Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

Modesto had the privilege of seeing the progress and activities of our missions of the Six Nations and Muncey Reservations in Canada; the Inner City of Detroit; Anadarko, Oklahoma Indians; Navajo Indians; San Carlos and White River Apache Indians; and Tijuana and Santa Ana Mexican Missions.

The photographer was Brother Mark Mancinelli, a professional photographer. He did a superb job. Brother Mark has taken hundreds of photos.

It was narrated by several persons, bringing a real story of changed lives through Jesus Christ the Lord.

The title could very well have been, "I Can Do All Things through Christ Who Strengthens Me."

What was most touching was to see poor helping poor, children helping children and broken lives renewed and possessing happy smiles, and singing victoriously. The power of Jesus Christ is still the Rock of God's people, the Cornerstone, the Rock of Refuge.

We rejoice in the fact that through the grace of Jesus Christ we have been made to drink the living waters of hope, waters of salvation.

The songs of praises sung with the photos shown made the films more real. A story well told and shown.

Thanks to Brother Mark Mancinelli and everyone else that took part in this project.

May our Lord bless you and grant the wishes of your heart. Jesus left all believers a Rock of Hope and a goal that is as high as He. Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believes on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto the Father.

This is a great goal; it can be achieved because Jesus said so, and because He (Jesus) sits at the right hand of God the Father. May God bless the missions and the missionaries. The field is still The Bible is still the world's best desired book, but still the least understood because it is spiritually discerned. For who has known the mind of the Lord? Those who have the mind of Christ.

Niles, OH

By Ron Genaro

Sunday, April 28, 1985 will remain indelibly in our minds as saints from far and near converged on the Niles, Ohio Branch to witness the ordination of Brother Brian Martorana into the Priesthood. The following Branches and Missions were represented: Kinsman, Youngstown, Cleveland, Lorain, Aliquippa, Imperial, Sterling Heights, McKees Rocks, Rochester, Kent, and Perry.

As a prelude to our preaching service, Brother Frank Calabrese gave us a report concerning his wife, Sister Romie, how she was in a coma for an extended period of time and just recently regained consciousness. Brother Frank expounded on the validity of

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NILES, OH continued . . .

prayer and how the saints need to pour their hearts out to God on behalf of those who are needy. Brother Frank expressed his gratitude to all who prayed for Sister Romie and we all rejoiced to hear the good report and will continue to pray for her during her period of convalescence.

After an arousing chorus of Because He Lives, Brother Chuck Jumper introduced the service, exhorting on Jesus' initial call of the twelve Apostles. Brother Chuck stated that today men are choosing the ministry of their own volition and are ignoring the fact that God must choose and call men into the Priesthood. People are choosing vocations of glamour, fame, status, and prestige instead of choosing to be a servant unto others. Jesus said, "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant." Brother Chuck also referred to Mormon's statement when he said that he was a disciple of Jesus Christ and elaborated on the great depth and meaning of that proclamation. Brother Chuck concluded his discourse by relating various experiences that he has had in the ministry that attest to the authority of this Priesthood.

Brother Paul Ciotti followed, elaborating on God's calling of Jeremiah as a prophet. He recounted how the Priesthood authority was taken away and then restored again. He also addressed the responsibility and accountability of being a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Frank Calabrese accentuated the need for the world to hear the Gospel. He related various experiences attesting to the power of God and the necessity of greater faith to move God's hand.

Brother Jim Moore concluded our preaching service by relating experiences he has had from his childhood to the present.

After several anointings, the meeting was opened for testimony and the administering of the Lord's Supper. Brother Wayne Martorana read from the Minister's Manual the duties of an elder. Brother Brian's feet were washed by Brother Henry Cardillo. The ministry encircled Brother Brian and Brother Frank Giovannone offered a special prayer prior to the ordination. Brother Frank Altomare stated, "An

angel of the Lord is standing upon his (Brian's) head and that angel shall take care of him wherever he goes as long as he is upon the face of the earth. He is a messenger of God, blessed be the name of God who liveth forever." Brother Brian was ordained by his father, Brother Russ Martorana. While Brother Brian was shaking hands with the ministry, Brother Joe Genaro spoke in tongues and the interpretation was, "Today, today, today, you have received authority from above." Brother Ciotti said, "Thus saith the Lord, Go forth in My Spirit and declare My word and I will be with thee, saith the Lord God Almighty."

Our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Ralph Berardino. All present could attest to the spirit and blessings of God that flowed from vessel to vessel this day. May God richly bless Brother Brian in his ministerial endeavors.

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

We are told in the scriptures that the angels in heaven rejoice when a sinner returns to God. In the month of March 1985 there was much rejoicing in Riverside, California as I baptized Brother and Sister Wilkens and ordained Brother John Gonzales a deacon. God is blessing the Riverside Mission with much love and unity among everyone. We had a little girl testify one Sunday that Satan was disturbing her every night, and she poured out her heart to the brothers and sisters and said she couldn't stand it any longer. Ever since she was anointed, Satan has no longer bothered her.

I marvel at the way God has blessed Brother Lloyd Henderson. He has been afflicted for several years with a bad back, and he used to carry a pillow to sit on everywhere he went. Ever since he has become active in the Riverside work, we haven't seen the pillow!

We made a number of visits to Hemet, California, trying to get a work started in this part of the vineyard. There are many discouragements in starting a new mission, and many times I wish there were more days in the week. Before we know it, the week is gone.

We must labor with every ounce of strength in our bodies to invite people to come to the marriage of the King's Son, that the wedding will be furnished with guests. I hope the King will not come to me and say, "Sir you don't have on a wedding garment," because this is one wedding I don't want to miss. I want to have on that white linen which is the righteousness of the saints.

I would like to extend my thanks to the following brothers and their families for their visits to the Riverside Mission: Otto Henderson, Vincent Scalise, Tom Jones, Robert McDonald, Frank Genaro, Ken Surdock, Raymond Zamora, and Brother Clifton Wells all the way from Omaha, Nebraska. Thank you all for your love and support.

MY TESTIMONY

In March of 1978 my wife and I became acquainted with Brother Clifton and Sister Valorie Wells of Omaha, Nebraska. Brother Cliff and I were in the Marines together, stationed at Twentynine Palms, CA. As we got to know each other, we found out that we had a lot in common. I'll never forget one day Brother Cliff and I were attached to an operation which required that we spend a lot of time together. Brother Cliff gave his testimony and told me about The Church of Jesus Christ. I listened very closely, because I believed that I had a knowledge of the word of God, but he spoke of things I never heard before, like the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel, and the Angel flying in the midst of heaven.

Cliff and Valorie invited us to visit the Church in Yucaipa, CA. We will never forget this experience, the love and closeness we felt among the people there.

Four years later, Cliff left the Marine Corps and I was ordered to Georgia. We kept in contact by phone and mail, and I was eventually sent to El Toro, CA. On the way there, we stopped at Cliff and Valorie's in Nebraska where we met more brothers and sisters. The love there was the same as at Yucaipa. We met Brother English Webb, a man truly filled with the Spirit of God, and he fertilized the seeds that Cliff and Valorie had planted in our hearts years ago.

After two years at El Toro, I received orders to go to Japan. Cliff and Valorie decided to fly out to the west coast and see us off. After they arrived we decided to go one Sunday to Yucaipa and the next Sunday to Riverside. When I walked through the doors at Riverside, I knew I was home. The same love, the same Spirit, the same experience we had had in Omaha, in Yucaipa, and now in Riverside. The Spirit of God put me to rest. All that week I prayed that God would act in my life so that I would know for sure that this was where He wanted me. Before Cliff left for home, he said that his trip had been more than a social visit.

That Thursday my wife had a dream where she was surrounded by evil and the only escape was through the water. I started reading my Bible because I wanted to know if it was from God. I was reading in Genesis, about Jacob and Esau, but I didn't understand what God was telling me. That week Brother Ken Jones spoke on Jacob and Esau and the birthright, and I knew the Lord had revealed those scriptures to me.

I still wasn't satisfied. I wanted more, so all that week I was uneasy, and on Saturday I prayed that God would work a miracle in my life or let lightning strike so I would know what His will was. The next day, Brother Ken preached baptism and said that there was no need for a miracle or for lightning to strike in your life. At that moment the Spirit of God came upon me and I jumped to my feet and said, "Brother Ken, I am convinced that I need to be baptized." My body was trembling and tears rolled down my cheeks uncontrollably. Praise God, my life will never be the same.

At this point, my wife had not yet asked for her baptism, and the saints were praying for her. The night before my baptism, Brother Ken gave me two sets of baptismal clothes. I didn't see my wife for some time on the morning of the baptism, and suddenly she came in dressed in the baptismal clothes! After our baptisms, all three of our children were blessed in the Church. We thank God for this day in our lives.

> Brother Ron Wilkens Japan

Quincy, FL

By Meredith Martin

"The Spirit of God like a fire is burning, The Latter Day Glory begins to come forth." The veil of the flesh parted for us at the Quincy, Florida Mission as we gathered on March 31, 1985 to see our brother John Nicholas Gray ordained into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. The night before, Brother Tony Arcuri of the Ft. Pierce Branch was sitting under a tree at Brother Cleve Baldwin's home when he saw a vision of a silver pitcher. He was given to understand that he came up to Quincy this weekend to drink of that living water, the Holy Spirit.

Brother Eugene Perri, Jr. delivered the sermon this morning, preaching about the ordination into the offices of the Church. He read from Moroni 3, John 13, II Peter 1:1, and other scriptures to paint a picture of how men are called and ordained by God to be servants, being consecrated to feed the sheep of the Lord. The scriptures were utilized perfectly to describe the order and mode in which men are called by the Holy Ghost. "How can ye hear without a preacher, how can you preach unless ye are sent? As the Father sent me," Christ spoke, "so send I you." Jesus washed the disciples' feet and set them apart for the labor He called them to perform. Many other beautiful illustrations were cited, wherein Jesus called, ordained, and commanded His disciples to feed His sheep.

Brother John Gray is the first to be ordained an elder at the Quincy Mission. The work at Quincy started eleven years ago, when the first members were baptized here.

After we sang Ye Who Are Called to Labor, Sister Rose Rogolino spoke in tongues. The interpretation was, "My son, I have anointed you this day to be My son. Feed My sheep, there is more to be called." Words cannot express the sweetness we felt as our Sister Rose began singing in the Spirit. We recognized the gifts and the blessings of old returning. The silver pitcher our brother spoke of was filled this day to overflowing. Again we sang, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning, The Latter Day glory begins to come forth."

As the blessings of God filled the room, Brother Frank Rogolino bowed before Brother John Gray and washed his feet. Seven elders kneeled around our brother John while Brother Cleveland Baldwin prayed, humbly requesting the Restored Authority of the priesthood to come down from above.

Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. stepped forward and prayed, ordaining Brother John to go forth and deliver glad tidings of great joy and of the Restoration of the Gospel.

Our Sister Rose Rogolino related a vi-

sion she had while our brother's feet were being washed, wherein she saw a white sheet come down with all kinds of food upon it, being held at the corners by four personages. A voice said, "Feed My sheep. Though trials may come, and it will not be easy when they do, go and feed My sheep."

Brothers John D'Orazio and Wilbert McNeil both spoke inspired words after the ordination took place.

We are thankful for the silver pitcher that God placed in our midst this day as we saw our young Brother John sent to do the work of the Lord.

On April 9, 1985 our newly ordained Brother Gray had the privilege of taking Valeria Brunson Thomas down to the waters of baptism. Our sister Valeria was confirmed later that day by Brother Cleveland Baldwin. Praise God for another soul in the flock!

Glassport, PA

By David Nolfi

Greetings in Christ to our brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ! We of the Glassport Branch give thanks to our blessed God for His love and mercy and continued grace, wherein we stand. From late September 1984 until April 21, 1985, the Lord has been kind to open a door that permitted us to put forth an active campaign in the McKeesport area. The Lord, by simple means, gave us an opportunity to hold services on Sunday nights in a room of the Community Hotel (formerly the Penn-McKee). For this six-month period, we endeavored to spread the Gospel by testimony, preaching, song, and whatever other direction the Spirit led us. Adequate facilities were extended to us free of charge. We had many elders from the Pennsylvania District visit and deliver powerful messages, and many brothers and sisters from the surrounding branches visited, offering their testimonies and songs. Most importantly, we rejoiced to have with us many visitors from the community and residents of the hotel, who sat under the sound of the pure Gospel.

I marvelled to see the operation of the Spirit take place in our midst. Some of our visitors felt the blessing of the Spirit

GLASSPORT, PA continued . . .

of God, shedding tears, with joy filling their hearts, and wondered all the while what this feeling was! The following is an experience of one of our visiting sisters who was healed by the power of God.

"One morning while bathing I noticed a pea-sized lump on my body. I became alarmed and was upset and nervous about it. After a few days, I noticed that the lump had doubled in size. Not wanting to alarm my family, I told Fran, the woman I live with, and she suggested that I see her doctor. The lump continued to grow, and I grew more and more worried. One night as I lay awake in my bed, my mind and heart very troubled, I asked the Lord, 'What should I do, please help me.' With this I fell asleep and had a dream.

"Saying nothing of the dream I came down to breakfast the next morning and Fran asked if I wanted to arrange to see the doctor that day. At this point, I told her my dream as follows:

"In the dream I told Fran to find out when her doctor would be in, as he has office hours only one day a week. She came to me later and said, "The only time the doctor is in is Sunday evening at 7:30 p.m.' In the dream I told her that I couldn't go at that hour since I go to church on Sunday evenings.

"As I pondered upon this dream, I felt that I should be anointed, that the doctor's office in my dream represented a church service. That Sunday night, I was anointed by Brother Chuck Jumper. When he began to pray, I felt the most peaceful feeling come over me and I was no longer upset. The following morning, I could feel no trace of the lump! I was blessed with such a wonderful healing!

"I give thanks to the Lord every hour of the day, whatever I may be doing. I thank God for whatever comes my way. It was certainly a privilege to have attended the Sunday night services at the McKeesport Community Hotel—those meetings will be greatly missed."

Sister Frances Nolfi

As you have read, the meetings at the Community Hotel will indeed be missed. The hotel was ordered closed due to bankruptcy proceedings. I know with a surety that it was the Lord who provided this opportunity and we are prayerfully seeking another facility so that we may continue to spread the glad tidings of salvation.

Our sincere thanks to all the brothers and sisters who gave their time and prayers in support of our missionary effort. Please continue to pray for us that the Lord would grant success to our desire to spread the Gospel.

Six Nations, Ont.

By Lisa DiFalco

What a way to start out the month. On Saturday, June 1, a carload of brothers and sisters prepared for a trip to the Six Nations Indian Mission in Ontario, Canada. A beautiful Spirit was being kindled even before we left Detroit, with the sun shining, the Songs of Zion playing, and experiences being told.

We were able to share this Spirit with our Brother Don Green, a deacon at Six Nations, who was in the hospital. Brother Don was in pain when we first came in, but Brother Jack Pontillo anointed him and he sang a few hymns with us. By the end of the visit, our Brother Don was feeling better.

After we arrived at the church building on the reservation and unpacked our things, we invited Sister Sadie Jamieson and her granddaughter to have dinner with us. Sister Sadie lived next door to the church building and took care of the visiting missionaries for many many years.

Both the Sunday School and the service were filled with blessings from beginning to end. I was privileged to have a little comrade, Troy Jaques, climb up on the piano bench next to me to assist me in playing.

Brother Mike Coppa took the Sunday School class, and we read from the book of II Nephi, reviewing the prophecies of Isaiah pertaining to the promises of God to His chosen people in the future.

Our service began with the hymn God's Still on His Throne, and Brother Jack Pontillo opened the meeting by expanding on the thoughts brought out in Sunday School. He also related many experiences of his own and those of others. Brother Mike Coppa expressed himself after Brother Jack spoke, relating the dream in which God called him to be baptized. Both brothers spoke with so much of the Spirit of God on them that even the children were quiet, and many of us were touched, both baptized and non-baptized.

The Spirit went unbroken throughout testimony, sacrament, and song, and it carried over into our circle as we offered a special prayer for Brother Don Green.

After we closed in prayer, it was suggested that we walk over to Sister Sadie's house to bring her sacrament, as she was not able to get up this morning. We sang a few hymns with her, and Brother Jack anointed her before administering the Lord's Supper.

Regrettably, our little group had to return home, but on our way back to Detroit we stopped and gave sacrament to Brother Don Green, who was feeling much better since we prayed for him Saturday. As much as we didn't want to say good-bye we had to leave, but we were filled, and we look forward to seeing our brothers and sisters at Six Nations again.

Metuchen, NJ

By Renee Vinsick

On April 7, 1985, Dolores Schmitt and Michelle Davella were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ at Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Sister Dolores is a member of the Metuchen Branch, and Sister Michelle is a member of Hopelawn. Sister Dolores was confirmed by Brother Joseph Arcuri, and there were many visitors in the Metuchen Branch this day to welcome our new sister.

The confirmation was followed by the ordination of Sister Karen Cicatti into the office of a deaconess. Sister Karen represents the fourth generation in her family to hold that office in the Church. Sister Karen's mother, Sister Teresa Pandone of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, washed her daughter's feet and Karen was ordained by her father, Brother Donald Pandone. Then Karen assisted her grandmother and Sister Stella Arcuri in setting the sacrament table. The unity of the Spirit and the pure love of God was represented in its fullest this afternoon, as evidenced by a special glow in everyone's face and the tears in everyone's eyes.

"Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." (Romans 14:13)

criticize one another but rather to ex-

GMBA continued . .

Branch 2.

Lovalvo.

Hollywood, Florida.

Quincy, Florida.

Ohio.

Lord, and that by "pulling together," our Church will "move in the right direction" toward Higher Spiritual Ground. If you don't think the Spirit of God manifested itself, just ask Louise Bruno, who following the program asked to become *Sister* Louise Bruno! Later that evening, her cousin Mark Lombardo asked for his baptism as well. They were both baptized the next day before our Sunday service. Let us especially remember our young Brother Mark in prayer, as he is battling a serious illness.

Brother Louis Vitto opened the Sunday service with Deuteronomy 30:11-20,

WEDDINGS

CHARLTON-PHILLIPS

Mr. Charles Joseph Charlton and Sister Rebecca Lynn Phillips were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, June

1, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan,

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Leonard A.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Jerry

The newlyweds will reside in Taylor, Michigan. May God

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for

Courtney Ross to Douglas and Candace Obradovich of

James Brian III to James and Mary Green Chunn of

Joseph Aaron to Joseph and Denise Penell of Lorain,

Morle at the piano, with Sister Loretta Lovalvo as soloist.

bless them as they begin their new life together.

the indicated new members of their families:

which declares, "I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil." The scripture goes on to say that life and good will come only to those who make the choice to love the Lord, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments. Brother Lou, citing an example, referred to Joshua, who like our two new converts chose to declare, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15) Brother Lou stressed the importance to both the baptized and non-baptized that our choice should always be to serve God.

Following Brother Lou was Brother evening program, and in the cal Alex Gentile, who exhorted us not to two new members to the flock!

*

amine ourselves and make sure we are sincere in our walk with Jesus Christ.

Following the confirmation into the Church of our Sister Louise and Brother Mark, we heard from Brothers Joe Furnari, Paul Palmieri, Joe Calabrese, and Tony Lovalvo.

All in all, the GMBA Conference was very enjoyable. We had a very large attendance for both Saturday and Sunday's sessions, and more importantly, the Lord truly manifested His Spirit in the transaction of business, during the evening program, and in the calling of two new members to the flock!

ed on March 31, 1985 by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. at the Quincy, Florida Mission.

On April 14, 1985, Keatridge Retonda Frazier and Marcus Benson Thomas were blessed by Brother John Gray also at Quincy, Florida.

Brother Charles Smith of the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch blessed Megan Jane Collison on May 5, 1985.

OBITUARIES

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

DOROTHY VERARDO

Sister Dorothy Verardo of the Modesto, California Branch passed away on June 16, 1984. She was born on February 2, 1908 and baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Ohio in 1926.

Brother Mark Randy officiated at the funeral. Our sister is survived by her five children and sixteen grandchildren, as well as all the saints in Modesto and Ohio who had known her.

JOYCE MORACO

Sister Joyce Marie Moraco, a member of the Hollywood, Florida Branch, passed from this life to her eternal reward on January 14, 1985. She was born on December 31, 1949 in Erie, Pennsylvania. Sister Joyce was baptized in New Hope, Pennsylvania on August 4, 1972 by Brother Dominic Moraca and confirmed by Brother Joseph Calabrese. On March 12, 1978, Brother Joseph Bittinger ordained our sister a deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The funeral was officiated by Brother Nick Pietrangelo, with the assistance of Brother John D'Orazio. Brother Dominic Moraca added some beautiful words of comfort. Sister Joyce is survived by her husband, Brother Dennis, and two sons, Anthony and Christopher, as well as her

Tristen Scott to James and Donna Kinser of Lorain, Ohio.

Samuel, Jr. to Samuel and Teresa Kunkel of Atlanta, Georgia.

Matthew Charles to Charles and Cheryl Krocsko of Imperial, PA.

Children Blessed

Stanton Trashad and Christian Odell Frye were bless-

(Continued on Page 12)

12 August, 1985

OBITUARIES continued . . .

parents, two brothers and sisters, and a number of aunts and uncles.

Sister Joyce will be sorely missed by those who knew her and loved her.

MADDALENA RANIERI

Sister Maddalena Ranieri of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch 1 passed away on May 10, 1985. She was baptized into the Church on August 6, 1933 and ordained a deaconess on April 25, 1943.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Vince Gibson and Brother Mario Malino.

Sister Maddalena is survived by her daughter, Leda Prentice, two grandsons, and three great-grandchildren. We at the Cleveland Branch all looked up to our sister as a mother, and she will be missed by all of us.

MARY KLINGENSMITH

Sister Mary Elizabeth Klingensmith of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on April 21, 1985. Born September 15, 1918, she was baptized into the Church on April 29, 1956.

Brother Idris Martin officiated at the funeral.

In addition to her husband and daughter, Brother Emerson Klingensmith and Sister Mary Savona, our sister is survived by two grandchildren, three sisters and three brothers, and a host of brothers and sisters in the Church.

RUTH SCALA

On April 4, 1985, Sister Ruth Scala of the Atlantic Coast District passed from this life to her eternal rest in the Paradise of God.

	Address Change
Name _	
Address	
Phone _	

SADIE JAMIESON

Sister Sadie Belle Jamieson, a member of the Six Nations Indian Mission in Oshweken, Ontario, passed on to her eternal reward on June 15, 1985. She was born on March 28, 1914 and became a member of the Church in 1963.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Norman Campitelle and Brother Eugene F. Amormino.

Sister Sadie is survived by a son, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She will be dearly missed by the brothers and sisters at Six Nations, and was well known among the saints throughout Michigan and Ontario.

A sister from the Six Nations Mission wrote a poem in Sister Sadie's memory, which was read at the funeral.

An Eternal Reward

Our hearts were heavy and sore When we heard Sister Sadie had died. But we know she's on that heavenly shore, Where she's walking by her Saviour's side.

We all wiped away tears from our eyes, And we tried not to feel too bad. Sister Sadie has a home beyond the skies, And no one there ever feels sad.

Our tears can't wash memories away, And good memories she left behind. Until we go to join her some day, She'll be in our heart and in our mind.

We feel the loss of our loved one who's gone, But we take comfort in our Saviour's love. If we keep faithful and forward press on, Someday we'll join Sister Sadie above.

A new home in glory, an eternal reward, Our Sister Sadie did receive. She was promised a mansion by her Lord, If in Him she would only believe.

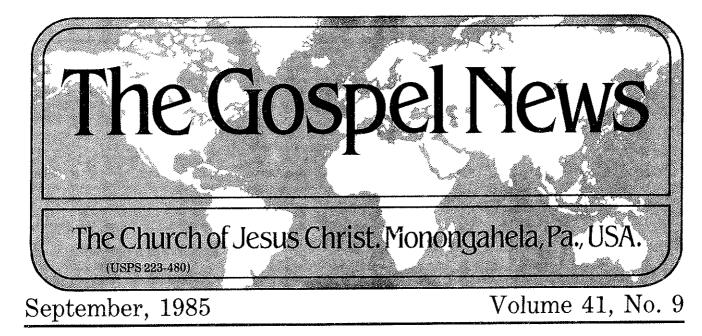
She took the Lord into her heart, She played piano and sang His praise. From her Lord she never would part, She praised Him till the end of her days.

Although we are sad, we cannot say We are sorry to see her go: We know that where she is today Is far better than this world below.

Her piano is a silent reminder, On earth she will play it no more. And as I sit and think of her, I picture her playing piano on heaven's shore.

The arms of God were open wide, For Sister Sadie He had room. And a host of heavenly voices cried, "Welcome Sister Sadie, welcome home."

> Written with love By Sister Barb Jaques



Groundbreaking at Simi Valley, CA

By Joyce Azzinaro

We congregated at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning, June 15, 1985 at the corner of Tapo and Walnut Streets in Simi Valley, California for our longawaited groundbreaking of the future home of The Church of Jesus Christ. This was an occasion which the members, families, and friends of the Valley Branch had patiently awaited since our last service at our church building on Roscoe Blvd. in San Fernando Valley on January 25, 1981. You could see the excitement on everyone's face as we gathered. A local newspaper was being passed around with an article announcing the groundbreaking that was about to take place.

Before we started the ceremony, we honored Brother Joe and Sister Suzie Maselli for their fifty years in the Church. Even a woman passing by stopped and watched because, she said, when she saw the group of people gathered around the elderly couple out in the country, she knew something special was happening.

The ceremony was opened with praver offered by Brother John Az-

Presiding Elder Edmund Buccellato turns the first ground at our new church building site.

zinaro. Our presiding elder, Brother Edmund Buccellato, spoke concerning our long search for a location where we could build a house of worship and dedicate it to God. We all need a place to call our spiritual home, a place to hear the word of God, fellowship, participate in the ordinances Christ commanded us to perform, conduct weddings, hold conferences, and when activity and voices are absent, a place of quiet rest. We all need a place to meditate and talk to the Lord without speaking a word.

Brother Edmund also reminded us how, on February 4, 1954, our branch held its first groundbreaking service at the corner of Roscoe Blvd. and Barnett Ave. He compared the cost of real estate and construction from that time to the present. For those of you who don't know, the brothers and sisters here originally met in a room attached to a chicken coop. The old building took

(Continued on Page 11)

Conference Notice

The General Church Conference will convene on Friday, October 11, 1985 in the Greensburg Auditorium. Friday's meetings are open to the priesthood and ordained teachers of the Church.

The Saturday session of this business conference will be open to all. As usual, meals will be on a payas-you-attend basis.

Greetings in Christ



Greetings in Jesus Christ to all of you.

Growing old is not bad, so long as you keep busy—so busy that you have no time to find out.

Because of Brother Joseph and Sister Virginia Lovalvo's 50th Wedding Anniversary, we had many visitors on Sunday a few months ago.

Our first speaker that Sunday was Brother George "Rusty" Heaps of Anaheim, CA. He gave a very inspiring sermon on the subject of commitment.

Commitment is a personal determination. Jesus had a commitment to obey His Father's will, a commitment to give His life that others might have life. Brother Heaps used several examples to show what commitment really is.

Brother Tom Liberto of San Diego, CA followed. He spoke of the commitment of the early followers of Jesus Christ. He also used the determination and the fearless endeavor of some dedicated individuals, both past and present, to accomplish worthy causes, as an illustration of commitment.

Brother Bob Watson of Tse Bonito, NM spoke of the courage, sacrifice, and daring of committed persons. Brother Jim Lovalvo spoke briefly of the poem quoted earlier in the day regarding the two sets of footprints in the sand. A wonderful spirit prevailed, and the glory of the Lord was made manifest.

We were blessed to have visiting with us later in the week Brother Chet Young of Herndon, VA. He spoke to us on Wednesday night on the six things our God hates. We enjoyed Chet, and welcome any and all visitors. Our Church is unique, a type of family. We need to keep it this way by caring, loving, and sharing. "Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." (James 5:20)

"And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

If this is the case, ought we not to be committed unto righteous deeds of love?

We have recently had two baptisms, D. Janelle Spacey and John Catanzarite. John may be one of the first people of Syrian descent to become part of our family in Jesus Christ the Lord. Our subject that day was Nephi, the son of Helaman. He was an outstanding, loving, caring, outgoing person toward a people who had gone wrong, and God acknowledged his love.

We need to be as this faithful Nephi if we want the same blessing. Our brother John was moved by the example of Nephi and his loving concern for his people.

"Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou has done; for I have beheld how thou hast with unwearyingness declared the word, which I have given unto thee, unto this people. And thou hast not feared them, and hast not sought thine own life, but hast sought my will, and to keep my commandments." (Helaman 10:4)

What a great man this dedicated Nephi must have been. How about you, don't you want to be of the same state of mind, seeking the will of God?

There is no greater joy, no greater fulfillment than to walk as Jesus walked. Help me Lord, and inspire me to be rooted deep in the soil of life's enduring values, that I may grow toward my greater destiny.

My abiding love to all readers,

Mark Randy

World Headquarters

This article, written by Brother Richard Scaglione, appeared in the Monongahela Daily Herald, in the church listings of a Saturday edition. Perhaps only a few people realize that Monongahela has the distinction of housing a church that serves as a world headquarters. This is The Church of Jesus Christ on Sixth and Lincoln Streets.

Organized in Green Oak, PA, in July 1862, the church has more than 6,000 members. Branches, missions, and individuals can be found in most of the fifty states, Canada, Mexico, South America, Africa, India, and Europe.

We (the Church) believe that the atoning blood of Jesus Christ grants salvation to all mankind. However, we must meet the four basic principles as taught and exemplified by Christ, namely faith in Christ, repentance of our sins, baptism by immersion for the remission of our sins, and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Through obedience to Christ's commandments, mankind has the opportunity to become the sons and daughters of God. We believe in the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. (Scripture references can be found in the New Testament.)

The Church of Jesus Christ believes that the Bible, especially the New Testament, is a record of the Tribe of Judah, one of the twelve tribes of Israel. The Church believes the record that was delivered by an angel to Joseph Smith is a record of the Tribe of Joseph, ancestors of the American Indian. Called the Book of Mormon, the Church believes that this record was translated by the power of God, and that the Bible and the Book of Mormon are one in God's hand. Historical and archeological evidence bear witness of the existence of the Tribe of Joseph on the South and North American continents from 600 B.C. (Scripture references: Isaiah 29:1-4, 10-14; Ezekiel 37:15-20; Psalm 85:10 & 11)

The Church of Jesus Christ believes that a peaceful condition will exist on the earth while men are still in the mortal body. It will be established prior to the First Resurrection. Satan will have no power over the hearts of the inhabitants. A city, the New Jerusalem, will be built during this time by the Seed of Joseph (the American Indian), with the righteous Gentiles assisting. No one shall hurt nor destroy, and even the nature of animals will be changed. All tongues and nations shall go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob. Men shall beat their

It Is Written

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo



Continued from last month's column.-Ed.

The very first word which the Angel of Revelations 14:7 said was, "Fear God and give glory to Him . . . " The Lord is only asking that those who profess to believe on Him give Him honor, respect, and reverence; and this is done by obeying His commandments. Jesus' last words as He ascended into heaven were, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matthew 28:18-20)

The reverent fear of the Lord is a mixture of love and devotion intertwined together, making a texture of a gracious filial obedience to Him. It is written:

"And now, Israel, what doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul. To keep the commandments of the Lord, and His statutes, which I commanded thee this day for thy good. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His name." (Deuteronomy 10:12-20)

I want to repeat that "to profess to believe in God and His Holy Son Jesus Christ" and then commit sin and transgression is the height of hypocrisy, and indicates an absence of the reverent fear of the Lord. To say, "I love Christ," and profess to serve Him and then sin is a clear example of the absence of the fear of the Lord; an absence of

reverence and respect.

The apostasy came about because there was no fear of God in those who, professing Christianity, broke His commandments and changed the ordinances. It is recorded in scripture: "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out My hand, no man regarded. But ye have set at naught all My counsel, and would none of my reproof." (Proverbs 1:24,25)

Whenever the reverent fear of the Lord departs from either an individual or a people, the commandments of God are broken and trampled under foot until the conscience is "seared as with a hot iron." The continuous transgression of His commandments merely puts calluses on the soul, whereby evil is considered good and acceptable, and good is considered evil. The world is filled with people who claim to believe in God and still commit adultery, thievery, covetousness, and all manner of sin, which speaks loud and clear that the fear of the Lord has departed from their lives.

The problem, as I see it, is that the fear of the Lord is taught by man; it is not an ingrained filial, reverent respect for God deeply rooted in the heart and soul of the true believer. It is even as the Prophet Isaiah said, "This people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor Me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precepts of men." (Isaiah 29:13)

When the true fear of the Lord is in the heart of an individual he will despise sin; he will look upon it with abhorrence. He will shy away from the very appearance of evil; he will stay his hand from doing that which is wrong in the sight of God. If one claims to have been "born again" and has been a recipient of the Holy Spirit and yet commits sin, where is the fear of the Lord? There is only one answer, that there is no fear there. Remember this, the Holy Spirit cannot abide in an unholy temple. And if we are the temple of God and the tabernacle where His Holy Spirit dwells, what happens when sin is committed? Simply this, the Lord departs from us and leaves us to the buffetings of Satan: because there is no reverent fear of the Lord. It is gone.

The purpose of my writing this is to remind the saints that the fear of the Lord (the reverence, respect, and honor given to Him) is something to treasure, to cultivate, to develop in humility and

love. Do not be confused with the term, "Perfect love casteth out all fear." When the Apostle John wrote this passage, he was not speaking of the fear of the Lord, but rather a physical and mental fear of the known or unknown. He said, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love." (I John 4:16-18)

The reverent fear of the Lord, mingled with His love, is the greatest combination of emotions that the saints can have. They are the greatest gifts of all. With this combination, we can call on God through Jesus Christ and have our prayers answered; our afflictions cured; our broken hearts healed; our burdens lifted while we sojourn on this earth, and then, eventually inherit a mansion in heaven where Christ has gone to prepare for those that love and fear the Lord.

Note of Thanks

Dearest Editor of The Gospel News,

I want to thank all the brothers and sisters throughout The Church of Jesus Christ for being so concerned about me during my illness, also for all the beautiful prayers that were offered up to our Dear Heavenly Father and His beloved Son Jesus. Also for the beautiful cards I received. I read them over and over again. Thanks again and please do keep praying for me.

May God bless you all for being so concerned about me.

With oceans of love to all the brothers and sisters, and God bless you all for being so thoughtful of me. Love to all,

Your Sister Rose Rogolino

"For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to every man, that he may know good from evil; wherefore, I show unto you the way to judge; for every thing which inviteth to do good, and to persuade to believe in Christ, is sent forth by the power and gift of Christ; wherefore ye may know with a perfect knowledge it is of God." (Moroni 7:16)

4 September, 1985

50th Anniversaries

By Norma Kendall

After completing fifty years of service to God on June 2, 1985, Sister Sarah (Pierce) Sisley was given a surprise testimonial in the Roscoe, PA Branch on June 6, 1985 with Sister Bertha Bilsky in charge.

Sister Sarah was baptized on June 2, 1935 by Brother Henry Johnson at Dunlevy, Pennsylvania and confirmed by Brother Herman Kennedy. She was ordained a deaconess on October 3, 1971 by Brother Gaspar Karelli.

Many brothers, sisters, family, and friends from different branches met to honor her. A history of Sister Sarah's life was read by her natural sister, Sister Ella May Abbott. Brother George Johnson, who was visiting here from Phoenix, Arizona, spoke highly of our Sister Sarah, whom he has known for many years, having been our presiding elder in the past. Other brothers and sisters testified to our sister's devotion and service to God. Hymns of praise were sung and we rejoiced with our Sister Sarah.

Refreshments were served afterwards and our Sister Sarah was presented with a Bible. We had a wonderful time of fellowship tonight and we want to thank our God for all His love and blessings.

By Joyce Azzinaro

On June 15, 1985 we had the pleasure of honoring the two oldest members of the Valley Branch, Brother Joe and Sister Suzie Maselli. The day of our groundbreaking we presented them with a boutonniere and a corsage to wear as they were treated to lunch by all the members and their families following the ceremony. Our brother and sister related to me how they met The Church of Jesus Christ:

One Saturday, Brother Joe was invited to go to Cleveland, Ohio by Brother Patsi Pallelis, whom he was acquainted with, and attend The Church of Jesus Christ there. Brother Joe was not too familiar with the Church at that time. When they arrived in Cleveland, they waited downtown for a streetcar to go to the east side, but Brother Patsi wasn't really sure where the church was located. While waiting, an older

gentleman came up to them and asked them where they were going. They replied, "The Church of Jesus Christ." He told them that he was headed there as well. The three men took the streetcar and the older man pointed out where the church was as they approached the stop. When the streetcar stopped, Brother Joe and Brother Patsi went out the front door and saw the older man leave by the rear door. But when they got off, he was gone. They found the church where the man said it would be and attended the morning meeting. Brother Joe didn't want to go to the afternoon meeting, so a brother let him stay at his home that afternoon. It impressed Brother Joe that someone would trust a stranger in his house like this. He realized that these were the people of God and that God had directed him that day.

A few weeks later, on February 25, 1935, Brother Joe asked for his baptism in Lorain, Ohio when the elder asked if anyone felt it was their time to be baptized. Brother Joe said he felt something lift him out of his seat and all of a sudden he was standing there asking for his baptism.

Sister Suzie recalls that she had a hard time within herself for four months after her husband was baptized. She prayed often, especially at night when her children were asleep, asking God to give her understanding. She would read her Bible by candlelight every night.

Eventually she had her four children blessed in the Church. The oldest, then

Notice

The General Church Board of Trustees are requesting bids on painting the ceiling of the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Anyone interested in submitting a bid, please contact Joseph Ross for details. All bids must be submitted by September 15, 1985. The General Church Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Notice

The address of the new McKees Rocks, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ is as follows:

> The Church of Jesus Christ 227 Herbst Road Coraopolis, PA 15108 (412) 771-1335

five years old, told her when the elder layed his hands on him he had this feeling come over his whole body. She was truly blessed by this young child's experience and knew it was God's Spirit. On May 26, 1935 she asked for her baptism. Like her husband before her, she was baptized by Brother Pasquale Fyre. She went to the water's edge with a brace on her left leg and when she came out of the water her leg was healed. The next day she threw the shoe and the brace away. To this day she has never needed them again.

Sister Suzie and Brother Joe never stop praising God and a Sunday never goes by without them standing in our fellowship service to bear their testimonies. They are two beautiful people we all love and admire very much. May the Lord continue to be with them in their lives.



Brother Joe and Sister Suzie Maselli

Notice

The General Church Board of Trustees are requesting bids on the General Church Blanket Insurance Coverage of ALL Church properties. Anyone interested in submitting a bid, please contact:

> Joseph Ross #2 Ross Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001 Ph. (412) 375-1648

Upon written request, INSURANCE SPECIFICATIONS will be sent to any bidder. All bids must be submitted by November 15, 1985. The General Church Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids.



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

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Reading the word of God, both the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, we learn of the glorious future that is promised to those who diligently seek to carry out the will of God. The Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ will be preached to Israel and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people until the day comes when the knowledge of the Lord covers the earth as the waters cover the sea.

As we come to understand these things, our hearts are filled with excitement and anticipation, and as we ponder upon these things and study them, we strive to draw closer to God, that we might be prepared to carry out His will in whatever way He directs us.

Our annual business conference is one of the ways in which we as a Church prepare for the future that we know lies ahead of us. The business of the Church is not something that should be taken lightly; it should not be looked upon as something non-spiritual and therefore unimportant. The business that is transacted at conference affects all of us, wherever we may find ourselves in this Church. Decisions are made at conference relating to how we will deal with the future. The Church will move forward, the Lord has revealed it, and it is important that we seek His direction as we carry out the business of the Church. We should do everything we can to be ready for whatever opportunity may arise to help further the cause of the Church.

We would do well to fast and pray for the upcoming conference. It is important that the Lord's direction be with us as we conduct the business of the Church. As we deliberate on the various issues that reach the conference floor, let us ask God to unite us and direct us, that His will might be done. We must ask God to send workers where He needs them most, where they will be most effective. We must ask Him to increase our individual desires to work for His kingdom.

In years past, and even recently, we have been blessed with the manifestation of God's spiritual gifts in our business meetings. It is such a blessing to know that the Lord is pleased with us, that we are indeed carrying out His will. Let us endeavor at this conference to be in a spirit where He might once again see fit to bestow such a blessing upon us.

As we are all individuals, no two of us will see everything in the same light, but we can ask the Lord to fill us with Charity, that we would never lose sight of the common goal we all most certainly share: the bringing about of God's kingdom upon this land and throughout the entire world. If we stand united for this cause, our differences will fade.

Whether or not you plan on attending this conference, I would ask each of you to pray that the priesthood would be united under the direction of the Spirit of God. There is indeed a great work to be done; and none of us is able without the Lord's help to be all He would have us to be. Through our fastings and our prayers, however, combined with diligence and good works, we as a Church will one day become the glorious Bride of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

What would you do if you were a missionary and had convinced thousands of people to believe in God so that the whole country was in an uproar? The sons of Mosiah, Ammon, Aaron, Omner, and Himni, along with their brethren, spoke the beautiful words of God to their ancient enemies, the Lamanites. They suffered being beat up, spit upon, and thrown into prison until God moved among these people.

Finally the great king met these men and learned about God's love. He gave these missionaries royal permission to preach anywhere in his nation. Thousands heard for the first time the true story of their history and God's love for them and were changed. At one time these people were proud of being fierce and wild. They once rejoiced in killing any Nephite unfortunate enough to come their way. Now they loved their Nephite missionaries and all people.

These new believers were baptized and called themselves the Anti-Nephi-Lehis. They promised God that they would bury their weapons of war and never kill again.

Revolution shook the country. A group of people living with the Lamanites, called Amalekites, convinced a group of Lamanites to overthrow their ruling king and destroy those that believed the new religion. They formed an army and marched out to attack the new Christians.

But these new believers were not afraid to die. They marched forth, singing God's praises, and allowed the Lamanites to slaughter them. Over a thousand Lamanites threw their swords down and joined those willing to die rather than commit murder. The other Lamanites and Amalakites marched off my with food and supplies. to fight in the land of Nephi.



not defeat the Nephites, they returned in great numbers to harass and kill the new Christians. It horrified and pained Ammon and his brethren to witness the slaughter, but they respected the Anti-Nephi-Lehis' covenant to never kill again.

Ammon went to the king and suggested that the thousands of believers leave their country and travel through jungles and across mountains to go live among the Nephites, who also believed in God. But the king said to Ammon, "Those Nephites will kill us because of all the murders and terrible things we have done to them in the past.'

Ammon said, "I will go and ask of the Lord. If He says for us to go, will you go?"

The king replied, "We will even be their slaves until we've paid back all the wrong we did.'

But Ammon answered, "It is against the law of our people to have slaves; let us go down and trust them to be merciful."

The king told Ammon, "Ask God. If He tells us to go, we will go. Otherwise we will die in this land.

The Lord spoke and told Ammon to take all of the new converts to the land of the Nephites where they would be protected. And so a new people joined the servants of God.

Through the love of God, cultures were blended and old prejudices overcome. These new converts were called the People of Ammon by the other Nephites. They were given a safe place to settle and live in Jershon. In return for the protection the Nephites provided them, they supported the Nephite ar-

These mothers raised their sons to Now when the Lamanite armies could glorify God and firmly believe in His

power. Eventually they grew up to be warriors who protected all of God's children. They were referred to as Helaman's stripling warriors (Alma 53). The two peoples grew together in faith and service to the one true God.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario Circle Holds Mother-Daughter Banquet

By Judy Coppa

On Tuesday evening, May 14, our sisters and friends brought their daughters and mothers to a lovely banquet dinner held in Allen Park. Michigan. The theme of the evening was "Let's Get Acquainted." Each place setting had a small leaflet in which was printed the locations and meeting times as well as the names of the officers of every circle in our district.

To encourage all the ladies present to get to know one another better, each one was asked to find someone whom they had never met before and to learn her name and the funniest thing that ever happened to her. After enjoying a delicious buffet dinner, we were treated to a series of short poems about mothers and daughters. We then proceeded to hear from those who had met someone new and we enjoyed many funny stories about situations our sisters and friends had experienced. Shyness and a little reluctance soon gave way to some wonderfully enjoyable tales. Roses were awarded to the ladies who had made the greatest number of new friends.

As the evening drew to a close, all ladies present expressed what an enjoyable time they had. We truly got acquainted with one another. It was a time spent in relaxing, feasting, laughing, and renewing our friendship between mothers and daughters as well as sisters and friends.

A Letter

The following letter and poem were written by a recently renewed brother in Christ, Samuel Blanc of Waterford, Texas. Brother Joseph Calabrese felt to share excerpts with all of the Gospel News readers.

Dear Brother Joe and Sister Vicki,

It was quite a surprise and so wonderful to hear your voices over the telephone! Thank the Lord for such lovely, wonderful saints! And thank the Lord again for His beautiful, wonderful way of life! Yes, thank the Lord for the spiritual sunshine that He floods our souls with, the sunshine of His light and love and strength, and inspiration, and always leaves us with a song in our hearts!

Sister Lucille (his wife) is still in the hospital, I have not seen or talked with the new doctor yet but she is still having quite a few injections each day by

the nurses, and I've heard her cry out in pain when it hurt her quite a bit, and brought tears to her eyes. She told me that no one knows what she has to go through, but thank the Lord, ever since the phone conversation that we had with you and our Brother Tony Lovalvo, she looks better each time I go to see her, and now they are allowing her to eat something. Praise the Lord, the swelling in her legs has gone down as well. I thank God for all your wonderful prayers again, and my wife thanks you as well. With the Lord's inspiration, I composed a poem earlier this evening. I hope you like it.

May the Great Living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob who inspires all of us to ever greater heights of His enlightenment and love for us, inspire you to bring many souls to repentance!

Jesus-Our All!

The Gospel of Jesus Christ-now restored,

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 1

By Lisa DiFalco

There was a new name written down in glory on Sunday May 26: Brother Mario G. Zaccagnini. Brother Mario couldn't have picked a better day to call for his baptism. Many of us were anticipating a shower of blessings for our feet washing service, but the shower became more like a downpour when Brother Mario called for his baptism.

It all began in the morning service. First, Sister Karen Progar from Aliquippa, PA sang a solo for us. Then Brother Tom Everett opened the service with a very direct and inspiring message. He spoke to us the same words Jesus spoke to Nicodemus, "Ye must be born again." Not "born again" as the world knows it, however. "Born again" is a popular term nowadays along with such sayings as "once saved, always saved," and "confess it with your mouth and you're saved." But Brother Tom pointed out that being born again is more than confessing with the mouth, for even the devils do such. Brother Tom pointed out the dif-ference: We can believe the words and confess with our tongues the power of God, but it is by faith that we act upon His words, making our commitment to the Lord by baptism and changing our lives. That is what makes us "born again" in the eyes of the Lord.

These words came so strongly I think some of us were ready to be baptized again, but this Sunday was Brother Mario's day. Right after the morning service he called for his baptism. Brother Mario said that when he came to church this morning, he came with the express purpose of making a decision, and the words that Brother Tom spoke were a confirmation to him that it was time to do more than confess, more than believe, and we all went to the water's edge to see him *act* upon the words of Christ.

Before he entered the waters of Lake St. Clair it was a cloudy and overcast day, but as his uncle, Brother Richard Thomas, baptized him, the sun began to break through the clouds and it illuminated the event taking place in front of us in its bright light.

After the baptism, we went back to church to confirm our brother and go into our feet washing service. After his confirmation, Brother Mario related to us that the Spirit told him that Brother To save the poor sinners, and lost! Come back! Come back to the ways of the Lord!

Come back, or consider the cost!

How joyful it is to come back to Christ, As Jesus re-enters our heart!

No longer to stray, or be Satan-enticed, No longer to sin do we part!

He lights up the pathways for any to find Salvation and grace through His name! And pleads with all sinners to change their mind

And return to God, whence they came!

He strengthens His Church, and fills us with love.

And tells us He loves us so much! O Lamb of God, guide us from above, And make us all worthy of such!

> Love Brother Sam Blanc

Tony Scolaro would confirm him, and that is exactly what happened.

We closed out our day rejoicing for our Brother Mario and for being able to share our feet washing service with the many visitors who came that afternoon from other branches.

Rochester, NY

Rochester, New York rejoiced with its first trip to the waters of regeneration in over fifteen years. June 9, 1985 brought Brother Frank Calabrese and Brother John and Sister Ann Ahlborn to our service, but as we soon found out. it also brought Helen Garlow into the watery grave. Our new sister had met the Church at the Six Nations Indian reservation in 1953 and was one of their Sunday School teachers for over ten years, but it wasn't until she moved to New York that she realized that her lot was to be rooted in The Church of Jesus Christ. Since December, we of the Rochester Mission watched God move in a mysterious way, and finally, on June 9, immediately following Sunday School, she asked to be baptized.

Brother Frank Calabrese spoke briefly concerning the covenant that our new sister was about to make, and before he 8 September, 1985

ROCHESTER continued . . .

took Sister Helen to Lake Ontario, Steven and Jeffrey Drobek were blessed in the Church. Steven was born on May 24, 1979 and blessed by Brother Ansel D'Amico and Jeffrey was born on August 17, 1980 and blessed by Brother Frank Calabrese. How good it was to see two young boys blessed, that someday they, too, would render obedience to God as Sister Helen had today.

Following her baptism, we gathered back at the church building where Sister Helen was confirmed by Brother Ansel D'Amico. We are thankful for God's mercy shown toward our sister and toward the Rochester Mission.

We would ask for your prayers for our new sister, for we are thankful to see God gather another of the Seed of Joseph into the Church.

We are also thankful for the support of Brother Wayne Martorana and his family on May 12, 1985 along with Brother Jim Hufnagle, and also Brother Nick Pietrangelo and his wife, Sister Yolanda, on May 19, 1985. It is not often that we have the pleasure to followship with our brothers and sisters.

Saturday morning June 23 found the brothers and sisters of Rochester, along with members of the Ohio Area MBA, in church for our regular fasting and prayer service, but following this early morning gathering, everyone set out with paint, brushes, and rollers to put a coat of paint on our building, which has weathered many storms. By 7:00 that evening, we had used twelve gallons of paint, eaten two meals prepared by our sisters, fellowshipped for many hours, and were ready for a blessing on the following day.

On Sunday, Brother Joel Calabrese opened our service with many inspiring thoughts. Brothers Bob Quinn and Joel Gehly followed, inspired by our first brother's opening words. In the afternoon, Brother Frank Natoli was speaking, on behalf of the Rochester Mission, of our gratitude to the Ohio Area MBA for coming to help out and lift up the arms of the saints in Rochester. Brother Bob Quinn heard a voice speak the following words: "Your arms have been lifted up, and they shall continue to be lifted up."

The next weekend, Brother Paul and Sister Ann Ciotti along with Brother

Frank and Sister Rose Palacios visited our mission and we rejoiced to hear how the Lord had healed our Brother Paul only days before his trip to Rochester. We heard many beautiful experiences and rejoiced in what God has done and is still doing for His people. On Sunday morning Brother Palacios taught our Sunday School and Brother Paul Ciotti opened the service. We glorify the name of God for the gift which He has given to our Brother Paul, for while he was preaching on Israel and the love which he has toward all of Israel, the gift of tongues was spoken and interpreted as follows: "All my promises, all my promises will come to pass, saith the Lord, and I will gather my people, and I will gather Joseph, and I will gather the house of Israel, and My kingdom shall be established, so saith the Lord." It was so good to have the Lord remind us that He has not forgotten His people.

Saturday evening, July 13, the saints of God gathered for a scripture study class taught by Brother Vince Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio. We studied Moroni 8:25-26, which served as a prelude to our Sunday service.

Al Mayher taught our Sunday School the next day, and Brother Vince opened the service stating that there are two types of lifestyles that we, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, can lead: Fitting our life into the Church, or fitting the Church into our lives. He went on to tell us that we must be the best servants that we can be in order to please the Lord. Ammon was the best servant that he could be, and as a result, the king's household came to the Lord.

Brother Pat Marinetti followed and cited many examples of men in the scriptures who were ordinary men, yet brought forth extraordinary accomplishments. Brother Pat told us that we must be purified and sanctified as these men were if we want to see extraordinary accomplishments in our lives.

We thank God for our visitors and for the uplifting spirit that they bring.

Erie, PA

Our cup overflowed on Sunday, May 26, when the saints, friends, and families of the McKees Rocks Branch arrived by bus at our branch. In place of Sunday School, Brother Harold Burge said a few words of welcome and we sang some hymns.

Our morning meeting was opened by Brother George A. Kovacic, reading from Revelation 2:7. He also related a dream that he had before his ordination into the priesthood, regarding spiritual food.

Our quartet sang, and Brother Paul Ciotti spoke next, reading from Malachi 3:13-18, regarding the "book of remembrance" and the peace of mind and joy in serving the Lord. The world looks for pleasure in other places, but we who know better find it in serving God.

Brother Bill Colangelo was our next speaker and his words pertained to being the saints of God. As saints we have the hope of someday partaking of the fruit of the tree of life. Brother John Manes commented on how some put God in the back seat of their lives. Our lifespan passes quickly, and if we have Him in our lives, He will help us to overcome life's trials.

Brother Dan Casasanta gave a word of testimony, telling how the Lord has brought deep peace and happiness to his life. Brother Dick Lawson was also very thankful for the privilege of being here with us, as he was recently released from the hospital. His sermon was on the subject of "He that overcometh . . ." (Malachi 4:1) We must try with God's help to overcome things that happen in our lives. We can choose the attitude with which we look at things.

The Erie Branch is grateful to the McKees Rocks Branch for their welcome visit. It was a day that will be long remembered. Thanks be to God!

North Carolina

By Margaret Iorio

Greetings from North Carolina. We are a small group, some living in the western part and others living in the central part of the state, but regardless of the distance we meet the first Sunday of each month, rotating from home to home. To some of us it brings back memories of how we met together up North. Each time we meet God blesses us. We received a great blessing when we met at Brother Jon Molinatto's home in June. A few brothers and sisters from Niles and Warren, Ohio arrived Friday evening. Saturday brought us Brother and Sister Dan Casasanta and Sisters Valia and Nina DiCenzo from McKees Rocks, PA along with our

brothers and sisters from North Carolina. Before we retired Saturday evening, Brother Joe Genaro asked each of us to pray and ask God to bless us on the Sabbath.

Sunday we awoke refreshed and after breakfast, we met in the living room and sang beautiful hymns of praise to God. Brother Jonathan Molinatto called the members to attention, saying he was happy to see each one and asked each of us to have a prayer in our hearts for God's presence to be with us. Prayer was offered by Brother Dan Casasanta, after which he opened the meeting. He spoke on love and the trysting place of prayer. He encouraged us to be prayerful and find a place of prayer at all times. Brother Joe Genaro followed on the same theme with many beautiful thoughts. Brother Jon then related several experiences and suggested that we not try to climb the mountains of life on roller skates or we'll never make it. For every two steps we go up, we'll fall down three.

We made preparations to ordain our Sister Virginia Molinatto into the office of a deaconess. There were four deaconesses present, and the lot fell upon Sister Fannie Casasanta to wash Sister Virginia's feet as we all sang, Ye Who Are Called to Labor. Brother Joe then ordained Sister Virginia. In his prayer, he spoke the gift of tongues. Several understood the tongues to be a message of love. Brother John Genaro expressed himself, saying he was given to understand that God bestowed a portion of His love on our Sister Virginia today.

Brother Joe Genaro stated that there was a work to be performed here, and he had felt for some time to call Sister Virginia Molinatto into the office of a deaconess. A sister in our group related an experience where she saw our Sister Virginia helping her husband in serving the brothers at what appeared to be a conference. At this point Brother Dan Casasanta anointed our Brother John for his affliction.

We brought our sweet time together to an end with the hymn, God Be With You Till We Meet Again. Brother Bob Dyer closed in prayer. What wonderful blessings we received, and how sad it was to part, each going back to their homes. Brother Jon Molinatto is presiding elder here with Brother Joe Genaro as counselor. We pray that God would bless Brother Joe with continuing good health. May God bless you all.

Aliquippa, PA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

Many of us have wondered from time to time what the brothers and sisters of the Church in foreign lands are like, and if the saints in other lands are the same as those in this land. We in the Aliquippa Branch had this question answered as we were privileged to have Brother Ford Boadu, an elder from Ghana, Africa, in our midst for nearly a month. We found from listening to our brother's preaching, and in talking with him, that the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ are the same everywhere, that in all the saints there exists a love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and a desire to serve the Lord with all their heart, mind, strength, and soul.

On Sunday April 14, Brother Ford's love for the Lord was illustrated in his preaching as we enjoyed a wonderful message. Our meeting got under way with one of our brother's favorite hymns, What a Friend. After opening prayer Sister Karen Progar sang Take My Life and Let It Be, in which a wonderful spirit was felt.

Brother Ford used John 3:16 for his text and offered many seasoned words dealing with this scripture. Our brother summarized God's plan of salvation and emphasized the tremendous love that God has for us if we continue to serve Him. Brother Ford's words were truly inspired by God on this day as his preaching filled our souls from start to finish. Our brother used many wise analogies to elaborate upon his subject. He stated that when Adam fell, a chasm was created between God and man, and that the Lord sent His son Jesus to be a bridge that allows us to cross the chasm and return to God. Brother Ford referred to Christ as our passport to heaven. He related to us how in 1983 he desired to attend the World Missionary Conference but could not, as he was unable to obtain a passport. He continued, saying that God has provided this Church, and His Son Jesus Christ, as our means of obtaining passage to heaven, and we must all be sure to obtain that passport.

Brother Ford continued his exhortation by instructing us to avoid seeking happiness in the things of this world, for they provide only a false happiness. Rather, we should seek Jesus Christ, for He is the only One who can provide true happiness, and a peace that passes all understanding. Our brother stated that there is much technology in this world, and that he himself was amazed when he saw a computer for the first time. But the wisdom of Christ surpasses all the knowledge of this world, and it is in Christ that we must place our faith in order to obtain our eternal reward. Brother Ford concluded his inspired sermon by informing us that it is very difficult to establish a church in Africa unless drumming, dancing, and clap-ping are practiced; but it is his responsibility, along with ours, to keep the Church pure and serve God in the manner He wishes us to serve Him. If we serve God the way He wishes, we will experience many wonderful blessings, and we will see the Gospel preached throughout the world.

What a heartfelt blessing it was to sit under the sound of our African brother's message, and to see the missionary work of the Church begin to come to fruition. There is a warm feeling of gratification in seeing a man from so many miles away experience the same love and reverence for the Gospel as we in this land experience. Brother Ford's visit to our branch left us all uplifted and more enthusiastic in our service to God. Our brother is an example of the fruit of our missionary efforts, and is evidence that the Lord is continuing to work with His people to spread the Gospel to all men. We must all continue to work and pray for the day that the great prophet Nephi spoke of when he beheld "that the Church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth." (I Nephi 14:12)

We also had a special meeting bidding Brother Ford farewell on May 8, and once again we enjoyed wonderful words of exhortation delivered by our brother. Brother Ford instructed us to fast and pray more often in order to move the hand of the Lord. Our brother recounted many powerful experiences he and others in Ghana have had as a result of fasting and prayer, demonstrating the ability of a diligent prayer to move the hand of God. Once again the words of our Brother Ford were thoroughly enjoyed.

Brother John Ross, chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee, commended Brother Ford for his continuous efforts in leading the flock of four hundred members, with our brother being the only elder there. Brother John asked that we would continue to remember our brother in prayer, that the Lord 10 September, 1985

ALIQUIPPA continued . . .

would continue to abide with him.

Following the speaking, our brother was presented with gifts by the Aliquippa MBA and Ladies' Circle. The Men's Bible Class presented Brother Ford with a new camera, since he had lost his at the previous conference.

We concluded our service by singing God Be With You, and retired to the basement for refreshments and fellowship. We each awaited our turn to bid our brother farewell, and Brother Ford awaited his chance to snap a photo of each of us! In Brother Ford we can truly say that we have found a new friend in the Gospel, and he will surely be missed. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless our brother in his ministry among the people in Ghana, and we will hope to see him again someday.

Brother Daryl and Sister Donna Rossi of Aliquippa, PA had their prayers answered shortly after the birth of their daughter Leslie when a beautiful experience illustrating the power of God took place. While the newborn child was still in the hospital she became afflicted with jaundice, causing the doctors to perform blood tests upon her. The results of these tests showed that she had traces of sugar in her blood, and it was feared that the young infant might be diabetic.

The doctors decided to perform more tests upon the child, and it was at this point that the power of the Lord was shown. Brother Daryl and Sister Donna had young Leslie anointed by the priesthood of the Church, and upon receiving the results of the tests, all traces of the sugar were gone. The Lord had heard their cry. We thank God that He heard the prayers of our brother and sister, and that He continues to care for His people. Our hope is that the Lord would continue to bless Brother Daryl and Sister Donna, along with their beautiful family.

Hollywood, FL

By Doug Obradovich

She was never "just a deaconess." She was a deaconess, a sister, a friend, a confidant, a mother, a wife, and so

(Continued on Page 11)

Audio Visual Committee Catalog

	That committee outling	
Number	Description	Cost
1	World Missionary Conference Video Tapes (2) Video tapes of the August, 1983 World Missionary Con- ference held in Lynchburg, Virginia at Eagle Eyrie, con- taining meetings, exhibits of mission fields, etc. Video Tapes.	\$40.00
2A	June, 1983 General Church Conference—Saturday Missionary Reports including Report on Nigeria by Nephi and Lorraine DeMercurio. <u>Cassette Tape</u> .	3.50
2B	June, 1983 General Church Conference—Sunday Sunday morning Conference worship service, featuring speaking by Nephi DeMercurio and Dominic Thomas. Cassette Tape.	3.50
2C	June, 1983 General Church Conference—Saturday and Sunday—Set of both 2A and 2B. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
3	June, 1984 General Church Conference—Sunday Sunday morning Conference worship service, featuring speaking by Leonard Lovalvo (of Michigan), Frank Morle and others. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
4	G.M.B.A. "1984" Campout Highlights Preaching by George Benyola in Sunday evening service and V. James Lovalvo in Wednesday evening service. <u>Cassette Tape</u> .	3.50
5	G.M.B.A. "1984" Campout Sing-a-Long Hymns and songs sung during G.M.B.A. "84" Campout at Massanetta Springs by Campout Choir, trios, in- dividuals and the congregation. <u>Cassette Tape</u> .	3.50
6A	October, 1984 General Church Spiritual Conference- Saturday-Missionary Program Reports; speaking by Russell Cadman, V. James Lovalvo, Joseph Milantoni, and Peter Scolaro. Also the American Indian Committee Presentation. <u>5 Cassette Tapes</u> .	13.50
6B	October, 1984 General Church Spiritual Conference— Sunday—Speaking by John Griffith, Norman Campitelle, Mitchell Edwards, and English Webb. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
6C	October, 1984 General Church Spiritual Conference— Saturday and Sunday. Set of both 6A and 6B. <u>7 Cassette Tapes</u> .	17.00
7A	November, 1984 G.M.B.A. Program. Atlantic Coast M.B.A.—Saturday evening program after Conference. <u>Cassette Tape</u> .	3.50
7B	November, 1984 Sunday after G.M.B.A. Conference— Sunday—Speaking by Gerald Valenti, Peter Scolaro, and Dominic Moraca. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
7C	November, 1984 G.M.B.A. Program by Atlantic Coast and Sunday Morning Service. <u>3 Cassette Tapes</u> .	8.50
8	March, 1985 Pennsylvania District Conference—Sunday Speaking by Alex Robinson, Paul Ciotti, Frank Calabrese, and English Webb. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00

HOLLYWOOD continued . . .

much more. When Sister Joyce Moraco passed on to her glorious reward, the Hollywood Branch and all those who knew and loved her missed all of these qualities. Many of Sister Joyce's attributes cannot be replaced, only cherished within one's dearest memories.

Following Sister Joyce's passing, the ministry of the Hollywood Branch united in prayer and asked God to comfort the saints. Along with this, they asked Him to fill the office of deaconess. He answered both prayers through many different experiences.

The priesthood was inspired to approach Sisters Kathy Catone Kirschenfad and Candace Ross Obradovich, and ask them to accept the office of deaconess. They were both reassured by their own dreams that their callings were from God. Also, Sister Suzanne Catone was given a beautiful dream

AUDIO VISUAL CATALOG continued . . .

- April, 1985 General Church Conference. Friday evening—
 Speaking by recently ordained Elders.—Saturday
 morning—Speaking by V. James Lovalvo and Robert Watson.—Saturday afternoon—Speaking by Eugene Perri;
 Ford Boadu of Ghana, Africa; Paul Benyola; Joseph Milantoni; and Dwayne Jordan.—Saturday evening—Sing-a-Long by congregation and others. <u>5 Cassette Tapes</u>.
- April, 1985 General Church Conference—Sunday morning Speaking by Dominic Moraco; Peter Scolaro; Sam Dell; Ford Boadu of Ghana, Africa; and Joseph Perri.
 2 Cassette Tapes.
- 9C April, 1985 General Church Conference—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Set of 9A and 9B. 7 Cassette Tapes.
- 10A May, 1985 G.M.B.A. Program. Michigan-Ontario District Saturday evening program after Conference. <u>Cassette Tape</u>
- 10B May, 1985 Sunday after G.M.B.A. Conference—Sunday speaking by Louis Vitto; Alex Gentile; Paul Palmieri; Joe Furnari; Joe Calabrese; and Tony Lovalvo. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u>.
- 10C May, 1985 G.M.B.A. Program by Michigan-Ontario District and Sunday morning service. <u>3 Cassette Tapes</u>.
- 11 Songs of Zion—Number 1 to 10 inclusive, Volume 1— Sung by Bob Batson; Marty Jumper; Iva Fedorka; Karen Progar; Nancy Botwright; Carol Jumper; Mon City Quartet, Aliquippa Trio, Jeffrey Giannetti and Ken Staley. 1 Cassette Tape.

Future Volumes will contain remainder of Songs of Zion sung by our Church talent. You will be notified!

Audio-Visual Committee: Fred D'Antonio, Walter Laird and Carl Amato. All orders sent to Joseph Ross, #2 Ross Drive, Aliquippa, PA 15001. Prices do not include shipping. Bill will be sent with shipping costs.

concerning Sister Kathy and Brother Paul DiNardo related a dream he had about Sister Candace. All these dreams were wonderful confirmations for the ministry and the two sisters.

On May 12, (Mother's Day, appropriately enough), the Hollywood Branch met together to celebrate these beautiful ordinations. The brothers and sisters watched as Sister Viola Catone washed the feet of her daughter, Sister Kathy, and Sister Susan Coppa washed Sister Candace's feet. Brother Dennis Moraco then ordained Sister Kathy. We were also blessed to have our visiting Brother Dominic Moraca in attendance, and he ordained Sister Candace.

The day was a wonderful culmination to a very beautiful weekend. It is certainly reassuring and even comforting when the work of the Lord is fulfilled through direct revelation. An open invitation is extended to all to visit the Hollywood Branch, as we continue to strive forward with all efforts going into doing the work of the Lord. So, come on down and share God's blessings with us at Hollywood.

GROUNDBREAKING continued . . .

eighteen months to complete and was dedicated on July 8, 1955. At this time we do not have an estimated date of completion, but we look forward to dedicating in the summer of 1986. In the meantime, we are meeting in a chapel in Northridge, CA.

Brother Edmund expressed our appreciation to the city council of Simi Valley for granting us the necessary permission to begin construction this summer. Many people, members and friends alike, have volunteered their time to help with the building in whatever capacity they can. The branch trustees were also thanked for their many hours-some late ones-and their commitment to see this job through completion, all for the welfare of the members and friends of the Church. We also thanked the architect for assisting in the design of the building. With a prayerful determination and commitment we will build a new facility which will more effectively meet our spiritual needs and the needs of the community in which we reside. Let us pray for a successful completion of this worthy task.

After all was said, Brother Edmund took a golden shovel and broke the first ground. He was followed by the trustees each taking a turn. Brother Joe and

Sister Suzie, our anniversary couple, even turned a shovelful of earth along

- 3.50 with other brothers and sisters. And of course all the children waited in line for their turn.
- 5.00 There were 44 people in attendance that morning. It was a very happy occasion. As we have this task before us, we ask for your continued prayers on our behalf. May God bless each of you.

8.00

13.50

5.00

17.00

HEADQUARTERS continued . . .

6.00 swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. They shall not learn war any more. (Scripture references: Isaiah 2:2-4, 11:6-9, 35th chapter, 65:18-25; Hosea 2:18-20; Micah 4:1-7)

Brother Scaglione concluded his article with information on the various services held weekly at the Monongahela Branch, welcoming one and all to attend.

* WEDDINGS *

CALABRESE-OTTO

Gary Allen Calabrese and Constance Marie Otto were united in holy matrimony on April 27, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Joseph Calabrese performed the wedding ceremony.

ALBERT-SAPKO

Scott Albert and Michelle Sapko were united in marriage on Saturday, June 1, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Richard Scaglione. Musical selections were presented by Sister Erma Draskovich on the organ and Rhoda Sapko on piano.

Solos were sung by Sherri Draskovich and Rhoda Sapko, a cousin of the bride.

SCAGLIONE-BRIGHT

Brother Richard Scaglione, Jr. and Sister Jessie Bright were united in marriage on June 8, 1985 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

The groom's father, Brother Richard Scaglione, officiated, with Brother Charles Jumper assisting.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Ken Staley and Sister Iva Fedorka, accompanied on the organ by the bride's sister, Valerie Marynchak. The newlyweds will reside in Monongahela, PA. Our prayer is that God would bless them in their life together.

New Arrivals

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

Address	Change
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Maritza Chaparro to Santiago Jr. and Sharon Gonzalez of Lorain, Ohio.

Leslie Michelle to Daryl and Donna Rossi of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Laurel Jane to Alexander and Melissa Cherry of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Dustin Kyle to Terry and Denise Pratt of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Tania to Ron and Angelina Caparotta of Lake Worth, Florida.

OBITUARIES

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

MARGARET WARD

Sister Margaret R. Ward, a member of the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch, passed away on May 31, 1985 at the age of 95.

Brothers Charles Smith and Idris Martin officiated at the funeral.

Sister Margaret is survived by her daughter, Sister Bertha Somerville of Orlando, Florida.

LEHI CRISCUOLO

Lehi S. Criscuolo passed from this life on June 15, 1985. He was born November 19, 1953 in Almont, Michigan. Lehi was blessed in the Church at the Port Huron, Michigan Mission by his father, Brother Silverio Criscuolo.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Peter H. Capone and Paul Whitton. Sister Tracey Francione sang *How Great Thou Art* at the service.

Lehi is survived by his mother and father, Brother Silverio and Sister Mary Criscuolo of Harrison, Michigan, his brother, Brother Lyle Criscuolo also of Harrison, and three sisters. In addition to his immediate family, Lehi will be missed by his many nieces and nephews, as well as a host of friends.

RUTH HOWRY

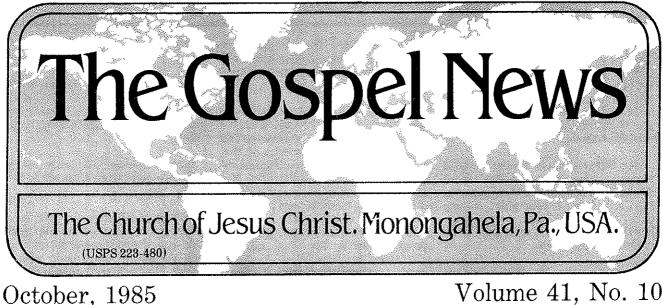
Sister Ruth C. Howry of the Valley Branch, California, departed to her eternal reward on July 17, 1985. She was born on April 3, 1907 in Cambria, Wyoming and baptized into the Church on Easter Sunday of 1966.

A funeral service was held by Brothers John Azzinaro, Edmund Buccellato, and Frank Verardo.

Sister Ruth leaves to mourn one daughter, Sister Pat Verardo, and a son, Dean Howry, in addition to eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

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In her later years Sister Ruth was quite ill and was cared for by her daughter, who will especially miss her mother. Our sister was of great faith, being right with God to her last day. She loved the sisters and brothers very much.



Bible School at Tse Bonito

By Peter Genaro

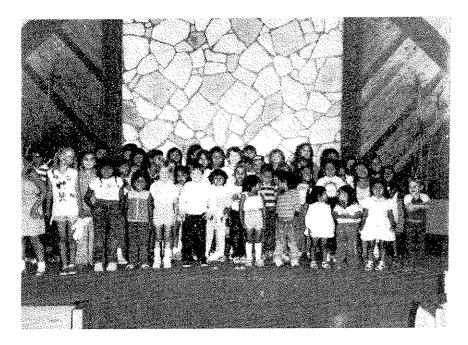
The Tse Bonito Branch held its second annual Vacation Bible School here on the Navajo Reservation on July 8-12, 1985. Our enrollment reached upward of ninety children for the week, with our theme being, "Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus." We knew it was a success when we began depleting many of our supplies and materials within the first couple of days.

We carpooled the children in from the surrounding communities and gathered at the church at 6:00 each evening.

Beginning activities included learning new songs each day, a storytelling time, penny contest (which raised \$45), a contest to see who brought the most friends, etc. Next, the children learned their daily lessons, followed by arts and crafts time. Then we went outside for refreshments before closing at 8:30 p.m.

A program was held on Thursday night for the parents and the community to hear the songs the children had learned and a review of the lessons. On Friday, we held an outdoor picnic for all

(Continued on Page 11)



Indian children learn of the Gospel at Tse Bonito, NM Branch. More photos on page 11.

Volume 41, No. 10

I've Found a Treasure

By Meredieth Martin

Riches in reserve! Precious values deposited for a wise purpose, a repository where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. I've found a treasure.

The first of thy fruits shalt thou bring into the house of the Lord. "Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase." (Proverbs 3:9) I have found a treasure.

The first fruits are spiritually conveyed from the terrestrial elements to the celestial repository. "Set aside every payday, your donations to the Lord.

How many times have these words been preached loud and clear, "Put God first, brothers and sisters, put God first. When you get your paycheck, take out your Church donation first, then pay your other bills."

Our brother Cleveland Baldwin cites numerous experiences of the treasures received from the spiritual repository when we put God first. He has referred to these words over and over again:

Put Jesus first, He'll take care of you. Put Jesus first in all that you do. Don't worry about tomorrow, it may bring joy or sorrow.

Put Jesus first, He'll take care of you.

TREASURE continued . . .

Have our faculties perceived what we've heard? Did we pay enough attention that these words might take on life and be applied daily? Put God first that you might develop a repository in the mansions above.

Our Sister Rhonda Hester found a treasure when she permitted these words to be applied. She hearkened to the words of our brother elder, putting God first, setting aside every payday her donation to the Lord. Here's the results of that action:

On Friday, June 28, 1985, while going through our finances and paying bills, I took note, as it was very obvious that our money was actually stretching, going further. When we tried, financially, to put God first, we received a treasure. When my husband Bro. Charleston began to take the Church donation out of his check first, the Lord stretched our money.

Looking carefully over our checkbook entries, I clearly and distinctly saw and also vividly remembered our financial struggle when we failed to put God first, utilizing our money to pay expenses, hoping that next time we could afford to give to God, to His Church. This did not become a reality until we began to take the Lord's portion out first. Then we realized the treasure we had acquired, a repository above, as well as financial security in this life.

That security is so eloquently expressed in Sister Arlene Buffington's hymn, "That He'll take care of me so I am satisfied. He said He'll take care of me, so I am satisfied." I have truly found a treasure. Put Jesus first and He'll take care of you. The first fruits are required by God. Honor Him with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase, and you will lay up treasures where moth and rust do not corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal. In doing so, you will find a treasure.

50th Anniversary

By Kerry Carlini

"Sweeter As the Years Go By" fittingly captured the mood of the day with the Detroit Branch 4 saints on July 7, 1985. This day was set aside as the 50th year in the service of the King for Sister Marie Fera. The spirit of joy and gladness felt at her baptism was as evident and strong on this day, as well as her desire to serve God.

Sister Marie's earliest memories of the Church were of the old Branch 1 (Divine Branch) where as a child she sat under the powerful sermons of Bro. Ishmael D'Amico and Bro. Thurman S. Furnier. Later on, the Northside Mission was established where Sis. Marie attended with her sister and brother-inlaw. At that time the church services were held in a storefront and were presided over by Bro. V. J. Lovalvo. Eventually on June 30, 1935, Sister Marie was baptized along with Sister Marion Batalucco, who also is still a faithful member of the Church. Bro. Jim, being the only elder there, baptized and confirmed them both. Sis. Anna Frammolino of Branch 1 was asked to assist as a deaconess in the baptisms, as the Northside Mission was without a deaconess at that time. In due time, the mission was organized as Branch 4. Ever since her baptism, Sis. Marie's continued involvement has characterized her service in the Church. This includes many years as a member of the Branch 4 Ladies' Circle, of which she is currently vice president. She is also the branch editor. Our sister expressed that the many wonderful experiences had by the saints have inspired and encouraged her through the years.

In recognition of Sister Marie's many years of faithful service, Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo, our presiding elder, asked that the congregation sing the hymn Sweeter As the Years Go By. Tears of joy and grateful appreciation filled the eyes of our dear sister as she went to the front of the church to receive a corsage. Unknown to Bro. Nick, this was Sis. Marie's favorite hymn, and it kept running through her mind during the previous week. This sweet spirit of God's blessings continued throughout the day.

Bro. Nick opened the service reading the scriptures on Charity, I Corinthians 13. Here it is written that though we speak with the tongues of men and angels, have the gift of prophecy, understand all mysteries, knowledge, and have all faith so that mountains be removed, if we have not charity, we are as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal; we are nothing. Bro. Nick stated that in charity, there are the qualifications we as individuals must meet in our service to God. "Charity suffereth long, and

(Continued on Page 4)

A Poem

These words were written by Sis. Josephine Bucolo in 1983. Her parents were David and Minnie Kennedy (See page 251 of the General Church History Book).

Sister Josephine was born in 1901 and was baptized in New Brunswick, NJ in 1975.

Although afflicted now, she is still praising the Lord and loves His Church. She looks forward to the day when she will be able to meet again with the saints. You may send greetings to her at:

> Jewish Rehabilitation Center 198 Stevens St., Room D11 Jersey City, NJ 07305

He Is Always There

When I get discouraged And burdened down with care, I always go to Jesus For He is always there.

And when I go to Jesus Sincerely in my prayer, I know He always hears me For He is always there.

Someday when we see Jesus And see His smiling face, He will bid us welcome With mercy and with grace.

And when our time is over With all His loving care, He will bid us welcome! For HE IS ALWAYS THERE.

A Note of Thanks

I wish to extend a very sincere Thank You to all the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ for the many phone calls, cards, and prayers offered up on my behalf. I am honored to say that the Lord has called upon me to be a member of this blessed Church.

I was baptized last May at the GMBA Conference and it was a tremendous experience for me. Please continue to remember me and my family in your daily prayers.

> Bro, Mark Lombardo Cleveland, Ohio Branch

It Is Written

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo



Jesus said, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24)

Too often human beings are prone to judge another by his or her appearance; the way one holds one's hands, the way one looks with his eyes, and in a multitude of different ways. Sometimes, one is correct in one's judgment of another's appearance or manner. But more often, one is wrong, as the appearances or mannerisms of a person don't necessarily disclose what goes on inside that person's mind.

However, I am going to give some indications whereby the mannerisms (or movements of the body) can betray the inner feelings of a person. Some authors call this "Body Language." The following is some pertinent information on how body movements convey their messages, whether they be positive or negative.

Head Movements: Head nodding can either convey boredom or interest. When one is listening to a speaker and wishes to convey the thought of "hurry up and finish," one will keep nodding his head frequently in rapid succession. Or one may keep turning his head from side to side quite frequently. This is telling the speaker to quit talking. However, if one is interested in a speaker, one will nod his head slowly from time to time, conveying to the speaker, "I like what you're saying." Another movement of boredom is holding the head down or looking up at the ceiling. Cocking (tilting) the head slightly shows interest in what one is hearing. On an individual basis, a man (or woman) will do this when he or she wants to impress the speaker.

Eye Movement: It is said that the eyes are the windows of the soul. The

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eyes are the most eloquent messagecarriers of the body. They can signal love, hatred, sadness, joy, acceptance, or rejection. However these signals can be misinterpreted by the "lookee" at times. One may look at another with real compassion and be misunderstood as staring with ulterior motives. The eyes can convey an unspoken message as well. When Jesus Christ looked at Peter after His arrest, His eyes must have borne the message, "You have denied Me thrice, as I said you would." The look in Jesus' eyes struck Peter like a battering ram, and he went out weeping bitterly. The Lord also said that the "light of the body is the eye."

A hard stare with the lips set firmly an portray hatred, dislike, or rejection. t is said that a person who dislikes nother and wishes to convey the hought, "Get away from me, you bore me," can give the other an "icy" stare. On the other hand, when one sees another who is liked (or loved), the eyes take on a "twinkling" expression which says, "I'm really glad to see you." A husband and wife who truly love each other can speak volumes with their eyes. They can look at teach other and say, "I love you," without uttering one word. After living together for a long time, married couples can develop an uncanny method of speaking to each other with their eyes. Ralph Waldo Emerson once said of the eyes, "The eves of men converse as much as their tongues, with the advantage that the ocular needs no dictionary, but is understood the world over."

Mouth Movement: The mouth can smile, sneer, compress lips in contempt, disgust, anger, boredom, rejection, or acceptance.

In research taken by some prominent authors, nine separate smiles were recorded to occur, three of which were significantly more common: the simple smile, upper smile, and broad smile. A simple smile—so the researchers say—is with the teeth unexposed; when a person is not participating in any outgoing activity. An upper smile is one where the upper front teeth are exposed and there is usually eye contact with another person. It is used when greeting the ones one likes or loves. The broad smile is often seen during play and is sometimes associated with laughter.

Smiles can be misleading also. One may smile when there is hypocrisy in one's heart, like a professing Christian greeting another with a smile when in his heart there is no love. I imagine that Judas Iscariot may have smiled when he greeted the Master with a kiss of betrayal. Shakespeare once said, "One may smile and smile, and be a villain." I sincerely believe that in the hearts of the saints there is the pure love of God when they smile at one another. When God is pouring out His blessings upon His people I believe He, too, is smiling. I like the words of the lyricist who said, "Let your smile be an umbrella on a rainy day . . ." The saints of God ought to have a smile from "ear to ear" when they greet one another.

Hand and Arm Movements: Hands are very expressive when one is speaking. It can emphasize certain points one wants to make. In anger, one can wave the hands to express hostility. Shaking hands with another can be either positive or negative. Example: Two men meet, one greets the other with a "stiff arm" handshake. This shows dislike or disdain but pretends friendship. It's like saying, "Don't get too near me." Then there is the "cold fish" type of handshake; cold, limp, with no warmth at all. The above are some of the negative types of handshakes.

On the positive side, there is the friendly handshake; not a bonecrushing one, but a firm yet gentle grip which signals, "I'm glad to see you." There is also the gentle holding of hands when one expresses sympathy to another. Touching another's arm or shoulder with the left hand while shaking hands also shows warmth.

Hands and arms behind one's back often indicates a preoccupied person. Arms crossed on the chest frequently indicates defensiveness, as when a baseball manager runs out towards the umpire when he thinks a bad call has been made, and the umpire stands with folded arms in a stance of defensiveness. Another gesture is the folded arms with hands holding the biceps very firmly. This, at times, indicates a protective yet aggressive attitude.

The fingers of the hands sometimes convey messages. Drumming on the tabletop with the fingers can signal either boredom or indifference. Leafing through a book—or closing it loudly while another is preaching shows boredom and is conveying a message for the speaker to quit talking. I pray that none of the saints would ever be this discourteous to a brother minister who is attempting to preach the word of God. But rather give him undivided at-

"Verily, Verily'

By George A. Kovacic

Teachers often encourage their pupils to take full advantage of a dictionary, and even though I've been out of school for a few years I still find myself in need of Webster's assistance. I use it mostly for obtaining the correct spelling of a word, but every so often I come across a word which I don't know. Did you ever realize that there are words we read frequently and even repeat of whose meaning we are not necessarily sure?

I found a good example recently, the word 'verily'. It is used by Jesus in all four of the gospels and I became curious as to its true meaning. In addition to checking in Webster's I looked in a biblical reference book. There are three Greek words which were translated as 'verily' in the New Testament. One word, *amen*, is derived from the Hebrew amen which is spelled the same but pronounced differently. Its meaning in both Hebrew and Greek are similar; as translated in the New Testament its meaning is closest to 'truth'.

Two other Greek words translated as 'verily' are *alethos* and *ontos*, which mean 'truly' and 'really' respectively. When *amen* is used, however, it implies trustworthiness and is also connected with the phrase, 'so be it'. In retrospect, when Jesus used the term 'verily' He was emphasizing the importance of what He was saying, that it should not be taken lightly.

A recent translation of the Bible uses the phrase, 'I tell you the truth' in lieu of 'Verily, I say unto you'. But above and beyond Jesus telling them the truth He was in actuality sealing His words for all time. The Greek word amanah is a derivation of the word amen, but its meaning is just a little stronger in that it indicates something which is fixed or made a covenant. When Jesus spoke of reconciliation and said, "Verily, I say unto thee, thou shall by no means come out thence (from prison) till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing," I believe that He meant there would be no one exempted from this state. Once Jesus had spoken concerning any subject and introduced it with 'verily', 'heaven and earth could pass away,' but what He had said will remain forever because it is the Truth.

50TH ANNIVERSARY continued ...

is kind; charity envieth not, charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up. Doth not behave unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth."

Beautiful were the blessings of God felt upon our souls that day. All of us, like our Sister Marie, can say that in the service of our King, it gets sweeter as the years go by.



Sis. Marie Fera

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

tention when he is preaching. Indifference can also be conveyed by the tapping of the feet, and crossing and recrossing the legs.

I have attempted to show the positive and negative nonverbal expressions conveyed by various parts of the body. I believe, however, that the interpretations-or misinterpretations-of the cues signalled are on the part of the observer. Often we are fooled by certain gestures. A person may have a cold, serious appearance, and upon that he or she may be judged as being indifferent and uncaring, when possibly that person is a kind and loving one. Conversely, a person may appear humble and always have a smile for everyone, and be judged as a real nice individual, but in time of trial that person can show his true colors of arrogance and rejection. Therefore, one must be careful in assuming that certain gestures are either positive or negative.

In all of the above illustrations of the parts of the body and their signals, it would be difficult to interpret the messages sent out without taking into consideration the stance of the body. The posture of one's body can be indicative of how that person feels, or what he is attempting to convey. Boredom is usually exemplified by closed eyes and extended legs. Moving away from a person, increasing the space between you and them, may also signify boredom, indifference, or rejection. Moving closer to another person, on the other hand, shows interest in the conversation. Here again we may be fooled, however. One could be moving closer to another person in anger and aggression.

It is my firm belief that, while the body has a silent language all its own, and can speak volumes by sending out multitudes of signals, we must be very cautious and not misinterpret those signals. I would like to include in conclusion a prayer that we should all have in our hearts:

O Lord, help me not to judge other persons by the look in their eyes, the position of their heads, their smiles, the way they sit, the way they walk, how they hold their arms or hands, their postures. or the tone of their voices. But rather help me to understand all other persons by giving me a listening heart and not merely a listening ear, so that I may be able to see the good within them and love them as they are without trying to change them to meet my standards; for my standards may not be those which You want in me. Rather, change me that I may have Thy righteousness whereby in looking at others through Thine eyes I may be able to see their goodness and their strengths and not their weaknesses and their faults. Grant me the gift, O Lord, to do as Thy Holy Son said, 'Judge not according to appearances, but judge righteous judgment."

Notice

The General Church Board of Trustees are requesting bids on the General Church Blanket Insurance Coverage of ALL Church properties. Anyone interested in submitting a bid, please contact:

> Joseph Ross #2 Ross Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001 Ph. (412) 375-1648

Upon written request, INSURANCE SPECIFICATIONS will be sent to any bidder. All bids must be submitted by November 15, 1985. The General Church Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

The Gaspel News

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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is 86,06 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Preparation

"Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." It's a familiar phrase to all of us, a phrase which we usually associate with the time of Christ's birth, yet it's a phrase that carries a timeless message. John the Baptist said it two thousand years ago, and all the prophets before him were saying it, though perhaps in different words, long before he was born. They were all speaking of the advent of Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah. But these same words also apply to the children of men today, referring not to the birth of Christ, but to His coming in glory.

When Jesus ascended into the heavens, He left His followers with the hope that He would one day return. That hope is our source of joy today, as we endeavor to live our lives according to His will and endure all things until the end.

More and more often in the Church, we are coming across the word "prepare" in our various spiritual gatherings. The Lord has revealed to us that the time is not far wherein He will make bare His mighty arm and gather together the House of Israel, and He is looking for workers among the children of men who are prepared to do His work.

What does the Lord want from us in the way of preparation? Isn't it our broken heart and contrite spirit that He wants? Truly this is required of us, but the Lord will only work with us according to the desire of our hearts. And this desire manifests itself in many different ways. We show our desire to serve the Lord by walking uprightly before Him, keeping ourselves unspotted from the world, that we as vessels might be receptive to His Holy Spirit. Our desire is reflected in our attendance at church services, by our individual application to understanding the scriptures, by our willingness to show the Light of the Gospel to our fellow man. By giving of our substance to the Church, and by dedicating our time as well, whether it's spreading the Gospel in Africa, emptying the wastebaskets at our own branch, or setting aside a time of fasting and prayer at home, we are showing the Lord that we *want* to serve Him and are giving our best to Him in our present capacity.

As we do all these things, preparing the way with the help of the Lord, we as individuals and as a Church will find ourselves to be the fruit-bearing branches that the Lord of the vineyard is seeking. Let us discipline ourselves to be constantly open to the direction of the Holy Spirit. Let us make His paths straight within us, that when opportunities arise for us to be used, we will be ready and willing servants, clad in the full armor of God.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Best Secret Weapon

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Lamanite people who believed in God were hated greatly by the other Lamanites and Amalekites in their country. The Nephites who served God were told by God to take these new believers in and let them live, protected, in Jershon. These people were called the people of Ammon or Ammonites because Ammon was the preacher who first told them about God. Once wild and fierce murderers, these people had now buried every weapon they'd ever owned. More importantly, they had made an oath, or special promise, to God that they would never fight or kill again.

They lived peacefully in Jershon, working hard to support themselves and send extra food to their Nephite friends in the army that protected them. Yet over and over again, armies of Lamanites would march down to destroy them. Each time, an army of Nephites would rush to Jershon to fight the Lamanites with God's help. The Lamanites wanted to kill and overpower all the believers in God so they could own their lands and gold and treat them like slaves.

But God had said unto the Nephites that if they weren't guilty of starting the first or the second problem, then they should not let themselves be killed by their enemies. They were to defend their families even if they had to shed blood. This was the only reason the Nephites were fighting with the Lamanites, to defend their families and lands, their country, rights, and religion.

The leader of the Nephite armies was a young man, only twenty-five years old, named Moroni. He thought of a great plan. He dressed his soldiers in a new kind of thick fighting clothes. They also wore a helmet, breastplates, and arm shields to protect the important parts of their bodies. When he marched his army to battle, the Lamanites were shocked. They themselves were dressed only in a wild animal skin wrapped around the waist with bare bodies and weapons.

Even though there were far more men in the Lamanite armies, they were exceedingly afraid of the armies of the Nephites, so they turned around to go attack another group of Nephites. Moroni sent spies into the wilderness to watch the enemy camp. He also had the best secret weapon in the world—God. Our God sees everything, hears everything, and knows everything. So, Moroni sent men to find the elder Alma to ask the Lord for them where they should send their armies to protect themselves from Lamanite attacks.

The Lord told Alma that the Lamanite armies were sneaking through the wilderness to attack Manti where there were only a few soldiers to protect the Nephite people. Quickly the messengers ran to tell Moroni! Moroni marched straight to Manti, hid his army, and when the Lamanites came, gave them a surprise attack!

That day the Nephites surrounded the Lamanites and won the battle. Their God had directed them in what to do and where to go. He had saved their lives. Even though there were far more Lamanites than Nephites, God blessed His people with battle strategy and strength.

They set free all the Lamanite prisoners who promised never to fight them again. The soldiers who were too full of hate to agree were put to death. Again the people of God rejoiced with many thanks and much fasting and prayer. He had delivered *His* people.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find:

Moroni Young Man Twenty Five Commander Army Pray Hide Nephite Secret Weapon God See Lamanite Sword Hunt Lazy Arm Oath

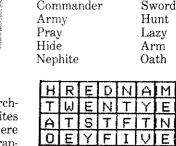
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Ohio District Conference

Bro. Russell Cadman opened our service reading from Moroni 10:30-34, exhorting us to come unto Christ and to lay hold upon every good gift, and touch not the evil or unclean thing. Yes, there are many gospels on the face of the earth, but Christ taught us that we must be born of the water and of the spirit. We must repent before God in order to receive the gifts of God to their fullest. Do we realize that our calling in the Gospel of Jesus Christ took an action of God? For no one can come unto the Son unless the Father calls them.

How is it that we have this Church? By an angel flying through the midst of heaven, restoring the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A new era of time began at the restoring of this holy priesthood, and this is the reason why we are able to gather today. This dispensation of time will bring upon the earth the destruction of all wickedness and the glory of Zion.

We as the people of God are not perfect; we must therefore always have a broken heart and a contrite spirit if we want to see the kingdom of God. Have we kept ourselves unspotted from





Branch and Mission News

San Diego, CA

By Ralph Frammolino

Five brothers and sisters of the San Diego Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ were ordained into spiritual offices during the Memorial Day weekend.

The ordinations, which were performed May 26, capped a busy three-day weekend that included church services and a picnic with the saints from Anaheim, as well as those visiting from Arizona and Detroit.

Those called into spiritual offices were:

-Bro. Randy Ciccati, who was ordained a teacher by Bro. Jim Huttenberger of Anaheim, CA.

-Bro. Arturo Tostado, ordained a deacon by Bro. Luis Pacheco of Mexicali, Mexico.

-Sis. Lynn Womack, ordained a deaconess by Bro. Ed Buccellato of the Valley Branch, CA.

-Sis. Debbie Ciccati, ordained a deaconess by Bro. Ralph Frammolino of San Diego.

-Sis. Jeanne Frammolino, ordained a deaconess by Bro. Carl Frammolino of Detroit, MI.

The Sunday service was opened in prayer by Bro. Patsy Marinetti of Tucson, AZ.

Bro. Lou Ciccati, presiding elder in San Diego, then set a beautiful tone for the meeting by offering a lovely prayer to bless his infant grandson, Ryan James Huttenberger.

Before the ordinations were performed, and the candidates set aside by the washing of feet, Bro. Rusty Heaps of Anaheim, CA exhorted the members of the congregation to "be saints every day, not just on Sunday." He described the duties of each new officeholder, and told them to adorn their lives with service to God and humankind.

After a break for lunch, services continued as visiting brothers were given a chance to express themselves. Bro. Carl Frammolino from Detroit reflected on the mercies and goodness of God as he described to the congregation how he was first introduced to his future daughter-in-law Jeanne some 12 years ago. At the time, Jeanne was not a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, but God found a place in her heart and now she was being set aside for work as a deaconess.

This, of course, has been the case with all the brothers and sisters set aside for their office. Some, like Brother Randy and Sister Lynn, had been born and raised in the Church. Others, like Sis. Debbie and Bro. Arturo, were introduced to the Restored Gospel by a friend or a spouse.

In each instance, the Spirit of God had worked uniquely in their lives, leading to their callings based on spiritual maturity and steadfastness, even in their youth. Those ordained on this day are 30 years of age or younger.

Bro. Paul Whitton of Detroit, who was visiting San Diego with his wife Sis. Arline, also expressed himself in the Sunday afternoon service. He said he was grateful to worship with the saints on this occasion.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Michelle Davella

June 9, 1985 was a day the saints of the Hopelawn Branch were filled with the Spirit of God. Tears filled every eye in the congregation that day.

Brother V. James Lovalvo and his wife, Sister Mary, were visiting the Atlantic Coast that week and spent Sunday with the saints in Hopelawn. We had many visitors from various branches in New Jersey. The singing was so beautiful right from the start that it sounded like a building filled with a choir of angels.

Bro. Jim spoke that morning on repentance and baptism. He was preaching mostly to those who had not yet made that commitment. Our branch has a good number of young people. We are all active together and try very hard to support our branch. (Even though we weren't all members of the Church at the time, the non-members were just as active as the members.)

The morning meeting was just about to end in prayer when Bro. Jim asked if there was anybody who would like to repent of their sins and be baptized. The Spirit of God was burning within five of the young people in the Hopelawn Branch, Rick Calabro, Gary Calabro, Linda Calabro, Gregory Perri, and Joseph Pittius, as well as Brian Rogolino of the Brooklyn, NY Branch. These young people asked for their baptisms that day and were baptized and confirmed as follows:

Joe Pittius was baptized by Bro. Joe Perri and confirmed by Bro. Sam Sgro.

Gregory Perri was baptized by Bro. Joe Perri and confirmed by Bro. Julius Kovacs.

Linda Calabro was baptized by Bro. Leonard Benyola and confirmed by Bro. Walter Cihomsky.

Brian Rogolino was baptized by Bro. Leonard Benyola and confirmed by Bro. George Timms.

Richard Calabro was baptized by Bro. Jim Lovalvo and confirmed by Bro Joe Perri.

Gary Calabro was baptized by Bro. Jim Lovalvo and confirmed by Bro. Leonard Benyola.

We had such a beautiful day. We can surely say that God has been good to us. In the past five months our branch has had seven baptisms. We thank God for blessings such as these and many more to come.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Lisa DiFalco

"It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country."

This year seems to be a particularly eventful one for the members of Detroit, Branch 1. Young and old alike are being put "to the work." On June 9, five brothers were ordained into the offices of teachers and deacons in The Church of Jesus Christ.

As the morning service was opened

(Continued on Page 8)

8 October, 1985

BRANCH 1 continued . . .

with *Wave the Flags of Zion*, many visitors from all around the Michigan-Ontario District, as well as other parts of the Church, were still coming in to witness the blessings of what would be a very full day.

Our message this morning was delivered by two pioneers in the missionary fields of the Church: Brother Larry Watson of the Tse Bonito, NM Branch, and Brother George Benyola, formerly of the Dallas, TX Mission. Both brothers spoke of their personal experiences, both natural and spiritual, to encourage and uplift the brothers that were to be ordained. They spoke of their discouragements as well, which, with the help of the Lord, turned into victories.

The brothers then passed down their wisdom and experiences, urging all of us to become more conformed to Jesus Christ, and not to withhold anything, great or small, from Him, since it is all His anyway. If we are hiding something behind our backs, it is usually something that God does not want us to have, and He will test this weak area until we rid ourselves of it. Our brothers encouraged our future teachers and deacons not to withhold anything from God, not to hesitate in making sacrifices, but to be ready to go and do the Lord's awesome and wonderful work.

Brothers Larry and George spoke of the sometimes not-so-glamorous work that will have to be done. There will sometimes be fear, but the Lord is a great protector. There will be trial by fire, as there was with all of those who were ever used of God, but we are able to do all things through Christ who strengthens us. The entire morning service was dedicated to the theme of our service to God, how to act and how to think as a servant of God, and what to do in order to place our all on the altar of sacrifice.

Following lunch we reconvened to see our five brothers ordained. The candidates sat in the front pew while Brother Steve Champine sang *Make Me an Instrument*. After this song the ordinations began. Brother Anthony J. Scolaro's feet were washed by his father, Brother Tony Scolaro, and Brother Louis Pietrangelo ordained him into the office of a deacon. Brother Keith Lesperance's feet were washed by Brother Roy DePerno, and he was ordained by Brother Peter A. Scolaro as a deacon in the Church. Brother Spencer Everett washed Brother Joseph A. Ignagni's feet, and he was ordained a deacon by Brother Jerry Benyola. Brother Larry Champine, called to be a teacher in the Church, had his feet washed by Brother Paul Vitto, and he was ordained by Brother Nick Pietrangelo. And Brother John Impastato was ordained a teacher by Brother Lou Vitto after having had his feet washed by Brother Norman Campitelle.

After the ordinations, Brother Nick Pietrangelo felt directed to call the wives of these brothers forward to sit next to their husbands. He quoted the old saying, "Behind every successful man is a good woman." He explained that the wives of these brothers must be supportive in their husbands' labors while giving them the freedom to do what they must for the Lord. Speaking from experience, Brother Nick stressed the importance of having a good wife, to be supportive and understanding when their husbands are called to do the work of the Lord, and he reminded our sisters that their work is equally important. Our prayer is that all of us, wherever the Lord would see fit to use us, would put forth our greatest effort in serving Him and building His kingdom here on earth.

Detroit Inner City

By Diana Stigleman

Excitement stirred Sunday, July 7 as we welcomed back our own Bro. Mark Mancinelli from his travels across our beautiful nation. We were also blessed with visitors from other branches and states. Included in the wonderful array of visitors were Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Natoli from Rochester, NY.

At the onset of our meeting Bro. Mark and Bro. Frank were asked to sit beside our elder brothers and give their testimonies to the congregation.

Bro. Mark spoke first. He told us of his experiences as he traveled through God's vineyard. We were all moved to hear how our young brothers are uniting in prayer and in spirit. What is the message heard around the country? Prepare, and be bold for the Lord.

Bro. Mark said he went to a gathering in Arizona and the message preached there was that of Elijah and Elisha. Elisha continually followed along side of Elijah, learning and growing in the ways of the Lord. When the time was right, he asked for and received a double portion of what Elijah had received from God.

Later, when our brother traveled to California, he heard the same message being preached there. Learn and grow, and be ready for the time that Elijah's mantle might fall upon you.

God's Spirit then flowed from Bro. Mark to our Bro. Frank Natoli. As he proceeded to speak you could see that his heart and thoughts coincided with those of Bro. Mark. "Be moved by the Spirit. Trust not in the flesh, but be counseled in the arms of God."

Bro. Frank also commented on how God is beginning to work with our young brothers. He said it's time for our young men and women to stand and ready themselves, to go forward and be missionaries for the Lord.

He stated also that we will do none of this on our own strength, but wearing the armor and shield of God. He included all of us as he said the call is not only for our young brothers, but also our sisters and anyone of the saints of God who are young in the Spirit.

We are thankful for the message we received this day, and for our Brothers Mark and Frank. They and others like them represent the hope and future of our wonderful Church.

The call is out, my dear brothers and sisters, don't be left behind. Are you a part of God's plan? Have you reached out for Elijah's mantle? Don't cheat yourself of Elisha's double portion. The time to prepare is now!

Cleveland, Branch 1

On July 28, 1985, Jack Pittaway became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brothers Bill Prentice and Bill Hufnagle took him down to the water at Sims Park in Euclid, Ohio and he was confirmed later that day by Bro. Bill Hufnagle.

Bro. Jack has been attending the Cleveland West Side Mission with his wife, Sis. Barbara, since 1983. Our prayer is that God would bless our new brother in Christ.

Fort Pierce, FL

By Joanne Graziosi

On April 14, 1985, our hearts rejoiced in the Lord, along with Bro. Sam Costarella, who celebrated his 60th spiritual birthday.

We were so glad to have Brothers Eugene Perri, Junior and Senior, visiting us with their wives on this day.

Bro. Gene Perri, Jr. greeted the saints with much liberty, as all were in the same mind, serving God in spirit and in truth. He took his text from Luke 18, where a ruler asked Jesus what he should do to inherit eternal life. When Jesus told him to sell all that he had and give to the poor, he, being very rich, could not do it. His desire was to follow Jesus, but he could not go all the way. The Apostle Paul, by contrast, was stoned, beaten, and shipwrecked, yet he never faltered; he went all the way. Jesus Christ went all the way for us by giving His life, and Bro. Perri urged us to do the same for Jesus.

Bro. Perri, Sr. followed, relating how he found the Gospel when he was very young, and how now at the age of 87 he is still happy serving the Lord.

After our service, we went into the dining room to honor Bro. Sam with a beautiful cake on this special day.

Atlantic Coast

By Michelle Davella

The Atlantic Coast had a taste of Zion on the 24th, 25th, and 26th of May. Sister Arlene Buffington and Sister Eva Moore from the Imperial, PA Branch along with Bro. Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino from Detroit's Inner City Branch were visiting the Atlantic Coast. They came to teach us the Songs of Zion. Our beautiful weekend started Friday night with singing many of the songs and hearing Sis. Arlene's beautiful experiences from the Lord Himself. How marvelous does the Lord work with our beautiful sister!

Saturday afternoon and evening we continued singing and rejoicing, and Sunday morning we started our day in the house of the Lord with fasting and prayer. Our morning meeting was very beautiful. Bro. Eugene spoke with such great enthusiasm (I myself felt I wanted to be baptized all over again). He related many beautiful experiences which were very encouraging to the saints.

Sunday after church, the sisters prepared a dinner for those who wished to eat and socialize with the saints. The dinner was followed by a "dessert" of singing the rest of the *Songs of Zion*.

We had such a glorious weekend that you could surely say that the Lord God was there. If that was just a little taste of Zion, can you imagine how Zion really will be?

We are grateful to our Sister Arlene for sharing her God-given gift with the saints of the true church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Monongahela, PA

By LuAnn Carson

"Water" was the topic chosen throughout the day in the Monongahela Branch on July 28, 1985. We were blessed with many visitors who came to worship with us from various districts of the Church.

Bro. Loenard A. Lovalvo opened our preaching service, choosing John 4 as his text. In this scripture Christ offers unto the woman of Samaria living water, but she does not understand until Christ tells her of her past. At that time she recognizes Him as a prophet, and as one who can give the waters of life.

In our lives there comes a time when we must recognize Jesus as the Christ and yield unto the enticings of the Holy Spirit. There are three steps which we must follow: Faith, that is, believing Jesus is Our Savior; Repentance, sorrow for the sins we've committed; Baptism, being born of the water and of the Spirit through the laying on of hands. This is the way taught by Christ, and still the same words are preached today. Bro. Lovalvo closed with an admonition to all, "Come unto Jesus, come unto Him today."

Bro. Alex Gentile followed, speaking about the wedding feast prepared by the Lord. Many of those invited did not attend, and the Lord told his servants to go out and compel people to come. Christ is compelling us today to come and partake of the living waters, but many who are compelled will not come. Bro. Gentile also advised, "He now compels you, come before it is too late."

After the meeting was closed, we ate lunch and also enjoyed a season of fellowship.

Our afternoon service was opened by Bro. Malcolm Paxon, who spoke of the many ways water was used in the scriptures. In Noah's day it destroyed; Christ used water in His first miracle, changing it to wine; Elijah poured water on the sacrifice; and many others. But the most significant use of water was for the baptism of Jesus Christ, an example to us all. We must all be born of the water, born again unto life anew.

The meeting was then opened for testimony, and we partook of the Lord's Supper. We all felt a blessing in the words spoken throughout the day, and we pray that these words will remain within our hearts.

Come to the Well

By LuAnn Scaglione Carson

Come to the well, Of the living waters partake. Let us tell That Jesus died for your sake, Died to bring Salvation to all who believe; Life everlasting From Him we can receive.

Come to the well. With the water of life it is filled. He'll not sell, But give it to all who yield To that call That comes to you and me, Inviting all To the water pure and free.

Detroit, Branch 4

By Marie Fera

Sunday June 16, 1985 was a beautiful Father's day as we observed the ordination of our two young brothers, Dean Coppa and Kerry Carlini, as deacons.

Bro. Nick Pietrangelo, our presiding elder, welcomed saints, friends, and relatives visiting from all over the

BRANCH 4 continued . . .

Michigan-Ontario District as well as from Ohio and California.

The morning service was opened with the hymn Where Could I Go? and we heard from our visiting Bro. Jim Cotellesse. He read from Luke 11 and delivered a very interesting and penetrating sermon centering on the subject of prayer. He explained the importance of prayer in our lives. We should always ask God to guide us throughout life, and pray for discernment to help and direct us. Our Bro, Jim was thankful to have been born in the Church and blessed from the time that he was a baby. He addressed his closing remarks to the young people and recent graduates, of whom there were quite a number this morning, entreating them as they enter the world of work to always pray for guidance, because while we are *in* the world, we are not of the world. We then sang I Asked the Lord.

Bro. Lou Vitto concurred with our Bro. Jim as he continued on the same vein, reflecting upon his youth in the Church, and recognizing God's blessings upon him throughout his life. In concluding he stressed the significance of God and prayer in our lives, and ended by saying, "There is no happiness or joy if God is not in your life, and we should always put Him first." We sang *He Did It All for Me.*

After the Lord's Supper was administered, we dismissed our meeting and went downstairs for lunch.

Many more brothers and sisters arrived for the afternoon meeting to witness this holy ordination. As we had anticipated, the Lord continued to shower His blessings upon us this afternoon.

The meeting was opened by singing He Planted Me Deep. Prayer was offered by Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo. After we sang There's No Rainbow, Bro. Alex Gentile anointed a child that was ill.

Before the ordinations, Bro. Nick Pietrangelo spoke a few words concerning the duties of ordained officers and named the duties of a deacon. He continued to say how many prayers had been offered to get more help for our branch. Due to Bro. Angelo Maisano's illness and Bro. Carlo Saragosa's old age, we had been without a deacon for the past two years. Brothers Dean and Kerry were called by the Lord to fulfill these offices. Bro. Nick acknowledged the labors of the other brothers of our branch, including Roger Pepper and Tony Cappatocio, in looking after the needs of the branch for the past two years.

Bro. Nick asked the fathers of our two brothers, Bro. Joe Carlini and Bro. Elio Coppa, to come forward to wash the feet of their sons. As they came forward, each gave a brief testimony, thanking God and expressing their feelings on this happy occasion. While their fathers performed the ordinance of feet washing and softly prayed, our thoughts reflected back to the wonderful spiritual upbringing that Brothers Dean and Kerry had received. They have had their parents, grandparents, and even greatgrandparents in the service of the Lord. Some of them have gone on to their reward.

Bro. Nick asked all the elders present (there were 22 of them) to come forward and form a circle around our two brothers. Bro. Eugene Amormino of the Inner City Branch offered a beautiful prayer before the ordination. Then Bro. Louis Pietrangelo ordained Bro. Dean and Bro. Nick Pietrangelo ordained Bro. Kerry. You could sense the beloved Spirit of Our Lord in our midst as we observed with joy in our hearts this lovely occasion.

At the conclusion of the meeting Bro. Nick asked Sisters Jan Coppa and Salina Carlini to come and sit next to their husbands as he stressed the importance of a deacon's work and the support their wives can lend by being patient and prayerful, and working in harmony with their husbands.

May God bless our young brothers as they have embraced this true gospel with all their hearts in deep sincerity.

Before closing, Bro. Nick wished all the fathers present a happy Fathers' Day. We can truly say that this was a glorious day spent in the service of the Lord and we enjoyed every minute of it. We were dismissed by singing *Our Church* after which Bro. James Scalise of Bell, California closed in prayer.

OHIO CONFERENCE continued . . .

the world? Remember the commandments of God. Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy, to walk uprightly before God, to love one another even as Christ has loved you, to love your neighbor as yourself, to do good unto all mankind. Finally, let us have a little higher spiritual mind.

Bro. Russell told us of a dream where he saw himself, his father, and other brothers talking about Zion while walking westward on a country road. All at once in the west arose the city of Zion in all its glory. Bro. Russell raised his hands above his head and said, "Lo, Zion's standard is unfurled; it rises majestic o'er the world." The city was beyond description, even as the sun shining in its strength upon pure gold.

Bro. Ralph Berardino followed, telling us of the great responsibility which the Lord has given us. He related an experience where he went to the hospital to anoint a young girl who had taken an overdose of drugs. This girl had been in a coma for three days and hadn't even so much as opened her eyes. What a blessing and miracle it was when, immediately following the anointing, her eyes opened up. This is the God we serve.

Our next speaker, Bro. Phil Jackson, exhorted us to blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly. We must prepare ourselves as the people of God. We must be willing to labor in each branch and mission to bring forth that which the Lord has in store for his people.

Bro. Elmer Santilli followed with a report on the work in Independence, Missouri. Our brothers met many members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who were very interested to hear of us, the 'Bickertonites.' They were excited to sing the *Songs of Zion* and to witness the love of God which we feel in our church. Surely, if we had an elder of the Church stationed in Independence, we could bring many to the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In closing, Bro. Frank Calabrese brought to our attention two visions which were beheld during the preaching service. A sister saw a tree with white fruit on it and water flowing beside it while Bro. Cadman was speaking. Another sister saw two angels standing in a light beside Bro. Phil as he spoke. The word "Mission" also appeared, reminding her of the dream she had had the evening before in which the same word came before her. Our brother Frank elaborated on many other blessings and miracles that the Lord has showered upon us recently. We praise God for His blessings and mercy towards all mankind.

TSE BONITO continued . . .

the children and their parents to join together in games and getting to know one another. We will never forget the thrill and excitement on the faces of all the youngsters as they participated in the activities. We all had a wonderful time.

We are grateful to God, and give Him the glory for all those who attended and supported our efforts here. Any success here in Tse Bonito, or anywhere throughout the Church, is truly a success for the whole Church.

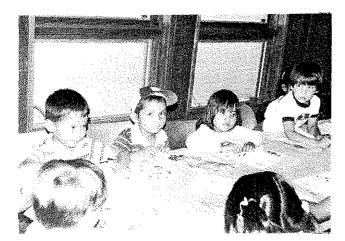
If you are interested in helping out with next year's Vacation Bible School, contact Sister Chris Mancini, director.

The Tse Bonito, NM Branch was honored to host the Quorum of Twelve Apostles along with visitors from the Arizona District earlier this year, on June 22 and 23, 1985.

It was a distinct pleasure to have them in our midst and be able to ask questions and engage in meaningful dialogue concerning the goals and future outlook of our Church.

Our Saturday night meeting was enjoyed by everyone with Brothers Joe Bittinger, Nick Pietrangelo, and V. James Lovalvo bringing forth the message, "If ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can





ye feel so now?" Our brothers expounded beautifully on what that song was. It is the song of the restoration that has been placed in our hearts, and we should never forget the words or the melody, for they are our lifeline in the Gospel.

The Sunday morning service was opened by Bro. Russell Cadman on the same theme of the Latter Day Church that has been restored in all its glory. Bro. Dominic Thomas inspiringly urged us on in our responsibility to accomplish the work that has been handed to us, and stressed how it is up to you and me to carry out this great Latter Day Work, because no other church or people can.

Bro. Joe Lovalvo strongly admonished us to believe in the *Book of Mormon* with all our hearts. Bro. Joe said that the Lord has shown him in an experience that many individuals in the Church do not believe as they should in the *Book of Mormon*, and that this is a great error. We will begin to see more manifestations of the Spirit and Power of God as we increase in faith and belief in the things that the Lord has given us.

Many beautiful hymns were sung to the honor and glory of God throughout this entire weekend, and the Spirit of God filled our hearts and souls to overflowing. We extend the invitation for our Brother Apostles to return.

* WEDDINGS *

CATALANO-ARCURI

Bro. David Catalano and Sis. JoAnn Arcuri were united in holy matrimony on April 13, 1985 in the Hopelawn, NJ Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Anthony Vadasz Sr., the bride's uncle, officiated at the ceremony with the assistance of Bro. James R. Link.

Musical selections were presented by Bro. Philip and Sis. Linda Benyola.

The couple will reside in Somerset, New Jersey.

(Continued on Page 12)



WEDDINGS continued . . .

FAIRCHAUGH-AICHINGER

Mr. David Fairchaugh and Sister Tammy Aichinger exchanged marriage vows on Saturday, May 25, 1985 at Branch 4 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Redford, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Peter H. Capone from Detroit Branch 3.

Our congratulations and God's blessings for a long and happy marriage from all of us.

MORLE-NICKLOW

Brother Jerry Morle and Sister Tammy Nicklow were united in marriage on July 27, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Brother Alex Gentile officiated, with Brother Robert Nicklow Sr., the bride's father, assisting. Pianist was Sister Karen Milantoni.

The newlyweds will be residing in Houghton, Michigan. Our prayer is that God will bless them in their new life together.

New Arrivals

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

Melissa Ann to Cindy and Scott Wolff of Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Bronson Anthony to Donald and Susan Jones of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Crystal Leigh to Robert and LuAnn Taylor of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Ryan James to Jim and Lynette Huttenberger of Anaheim, California.

Christine Margaret to Larry and Cindy Henderson of Windsor, Ontario.

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OBITUARIES

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

TRAVIS PERRY

A pillar of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, Brother Travis Owen Perry passed on to his eternal reward on April 8, 1985. He was born on March 5, 1914 and baptized into the Church on February 13, 1938. He was ordained into the priesthood of the Church in 1943 and became an Evangelist in 1950.

Funeral services for our brother were held by Brothers Henry Cardillo, Donald Pandone, and Russell Cadman.

Brother Travis was an inspiration and a fountain of knowledge for all in the Youngstown Branch. After a severe heart attack, his physical strength was greatly diminished but his spiritual strength never wavered. It was always such a blessing for us to hear him extol the goodness and mercy of our Lord and Savior.

He will be missed most of all by his wife, Sister Irene Perry.

ALBERT VENTURA

Bro. Albert Ventura of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch 1 passed on to his eternal reward on June 17, 1985. He was born January 24, 1895 and was baptized into the Church on April 10, 1926. He was ordained a deacon in 1930 and a teacher in 1938.

Funeral services for Bro. Ventura were conducted by Brothers August Perlioni, Elmer Santilli, Vince Gibson, and Mario Milano.

Bro. Albert is survived by his wife, Sis. Carmella, two daughters, one son, five grandchildren and six greatgrandchildren. Bro. Albert was a charter member of the branch in Euclid, Ohio who added his talents as a bricklayer by trade in building the Church here in Ohio. He acquired a host of friends during his lifetime who will miss him dearly. May his soul rest in the paradise of God.

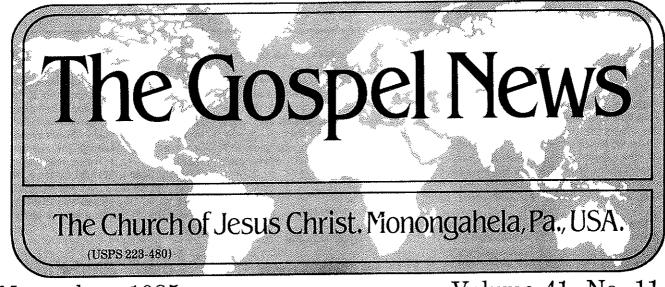
RAYMOND ABBOTT

Bro. Raymond Abbott of Cleveland, Ohio Branch 1 passed from this life on August 1, 1985. He was born December 19, 1914 and became a member of the Church on April 11, 1948.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Vince Gibson and Mario Milano.

Bro. Abbott is survived by his wife, Sis. Margaret, eight children, seventeen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Bro. Raymond was a veteran of World War II who always thanked God for His mercies on his behalf. He served the branch as Sunday School Superintendent and Chairman of the Branch Trustees. His favorite hymn was *Sweet Peace, the Gift of God's Love.* May that peace be with Sis. Margaret and her family in their time of loss.



November, 1985

California Area MBA Campout

By Carl Huttenberger

At this year's California area MBA campout, the temperatures sizzled at 100 degrees or more. But the love of God sizzled even more. Southern California was the perfect setting to meet and fellowship with brothers and sisters we rarely get to see. Everyone would agree that Camp Mt. Crags, nestled in a rocky canyon, became Zion for a week.

The theme of this year's campout was consistency. The seminars each morning were a blessing to everyone. The seminar titles were cleverly named after television soap operas, such as "The Young and the Restless," "All My Children," and "Loving," just to name a few. Each class taught us how to be consistent in the areas of resisting temptations, serving God, and loving one another.

This year's campout also gave us more time to socialize with one another. Many brothers and sisters used the time wisely by encouraging one another, praying together, and meeting new people. Many of us enjoyed softball and volleyball during the afternoons.

Our night meetings were spirit-filled, with beautiful speaking, testimonies, and prayer. On the last night of campout, the elders encircled and prayed for many young men who expressed their desires to be used of God for the spreading of the Gospel. During the prayers, Brother Jim Lovalvo saw a personage walking around each man and touching him on the back of the head. Several young men confirmed

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feeling a physical touch. Also during the entire time, the young men said they heard the voice of God speaking to them in an unknown tongue. They said the voice sounded like an Indian cry. The interpretation of the lengthy tongue was that the House of Israel was crying out for the Gospel to be preached to them. God heard the desires and prayers of these young men and was pleased.

Talent night was a complete success. There was beautiful singing by young and old, some amusing skits, and even a program about a radio station broadcasting out of the city of Zion.

During the week, several brothers

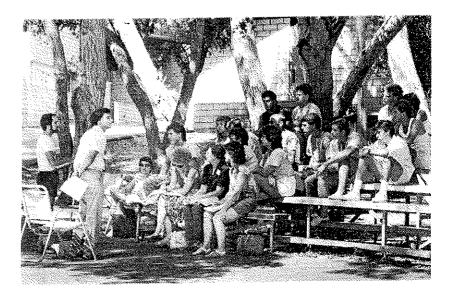
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went into the woods to pray. As they were praying a powerful wind began to blow all around them. When the prayers ended, the winds ceased. We do serve a living God.

Sunday's preaching focused on our hopes and aspirations for Zion. God was with us that day and blessed us immensely. Many saints gave testimonies of their visions and dreams of Zion. They all painted the same picture: a beautiful green fertile valley with mountain streams and blue skies. God is telling us that we are closer than ever to the establishment of Zion.

We were all sorry to leave campout as we always are. But this year's power-

(Continued on Page 7)



Students of all ages learn to be consistent at this year's California camp.

2 November, 1985

50th Anniversaries

Sister Clara Gentile and her granddaughter, Christina Gentile, shared the spotlight on a summer Sunday morning. Sis. Clara was presented a corsage and warm congratulations for her 50 years in the Gospel and Christina was presented a *Bible* for her graduation from High School and wishes for God's help as she continues her education.

Sister Clara was born in Italy on November 5, 1901. She followed her husband to the United States in March of 1935 after he had been here for eight years. During the eight years in this country without his family, Bro. Tony Gentile had met the Gospel and was baptized. Sis. Clara was upset that he left the Catholic church and was determined to come here and take him back to Italy.

On her third day in this country, her husband took her to a conference in Detroit. She spoke no English and at first mocked the brothers and sisters in her mind. But as Bro. Penn, an evangelist in the Church, was preaching, she saw a white phonograph on the pulpit with the elders. A golden thread came out of the phonograph and stretched to the top of her head at the back of the auditorium. She "fell in love with the Gospel" and asked for her baptism on June 30, 1935. While in the water, just as Bro. Joe Bologna raised his hand, she saw him transformed to a man dressed in animal skins, wearing a large gold belt.

Sis. Clara has been blessed with the gift of dreams, visions, and the interpretation of tongues.

At a recent fasting and prayer meeting, Sis. Clara heard a typewriter



Christina Gentile and her grandmother, Sis. Clara.

typing while each prayer was offered. When the prayer stopped, the typewriter would stop also. After the service she went to look for the person with the typewriter to admonish him for disturbing the meeting. When she found no one and discovered that no one else had heard the typewriter, she knew that the prayers of the saints were being recorded in heaven.

By Bill Buffa

There was a spirit of singing at the Saline, Michigan Mission on September 22, 1985, as the saints met together. We enjoyed the presence of Bro. Kerry and Sis. Salina Carlini of Branch 4, Sis. Connie and Bro. Mario Zaccagnini of Branch 1, and Perry Vitto.



The day was more special as our mission celebrated Sister Marion Batalucco's 50th Anniversary in the Church. Sister Marion Batalucco was baptized June 30, 1935 by Bro. V. James Lovalvo, and confirmed by Bro. Joseph Giansante. A corsage was presented on behalf of the mission by Bro. Reno Bologna. Her family joined together to sing two of her favorite hymns, *Ivory Palaces* and *Whispering Hope*. The congregation continued the singing with On the Wings of a Dove, another of our sister's favorites.

Bro. Jim Cotellesse introduced the service with the hymn We Have an Anchor. He spoke to us concerning our service to God and how quickly life passes. The commitments made at the river shore are everlasting commitments. Bro. Jim chose Mosiah 18, Romans 6, and Article 9 of the Faith and Doctrine-concerning faith, repentance, and baptism-as his text this morning. He related to us that mankind has numerous decisions to make in life concerning whether or not to serve God. To serve God is eternal life.

The meeting was opened for

testimony. Many of Sis. Batalucco's children attested to her positive attributes and how she influenced them both spiritually and naturally. The home of our dear sister and her late husband, Bro. Joseph Batalucco, was always open to the saints and many church activities occurred there through the years. We thank God for our sister, who has consistently been a faithful saint all these years, and we hope God will grant many more souls this great opportunity to serve Him to the best of our abilities.

90th Birthday Observed

On March 23, 1985 the family of Sister Rose Scalise gave her a surprise birthday party. Our sister was celebrating her ninetieth birthday. It was truly a wonderful occasion for her because she did not expect a party at all. All members of the Bell, California branch were invited and many from other branches came also.

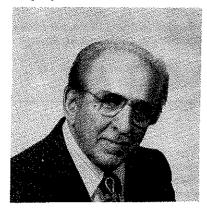
Our sister has been a faithful member of the Church for over fifty years. She truly has been an example not only to her family but to all that she has come in contact with. God has blessed her immensely in her service to the Church. Our sister Rose has been active as a deaconess for many years.

Present at Sister Rose's birthday party were two of her three children, Sis. Connie Meo and Bro. Jim Scalise. Her other daughter, Sis. Teresa Parravano, passed away some years ago. Sis. Scalise has ten grandchildren, twentythree great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren.



It Is Written

By Apostle V. James Lovalvo



A question was asked me several weeks ago, to wit: "What kind of works must we do to be saved?"

To begin with, let us define "works" as it is applied to the believer in Christ.

1. There are the visible kind of works (or deeds or acts).

2. There are also the invisible, or mental, kinds of works. You see, Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16) Good works means righteous works. In terms of Biblical definition, it means "performance of moral duties or ceremonial acts, or both." (Webster's) Works of righteousness are: Doing good to others without thought of recompense, loving without dissimulation, helping the needy, visiting the poor and afflicted, and giving freely and cheerfully as the Lord has provided. It is written:

Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was a stranger, and ye took me in; Naked, and ye clothed me; I was sick, and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. (Matthew

25:34-40)

The Lord censured the unrighteous (those on His left hand) for not having done as the righteous (those on His right hand) had done, and when they in astonishment asked when had they not done so, the King replied, "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me." (Matthew 25:45) Righteous works are accomplished by faith, believing and keeping His commandments.

There are also the unrighteous, or evil, works that men do that are clearly seen by others, to wit: murder, thievery, extortion, adultery, covetous acts, lying, bearing false witness, and the myriad kinds of evil works too numerous to mention. In addition, there are works that bring the displeasure of God upon us, such as getting angry with a brother or sister, using abusive and offensive words one to another, taking Sacrament unworthily, etc.

Now we come to the invisible kinds of works, or what we think in our hearts and minds. Good (righteous) thoughts elate the spirit and motivates one to higher levels of righteousness. Seeing good in others and searching for good in others helps us to climb one step higher on the level of spirituality. Thinking beautiful thoughts inspire spiritual growth and allows the Holy Spirit to have full sway in our lives. These are some of the invisible kinds of good works which will enable us to have communication with God and a spiritual interrelationship one with another.

Unrighteous works, albeit invisible, include: "A proud look, a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations," (Proverbs 6:17), holding grudges against another, judging another's words or actions, seeking to find fault with another, coveting another's mate or goods. All of the above have a tendency to shrivel the soul and will eat at one's spirit like a cankerous worm. Remember Simon, who judged Christ as being less than a prophet when he saw the woman washing Jesus' feet with her tears. But the Lord read his mind and reproved him. Jesus once said, "The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness." (Matthew 6:22 & 23) To paraphrase the above quotation: If our minds are not righteous, all we can see is evil in others. Consequently, the unrighteous works of the mind

brings no joy but rather depression and ultimate rejection by God if one does not repent and strive to achieve a higher level of righteousness.

Now to the question at hand, "What kind of works must we do to be saved?" The answer is obvious. We must perform works of light and righteousness. However, some explanation is necessary. The question begs a more detailed answer.

In order to gain a residence in the mansions above, works of a spiritual, temporal, and mental nature are all required. Works must be performed both visibly and unseen. For example, if we do good only to those who do good to us, what profit is there? None! Christ said in various places for us to do good to them that do us evil, forgive those who trespass against us, and pray for those who despitefully use us. Every person, of course, must take an inventory of himself as to whether he or she is doing the above.

There are people in this world who, like the rich young ruler in the scriptures, keep-or profess to keep-the ten commandments. We would call these people "good" persons. However, Jesus told the young ruler that he still lacked one thing: to sell all he had, give to the poor, and then follow Him. How many of us lack one or more of the things that the Lord requires of us in our lives? The works that we do must have the approval of God, not of men. Our works alone cannot save us. It takes the combination of Faith and Works to gain us entrance to the heavenly realm of God. James the apostle says, "What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith and have not works? Can faith save him? . . . Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works; show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works." (James 2:14-18)

On the other hand, Paul the apostle writes in many places that "works alone will not justify a man;" that it is Faith that is accounted for righteousness. Reading the writings of these two great men, it would seem at first glance that they contradict one another, that one is paradoxical to the other. But when one studies both men's writings in depth, the relationship of faith and works appears in proper perspective.

Paul writes exclusively about works

(Continued on Page 11)

4 November, 1985

Michigan-Ontario District

By Anthony J. Scolaro

On Sunday evening September 8, 1985, members of various branches of the Michigan-Ontario District met at the Sterling Heights Branch for a spiritual gathering.

After a season of community singing, District President Leonard A. Lovalvo opened the meeting with the hymn *Make Me a Blessing*. Bro. Leonard rehearsed the words of this hymn to us, stressing the importance of showing our light wherever we go. He pointed out that the words of this hymn are directed not only to the ministry, but to all church members. We can all give as 'twas given to us in our need.

Bro. Leonard continued with a familiar verse from the Old Testament, Isaiah 52:7, "How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" He brought to our attention that Isaiah was speaking of those who would go forth and bring the message of the Gospel unto others.

Drawing from a sermon he had heard earlier in the day concerning our individual conversion, Bro. Leonard recalled to our memories the day that we each went down to the waters of baptism. As we became filled with the sweet memory of that most blessed day, our brother exhorted us to consider the dying souls of men, how each and every man and woman on the face of the earth should have the opportunity to experience the joy that we have felt.

Bro. Leonard asked us not to decide beforehand who would be receptive to the Gospel and who would not. He pointed out people in the congregation who had come into the Gospel after many years, and asserted that perhaps many of us had given up on these brothers and sisters, thinking they would never accept the Gospel. Bro. Leonard went on to cite various examples whereby we might bring this Gospel to others. We don't have to be ordained into the priesthood in order to share the joy of the restoration with those who haven't heard. Bro. Leonard urged each of us to do our utmost to bring the souls of men unto Christ.

Bro. Louis Vitto continued, inspired by our Bro. Leonard's words to recount an experience he had had at work one day. While cutting the hair of a particularly despondent youth, our brother felt to ask him what was bothering him. Much to his surprise, the young man finally told him that he was having his hair cut in preparation for his funeral, as he was planning to take his own life. Bro. Lou related to us that through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, he was able to talk to this young man and with the Lord's help finally convinced him that there was a better solution to his problems. He pointed out to us that there are so many in this world who need Christ, and we must have our minds and hearts open to share our testimonies with them.

At this point in the meeting the young people presented a song and several testimonies were heard. Bro. Peter Scolaro summarized the words that were sung and spoken tonight. encouraging us to be prayerful every day as we go about our daily routine, that we might be more open to the opportunity for the Spirit of God to work through us. He asked us to pray as we made our way to church services, that we might bring a blessing with us and be open to whatever the Lord might have in store for us. It is so easy to bring life's weariness and troubles with us into church, but with God's help, we can leave them outside and enjoy His blessings. The Lord will bless us according to our desire and diligence in serving Him.

California District Conference

(August 17 & 18, 1985) As always, our district conference was well represented by brothers from north to south. After our business session, the conference was turned over to matters spiritual.

Bro. Ken Jones and Sis. Diane Surdock sang *This Is the Time I Must Sing*, after which the congregation was permitted to ask questions of the ministry concerning the missionary progress of the Church. Bro. Leonard Lovalvo sang *Just A Closer Walk*.

Saturday evening continued in the same spirit of singing praises to God. Bro. Ken Jones was asked to sing *Is There Anyone Willing to Let Him Come* In. After a few closing remarks by District President George "Rusty" Heaps, Bro. Paul Liberto dismissed the meeting in prayer.

Sunday morning the saints gathered together to hear God speak through His

(Continued on Page 11)

Notice

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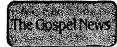
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> The Church of Jesus Christ Print House 8423 Boettner **P.O. Box 30** Bridgewater, MI 48115

Publication Notice

The Gospel News publication #223480 is published monthly—12 issues per year at \$6.00 per subscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters at Sixth and Lincoln St., Monongahela, PA 15063 and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 8423 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115. The Editor is Anthony J. Scolaro, 15843 Manning, Detroit, MI 48205. The Managing Editor is Peter A. Scolaro, 36247 Harcourt, Fraser, MI 48026. 2100 copies are printed, 1896 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1996 subscriptions are mailed monthly.



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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is 86.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

> BUSINESS OFFICE 8423 Boettner Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (313) 429-5080

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel, his companions; then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions; And join them one to another into one stick, and they shall become one in thine hand." (Ezekiel 37:16 & 17)

Each year, books are published which claim to shed new light on prophecies concerning the end of time. Learned men pore over the pages of the *Bible*, linguists present new translations of the original text, and Christian men and women everywhere are broadcasting and printing in book form the conclusions they've arrived at after years of extensive research.

Unfortunately, the studies these people have made, and nearly all of the writings of the scholars that went before them, relate back only to the Bible, and fail to take advantage of the wealth of spiritual understanding offered by the inspired writers of the Book of Mormon. In explaining issues that are not addressed directly by the Bible, today's theologians rely on their own interpretations, or the opinions of men before them who likewise did not have the fullness of the Gospel. The Book of Mormon, while not teaching us anything different from what the Bible says, often gives a much clearer understanding of the mysteries of God.

"We believe in the fulfillment and ultimate establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth *while men are still in the flesh.* We refer to this period of time as the Peaceful Reign, which shall precede the Millennium, or Thousand Years with Christ." (Article 23, *Faith and Doctrine*; my italics.)

This fundamental tenet of The Church of Jesus Christ particularly reflects the advantage we who know of the Restoration have over the Christian world with respect to our understanding of the marvelous plan of God. Whether Christians today choose to ignore the *Book of Mormon* or simply are not yet acquainted with it, their general consensus is that Old Testament references to Zion symbolize the Kingdom of Heaven *after* the resurrection of the dead, that the Mountain of the Lord's House is something that comes into existence when the world has ended.

Their ignorance of the Book of Mormon accounts for this erroneous conclusion. The only New Jerusalem in the Bible is the one John saw coming down in the Book of Revelation. But the Book of Mormon gives us great insight into the events surrounding both New and Old Jerusalems (Ether 13:4-12, among others). This is but one example of the many areas wherein the Book of Mormon complements the information given in the Bible. Until they accept the Book of Mormon as scripture, authors of biblical reference books will continue to make grave errors in interpreting the writings of the prophets.

I am writing not so much to explain what we as a Church believe concerning prophecies about the last days, but to point out the importance of including the *Book of Mormon* in our studies of the scripture before we look elsewhere for answers to our questions. We are surrounded these days with celebrated evangelists who saturate the world through television, radio, and the printed word with what they believe to be the truth. Let us keep in mind when reading or listening to commentaries of those who believe differently than we do, that we have committed ourselves to following after light, and must be sure that the light we follow is not darkness.

In view of all the reference books in print today which claim to have a "handle" on the plan of God, let us realize that the prayerful, diligent study of the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, two books written by the Lord Himself, will work to confound false doctrines and lead us to an unsurpassed understanding of the Truth. Let us allow these two books to become one in our hands, indeed, to become one in our hearts.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

A Man Who Lied About God

Dear Girls and Boys,

It had been sixteen years since King Mosiah had died. Since his sons, the four princes Aaron, Ammon, Omner, and Himni chose to be preachers rather than to be King, a series of judges ruled the land. The Nephites had established many fair laws; it was against the law to cheat, lie, steal, murder, etc. It was also the law that you could spiritually believe however you wanted to believe. The Lord never forced anyone to serve Him, in those days nor in our days.

There had been three peaceful years since the Nephite people had fought their last war against the Lamanites and Amalakites. The people of Ammon (Anti-Nephi-Lehis) had sent their two thousand young sons to fight bravely and God had spared them all. These true believers in God remembered what their mothers had taught them. They also well remembered the mighty power of God, who had saved them.

But Satan was furious. He began working in the heart of a powerful speaker named Korihor. He told Korihor to go among the Nephites and start confusing the people. But Korihor had to remember to pretend he truly believed his words so he wouldn't be breaking the laws of peace.

Korihor made fun of people who had faith. In a powerful way he told people they were crazy to believe in something they couldn't see and told them that there was no God, so they should do whatever they wanted here on earth. Many weak people in Zarahemla decided they liked his evil words and they began to break all the laws of God that taught them to do good.

Korihor decided to take his preaching to the people of Ammon, too. But when he reached the land of Jershon, those people remembered well what it had been like when they were Lamanites living in unbelief. They also remembered the beauty and power of God who protected their sons and themselves in battle. Instead of being tricked by Korihor, they forced him to stop preaching his lies and leave their land. Thus we see that evil *will* leave us if we call upon God and stand up to it.

Next Korihor decided to take his lies to the land of Gideon. The people there also did not want him preaching his lies. They took him to be judged by their high priest. When this strong man of God saw the hold Satan had on Korihor and heard the lies Korihor was boldly spouting, he put Korihor under arrest and sent him to be judged by the governor of the land and chief judge, Alma.

Immediately the Lord showed Alma how Satan had tricked Korihor into speaking such lies. Korihor boldly told Alma that there wasn't any God and the elders just told the people stories so they could earn money. Quietly Alma answered Korihor that that was a lie, since he'd never once received any money for preaching the word of God.

Then Korihor said he knew there wasn't a God and Christ would never come. Alma said, "What proof do you have that there isn't a God? The words of the ancient prophets, in fact all things on the earth and the planets that move in regular form prove there is a creator. I tell you, Korihor, Yo have no proof; you just say that. I know you do believe but a lying spirit possesses you and you push off the Spirit of God. The devil is working in you to destroy the children of God!"

Korihor replied, "Show me a sign and then I'll believe."

Alma warned him, "Korihor, I hurt

because of the hardness of your heart, that you still will resist the Spirit of Truth and your soul will be destroyed. But it is better that one soul, yours, should be lost than many. So, if you deny again that there is a God, He will smite you so you will never talk again and trick so many people."

Once again Korihor argued, "I say that you don't know there is a God, and unless you show me a sign, I will not believe!"

And Alma replied, "This I will give you for a sign, that in the name of God, you will no more have a voice."

Now when Alma had said this, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could no longer speak, just as Alma had warned him.

When the chief judge saw this, he wrote a note to Korihor saying, "Are you now convinced of the power of God? Who did you want Alma to touch to show you a sign for proof? You have your sign, will you argue more?"

And Korihor wrote back, saying, "I cannot speak; I know only the power of God could do this. I also did know there was a God but the devil tricked me and taught me what to say and I believed him."

Then Korihor asked Alma to pray for him and ask God to take the curse away. But Alma said unto him, "Korihor, God tells me that if your voice was restored unto you, you again would go about deceiving and leading away the people of God."

The followers of Korihor all repented once they saw the end of their evil leader. Korihor wandered from city to city begging for his food until one day he was accidentally run over and killed. So we see how Satan tricks people and then abandons them in their pain and sorrow. Peace again reigned throughout the land. (Alma 30)

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

Be wise in the days of your probation; strip yourselves of all uncleanness; ask not, that ye may consume it on your lusts, but ask with a firmness unshaken, that ye will yield to no temptation, but that ye will serve the true and living God. (Mormon 9:28)



Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario Area Circle Visits Muncey

By Ilene Coppa

The Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle visited the Muncey, Ontario Mission on August 4, 1985. They were welcomed by the brothers and sisters with open arms. Also present were brothers and sisters from the Six Nations Reservation, Detroit, and Windsor.

Bro. Peter H. Capone made a few

Types and Shadows

By Mark Kovacic

God speaks to man through various means, or as the letter to the Hebrews says, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past . . ." (Hebrews 1:1) One method that God has used to reveal the mystery of the plan of salvation and also coming events is "types and shadows." But what is a type and shadow?

A "type" of something, we know, means that one item is similar to another, but not exactly the same. It also refers to one item having some kind of connection to another. For example, "What type of car do you drive?" If the response indicates an expensive car, we would normally relate or connect that with the person being wealthy. If their response indicates a practical, efficient car, we would relate it with the person being frugal or thrifty.

In spiritual things, a type would indicate a connection or likeness of two separate and distinct items, but the first would give understanding of the second (the car indicating wealth, frugality, etc.)

A "shadow" of something shows only a small detail of the actual item. My shadow on the ground, even though it indicates my overall shape, does not show any details, features, or coloring. My shadow would indicate, if I were walking along a sidewalk, that I am a opening remarks about the Ladies' Uplift Circle in general and read excerpts from the *Gospel News* article on the Circle's 65th Anniversary held in Greensburg, PA.

Bro. Norman Campitelle opened the meeting by reading from the 12th and 17th Chapters of Revelations. He talked about the two women in those scriptures and what each one represented. Bro. Norman addressed the young people of the Church, asking them which cup they as Saints of Latter Days wanted to drink out of, the one that Jesus Christ drank or the golden cup filled with fornication? Bro. Tony Scolaro followed him on the same subject, stating that from the time of the birth of Jesus to the present day the devil has been out to deceive mankind and how in time grievous wolves got into the flock and changed the commandments.

The meeting was then left open for testimony. There were many beautiful expressions given which were enjoyed by all.

Bro. Capone, in his closing remarks, made mention of the cry of every parent, in praying for their children to join this beautiful Church and how diligent the older brothers and sisters were in praying for their children and families. He stressed the importance of praying for others.

A beautiful lunch was prepared by the sisters from Muncey and was enjoyed by all. The Area Ladies' Uplift Circle wishes to thank the Muncey sisters and brothers for a beautiful day spent in worshipping God. May God bless you in all your efforts.

man, and not a dog or a cat.

Spiritual shadows are images cast before us that show us what is to follow or what to look for, but it may not give us the actual details. Combining types and shadows gives us a hope of things to come and what they will be like, or what to expect in the future. Some examples may also be helpful.

Jesus said the only sign they (the Pharisees) would receive was the sign of Jonah. Jonah's experience in the fish (Jesus called it a whale) was a shadow of Christ's time in the tomb and of His resurrection. Note that Jesus did not say tomb, but the whale was a shadow of it, and Jonah was a type, a likeness that Jesus would follow.

Lehi, in the *Book of Mormon*, quoting Joseph, said that the Choice Seer would be like unto Moses; that is, Moses was a type of the Choice Seer. Lehi, for our benefit, goes on to explain the likeness between Moses and the Choice Seer. Why? So we would understand that the Choice Seer would be like and what his role would be in the latter days.

Joseph himself was a strong type and shadow of Jesus, in the life he lived and the things he experienced. (Review the life of Joseph and find the many likenesses.)

Another type and shadow is how Joseph took care of his father, Israel, and his brothers, and how in the latter days, the tribe of Joseph will do the same thing, spiritually, for the House of Israel. (See the Church's booklet, "Divine Commission")

Even the word "type" is used by Alma several times, and one time quite prominently. He stated that the Liahona and obedience to it is a *type* if we follow the words of Christ, how they will carry us beyond the vale of sorrow into a far better land of promise. (Alma 37:45)

There are many more types and shadows throughout the scriptures and they are there for our edification and spiritual benefit. Understanding them helps *root* us in the Restored Gospel. Our faith in Jesus Christ is founded, rooted, and supported by the majestic beauty of God revealing His Son throughout the ages, so that we would fully understand that the plan of redemption was not accidental, but was well conceived and carefully unfolded, waiting for us to exercise faith and seek His knowledge.

CA CAMPOUT continued . . .

ful teaching of consistency helped us to better understand how to carry that same spirit throughout the coming year. Although brush fires in the nearby Malibu Canyon threatened us from time to time throughout the week, we can surely say that in the camp, the Spirit of God like a fire was burning. Praise His name.

Branch and Mission News

Yucaipa, CA

February 24, 1985 was a happy occasion for all the saints in Yucaipa. Another soul gave her life to Christ.

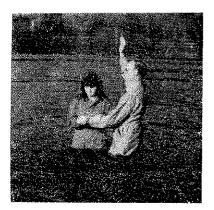
Sister Donna Jarbeau was baptized by Brother Clarence Kirkpatrick and confirmed by Brother Frank Genaro.

We have been blessed with many visiting brothers and sisters from all parts of the Church.

We appreciate your visits, so please continue to visit with us.

Please remember our aged sisters in prayer. Sister Mattie Arrington and Sister Margaret Erwin have been very ill and have not been able to attend meetings for some time.

May God bless you all.



Anaheim, CA

By Pam Capone

"It's time for the young men to come to the aid of their country, It's time for young women who love the Lord to stand, A battle is waging, our colors now have to be lifted, Wave the flags of Zion on the mountains all over the land . . ." These words have taken on a more special meaning for the saints in the west who attended the California campout in July, 1985. In one of the meetings, God told us that it is indeed time for young men and women to stand and fight for Zion. Many saints were witness to this as a large portion had the privilege of attending this campout.

The Lord is telling us that we have to rid from our lives the natural things of life that bring our spiritual life down and destroy us. Now is the time for us to stand up, dust our spiritual lives off, and begin to fight. We are grateful for brothers and sisters and friends who have visited the Anaheim Branch and touched our lives with their testimonies. On June 2, Brother Paul and Sister Arline Whitton were with us from Detroit, MI. Bro. Paul spoke on fasting and prayer and the important role it plays in our lives. Also visiting with us were many from Santa Ana Mission on Wednesday night, as the lesson of "Self Discipline" was taught by Bro. Walt Jankowski.

On June 16 Bro. Frank and Sis. Edith Genaro from Yucaipa were in our midst along with their daughters Sis. Sandy Scarno and Sis. Josie Genaro. Bro. Frank encouraged us to put on the whole armor of God. He also said, "To say 'I love you' is easy, but to put it into action is the only time it is meaningful." If we say that we love God and then do our own thing, then we don't truly love the Lord.

On July 7, we had visitors from all over: Sis. Nedra Obradovich, Bro. Tommy Smith, Bro. David DeLuca, Sis. Martha Laird, Bro. Andre Francione, Sis. Lydia Francione, and Mary Saczko. Bro. Jim Huttenberger opened the meeting that day on Zion and how the saints should be "Meaningful Specifics" rather than a "Wandering Generality," stating that our goals should be very specific, especially in our service to God. Bro. Rusty Heaps then spoke and asked if we are "freeway passers-by," how sometimes we may drive down the freeway and spot a building that we had never seen before and ask, "How did that get there?" He likened it to the building of Zion. If we're involved in the construction work, we shouldn't be surprised to see the day of its completion.

During the testimony service, Gabrielle Sullivan and Bridget Van De Weghe asked for their baptisms. Thank God for two more workers. The following Sunday we witnessed the baptisms of our two new sisters. Sis. Gabrielle was baptized and confirmed by Bro. Rusty Heaps and Sis. Bridget was baptized by Bro. Ken Jones and confirmed by Bro. Jim Huttenberger. Attending the branch for the first time was twoweek-old Brandon James Coppa, who was blessed in the Church by Bro. Walt Jankowski. Bro. Ken Jones opened the service speaking about blind Bartimaeus and how we should not be afraid to cry out to God on behalf of our soul being saved in His kingdom.

We are excited to have several new brothers and sisters from other areas make their home in this area: Bro. Don and Sis. Vicky Henderson, Bro. Carl Huttenberger, Sis. Karyn Vitto, and Bro. Jerry DiFede.

Branch activities include softball on Friday evenings, a July 4 Barbeque, 25 cents-a-dip dinner, and Monday morning men's prayer meetings.

Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise

The Bell, California Branch was blessed with a recent baptism. On Wednesday, June 5, Brother Tom Jones asked if anything interesting or unusual had happened to anyone during the week. Mary Fallavollita commented that the Lord had been working upon her heart for the past few days. She knew something was lacking in her life and in order to become a whole person, she desired baptism. We truly felt the Spirit of God as Mary gave her testimony.

On Sunday, June 9, 1985 Bro. Harry Marshall introduced the morning service using scripture found in Matthew 11:28-30. He expressed that it was truly a blessing to see another soul accepting the "Great Invitation" of Jesus Christ. He reassured us that Jesus is willing and able to comfort us when the burdens and cares of this life become heavy. When we accept the Gospel, we are not exempt from the everyday toils of life, but we have a Savior who offers us refuge in our time of need.

Our meeting continued with a beautiful duet sung by Sis. Tava Jones and Cindy Mathews, along with a spiritfilled testimony from our new sister.

Following a short break for lunch, the brothers and sisters met at the river shore. Bro. Bob McDonnell baptized our new sister and the saints rejoiced in witnessing another soul accepting the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bro. Tom Jones opened our afternoon service, using for his text John 3 and Moroni 2, pertaining to the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Bro. Harry Marshall confirmed our sister Mary.

A season of testimony was enjoyed and our service was adjourned. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to call more souls into this glorious Gospel.

Several months earlier, we at the Bell Branch saw our Brother Steven Fallavollita ordained a deacon in the Church.

Our meeting on December 23, 1984 was opened by Presiding Elder Tom Jones. His test was taken from the Book of Acts, Chapter 6. He spoke many beautiful words concerning the duties and responsibilities of a deacon. This, of course, was directed to our Brother Steve, to encourage him in his new office. Brother Steve was born and raised in the Church and has proven himself a very good candidate for the work of the Lord.

Brother Steve's feet were washed by Brother Harry Marshall and Brother Bob McDonnell layed hands on him and asked God's ordination to come down upon him. May God bless our Brother Steve in this new office.

Tse Bonito, NM

"... And we shall sing on the mountain of the Lord ... "

During the week of July 15-21, the hills of Tse Bonito, New Mexico rang with the music of praise to the Lord.

Due to the generosity of time, spirit, and talent of Brothers Eugene Amormino of Detroit, Michigan and David Majoros of Tucson, Arizona, a week of intense individual and group sessions of music composition and voice development marked the First Annual Music Ministry held by the Tse Bonito Branch.

Each night the choir practiced under the gentle but determined direction of Bro. Eugene, often into the early hours of the morning. Bro. Bruce Gamache of Anaheim, California came with baggage-microphones, recorders, mixers, and an assortment of mechanical surprises-to tape this exciting event. From Meaford, Ontario came Bro. Rick Elzby to share in the week of song and to impart a blessing to us all.

The week culminated in a community program; not simply songs, but a message of Peace, Hope, and the Love of Christ for His people and the Promise and Message of Zion. We offered our musical testimony with the Spirit of God and the hope and belief of the Gospel which is within each one of us.

Our thanks to our dear Brothers Eugene, David, Bruce, and Rick for their untiring efforts and support. If all goes well, we hope to offer a tape cassette of the program in the near future. One thing is certain: with God's help the Second Annual Music Ministry will again challenge the souls of men to serve the Lord.

Levittown, PA

On Sunday, August 4, 1985, Kevin Fraschilla made his covenant with the Lord and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Kevin testified that he had been restless for many weeks, not knowing what direction to take in his life. He felt something was missing, but he couldn't discern what it was. One day he went to the Lord in prayer and asked God to give him guidance. He knew then that he needed to be baptized. Once he made his decision, his whole body took on a feeling of complete peace.

Brother Kevin was baptized by Bro. Sam Dell and confirmed by Bro. Paul Benyola. Our prayers are with our brother, that God will be with him to give him guidance and direction always.

Meaford, Ontario

By Jane Elzby

As the warm August sun reflected off Georgian Bay, the saints in Meaford, Ontario gathered at Memorial Park for our Sunday School Picnic. We were pleased to welcome visitors Bro. Silver and Sis. Ilene Coppa, along with Bro. Gary, Sis. Judy, and Kevin Coppa, all of Detroit Branch 3, and Bro. Alma Coppa of San Diego, CA. A day of games, good food, beautiful scenery, and most of all fellowship of the saints was enjoyed by all.

On Sunday August 11 we gathered in

our little church building, leaving all of our everyday cares outside. We began our meeting by singing There's No Rainbow Can Shine Like Jesus and Singing on the Mountain. Bro. Richard Elzby welcomed everyone and Bro. Gary Coppa opened in prayer.

Bro. Silver introduced our service giving everyone present a picturesque look into the future. Our brother read from Isaiah 2:2-4, referring to the last days when the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and many shall come . . . and beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. He continued with Isaiah 65:20-25, ". . . a child shall die at an hundred years old . . . they shall plant vineyards and eat thereof . . . they shall not build and another inhabit."

He also read from Micah 4:1-5, " \ldots they shall sit every man under his vine and fig tree and none shall make them afraid \ldots "

What a contrast the future presents as compared to our world today. The present is so disappointing, but anticipation of the future gives us great joy and hope. Bro. Silver admonished us to carry on and strive each day to draw closer to God and pray for our future, our young people's future, and our children's future in the New Jerusalem.

Bro. Gary continued, asking, "Who among us could not long for a better time?" God said His word would not return unto Him void. Our brother read from IV Nephi, verse 5, "And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus, insomuch that they did heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cause the lame to walk, and the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; and all manner of miracles did they work among the children of men; and in nothing did they work miracles save it were in the name of Jesus." This scripture mirrors the time we are coming into. We will be so free in the Spirit of God. There will be miracles because there will be no lack of faith and no sin.

We will have to endure much before this peaceful condition arrives, and only the more righteous will be saved. So in order for this great plan to proceed, Bro. Gary asked us, "What manner of people ought we to be?" We should have nought against our brothers and sisters. 10 November, 1985

MEAFORD continued . . .

We should rekindle that first love, and to quote our late Bro. James Heaps, "Push that old man down!" Our brother encouraged us to be watchful and prayerful and to gird ourselves with our greatest weapon: Righteousness.

Bro. Richard then told us the words that the Lord had given to him while Bro. Gary was speaking: "Thus saith the Lord: Listen to the words my servant is speaking, for I have put them in his mouth."

Truly each and every cup was full and overflowing. Not only were we given a glimpse of the future, but we were also refreshed and renewed for the present, each one of us going home with encouraging words of hope to help us carry on.

We are grateful to our brothers and sisters for coming to Meaford and spending a time of fellowship with us.

Detroit Inner City

Sis. Vern Dutton was baptized on August 18, 1985 by Bro. Tony Gerace and confirmed by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

Sis. Vern was invited to the Inner City Branch by a friend that lived in her apartment building. She continued to attend the services over the space of several years.

While witnessing a baptism six months ago, Sis. Vern felt the spirit of repentance upon her. From that day on, she has given evidence of the Spirit she felt at the waters.

We pray that God will bless our new sister as she strives to serve Him with us all.

Cape Coral, FL

We at Cape Coral have been blessed with a new sister! Sister Michelle Hildenbrand was baptized at the GMBA Campout on Thursday, August 22, 1985. She was baptized by Brother Frank Rogolino of Fort Pierce, Florida and confirmed by Brother John D'Orazio of Lake Worth. Sis. Michelle is fifteen years old. We pray that she will have many faithful years in the Lord's service.

Tampa, FL

Dana Marie Lowe of the Tampa, Florida Branch made her commitment to serve the Lord at the GMBA Campout on August 22, 1985. She was baptized by her father, Bro. Duane Lowe, and confirmed by Bro. Sam Risola Sr.

Miami, FL

On Sunday August 25, 1985, Brother William "Casey" Casion was baptized by Brother Mark Kovacic in Biscayne Bay. Brother Casey is the husband of Sister Joyce Casion and the baptism was on the day of their first wedding anniversary.

After the baptism, the saints returned to the hall where Brother Casey was confirmed a member of the Church by Brother Mark Kovacic, after which Brother Mark spoke from the 60th chapter of Alma, concerning General Moroni writing to Pahoran for supplies and replacements for his army.

Brother Mark stressed how we are in a battle, and God will supply us with whatever we need, but that we also must fulfill our duties and callings for the Church and the saints, who, like Moroni, are depending on us.

May God bless our new brother in Christ.

Rochester, NY

September 7 and 8, 1985 brought many saints from all over the vineyard to Rochester, New York for the ordination of Bro. Frank Natoli into the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Saturday evening the brothers and sisters met in preparation for the Sabbath service. Bro. Brian Martorana spoke briefly, with Bro. Paul Ciotti following. Our brothers spoke concerning the great responsibility that lies upon the Church and the great responsibility that lies upon the brothers and sisters who have taken upon them the name of Christ. The service was then opened for testimony. Many testified, encouraged by the words which had been spoken. A young man visiting from Lorain, Ohio gave a beautiful testimony of how he desired to draw closer to God. He told us how at one time in his life he spoke against the Book of Mormon, but now he realized that it is the word of God. As this young man sat down the word of the Lord came forth as follows, "Hear the Word of the Lord, I have brought you to this place that you might find the true Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Sunday morning brought the saints together once again. In lieu of Sunday School our brothers felt to sing as well as call the house to prayer for the many sick throughout the Church. As a brother was praying, he asked God to send angels. It was at this moment that a sister beheld standing on the rostrum the Three Nephites, each holding a lamb in their arms. Our sister asked God what this represented, and immediately she was given to understand that the calling of Bro. Frank would bring many souls unto the Great Shepherd.

Ohio District President Ron Genaro opened our morning service, reading from I Peter 5:1-4. Bro. Ron was truly inspired, exhorting the ministry to feed the flock which was among them. He concluded with the words of Christ unto Peter: *Feed My sheep* . . . *Feed My lambs* . . . *Feed My sheep*. Our brother's words were words of instruction, encouragement, and love.

Bro. Paul Ciotti followed, reading from II Corinthians 5:18-20, elaborating on Bro. Ron's words and explaining that Jesus Christ "hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation."

This ministry has been given the authority through the Restoration of the Gospel to be the means by which the sheep shall be fed. Our brother spoke concerning the responsibilities, the burdens, and the rewards of being an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Frank Calabrese washed the feet of Bro. Frank Natoli and Bro. Paul Ciotti ordained him.

In his prayer, Bro. Paul asked God to bless the Church in Rochester, New York and to make it fruitful as it was in the past. Immediately the gift of tongues came forth as a confirmation that God would bless this part of the vineyard. After the prayer, as Bro. Frank embraced the rest of the elders, the word of the Lord came forth as follows: "Take care of God's people, these are My lambs, they are My sheep, take care of My people."

Throughout the entire day God's Spirit revealed unto our Brother Frank, unto the ministry, and to the congregation that we are His lambs and that His lambs need a shepherd, for only a shepherd is able to feed the sheep.

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

of the law, that is, abiding by the strict law of Moses without faith in the Lord. For he says, "Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law." (Romans 3:28) He continues, "For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God." (Romans 4:2) Paul was seeking to establish the fact that the works of the law (of Moses) were superseded by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Conversely, James is not speaking of the Law of Moses, but rather of temporal deeds or acts. His argument is very reasonable and understandable. James says, "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body, what doth it profit?" (James 2:15 & 16) He then continues to defend his argument by saying, "Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered up Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?" (James 2:21)

If one compares the writings of Paul and James on this subject, one can readily see that there is no contradiction or paradox. Both agree that works alone cannot justify a person, that it takes faith and works to have righteousness imputed to you. Paul knows that it does take good works to gain the approval of God. He writes:

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him. Remembering without ceasing your work of faith and labor of love." (Colossians 3:12 and I Thessalonians 1:3)

However, we must not forget that faith and works will save us but only through the grace of God Our Father and His Son Jesus Christ. It is of a necessity that I write a little concerning the Grace of God. Grace is the free and unmerited love and favor of God. It was by this free and unmerited love that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us. When Paul beseeched the Lord to heal him, the reply was, "My grace is sufficient for thee." Grace is the great motivator through which believers become righteous in the sight of God. Grace is that excellent state of reconciliation and favor with God, which He graciously bestows upon His people, beginning with the giving of His divine Son for our salvation.

Sometimes we identify "grace" with persons of noble character; we say, "He acted graciously," or, "She is a very gracious person," by which we mean that he or she is filled with an enchanting personality. However, no matter how much a person may try, grace cannot be transmitted from one person to another. Examples can be set, but it cannot be imparted. However, God can give, He can impart His Grace (His nobility, His love, His magnanimity) to whomever He wishes. It is written, But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." (James 4:6)

Nephi the son of Lehi says, "For we labor diligently to write, to persuade our children, and also our brethren, to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God, for we know that it is by grace that we are saved after all we can do." (II Nephi 25:23) Nephi's brother Jacob exhorts, "Nevertheless, the Lord God showeth us our weakness that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men that we have the power to do these things." (Jacob 4:7)

The conclusion of the matter is, that faith and works must merge together and labor as one, yet it is by the Grace of God that we can operate as the sons and daughters of the Lord. Jesus said, "Without me, ye can do nothing." How true! We pray then, that all of our works and faith will keep the Grace of God upon us and in us.

Let me write a little to all the members of The Church of Jesus Christ as a humble fellowservant of Christ. Our works must be seen of all men and our faith must be displayed by our works. No matter how insignificant it may seem, everything we do (works) must be done by faith to the glory of God and His Son, Jesus Christ. Exert every effort to serve God, diligently and with a grateful heart. Attend all the services if possible, give your testimony, participate in fast and prayer meetings, and become active in your branches and missions. Accept responsibilities of office, no matter how small (or large) it may

seem. Do not sit in your meetings without glorifying God in testimony of praise. Your spirit will soar like an eagle, your heart will rejoice in everlasting joy and happiness. The more you endeavor to be active, the more the Grace of God will fill your souls. The blessings of God are promised not only in the hereafter, but also while we dwell on earth. Combine your faith and good works and the Grace of God will abound in your lives. God bless you. So, it is written.

CA CONFERENCE continued . . .

ministers. Several special groups offered hymns to God's glory, and Bro. Jerry Giovannone from Warren, Ohio opened in prayer.

Bro. Ken Jones introduced the service with the theme that God is leading this Church as He led the Nephites through the wilderness, across the waters, and to the promised land. Bro. Ken said that the Church is like the ship of the Nephites being tossed about by the waves of Satan, and that we must have the same faith as Nephi, knowing the day will come when the promised land will be in view, and that the Church must continue going forward at all times, with Christ at the head.

Bro. Leonard Lovalvo followed along the same lines, saying that the Church must have a direction and a destination to aim toward, that being Zion.

We thank God for the unity felt among the brothers and sisters as we closed our conference and went to our separate homes.

Safekeeping

Do not look forward to the changes and chances of this life in fear; rather look to them with full hope that, as they arise, God, whose you are, will deliver you out of them. He is your keeper. He has kept you hitherto. Do but hold fast to His dear hand, and He will lead you safely through all things; and, when you cannot stand, He will bear you in His arms. Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow. Our Father will either shield you from suffering, or He will give you strength to bear it.

* WEDDINGS *

BENYOLA-D'ORAZIO

Leonard Benyola II and Mary Tina D'Orazio were united in marriage on July 27, 1985 at the Voorhees Chapel of Douglass College in New Brunswick, NJ.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Leonard Benyola, father of the groom, with the assistance of Bro. John D'Orazio, the bride's uncle, of Lake Worth, FL.

Bro. Philip Benyola presented musical selections. Soloist was Bro. Ken Lombardo, accompanied by Sis. Florence Lombardo.

The newlyweds will reside in Edison, NJ. May God bless Len and Mary with guidance and love in their new life together.

New Arrivals

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

Brandon James to Mark and Sue Coppa of Anaheim, California.

Corine Rachelle to Rusty Jr. and Caren Heaps of Anaheim, California.

Alyse Link to James and Alice Suska of Bronx, New York.

Children Blessed

On September 15, 1985, Ayisha Kenju Baldwin was blessed in the Church by Bro. Cleveland Baldwin at the Quincy, Florida Mission.

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OBITUARIES

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

E. MITCHELL HILL

Brother Elizah Mitchell Hill of the Six Nations Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to his eternal reward on September 8, 1985. He was born in Norfolk County, Ontario in 1924 and became a member of the Church on April 12, 1970.

Funeral services were held by Bro. Norman Campitelle and Bro. Anthony Lovalvo.

Our brother will be missed by the members of the Six Nations Mission as well as by his family.

MARIE WINELAND

Sister Marie Wineland was born in Shotts, Scotland on May 24, 1895. She passed on to her eternal reward on May 29, 1985. She was baptized into the Church in Monongahela on August 15, 1962, and was a faithful member of the Yucaipa, CA Mission at the time of her death.

The funeral service was held by Brothers Clarence Kirkpatrick and Frank Genaro.

Sister Wineland is survived by two daughters, one son, twelve grandchildren, and twenty-three greatgrandchildren.

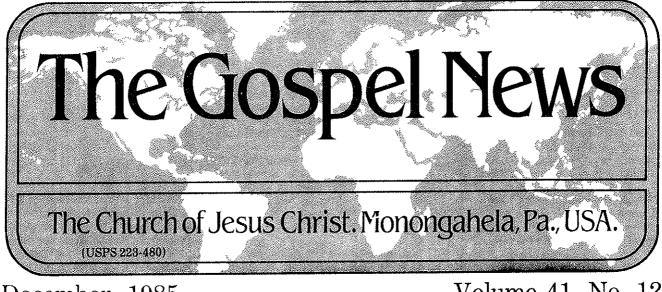
Our sister will be missed very much by her family and friends and all the saints who knew her.

LILLIE MAE DAVIS

Sister Lillie Mae Davis of the Quincy, Florida Mission passed on to her eternal reward on August 15, 1985 after a prolonged illness. She was born March 22, 1943 and became a member of the Church on March 31, 1974.

Services for Sister Davis were conducted by Brother Cleve Baldwin, Bro. Frank Rogolino, and Bro. Arthur Searcy.

The first person to be baptized in Quincy, our sister will be dearly missed by all the saints there. 1



December, 1985

General Church Conference

By Anthony J. Scolaro

The Spirit of God surely visited us as the priesthood and members of The Church of Jesus Christ convened at the Greensburg Auditorium for the open session of the annual business conference on Saturday, October 12, 1985.

Saturday morning's meeting was a continuation of the business meetings that had started two days earlier. We heard reports from various boards and committees of the General Church, as well as from the Church's auxiliary organizations, the Ladies' Circle and the G.M.B.A. All of these reports seemed to focus, in one way or another, on the missionary efforts of the Church.

We were also privileged to hear a report from Sis. Shari Ciotti of Santa Ana, CA regarding the progress of International Medical Assistance (IMA), a medical clinic that she, Sister Tina Sechrist, and Sister Mary Ann Nicosia have established in Nigeria.

The Saturday afternoon session of this conference reached its climax in a truly historic event for the Church: the ordination of Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka, from the nation of Kenya (East Africa), into the office of elder and deaconess respectively. Brother Osaka has been corresponding with the Church for about four years, and was baptized in February of 1985. An account of the Church's establishment in Kenya will be detailed in forthcoming issues of *The Gospel News*.

As we watched this humble brother and sister take their place in the work of the Lord, our souls rejoiced to know that two more laborers would be setting their hands to the plow in a heretofore untilled corner of the Lord's vineyard. How many more souls will hear the joyous sound of the Restoration through the new work in Kenya? There is no telling what the Lord will do.

We heard about the many ways in which The Church of Jesus Christ is moving forward, in this land and abroad, and learned of the many aspects involved in the growth of the Church. As the Church continues to grow, there is more and more opportunity for each and every one of us to be used according to our abilities and our desires. It was really very exciting to see how the Lord has called competent, willing brothers and sisters to take their place in His great and marvelous work! Our prayer is that God would continue to make His will known to the Church and that we as individuals would eagerly respond to the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

Note: April 18, 19, and 20, 1986 are the dates for the annual Spiritual Conference. Friday morning's meeting, open only to priesthood and teachers, will begin at 9:30 a.m. in the Greensburg Auditorium. Next year's business conference is scheduled to begin October 9, 1986.

Sunday's worship service was a blessing to all in attendance. By ten o'clock there was hardly a seat to be found in the General Church Auditorium, as each of us arrived anticipating God's blessings to be showered upon us.

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Brother Robert Watson opened our meeting with a beautiful prayer, remembering the specific needs of each and every soul that dwells upon the face of the earth. We felt as he was praying that the Lord was being asked to bless the entire world, and in our hearts we uttered a sincere "Amen" to our brother Apostle's words.

We heard a few words from Brothers Dennis Moraco and Carl Frammolino, each of whom have suffered the loss of their companions. While we were able to share some of their sorrow, we were each uplifted by the strength that our brothers displayed, not only throughout their individual trials, but also this morning as they stood before us and gave thanks and praise unto God for His infinite wisdom and mercy. Nowhere else in the world, brothers and sisters, can we find the strength and love offered to us by the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church!

Brother Frank Ciotti of Santa Ana, CA opened our service today with a message from the 5th chapter of Alma, "... if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?" Our brother was truly inspired as he spoke to us concerning our conversion and our service to God.

"Brothers and sisters, if the day of your baptism was the spiritual high point of your life, then there is definitely something wrong!" our brother proclaimed. He continued under the inspiration of the Spirit, explaining to us how much the Lord has in store for each of us if we would but *desire* it and show Him our willingness to serve Him. There is so much to be done for the Lord

"Gossip"

Question: Gossip, is it a sin? And if it is, why?

The word gossip is not defined nor even used in the scriptures, yet most of us would say, yes, it is a sin. Let us look at what it is and then why it is a sin.

Gossip, my dictionaries say, is idle talk or rumors, especially about personal or private affairs of others; tattling, the sensational talk of busybodies.

The scriptures contain many references not to the word gossip itself, but to the meanings of the word. Jesus, Paul, James, Peter, and Solomon all had something to say about the act of gossiping.

Jesus said, "that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the days of judgment." (Matthew 12:36) Peter categorized gossiping with other sins when he said, "but let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evil doer, or as a busybody in other man's matters." (I Peter 4:15)

Paul stated in several places how gossip should be refrained from. To the Thessalonians he wrote, "For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly . . . but are busybodies . . . Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work." (II Thessalonians 3:11 & 12) And to Timothy, Paul wrote, "and not only idle, but tattlers also, and busybodies, speak things which they ought not." (I Timothy 5:13)

James refers to the tongue when speaking of gossip and wrote to the Church, "and the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body." (James 3:6)

Solomon noted that, "He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears." And, "The words of a talebearer are as wounds . . . " (Proverbs 26:17, 20)

Now each speaks on the subject, detailing the reason for avoidance and noting the consequences, but why is it a sin? Paul explained that some sins committed are against your own body and others affect things without the body. What of gossip? Let's take a look

at it.

First, the person who gossips. They are idle, speaking idle words, words that do not have to be spoken or related, instead of being industriously quiet, doing good works, or praying. They may be repeating half-truths, lies, misconceptions, or just meddling in others' affairs (or, as we would say today, sticking their nose in where it doesn't belong). Now in itself, gossip is bad for the person doing it, a sin against one's own body and soul.

The person who is the subject of gossip is also passively involved, unknowingly. Their affairs are "noised" about when they should be private and personal. Untruths (a nice word for lies) are being spoken of them, diminishing the respect that others have of them and hurting them deeply. The saddest part is that the person who is the subject of the gossip may never know what has happened. They won't know why someone gives them a "strange look," or why others are "cool" toward them when greeting them. They have been offended, yet don't know it, or if it is discovered, they have no recourse to correct the damage. Gossip is destructive and wounding to others, a sin outside of the body. And there is no justification. Anything that is not good, or does not invite and entice man to do good is not from God. (But wo unto him by whom offenses come; a brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city.-Matthew 18:7; Proverbs 18:19)

Up to this point, I have used the words person, they, them, and so on. But let's do some substitutions. Let's use the words brother, sister, saints. Would you want to destroy your brother's life, self esteem, or would you want to deeply wound your sister? Do saints conduct themselves in an idle, busybody way? God forbid! "Thou shalt not kill" the life, respect, or reputation of a brother or sister or soil your own soul, but as our Saviour said, "Love one another; and by this love shall the world know that you are my disciples."

If you have gossiped, pray that God would forgive you, that no harm has come to those whom you've spoken about, and that you may have an opportunity to seek their forgiveness. If you haven't gossiped, watch and pray that you don't fall into the snare of the evil one.

Let us be like the Master, "Leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps; who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth." (I Peter 2:21,22)

Humbly, Your Brother in Christ, Mark S. Kovacic Miami, Florida Mission

Pulse

In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, besieged Jerusalem and took it. Nebuchadnezzar desired for himself wise counselors to attend to his needs in the palace, thus he instructed Ashpenaz, master of the eunuchs, to bring from Judah certain of the children of Israel in whom was found no blemish, well favored and skillful in all wisdom. These were to be taught the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. Among those chosen were Daniel and the three Hebrews: Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah.

Now the king had appointed unto those chosen meat and wine from his own table for their nourishment. Daniel purposed in his heart not to defile himself with the king's meat or wine, therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself. (There were under the law of Moses certain food items that defiled a person. See Leviticus 11)

But the prince of the eunuchs feared that when Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah stood before the king after their three-year tutoring period to become the king's counselors, they would appear less healthy than the others chosen. Then Daniel went to Melzar, whom the prince of the eunuchs had set over these four youths, and entreated him to permit them a ten-day period in which Daniel and the three Hebrews would eat pulse and drink water while the other chosen counselors would eat that portion from the king's table. Melzar agreed, and after ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the children which ate of the king's table. Thus Melzar took away from them that portion of the king's meat and wine and gave them pulse as well.

Pulse, by definition, is the edible seeds of a variety of leguminous plants (peas, beans, lentils, etc.) Daniel's choice of pulse for his diet proved to be for his physical betterment during his captivity. Spiritually speaking, this pulse is a

Missionary Visit to Africa

By Joe and Mary Perri

This is the first installment of a threepart article in which Bro. and Sis. Perri recount their experiences in Nigeria, Ghana, and finally, Kenya.

We had planned on taking a trip to the Holy Land in May of 1985, but my real desire was to go to Nigeria. I had asked my wife if she would like to go but her reaction was one of not wanting to go at that time. I didn't pursue the idea to any degree because I wanted my wife to remain open to the possibility.

One weekend, a group of saints took a bus trip to our mission in Dedham, Massachusetts. My wife Mary went along, but I remained at the Hopelawn Branch on that particular Sunday.

While sitting in the meeting at Dedham that Sunday morning my wife began to ponder upon what we had talked about. She knew that I wanted to go to Nigeria-when I left Africa the first time, I left a part of myself there: the joy I felt in visiting with the Church in Nigeria and Brother Ford Boadu in Ghana. But Mary needed a prompting from the Lord in order for herself to decide to go. The congregation in Dedham Mission sang If Jesus Goes With Me I'll Go Anywhere that Sunday. Tears came to Mary's eyes as God's blessing fell upon her during the hymn, and upon returning home that night, Mary's words to me were, "I'm ready to go."

Needless to say, I was happy to hear my wife say that she was ready to go to Africa with me. God is marvelous and He knows how to grant His people the desires of their hearts.

We were able to get the time off from our employers, and all the necessary arrangements for the trip were made, except that we couldn't get in touch with Bro. and Sis. Carr in Nigeria. One morning, however, just as I was getting up for work, Bro. Paul Carr called me on the phone. I cannot express the joy that came over me when I heard him say, "I understand that you want to come to Nigeria." I immediately said, "Yes, Mary and I want to come."

So final preparations were madedates, flight arrangements, and shots. On January 10, 1985, Bro. Ralph and Sis. Rose Mercurio, along with our sons Kevin and Greg, and Bro. Dominick Rose saw us off at JFK International Airport. After a stop in Amsterdam, we arrived eight hours late in Lagos, Nigeria, but Bro. Carr was waiting for us just the same. On January 12 we were met at Calabar Airport by a delegation of elders sent by Bro. Arthur, along with Sis. Thressa and Cheryl, John, and Paul Carr Jr.

An hour and a half by car brought us to the mission house. A sign, proclaiming "Welcome Brother Joe and Sister Mary" greeted us as we entered the compound, where Bro. Arthur and Sis. Rachael were waiting to greet us. Once we were settled in, we drove to the home of Bro. Arthur where we were welcomed to Atai Otoro Village. A dinner was served after the warm welcome.

Sunday morning January 13, we were greeted by over 700 brothers and sisters of the Church, many of whose faces and names I remembered. Some that I met in 1979 had since gone on to their reward, having sustained the faith of the Church until their last breath.

My wife experienced the same feeling that I had during my last visit. Each branch we visited, each hand we shook, each face we saw made us happy because these were our brothers and sisters in Christ, even though they were from another nation and culture. Dinners were provided for us during our visits. We heard experiences of God's healing power among our people. Many requests for prayer were made in behalf of the sick. There were branches where the choir directors taught the Songs of Zion to their groups. Tears filled our eyes as we heard one group sing God's Still on His Throne. Sis. Thressa has done a marvelous job in teaching these songs to them.

One Sunday evening, after he had traveled for three full days, Bro. Ford Boadu arrived to visit us at the mission home. What a pleasant surprise it was to see him. This was his very first visit to Nigeria and he, too was received very warmly by the Nigerian saints. Bro. Ford had heard that Mary and I were coming to Nigeria and he wanted to spend a few days with us.

The last time I was in Africa, a sister there testified that she had been very ill and the doctor told her there was no more that he could do, that she should return home and spend her few remaining days there with her family. But she knew the God she served, and as weak and ill as she was, she made her way to the humble church building and prayed and fasted for many days, determined not to leave or to break her fast until God heard her cry and made her completely whole.

As I once again addressed this same congregation, I asked if this sister was in our meeting that morning. To my joy I saw a hand go up and this sister rose upon her feet to testify how God had granted her five more years thus far when the doctors had given her just a short time. Isn't the Lord we serve compassionate, full of love? Praise God for this beautiful experience.

When our brothers and sisters in Nigeria become ill, many of them will fast for seven, fourteen, or twenty-one days. They will remain in the church building the entire time and many have been rewarded according to their great faith. Bro. Carr related to us how the people here in Nigeria rely completely upon the mercies of God.

While Bro. Paul and I spent a few days in Lagos, Nigeria looking for a parcel of land upon which to build a badly needed church building, my wife and Sis. Thressa taught the Songs of Zion to choir leaders from various branches. Sis. Mary made good use of the piano that Bro. Paul had shipped over to Africa. Our young people there were fascinated to hear the sound that came from the instrument when it was played.

After a few days in Lagos, Bro. Paul and I flew to Accra, Ghana where we met Bro. Ford. We made our way to Kumasi, where the joy of our brothers and sisters was the same as in Nigeria.

The sisters of the Atlantic Coast

(Continued on Page 11)

Campout 1986

Next year's GMBA Campout will be held at Epworth Forest Camp, near North Webster, Indiana, from June 14 to June 21, 1986. Registration fee for the week will be approximately \$124 per adult, \$89 for children. We hope to see you there!

> Walter J. Laird Camp Director

An Experience

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was reflecting tonight on how the Lord hears the cries of His children and answers them.

About six years ago, my phone rang with the terrible news that my younger brother was near death from a scuba diving accident. Rising too rapidly from the depths of the Caribbean, air bubbles had formed within his body. As he suffered he went into convulsions and lapsed into unconsciousness. His quickthinking friends immediately started CPR, carried his body to their van, and rushed him across the island to the NOAA weather station.

Miraculously, this tiny weather station had just installed a new decompression tank suitable for smaller scale emergencies of this type. The scientist couple there crawled into the stifling hot tank with my unconscious brother. Gradually they began the process of increasing air pressure to return Bill's system to the level where his collapse had occurred.

Government officials, meanwhile, believed it would only be a matter of hours until the bubbles moved and he would die. They called my parents to discuss arrangements for returning Bill's body to the United States. We cried and prayed to our God of infinite power to let Bill live. We called brothers and sisters throughout the Church and they joined us in begging for a healing of Bill—he was only twenty-four years old and so full of promise.

The hours passed. Two treacherous air bubbles had formed in his system. One was on his brain stem, bringing unbearable pressure and probably causing, we were warned, permanent motor and brain damage. The second embolism was in his lung and if it moved he would die immediately. Meanwhile, in the 110°, cramped decompression tank, Bill was beginning to move. As they reached and passed record decompression levels, Bill regained consciousness.

Our hopes soared! My parents sent a message to the island to tell my brother we were all praying for him and trusting God. Yet the bubbles remained and he was paralyzed on one side and totally blind. Again he lapsed into unconsciousness. The officials talked about the damage done to his system as they made plans to take him directly to a university hospital known for rehabilitative work with injured undersea divers.

At home, heartsick, I told God how much I hurt and feared for my brother's life and soul. Seeking comfort, I picked up the *Bible* and opened it randomly. Immediately my eyes fell upon this verse from Psalms, a book I seldom read. It was Psalms 144:7-"Send thine hand from above; rid me, and deliver me out of great waters, from the hand of strange children."

Amazement and joy flooded my soul. What was King David doing writing about deep waters? Thrilled to my soul's depths, I turned another page and with singing heart read Psalms 145:18 & 19—"The Lord is nigh unto all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he will also hear their cry, and will save them."

Weeping tears of joy and relief, I believed. I believed that Bill would miraculously survive decompression and the air bubbles would dissolve; it happened. I believed that the government would not be escorting an American body back to Kansas, or a braindamaged son to grieving parents.

Because of God's power, Bill's decompression actually set new medical records for victims of undersea accidents. New records, but the same old, marvelous power of our infinite Lord. Yes! The Lord will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him; He *does* hear their cry and He *will* save them.

Note of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to use this wonderful little paper to say how grateful I am that in my youth I decided to accept Jesus as my Saviour and Director of my life. Because in all things, He has helped me.

In my recent illness, God was not only there to give me comfort, but to give me the strength to see me through the pain and discomfort I had to go through.

I would like to thank my brothers and sisters and my friends for the prayers, cards, phone calls, and many gifts that I received. Truly we have a love in our Church beyond compare. It is a Beacon Light in this dark world.

Accept my thanks again and all my love,

Sister Sarah Watson Tse Bonito, New Mexico

To Our Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends in Christ,

There is simply no way that you can be thanked enough for your prayers, visits, cards, flowers, letters, and telephone calls during my wife's years of affliction.

The Lord answered your many, many prayers for Sister Joanne and He sustained her through the nine years of suffering, thus allowing her to feel your warmth and love.

She emphasized repeatedly how she could not go on without God's mercies and your prayers, and each act of kindness encouraged her to go on. Even those who had not met her introduced themselves in their correspondence and expressed their love through Christ for her well-being and reassured her that they would continue to pray for her. Her struggle was difficult, but you have helped her to gain her reward through faith in God.

Our loss is great, but we feel strength in knowing that you are praying for us, even as we pray for you.

> Brother Carl J. Frammolino (along with the family)

I would like to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends for their prayers in my behalf during my recent accident in which I broke both arms and had major surgery on my left elbow.

I felt all the prayers and needed the phone calls and cards to make every day a brighter one. No matter what the outcome will be, I know God will be with me all the way.

> Thank you, Bro. Alex Gentile and Family



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The Gospel News is published monthly by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE. Subscription price is 86.00 a year. Entered as second class mail at Bridgewater, Michigan under the Act of March 3, 1879.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By Jim Huttenberger From The Anaheim Newsletter

Throughout time, since Jesus' birth, we have marvelled at the wonder of Him. An unknown author once declared, "He became a man, that we might become the sons of God." In infancy He troubled a king; in boyhood He puzzled the teachers; in manhood He ruled the course of nature. He walked upon the billows, hushed the sea to sleep, and healed the multitudes without medicine. He never wrote a book, yet the libraries of the world are filled with volumes that have been written about Him. He never penned a musical note, yet He is the theme of more songs than any other subject in the world. Great men have come and gone, yet He lives on. Herod could not kill Him, Satan could not seduce Him, death could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him. Yes the words of Isaiah are certainly true, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and His name shall be called Wonderful." But why did He come? Let us use the Book of John to answer.

When Jesus was born into our world, it was for divine purposes. In John 1:14 it says that the word (Jesus) was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we were able to behold His glory. He goes on to record the five statements the Lord gave to tell us why He came.

First, He came to do His Father's will. When asked for a sign after His discourse on the bread of life, Jesus said, "For I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of Him that sent me." (John 6:38) He then explained that God's will is that all who believe in Him would have everlasting life.

Secondly, He came to bring true judgment. The Pharisees refused to believe the blind man when he said he had been healed by Jesus, yet the man himself testified of Jesus' power. Although the Pharisees professed to have the light, they walked in darkness. But the delivered man had sight, both natural and spiritual. How true the words of Jesus, "For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see." (John 9:39)

Thirdly, He had come to bring light to the darkness. Shortly after the triumphal entry He said, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." (John 12:46) The religious leaders were walking in darkness and even though some of them may have believed, they would not declare their faith because of pride and fear.

Fourthly, He came to bear witness to the truth. When He was standing before Pilate, accused of being a traitor, the Roman governor asked if he were a king. In reality, he was asking Jesus to admit that the charges against Him were true. Jesus responded by saying, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth." (John 18:37) Pilate didn't believe the truth, but in the centuries that followed, many did.

Lastly, He came to bring abundant life. Our kind Shepherd said that He would give His own life to save us and He would give His children a full, free, abundant life when he said, "I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

Yes, He is Wonderful! And as His Church we should remember daily the reasons for which He was born into this world. May we all carry the true Spirit of Christ, who is Christmas, with us all year. May God bless you during this wonderful season of the year.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

We have to be very careful who we listen to, who we believe in, and what music we listen to and sing. Today electronic computers have made it possible to sparkle beautiful, fake lights on the heads of many popular singers. These people do not sing about the good and the beautiful things of life.

Usually they sing about sex and empty ways of acting. I say empty because when you are hurting or in trouble and try to remember those words or call upon that singer, nothing is there to help you with your pain or your fears.

Satan, that old devil, has tried from the beginning of time to trick God's children into only listening to *part* of the truth so they would stop loving each other, taking care of God's things, and feeling joyful all the time.

Today Prince, Willy Nelson, and many other popular singers mix in a few of God's words with their songs and yet actually just send you an empty message.

In the Book of Mormon this same thing happened. A large group of rich men in the land of the Zoramites made up their own religion. Dressed in gold and fancy clothes, one by one they'd climb to the top of a very high stage. Once there, they'd say in a loud voice all sorts of mixed-up things, pretending to pray after speaking many lies. One by one each man would utter the same words, and then they'd all return to their homes where they would never speak of God until the following week when they met together again. Yes, these people used some beautiful and holy-sounding words, but their hearts were really set upon gold and owning riches.

None of the poor people who had helped build the temple and high platform were allowed to come in and join



these men in their weird religion of lies. So the poor people were open and hungry to hear the beautiful words of truth the ministers from Zarahemla came to tell them.

These ministers were some of the same ones who had converted thousands of Lamanites to the Lord. They were Alma, Ammon, two of their brethren, and also the two sons of Alma, Shiblon and Corianton. They were not afraid when the rich and powerful Zoramites threatened to hurt them, because they were teaching the true and straight ways of God. The rich men also wanted to kill the other, poor Zoramites who had finally heard the truth and were serving God in their hearts.

These new believers had to flee from their homeland because the evil rich men had much money and power to persecute them. So they left their country and emigrated to the land of the Nephites in order to serve God. First they lived with the people of Ammon, and they eventually joined the Nephite armies to protect themselves and their fellow believers.

So there were new believers to love and care for the true things of God.

The evil, pretend-worshippers started trying to talk the Lamanite nations into attacking the Nephites. Many battles did take place, but as always our Lord God helped those who were on His side. He protected them from evil, He delivered them from the hands of their enemies, and oh, how the people loved the Lord!

> Sincerely, Sister Jan 2379 Stone Drive Ann Arbor, MI 48105

CONFERENCE continued . . .

and for His Church, our brother explained, that every one of us should be busy doing *something*.

Brother Isaac Smith from the Lakeside, AZ Branch continued the preaching service, telling us how he was troubled all night with a passage of scripture from II Kings running through his head. He read from the 6th Chapter, verses one through seven, regarding the ax head falling into the water as a building was being constructed.

Our Brother Ike told us how during the night he was given a clear understanding of this passage of scripture, a passage that had puzzled him many times until now. Pondering upon the building mentioned in this scripture, Brother Ike told us how he pictured The Church of Jesus Christ as that building, its roof supported by twelve pillars, having doorways to the outside numbering seventy. He spoke of the importance of these pillars and of these doors, how they bring people in from outside and lead them inside the building.

Bro. Ike also spoke of the laborers, felling trees with which to construct this building. The Gospel in the hands of the Gentiles was represented by the borrowed ax head, the loss of which represented the falling away of the Gospel, and the miracle of the stick bringing the iron back up to the surface of the water represented the Restoration of the Gospel through the sticks of Judah and Joseph, which became one in the hand of the man of God.

It is impossible to capture with the written word the Spirit with which our brother brought these things to our attention. It was both powerful and beautiful at the same time, and it penetrated our very hearts.

In describing the trees that the men in this scripture were cutting, Brother Ike commented on the trees that were visible to us outside, which on this day had just about reached their peak Autumn colors. There were red trees, orange-hued trees, brown trees, and yellow trees, as well as some trees whose foliage was still green. He told us, as we well knew, how these different colors represented different kinds of wood to the builder, and how some trees were easy to cut down, while others

Our Women Today

Conference at Hopelawn, NJ

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Hopelawn, New Jersey on October 3, 1985. There were sisters present from Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

President Mabel Bickerton started the conference by saying there is no greater work than to work for The Church of Jesus Christ. She attended the retreat with the Ohio Circles and she received much of God's blessings. She encourages other Circles to hold one.

The roll call of officers was had and the minutes of the last conference held at Detroit Branch 1 were read. The district and local Circle reports were given.

The questions and answers were: "If you could locate an oak tree by Shechem, what would you find under it?" (Answer in Genesis 35:4), and "What man had angels administer unto him daily, and why?" (Answer in III Nephi 7:18).

A Circle was organized at Perry, Ohio and the Pennsylvania Circle organized as a district. There are requests to organize Circles in Meaford, Ontario and in India.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Brother and Sister Alma Cadman, Sis. Mary Corrado, Robert Creevey, Bro. James Damore, Sis. Ruth Griffith, Bro. Mike Dragonetti, Mrs. Ravena S. Howard, Sis. Cora Fowler, Bro. Art Landrey, Sis. Sarah Manes, Bro. Frank Morle, Mrs. Judy Nummer, Bro. Travis Perry, Bro. Feo Rossi, Bro. Tony Santilli, Sis. Ruth Scala, Bro. Isaac and Sis. Gertrude Smith, Sis. Bernadine Thomas, and Sis. Margaret Ward.

In the afternoon, the Atlantic Coast Circles had a program centered on the theme of "Charity." Several portions of the scripture were read, including John 3:16.

Money from the General Circle Treasury was donated to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund, toward tuition for a Nigerian Student, to the Home Missionary Fund, the Memorial Fund, and to India and Africa Funds.

Projects for the next six months include continuing to send layettes, donations to Africa and used stockings to India. **Note:** The next conference will be held at Aliquippa, PA on April 5, 1986.

Officers elected for the coming year are: President Mabel Bickerton, Vice President Ruth Ackerman, Secretary Lucetta Scaglione, Assistant Secretary and Historian Kathy Smith, Financial Secretary Joyceann Jumper, Treasurer Dora Rossi, Assistant Treasurer Elizabeth Eiler, Librarian Betty Ann Manes, Editor Mary Tamburrino, Card Sender Mary Criscuolo, and Auditors Joan Gibson and Sarah Palmieri.

A vote of thanks was given to the Atlantic Coast Circles for their hospitality.

Visit to Harrison, MI

On September 22, the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle drove up to the Harrison Mission. We had a carload from almost every branch, so that the little church building there was filled. We all had a desire to visit and enjoy God's blessings together.

Bro. Silver Criscuolo welcomed us all and said that Jesus Christ was going to be the center of attention today, and should be every day of our lives. This is why we gather together on Sunday, to worship Him, and in keeping with that theme, we sang *The Mercies of God*. Bro. Silver also quoted the scripture, "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of God," exhorting us to read the word of God every day to feed our souls and to actually "get into" the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Bro. Paul Vitto addressed us, stating how we all ran into "soupy" weather today but in spite of the fog, we thank God that we reached our destination. He had had some trouble with directions and compared it with our pathway to heaven. The *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* are our maps; if we follow these *true* directions carefully, we will not be lost but will reach our destination. Brother Paul then proceeded to give us a quiz on women in the *Bible* and encouraged us to call out the answers. We answered about nine out of ten—Gomer really stumped us—so he gave us an 85%!

After the sisters sang some songs, Bro. Silver opened the meeting for testimony. How the Lord poured out His Spirit! Beautiful testimonies were given, each one thanking God for His wonderful Church and saying how much they loved the brothers and sisters.

Bro. Jack Pontillo closed the meeting and encouraged the sisters to go on with the work of the Church, thanking them for their efforts.

The sisters from Harrison prepared a beautiful buffet luncheon which we enjoyed while sharing each other's company. We had all commented on how pretty the church building looked, with its paneling and carpeting. It sits in a beautiful country setting, right next door to the Criscuolo's home.

For many of us, it was our first trip up there. It was so good to see Sister Mary and her family again. Since we had a four-hour drive back to Detroit, the time came too soon when we had to leave. There is a special blessing you receive when you visit a mission that is far from the rest of the saints. God's love rested on each one of us, smiling faces everywhere you looked—thank You Father for The Church of Jesus Christ!

A Christmas Prayer

O God, our loving Father, help us rightly to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing that Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving, and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.

Branch and Mission News

Tse Bonito, NM

By Larry Watson

Missionary Outreach Training Program

The summer of 1985 will long be remembered by the Tse Bonito, NM Branch. It would definitely be an understatement to say that it has been an eventful season. This was our first summer in our newly dedicated building, and we decided to make it count. A few of the activities we hosted since June include:

- Special Meeting of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles
- Vacation Bible School
- Music Camp and Community Concert
- Missionary Outreach Training Program
- General Church Historian Staff Meeting

All of the above activities have been abundantly blessed of God. This particular article is a report on the Missionary Outreach Workshop which was sponsored by the American Indian Committee and administered by our Branch. Approximately 45 brothers and sisters gathered here from all over the West and Detroit to participate in this pilot program. Upon registration, each participant was presented with a looseleaf binder filled with materials and information related to missionary work in general as well as the specific topics to be discussed.

The primary thrust of this program was missionary training, and all the activities were planned around this theme. The term 'missionary' was defined rather broadly for our purposes: A life of service to God wherever you may be and in whatever office or responsibility you may be called to fulfill. The seminars served a dual purpose: To directly prepare the participants for the evening outreach activities, and to help equip the participants for a life of service-to provide a forum for the sharing of ideas, experiences, and inspirations, and to help strengthen relevant skills such as communication, counseling, etc. The following is a list

of the seminar leaders and their topics:

Dan Picciuto: Spiritual Experiences of a Missionary

Tony Picciuto: Outreach Methods/How to Give a Personal Testimony

David Majoros: Practical Techniques of Home Visits/Role Playing

Steve Saffron: Opening Up Avenues of Communication

Robert Watson: Qualifications of an Effective Missionary

Larry Watson: An Alternative Approach

I could not begin to relate by way of the written word, the tremendous impact of those four short days upon each one of us. I only wish that many more could have been present at our Saturday morning wrap-up session. One by one, each participant enthusiastically related their experiences of the past few days; how they had literally put their faith on the line and their learning in our seminars into practice by going out into the community with the life-changing message of the Restored Gospel as personal ambassadors of The Church of Jesus Christ.

What a thrill to hear the message of triumph as some described how they overcame their apprehensions of going door-to-door by simply doing it! How enlightening it was to hear from another how one particular family invited them into their house and told them that they had been waiting for an invitation to attend our Church. How moving it was to hear from another of a heart-rending scene at the hospital involving a little Navajo girl who was scheduled for surgery the following day. She was frightened and was anointed by our Ministry. Our sisters began to comfort her and she was finally able to get some rest that night.

As we continued around the circle, another powerful drama began to unfold. The scene this time, by the world's standards, would be a highly unlikely place for anything to happen of lasting significance—a place of utter despair: the Navajo Tribal Jail. The police had evidently been busy lately, as there were about 60 men jammed into one large cell. The inmates enthusiastically received our singing and prayers; however it was when they heard the story of the Restored Gospel and the *Book of Mormon* that they were visibly moved, especially since it was being told to them by fellow Navajos. They must have been amazed to see thirteen young men—Anglos, Hispanics, and Indians—united with one message of love and salvation, willing to take the time to come into that dingy place to personally bring it to them.

After prayer, we visited the prisoners individually. One man on trial for murder related to us with tears welling up in his eyes how much joy we had brought to his heart that night; others asked for Books of Mormon and wanted to hear more.

Before our Saturday session had ended, many expressions of renewal and rededication had been made and God had spoken to us in a number of ways. On one occasion, while one of our evangelists was exhorting the young people with the words, "Jesus said that by this love, the world shall know that you are my disciples . . . " the gift of tongues was spoken. The interpretation which came forward was a clear message to us all: "Tell somebody else, tell somebody else, tell somebody else!"

After the testimonies, each participant received a certificate of completion.

It was especially exciting to hear how eager everyone was to go home and get to WORK! We were impressed with the idea of the importance of teamwork, especially with the Seed of Joseph as we bring the Gospel to their people. We had special services intended primarily for the surrounding community on Saturday evening and Sunday morning, and the Lord blessed our labors with visitors. With such wonderful results from the small efforts of a few dozen people, imagine the tremendous impact on a community if we were to mobilize an army of several hundred dedicated volunteers for the Lord!

It was the consensus of everyone involved that we make this an annual event, with lots of exciting ideas brewing for next year. As one young man put it, "If you drop this program, you're going to hear about it from me!"

[&]quot;And thus they departed into the wilderness with their numbers which they had selected, to go up to the land of Nephi, to preach the word of God unto the Lamanites." (Alma 17:8)

Glassport, PA

Memories of Sunday, July 14, 1985 will always have a special place in the hearts and minds of our four new sisters who were baptized in the Monongahela River that day. The word had been spread on Saturday night that one of Sister Tassone's great-granddaughters had asked for her baptism, so we met Sunday morning with the anticipation of that event.

But the first item on the agenda was the blessing of Jim and Sister Vicki Morningstar's third child Vanessa Leah. (She joins her brothers Brandon and Garrett.) We were planning only one meeting instead of our usual two, so our testimony meeting followed the preaching service. It was at this point that we heard our Sister Kathy's request for baptism, a sincere plea that she would have the opportunity to make a change in her life. Shortly afterward, her two sisters also rose and added their requests! Our fourth new sister, Frances Kasmarik, met the Gospel several years ago and had been attending regularly for over a year. We had heard her testimony many times and she had always stated that it was her desire to someday be called as a member of the Church.

We paused in our meeting to go to the river to see our sisters immersed, and reunited for the confirmations and communion. Our "afternoon" meeting was filled with testimony and tears and it seemed that no one wanted to go home. It is our prayer that our new sisters will find the peace of God in His Church and that they will grow spiritually strong. The Glassport Branch has prayed many times that the Lord would bless us with growth and it seems that our prayers are beginning to be answred, for which we thank Him!

The names of our new sisters have been entered into the Lamb's Book of Life, and we likewise enter them into our records!

- Sister Kathy Elizabeth Cross, baptized and confirmed by Bro. David Nolfi.
- Sister Susan Romano, baptized by Bro. John Ali and confirmed by Bro. Alma Nolfi.
- Sister Donna Prizner, baptized and confirmed by Bro. John Ali.
- Sister Frances Kasmarik, baptized

by Bro. David Nolfi and confirmed by Bro. Raymond Cosetti.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday July 14, 1985 the brothers and sisters of Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan experienced great joy in seeing our new sister Janice Hemingway make a covenant to the Lord at the water's edge.

Visiting our branch this day were the families of Bro. Richard Thomas of Detroit Branch 1 and Bro. Rick Elzby from the Meaford, Ontario Mission.

Bro. Richard Thomas introduced the service by drawing our attention to the life of the Apostle Paul. He mentioned how Paul was a man used by God in giving his testimony before King Agrippa, among others. Bro. Richard then directed us to Acts 26:13-32. He elaborated more on the life of Paul and his association with the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin Council was considered the highest court of justice in the land at that time. It consisted of 71 men (chief priests, elders, and scribes) who had to be at least 30 years old and married. Paul was a tentmaker by profession. He was educated in Jerusalem, where he studied under Gamaliel. But after Paul was converted, he became a follower of Jesus Christ and took on the task of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ to the Gentiles.

In describing the qualities of Jesus Christ to King Agrippa, Paul says he finds in Christ boldness, confidence, and *all* power of Faith. While imprisoned, Paul magnified the name of Jesus Christ by singing praises unto His name.

Bro. Richard continued his sermon by adding that we, too, can go down to the water's edge as our new sister has and declare before kings, presidents, and governors who God and Christ are! He then cited the words of the prophet Isaiah which state, "When thou shall see a soul brought before God—you shall see a seed."

Bro. Richard concluded that we should follow the words of David in Psalm 148, which emphasize that we "praise God on high." All of us should pray that we may fulfill our calling at the water's edge.

Bro. Rick Elzby followed by noting

that each one of us is striving to find that oasis in our lives. That oasis is the water's edge or the line one must cross between darkness and light. Today, many are searching for this light that God sheds. Bro. Rick exhorted all of us to seek that Light—while there is time!

Bro. Mario Coppa followed in testimony. He expressed his thankfulness to God for the many prayers offered in his behalf during his time of illness. Bro. Mario has been afflicted with Parkinson's disease and still suffers even after a period of hospitalization.

Earlier this day, Sis. Janice had been baptized by Bro. Nephi DeMercurio. She was confirmed at this time by Bro. Jack Pontillo. Bro. Jack later mentioned that Sis. Janice must remember that "today is the first day of her spiritual life."

Also among our visitors today was Sis. Janice's mother, Phyllis Hemingway. Though not a member of the Church, Mrs. Hemingway related to us a beautiful experience she received upon viewing the baptism of her daughter. She expressed how foggy and stormy the weather had been earlier, yet in the midst of the fog surrounding the shores, she saw an opening that permitted her to see beautiful blue waters and a boat in the distance beyond where Sis. Janice was baptized. The experience indicated to her that obstacles which stood in the way were no longer apparent. The pathway to heaven began for Sis. Janice when she made her covenant with the Lord.

Sister Janice has been attending our branch with her fiance, Bro. Jim Carrabia. Our prayer is that God would bless our new sister in Christ.

Phoenix, AZ

By Frances Capone

On Sunday, August 25, Brother Tim Scolaro was ordained a teacher in the Church. Bro. Ralph Frammolino of San Diego, CA washed his feet, and he was ordained by Bro. Barry Mazzeo.

Bro. Jim DiTomaso's feet were washed by Bro. Dick Christman, and he was ordained a deacon in the Church by Bro. Peter Capone.

10 December, 1985

PHOENIX continued . . .

Both of these brothers have been a wonderful source of inspiration since coming to the Phoenix Branch about three years ago. They are tireless Gospel workers.

Brother Tim came into the Church in Detroit Branch 1 at the age of eighteen. Ordained a deacon several years later, he continued in that capacity when he transferred to the Phoenix Branch. His church roots go back to his maternal and paternal grandparents, only one of whom, Bro. Pietro Scolaro, is still living. Bro. Tim is the son of Elder Anthony Scolaro and Deaconess Angela Scolaro.

Brother Jim DiTomaso's roots go back to Cleveland, Ohio. He is the son of the late Evangelist Vincent DiTomaso and Deaconess Agatha DiTomaso, also deceased. Bro. Vincent was baptized in Cleveland in 1921 and was the first deacon to be ordained in the Cleveland area. Bro. Jim and his wife, Sister Brigetta, moved to Phoenix from Cleveland about three years ago. Shortly afterward, they both called for their baptism.

Visiting Elder Ralph Frammolino introduced the service. His subject was on Nehemiah and his commission to build the walls of Jerusalem. Bro. Ralph asked these thought-provoking questions:

Who will build the wall of righteousness? Are you a breach or a brick in the wall? Where are you in the wall of righteousness? After Bro. Ralph's stirring sermon, we appropriately sang I Want to Be a Builder.

We thank God that He has commissioned Bro. Tim and Bro. Jim to be builders of that wall of righteousness.

Lake Worth, FL

By Josephine Jasmin

Greetings from Lake Worth, Florida. On Sunday September 15 we had another glorious day in the house of the Lord. The first to speak to us was Bro. August D'Orazio. We look up to the older members in our branch. They are the pillars of the Church, the cement that holds the bricks in place, firm and strong and built on the foundation of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Recently I was speaking to a sister in

our branch, and we came to the conclusion that the Lord has given to our older brothers and sisters an extension of their years for *our* sakes, to sustain us through the many trials that befall us. They surely are a good cement, made with a perfect mixture, to hold us together, to make the young strong, so that when they finally are called home, they will have the assurance that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will go forward, never to fall away again.

We have four members that are well over 80 years of age, and quite a few in their 70's. We are very happy to have them in our branch, setting excellent examples and letting their light shine brightly always. They will not allow the fuel in their lamps to get low.

We also heard today from Bro. Eugenio Perri, Sr., who is 88 years old, but always ready and very able to give us the word of God which sustains us. We look forward with a great hunger in our souls to hear the beautiful experiences of years gone by.

These two brothers have spent many years in the service of the Lord, well over sixty for each of them. They have gone through the fire and the heat of the day. The following verse from dear Sis. Sadie Cadman's hymn, *O Paradise*, is so true:

While here on earth He doth us bless, What hope the saints of God possess, Spirit of God within the breast, When trials o'er, a home of rest.

Bro. Eugenio spoke very fervently unto us, his words filled with the Holy Spirit. We have a deep love for these two brothers who are up in age and in the ministry, still able to express themselves very well. We love them with the true love of God, and hope to have them with us many more years to come.

Brother Eugenio reminded us of the words written in the Epistle of Jude, telling us how Michael the Archangel said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke thee." He told us how we must rebuke all the evil surrounding us in this world. Then we will be able to remain firm and strong.

We, the saints of Lake Worth, extend to all our brothers and sisters and friends, an invitation to come and visit us. We would be happy to see you, and want you to know that our homes are open to each and every one.

May God bless all of you continually.

Remember us in your prayers.

CONFERENCE continued . . .

were very difficult to fell, depending on the kind of tree you were cutting.

These trees our Brother Smith likened to the souls of men. The lumberjacks were men of God, gathering these souls for the building of the Church. Brother Ike explained how *all* kinds of wood were important to the building, depending upon the various applications for the wood, but that some trees were definitely easier to cut down than others. He told us how a woodsman could fell several pine trees in a day, owing to the pine's soft wood, but that a single oak tree might take the same man several days to cut down, its hard wood giving in only a little bit each day.

Brother Ike enlightened us to the fact that some of us are called to cut down pines, and some are called to cut down the oak trees. Both are hard work, and it's sometimes frustrating to see your small handful of oak branches next to an entire pond full of pine logs. But oh, how beautiful that oak wood looks when it's made into a fine piece of furniture! Brother Ike said he felt that bringing the Gospel to the House of Israel is sometimes like cutting down hardwood trees, but despite the frustrations, we must not become discouraged, nor must we only cut down the pine trees. His analogies this morning truly shed new light on this scripture and we all came away with a deeper understanding of the beautiful plan of God.

General Church President Dominic Thomas, along with the rest of us, was deeply moved by our Brother Smith's words, and felt strongly directed to have a special prayer offered up on behalf of the work among the House of Israel, specifically for the Seed of Joseph.

As Bro. Thomas turned to the brothers on the rostrum behind him and asked who would offer this prayer, the hand of Bro. Nephi DeMercurio shot up and he shouted, "I will!" As he made his way to the microphone, it was evident that the Lord Himself was holding up our brother Nephi's hand and directing him forward. Our brother's prayer was filled with that same Spirit which brought him forth, and our hearts and minds were united with the words that came forth from our brother's mouth, pleading with God to soften the hearts of Israel and open their eyes to the

Truth.

As the service continued, Bro. Joseph Milantoni, president of the Quorum of Seventy, offered a prayer for Brothers Paul Palmieri and Joseph Calabrese, who would be traveling to India in November. Brother Joseph Lovalvo, president of the Quorum of Twelve, made some closing remarks regarding the power of God. There is no need for us to "wait" for the day when God will bestow His power upon the Church-we need only to sanctify ourselves to the point where God would see fit to give us a portion of the limitless power with which He created heaven and earth.

As our conference came to a most blessed conclusion, we reflected upon how we could see more doors than ever open to the message of the Restored Gospel. "The Work of the Lord hasn't concluded for this year," Bro. Ike had said earlier, "it's only just begun."

PULSE continued . . .

representation of the seeds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which can be consumed within our hearts, giving spiritual strength to our soul. As we eat naturally for our natural existence and strength, so also must we eat spiritually for our spiritual strength and existence.

We are aware of our natural diets, but

sometimes we don't seriously consider our spiritual intake-what we read, what we hear, and how we utilize our free time. When our time is occupied in listening, seeing, and performing that which is pleasing to God, these means of intake provide spiritual nourishment for our mind, our heart, and our soul. Through this nourishment of the Gospel we grow from babes to men and women of full stature in Christ. Though we may be familiar with all the facets of the Gospel, it is this continual, repetitious diet of God's word, spiritual activity, reminding, and being reminded of duty that makes this diet of pulse a source of strength to our souls.

As Melzar saw an improvement in Daniel's natural physical face after the ten-day trial period, others will see spiritually in our countenances a healthy spiritual reflection if we continue eating the seeds that the Lord feeds to our hearts.

> God bless you, Bro. David Nolfi Glassport, PA Branch

AFRICA continued . . .

Ladies' Circle had raised \$1500 for the work in Ghana. With this money Bro. Paul and I were able to purchase a portable generator so Bro. Ford may bring his P.A. system when he travels from village to village. We also purchased a motor bike for traveling and an irrigation pump to water the farm that Bro. Ford uses to raise crops for his family and for the saints in Ghana.

At the time of our visit, Bro. Ford was the only member of the priesthood in Ghana, with four ordained teachers to assist him. God has blessed Bro. Ford with a remarkable understanding of the Restored Gospel and in turn he has instructed these young teachers. We questioned them on a number of churchrelated subjects and they answered all of our questions very favorably. (Since this visit two of these teachers have been ordained into the priesthood.) It is my prayer that some day the Church will be able to send a missionary there.

Bro. Ford Boadu has maintained the Gospel in Ghana since 1977 even though he, like William Bickerton, found himself all alone for a period of time. When the Church first came to Ghana, many joined only to have the loaves and the fishes. When they could not find nor receive the temporal things, one by one they separated themselves from the Church. Bro. Ford stated that now, before he baptizes anyone, he lets them know what the Church stands for and reviews with them the Faith and Doctrine. And he says now only the sincere embrace the Church. The Church has some 400 members in the nation of Ghana.

Continued in the January, 1986 Gospel News.

* WEDDINGS *

CAPONE-DIX

On June 8, 1985, Michael A. Capone and Janette L. Dix were united in marriage at Detroit Branch 1.

The marriage ceremony was officiated by the groom's uncle and brother-in-law, Brothers L. Dan Parravano and Larry Watson.

Solo selections were sung by Sis. Vanessa Watson, the groom's sister.

The couple are residing in Warren, Michigan.

CONTI-DEAVER

Kevin Conti and Gloria Deaver were united in holy matrimony on August 10, 1985 at Detroit Branch 1. Kevin's uncle, Bro. Paul Vitto, officiated at the service.

Musical selections were provided by pianist Helen Ruda and soloist Laurie Ruda.

The newlyweds have taken up residence in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

BOGGS-ABBOTT

Mr. John R. Boggs and Sis. Diane K. Abbott were united in holy matrimony on August 10, 1985 at The Church of Jesus christ in Monongahela, PA.

Bro. J. Fred Olexa of Lorain, Ohio officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Bro. Richard Scaglione of Monongahela.

Musical selections were presented by the groom, Sis. Bertha Bilsky, and William Lane, Jr.

The newlyweds will reside in Belle Vernon, PA. May God bless them in their life together.

New Arrivals

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

Vanessa Leah to Jim and Vicki Morningstar of Glassport, Pennsylvania.

Nicole Lynne to Eugene and Laurie (Whitton) DeSantis of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 3.

Children Blessed

Diana Jessica Avellino, daughter of Frank and Francesca Avellino, was blessed in the Church by Bro. Dominick Rose on May 19, 1985 at the Dedham, Massachusetts Mission.

Joseph Jacob, Victoria Maria, and Tomas Arturo Cortinas were blessed at the Fort Pierce, FL Branch on September 29, 1985 by Bro. Frank Rogolino. Bro. Frank also blessed Colin Walter Hatch on the same day.

OBITUARIES

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

LOUIS BENYOLA

Brother Louis Benyola passed away from this life on August 18, 1985. He was born on February 15, 1906 and baptized on April 23, 1933. Brother Louis was a member of the Hopelawn Branch in New Jersey.

The funeral services were conducted by Bro. Joseph Perri of the Hopelawn Branch.

Brother Louis is survived by his wife, four sons, one daughter, one brother, one sister, and six grandchildren.

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RACHEL RIGGEN

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Sis. Rachel Riggen passed on to her eternal reward on August 25, 1985. She was born on November 24, 1899 in Pennsylvania. Sis. Rachel was already baptized in the Church when she married J. Wade Riggen at the age of 17. Her association with the Church spanned over seventy years.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Gary Coppa and Jack Pontillo of Detroit, Branch 3. Sis. Judy Coppa sang *In the Garden*, one of Sis. Rachel's favorite hymns. Sis. Rachel is survived by four sons and one daughter, in addition to 22 grandchildren and 35 great-grandchildren.

Our dear sister was a faithful member who overcame great personal tribulation and served God in spirit and in truth until He called her from this life. In recent years, she had been confined to a nursing home. She will long be remembered for her Sunday School teaching and her charitable ways.

JOSEPH STRACCIA

Brother Joe Straccia of Detroit, Branch 2 passed on to his eternal reward on September 14, 1985. He was born on July 26, 1904 in Italy and came to this country in 1920. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in June of 1933.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Alex Gentile and Reno Bologna.

Our brother Joe was diligent in his service to God, whether it was in giving his testimony, helping those in financial need, performing his duties as a deacon, or spending weeks at a time plastering church buildings for the brothers and sisters.

Brother Joe is survived by one daughter, two sons, one brother, a sister-in-law, eleven grandchildren, five greatgrandchildren and many brothers and sisters in Christ.

JOANNE FRAMMOLINO

Sister Joanne Frammolino passed on to her heavenly reward on October 2, 1985. She was born December 6, 1929 and became a member of the Church in Lima, Ohio on September 28, 1957. She was baptized by Bro. Dominic Thomas.

Funeral services were held at Detroit Branch 1 with Brothers Nicholas Pietrangelo and Dominic Thomas officiating. Selections were played by Bro. Eugene Amormino, with a solo by Sis. Donna Amormino.

Our sister Joanne was a tremendous example, through her affliction, of the peace of God that passeth all understanding. Those who visited her during her nine years of suffering were uplifted by the inner peace and joy she displayed.

Sister Joanne is survived by her husband, Brother Carl, two sons, two daughters, her mother, a sister, and two brothers, as well as the host of saints whose prayers and kind gestures lightened her heavy load.