

January, 1986

Dedication at South Bend

Sunday, June 16, 1985 was a day of rejoicing for the saints in South Bend, Indiana. It was dedication day for the building there. Nearly 90 people filled the building for this occasion. Saints traveled here from Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Nebraska.

The saints in South Bend have been meeting in the brothers' and sisters' homes and various other places since 1973. However, due to the difficulties of depending on different landlords, the saints felt it was time for a permanent location of their own.

Among several experiences which directed us to find a building was Sis.

Bernice Milligan's dream, where she and her son Derrick were visiting another sister in a new building. They all really liked the place and could feel the presence of the other saints there. Meanwhile, Sis. Janet Beckett dreamed she was loading a moving van with Bro. Leroy Love.

Finally, on September 15, 1984 we decided at a business meeting to make an offer for the building we had seen at 701 S. Edison Street in South Bend. This meeting, Bro. Bill Hufnagle had said, was history in the making.

Our Dedication was a weekend celebration that started Friday evening

Volume 42, No. 1

with an Evangelist meeting. Saturday night the South Bend Mission presented a program to our visiting brothers, sisters, and friends. Dialogue was presented about how past Church presidents would feel about this dedication in South Bend.

Saints from Omaha, NB, Clairton, PA, and Ohio, as well as the children and saints from South Bend all presented songs as part of the program. As the evening progressed, Brothers Joseph Calabrese, English Webb, and Mitchell Edwards spoke to the congregation.

Bro. Vince Gibson opened the service for testimony and a good spirit was felt as saints from various parts of the vineyard expressed their love and blessings for the saints in South Bend.

Sis. Servilla Gibson expressed how in 1962 one of the Three Nephites visited her, and after pronouncing a blessing upon her and her family, he told her that he had been to Indiana.

Bro. Tony Ensana and Bro. Joe Ross, representing the General Church Board of Trustees, were present to give their blessings and express their approval of the building. They presented the mission with a *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* on behalf of the Trustees.

Sis. Michelle Edwards related a dream that she had four years ago, wherein Bro. Sam Martin told her to be strong, to trust and watch, for the work would move forward in South Bend. He then handed her a scroll in the dream containing many names. He told her many would come to the Gospel in

The newly-dedicated Church of Jesus Christ in South Bend, Indiana.

(Continued on Page 6)

Hope of the World

By George A. Kovacic

The news we hear each day can be hard to comprehend. Suicide, unemployment, drug abuse, and alcoholism are at their highest. There is a thread of similarity which runs between all these problems, and that is the feeling of despair and hopelessness. A specific example is the recent suicides on a Native American reservation in Wyoming. It is tragic to hear of these young men taking their own lives. I was reminded while pondering upon this of the 18th verse of the second chapter of Matthew, "In Rama was there a voice heard, lamenting and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not." Now more than ever Rachel, the mother of Joseph, must, be weeping for her descendants.

Is there any hope? Is life as futile as it appears? Is it possible that we might have some of the answers to these difficult questions facing millions of people?

William Cadman makes note of an experience that was given to Charles Brown over a hundred years ago, an experience that is relevant today. Brown dreamed that he and some other brothers heard men rapping in a coal mine for help. They listened, and concluded that these men were closed in by a fall that had taken place in the mine, and went to work immediately to set them free. They ceased their labors after a period of time and left the men to die in the mine.

Now if the dream had ended at this point, we would set back and say that the work of the Lord is futile and we can accomplish nothing. However, the dream continued. After a considerable time had elapsed, and they believed that these men were dead, the brothers heard a rapping again; they were very astonished to find the people in the mine still living, and they renewed their efforts in trying to free the men. The second effort was successful because they found a place where, by moving only a few carloads of loose coal, they could make an entrance.

Once they reached the men who had been trapped, they carried them out into the daylight and wrapped them in blankets. These men had the appearance of Native Americans and the saints offered prayers to the Lord on their behalf, which revived them. One of the people turned out to be a woman, who rose and glorified God. Immediately she became young and beautiful and was dressed beyond human description.

The above dream is a good example of the hope the Lord is offering to the descendants of Joseph, the Native Americans. Brother Brown's experience not only demonstrates hope but also points the direction to the work. What great hope there is for those who are oppressed and trapped by sin! Men and women throughout the world can be freed from the bonds of sin and iniquity. The answers we need are often right at hand, but we need to persevere in the strength of the Lord to be shown the way.

Let's look at several other examples of hope in the Holy Scriptures. Job suffered a great deal of sorrow. Yet what was Job's attitude toward the future? "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." (Job 19:25 & 26) Yes, Job had hope in seeing his redeemer one day and no earthly disappointments were going to change his mind.

David wrote many times of his hope in the Psalms. He says in one, "And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee." (Psalms 39:7) The Apostle Paul also wrote often of hope. This is what he wrote one young brother: "I Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and the Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;" (I Timothy 1:1)

Let us finally look back again to Rachel's children, the Native Americans. What is their hope? Jesus, while in the land of America, spoke of several glorious promises. " . . . Then will I remember my covenant which I made unto my people, O house of Israel, and I will bring my gospel unto them. And He continued, saying, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, thus hath the Father commanded me-that I should give unto this people this land for their inheritance." Two wonderful promises here, one spiritual and one temporal. The Lord is willing to bless His chosen people with the fullness of Jesus Christ's Gospel restored in the latter days. He also promises them a choice land where they can dwell in righteousness.

Still Faithful

The members of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch are privileged to have eight members who have been baptized for more than fifty years in The Church of Jesus Christ. They have set a good example for us by their faithfulness in the Gospel, and have been pillars for many years. Their trust in the Lord has helped them through many trials and sorrows, but their hope for eternal life has brought them through thus far. May God continue to bless them in their service to Him.



Pictured left to right: Eugenio Perri, Sr., Betty Perri, Nancy Ensana, Peggy Benyola, Carmella Mazzeo, Santina D'Orazio, August D'Orazio. Ravia DeCarlucci was not available for the picture.

Though these saints may be up in years, they're still going strong. Our Sister Carmela Mazzeo, baptized 59 years ago, recently related this experience:

TRAVELING BY FAITH

In July of 1984 I was in New Jersey visiting with my children, when I had a desire to go to Youngstown, Ohio to visit the ones I love so dearly there. My daughter didn't want me to travel alone, so I asked several sisters to come with me. None of them were able to make the trip, so I drove by myself. Although I was alone, I knew the dear Lord was with me.

I left New Jersey on I-80 North, enjoying the beautiful scenery. Praise God for His handiwork! Eight-and-a-half hours later, I arrived in Youngstown and called Sis. Florence Pezzenti. She gave me directions to her home, and all was fine until I had to find the house number. With my eye problem, I can't see well in the distance. I saw a man and

Missionary Visit to Africa

11

By Joseph Perri

This article is the second of three installments. -Ed.

In the course of our visits in Nigeria and Ghana, Bro. Paul asked me if I would like to go to Kenya with him. I told him I was not able to as it would mean that Mary and I would have to take additional time off work and were not prepared for the added expenses. In questioning Bro. Paul as to his purpose in traveling to Kenya, he said that he would like to locate Mr. Elizaphan Osaka, who had been corresponding with Bro. John Ross and determine what the difficulty was in not being able to register the Church in Kenya. I've always wanted to work for the Lord and His Church, but I hesitated to go to Kenya for the reasons mentioned above. Besides, my wife and I had no visa to enter Kenya.

The more I thought about it, however, the more heavily it began to weigh upon me. After giving much consideration to what Paul told me, Sis. Mary and I agreed to go with Paul and Thressa and their three children on the 2000-mile journey to Kenya. I was able to buy plane tickets with our credit card and we were able to get our visa all in the same day. In fact, all the paperwork involved was completed within four hours. This in itself is a miracle, in a country where 'red tape' and long lines are the rule. God was beginning to allow our plans to travel to Kenya to take shape. We left Nigeria on Friday evening, February 15 and arrived in Nairobi, Kenya on Saturday morning February 16, 1985.

After locating a hotel and resting for a couple of hours, Paul and I went to town to arrange for a car and driver to take us to Kisii, the name of the town on Mr. Osaka's address. Bro. Paul had telephoned Bro. John Ross in Aliquippa to obtain the address. All the information we had as to this man's whereabouts was the name and address as follows:

Mr. Elizaphan Osaka P.O. Box 81 Kisii, Kenya

Would it be possible to find this man with only a Post Office Box number? As you read this account, you'll see how the Lord made it possible. Kisii is located about 250 miles west of Nairobi. We were able to locate an official who gave us information on what had to be done to register The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya.

Having said good-bye to my wife, and Paul to his wife and children at the hotel where they would remain, we started on our journey and drove until dark. We had a good night's rest at a motel on a tea plantation and awakened early Sunday morning because of the many miles of winding mountain roads we had yet to travel. There were many curves and no guardrails. We were warned not to travel this hundred-mile stretch of road at night. Paul and I talked to the Lord in prayer, asking for His guidance and protection as we traveled and praying that we would find this man, Mr. Osaka. Bro. Paul said later that he prayed if we met Mr. Osaka, he would see something different in us.

As we drew near to Kisii town, we asked some men along the road if they knew Mr. Osaka. They told us yes, that we should proceed over the mountain to a hotel where the people would be able to further direct us. When we reached the other side of the mountain, we were told that we had to go another 25 miles, but no one knew the name of the hotel nor its whereabouts.

When we finally arrived in Kisii, there were people everywhere. We thought it would be easy to find Mr. Osaka. We inquired in store after store and at several gas stations, but with no results. We ended up at the local police station and not one officer could help us. It began to get dark as a storm approached and it looked like we had met a dead end. A detective said he would take us to a church in the bush and we might find who we were looking for there. I noticed a post office across the road and asked the detective if it might be open. He said that it might not be open, but that there were always people around it. I asked him if it was all right to go there. He had no objections so we drove to the postal compound.

Once there, we separated. Paul talked to a group of men, the detective and I each did the same thing. No one knew Mr. Osaka nor the name of the hotel we were looking for. I began to feel we had made the trip in vain, and our hopes of finding Mr. Osaka began to diminish. I began to pray silently, and Paul later told me he did also.

Just then, I felt as if someone was tell-

ing me to look towards the building, and as I did, my eye caught a man looking down, leaning over a pipe banister, and he said to me, "I know Mr. Osaka." The dismal feeling left me and I said to him, "Do you know Mr. *Elizaphan* Osaka?"

He answered in the affirmative. Then I asked him if he would be willing to show us where Mr. Osaka lived and his answer was, "I'll take you to his compound." You can imagine the relief and the joy that came over Paul and me. We had to travel fifteen miles in another direction. I can honestly say we would never have met or found Brother Osaka on our own. It was a miracle from God that we should meet him. This man, who said his name was Isaac, took us right to the home where Brother Osaka lived. When I exited from the car, there was a sign six inches by twelve inches with the words, "E. Osaka, God-is-Love."

Concluded in next month's issue. -Ed.

50th Anniversary

Sister Lucy Hemp of Anaheim, CA recently reached the 50-year point in her service to the Lord. Brought to Church as a young girl by her parents, Brother and Sister Campitelle of Detroit Branch 1, Sis. Lucy was baptized on September 30, 1935 by Bro. Thurman S. Furnier.

Sister Lucy and her husband, Bro. Floyd, transferred to the Anaheim Branch in 1965. They have been a great help to the Branch and in the last several years they have been very active and recognized for their efforts in the Orange County Urban Indian Affairs.

May the Lord bless our sister Lucy in her work among His people with many more years of service.

Change of Address

Apostle Joseph Bittinger and his wife Sis. Edna have moved from the Florida District to Pennsylvania. Their new address and phone number are as follows:

> Joseph Bittinger 260 Solomon Circle Uniontown, PA 15401

> > (412) 438-6117

MBA Highlights

PA Area MBA

By Kathy Smith

September was certainly a busy month for the Pennsylvania Area MBA. On Labor Day our Area Picnic was held at Moon Township Park. Picnic lunches provided an assortment and an abundance of delicious food. After lunch we enjoyed an exciting softball game, played volleyball, and saw many challengers attempt to become horseshoe champions. Even the children participated in a variety of games, including a "spiritual scavenger hunt." A water balloon toss between couples provided screams as, one by one, the soaked contestants were eliminated when their balloons burst. This event inspired the "youngsters" to stage the usual water battle that is a part of all picnics. Hot dogs and watermelons, provided by the Area, were quickly consumed as we sat to eat again. The fellowship and love of the saints prevailed throughout the day until we slowly and reluctantly prepared to make our way homeward, calling it a good day and time well spent with those we love in the Gospel.

Friday evening September 13 we held our Area MBA Conference at Monongahela. This was the time to review and relive the blessings of our past year's activities and make plans for the new year, which plans include a campout, hayride, seminar day, picnic, and two evening spiritual meetings. Area officers for the next year are President Dave DeLuca, Vice President Paul Ciotti, Jr., Chaplain Bill Colangelo, and Secretary Diane Ciotti.

Our annual hayride, which has become a popular activity, was held on September 21 at the Griffith farm. There were more than two hundred in attendance, including brothers and sisters from Ohio and Michigan, as well as friends of the brothers and sisters. A large pot-luck style buffet was set up in the barn. Many of the young people played ping-pong and volleyball. After dark, two hay wagons loaded with young and old alike were towed by Bro. John Griffith's tractor. Later everyone gathered around a large bonfire to sing. We also enjoyed several exciting tug-ofwar contests between "North and South" sectors of the Pennsylvania Area.

On October 26 our spiritual meeting was held in Roscoe, PA. After a season of singing, John Boggs sang a solo, Let the Lower Lights Be Burning. Bro. David Nolfi opened the meeting on the subject of Korihor, the antichrist who challenged Alma. He was an instrument in the devil's hands used to sway the minds of the saints. There are antichrists in the world today; we must be in tune with God's Spirit to recognize them and to stand up against them, using God's holy word as our sword. Special selections were sung by Sis. Karen Progar, and Sis. Ann and Bro. Paul Ciotti, Jr. The rest of the meeting was spent in testimonies of the blessings of God in our lives.

Bronx/Brooklyn

By Alice Suska

The Bronx/Brooklyn MBA local hosted a post-Labor Day picnic on Saturday, September 7, 1985 at Ringwood State Park in Ringwood, New Jersey.

The weather was just perfect for our picnic which began at 10:00 a.m. with hot coffee and doughnuts provided by the MBA.

After lunch, we all participated in an invigorating game of volleyball, which left us breathless for the next event, a relaxing game of horseshoes. The brothers and sisters who participated in this sport soon discovered that pitching horseshoes was not as easy as it looked. Before very long, however, everyone had mastered the technique of the throw and the phrase "three points" (for a ringer) was soon heard frequently.

We all departed for home around 6:00 p.m. after sharing a wonderful day of fellowship together.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

The Sterling Heights local MBA hosted an Area MBA gathering on October 25, 1985. Brother Dave DiBattista led us in a few hymns, and opened our class discussing baptism. A number of the brothers and sisters present remembered the Sunday 27 years before when ten souls made their covenant with the Lord. Bro. Nick Pietrangelo, who was presiding elder of Branch 1 at the time, spoke briefly of his memories of that day.

As the evening continued on, we all played a very interesting game. Bro. Dave passed out pieces of paper with the names of different people from the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, as well as some famous Restoration figures, and even some current members of the Church! As a number was called, the person holding that slip of paper stood

(Continued on Page 7)

Anadarko, OK

Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall, who live in Anadarko, Oklahoma, have a new phone number. Because they don't live near any established mission of the Church, they depend on phone calls from the brothers and sisters to keep them going.

Bro. Bill, who has worked for some years among the Indians in Oklahoma, recently underwent extensive surgery. He is home from the hospital now and doing well. Bro. Bill and Sister Evelyn wish to thank all the brothers and sisters for their prayers in his behalf.

The Cralls would love to hear from you. Their new phone number is:

(405) 588-3883

Their address is:

Bill & Evelyn Crall 404 E. Oklahoma Anadarko, OK 73005

New Editor

At the November, 1985 GMBA Conference, Brother Jeffrey Giannetti of Aliquippa, PA was elected GMBA Gospel News Editor. Brother Ryan G. Ross is the assistant GMBA Editor.

Please forward all MBA material for *The Gospel News* through your Area MBA Editor to Bro. Jeffrey at 3406 Sunflower Rd., New Brighton, PA 15066. Thank you.



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

At the beginning of the new year, it is customary for us to look at where we've been and where we're headed. To do this as a Church requires us to look not so much at our individual branches and missions (though this, too, is very important), but rather to assess the Church as a whole, to take a look at the big picture, trying not to see it from a human perspective but instead to see how we as a Church are carrying out the plan that God has laid out from the beginning of time.

Let us look for a moment at the world in which we live. Last year brought us wars and rumors of wars, nation rising against nation, kingdom against kingdom. There were famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in divers places. False prophets appeared, and deceived many (Matthew 24). Jesus said that these things must come to pass, but that the faithful should rejoice when they see these things, knowing their redemption is nigh. Truly, as we strive to carry God's Spirit in us and understand His word, we can indeed rejoice as we see prophecy being fulfilled.

Last year, thanks be to God, we made some significant forward steps in bringing about the kingdom of Zion. The Church was established in the nation of Kenya, while reports from Nigeria, Ghana, and India indicate steady growth and a continuing need for workers in the field.

Missionary work among the Seed of Joseph in this land and especially in Mexico has begun to gain momentum. In every district of the General Church, contact has been made with American Indians in urban areas, as well as on reservations.

These small inroads represent progress in bringing Israel together. Like a heavy freight train, this work has taken a great deal of effort to start moving—however slowly—from a dead stop, and it will continue to require full throttle, gaining momentum all along, before it reaches its proper speed. But just like that freight train, once this work is moving it will be impossible to stop, so great will be the weight thereof. Again, the harvest is great in these areas, but the laborers are few.

All over the United States and Canada the little "outposts" where handfuls of saints meet together for prayer and study are gradually becoming established missions with their own buildings and regular meeting schedules. By virtue of these outposts, the Church is being established across the country. In addition, appeals are coming in from other lands for us to bring the Gospel to the souls of men and women everywhere.

It is my hope and prayer that as The Church of Jesus Christ continues to grow, *The Gospel News* will be a means of providing each and every member with an awareness of what's going on everywhere in the Church. As a group of people we need to communicate with one another, to touch bases through the written word, supporting one another and letting each other know that we're keeping the faith and carrying out the Lord's work in our various corners of the vineyard.

Our prayer is that God would bless each of you in the coming year with spiritual strength and an increased desire to do His will. We who are involved with *The Gospel News* likewise solicit your prayers and contributions, both of which are essential to the success of the paper.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Boy Jesus

Dear Boys and Girls,

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

DEDICATION continued . . .

South Bend.

A number of other beautiful experiences were had, confirming God's presence this evening. Sunday morning Bro. Mitchell Edwards opened the service in prayer, and we heard from Brothers Dominic Thomas, Joe Calabrese, and English Webb.

Bro. Dominic declared that the dedication of a building is not an instantaneous event, but a process. He explained how the saints must all be in tune with God to dedicate their building to Him. He said we've now entered into the second stage of our work, and how sometimes we feel lonely at various points when working for the Lord. He spoke from Mosiah 24, where the Lord eased the burdens that were upon the people of Alma.

In the course of our day, Sis. Michelle Edwards saw an angel in our presence. Sis. Verna Jackson, who was to be ordained a deaconess today, was set aside by washing of feet by Sister Cora Love. Bro. Mitchell Edwards ordained her.

Our 1084 square-foot building has a foyer and office upstairs, in addition to the auditorium. Downstairs are two large classrooms which are also used for dining, and two rest rooms.

Thanks to Brothers Phil Jackson, Burt Miller, Mitchell Edwards, and Leroy Love for their work in remodeling and equipping the kitchen in our church building.

The saints of the South Bend Mission thank you all for your love and prayers, and we continue to rejoice because God has smiled down upon us and moved His hand in our behalf.

A special thanks to the tireless efforts of the Ohio District Mission Board, and the brothers and sisters of the Ohio District for their prayers and endeavors on our behalf.



Interior of the South Bend Mission.

Our Women Today

1

Women's Sharing Weekend

By Jill Kovacic

On Friday evening, September 6, 1985, 51 women met for the Ohio District's first "Women's Sharing Weekend" at the Badger Meadows Campground in Kinsman, Ohio. It was only a dream just a few months before, when a couple of sisters talked about this idea over the phone. The sisters' desire was to do something for all the sisters in Ohio to grow together in grace and spirit.

The sisters in charge were Jill Kovacic, Cindy Prentice, and Rosalie Mott. Sisters Brenda Ross and Patty McCullough took care of the menu, and Judy Salerno, Barb Nuzzi, and Kathy Genaro were in charge of the seminars. Visiting sisters from Pennsylvania and Michigan were in attendance as well as those from Ohio.

The Eric Circle rented a portable piano. Friday evening, after registration and room assignments, we all introduced ourselves. Sis. Mabel Bickerton told of the establishment of the Ladies' Circle and of her calling to this work as the evening drew to a close.

Alarms started going off at 5:00 a.m. as we prepared for six o'clock prayer service. A strong spirit prevailed in this gathering, and everyone took part. One sister related a dream she had had during the night, wherein Jesus spread His arms over a breakfast table, blessing the food and those in His presence. The prayer service set the tone for the entire weekend.

After a delicious breakfast we went to the seminars. Buttons for sale by the Cleveland Circle declared, "Growing in Peace."

The first seminar was on communication. Sisters commented and discussed the theme. We learned to bear one another's burdens and to give support for all needs, great and small.

Lunch was then served, followed by free time for visiting. The second seminar came next, on the topic of Love. What better subject to follow communication than the one Jesus taught, to love one another.

Supper opened with thank-yous for everyone that took part in planning the weekend. God truly had a hand in the planning, as so much was accomplished in a short period of time. When the camp bill was paid, the sisters in charge had a small amount of cash left over. This we decided to donate to the Omaha Mission toward the establishment of a meeting place. The Kinsman Circle made souvenir magnets to remind us all of the weekend together.

Sis. Nancy Mayhar took charge of the evening meeting. There were testimonies, singing by special groups, and prayers offered. A friend of the Church from the Cleveland Branch sang a song that touched all our hearts. We offered thanks to God for being in our midst and giving us this opportunity to share and grow together.

Sunday morning after breakfast, we had Bible study, the topic being that of Jesus' appearance to Mary Magdalene after His resurrection.

The brothers from the Kinsman, Ohio Branch gathered with us for the Sunday Service. Bro. Howard Jackson commented on how he felt the Lord's presence here this weekend. Sis. Dolly Kovacic said she felt good to be a woman called of God in this Church.

Sister Mabel Bickerton asked the young woman from Cleveland to sing once again and remarked on how beautiful it was to be with the people of God this weekend.

We were all filled spiritually and naturally with the Love of God flowing from sister to sister, at this Women's Sharing Weekend.

PA Area Circle

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Circles met on Saturday, November 2, 1985 at the McKees Rocks Branch for our first Area Meeting. Sis. Carol Monaghan welcomed all the sisters and her prayer was that the Lord would bless them.

A seminar-type meeting was presented, entitled "Search the Scripture." Sisters Mabel Bickerton and Eleanor Sproul taught the classes. Pennsylvania's next Area Circle meeting will be held at the Fredonia Branch on Saturday, April 6, 1986. The project for the coming year is to collect used nylon hose for India. The following questions were assigned for the Area Circles to answer: Who were called Anti-Nephi-Lehies and no more called Lamanites? (Book of Mormon), and Why will the New Jerusalem have no need of the sun or moon? (Bible).

Before we parted, a delicious pot-luck lunch was served by the McKees Rocks Circle.

MBA HIGHLIGHTS continued . . .

on his or her feet and became the character on their paper. Then the saints asked questions that would lead to discovering the identity of the character.

This game was most enjoyable, as some interesting characters were brought forth. We all learned from it as well.

Area MBA Chaplain Peter Scolaro spoke, encouraging all the local MBAs to support the Area MBA and GMBA strongly, joining in this part of the Lord's work. Local President Tony DiFalco summed up the meeting with encouraging words and Bro. Nick Pietrangelo closed in prayer.

All the saints at Sterling Heights and in the Michigan-Ontario Area would like to say that we love the Lord, and pray that He would bless the saints all over. In Jesus name, Amen.

Lake Worth, FL

By Rocco Benyola

- Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,
- Do not wait to shed your light afar.
- To the many duties ever near you now be true,

Brighten the corner where you are.

A night of singing began with this verse at the Regency Nursing Home in Lake Worth, Florida on August 4, 1985.

It was our desire to visit the old folks

(Continued on Page 8)

HOPE continued . . .

at the Regency since last Christmas when we sang and felt truly blessed by putting a smile on the lonely faces of the elderly.

We decided that visits to the nursing home at Christmas were nice, but throughout the year we should try to spread God's love in our community. The previous Friday evening the topic of missionary work was discussed at our monthly social, and the elders reminded us that missionary work starts out at home, and surely there are many people right in our own community with whom we can share the Gospel. This truth was evident as we gazed out at our audience and saw tears of joy and bright smiles on their faces. There were many requests, and we felt God's blessings as we sang each of them.

Bro. Scott Monahan videotaped a portion of our get-together and submitted it to the television station where he is employed as a cameraman. That evening, the station closed their eleven o'clock news program with the Lake Worth MBA singing *Brighten the Corner Where You Are.* We were recognized as a group that shares the warmth and joy of Christmas all year round.

We were all blessed in this opportunity to share our joy in serving the Lord with the community in which we live.

LAKE WORTH continued . . .

The Native Americans will even be blessed with their own spiritual leader. Lehi tells his son, "Yea, Joseph truly said: Thus saith the Lord unto me: A choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins. And unto him will I give commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers." (II Nephi 3:7) The Lord God of Israel has promised to the Indian of the Americas that He will raise up this great spiritual leader to bring the hope of the Gospel of Jesus Christ back to them. But until he comes, we must endeavor to take this hope to the American Indian and to all who will hearken to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Branch and Mission News

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

We had a very unusual meeting in Riverside on August 25, 1985. Many saints from all over the state packed our building to witness this sight. A special meeting was prepared for Sis. Josephine Palermo for her dedicated service to God in teaching Sunday School for the little children during the last thirty-five years. The same day, Bro. David Castellanos was ordained a teacher in the Church.

Back in the western cowboy days when a gunfighter could no longer perform, men would say, "He hung up his guns." This thought occurred to me as Sis. Josephine 'hung up her guns' because of her health, and Bro. David began to wear his guns on the same day.

Bro. Ken Surdock gave an inspiring talk regarding the duties of a teacher. Bro. David's feet were washed by Bro. Louis Marroquin and he was ordained by Bro. Ken Surdock. Bro. David has been a good fighter for the Lord in bringing many visitors to the meetings.

We presented Sis. Josephine with a beautiful plaque, showing our appreciation for her service to God. She taught me as a child, and she taught all three of my children who have grown into adulthood.

Bro. Jim Scalise opened the service, telling us we must keep God's commandments or pay the price. Bro. Otto Henderson followed along the same lines. Many beautiful testimonies came forth from the brothers and sisters, along with a few song selections. Sacrament was passed and we closed in prayer. We hope God will continue to bless our mission with many visitors to hear the word of God.

Rochester, NY

September 29, 1985 found Erin Jane Klem, daughter of Kathy and Roger Klem and granddaughter of Sis. Helen Garlow, blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. After Bro. Frank Natoli offered the prayer for the blessing of the young Indian girl, her mother came forward along with others seeking direction and strength.

The Spirit of God was truly with us, as God directed our service. Bro. Frank spoke briefly but with much liberty on building our house upon the foundation of Jesus Christ, and how important it is that the young as well as the old serve God to the best of their ability.

All morning and afternoon we cried with tears of joy as the Spirit touched our hearts. We hope and trust that as a Church, we are serving and will continue to serve God as best we know, or else God will find someone else willing to bring the Gospel back to Israel and to the four corners of the earth.

South Bend, IN

The South Bend Mission held its 5th Annual Vacation Bible School from June 17 to June 21, 1985. There were 31 children who attended regularly.

The children declared their love for Sis. Kathy Furitano, who was honored at the last session of this year's Bible School for her tireless dedication to this project.

It was a beautiful week, and the Lord still had more in store for the saints in South Bend because on Sunday June 23, six of the children were blessed by Bro. Mitchell Edwards.

On September 29, 1985 we had our first baptism since moving into our new building, that of Bro. James Beckett, Sr., our Sister Janet Beckett's husband.

Brothers Vince Gibson, Phil Jackson, Clifton Wells, and Burt Miller traveled from the Cleveland area to South Bend to witness this beautiful occasion. Also visiting us today were Bro. and Sis. Staley from Elizabeth, PA.

Bro. James was baptized by Presiding Elder Mitchell Edwards and confirmed by Bro. Vince Gibson.

Many manifestations of God's presence, in the forms of visions and dreams, confirmed our brother's calling into the Church today.

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During the service, Bro. Mitchell felt to avail the ministry to anyone who desired the laying on of hands, for whatever reason. A total of thirteen came forth, both young and old, church members and those who haven't yet made that step, as well as visitors from other churches. We praise God for the beautiful time we all had on this day.

The following Sunday was feet washing and we all anticipated the blessing of God, but we had no idea that this day the Lord would bless us with two baptisms.

Cheryl Milligan, Sis. Bernice Milligan's daughter, asked to be baptized following our service, and Elmo Perry, Jr., Sis. Verna Jackson's brother, also desired baptism.

We went to the water's edge and both of our new members were baptized by Bro. Phil Jackson. Sis. Cheryl was later confirmed by Bro. Brian Martorana and Bro. Elmo was confirmed by Bro. Phil Jackson. Several dreams and experiences were related to confirm these baptisms. A sister heard the words, "The angels in heaven are rejoicing," and saw a host of angels, during the confirmation.

We thank God for our visiting elders who felt prompted to wait on the Spirit of God and tarry a while after the services were over, as they felt someone would ask for their baptism. God is so good!

Sterling Hts., MI

September 15, 1985 was a day of dedication as Sister Kathy Champine heeded the Lord's call to service.

Many visitors joined us today for this special occasion. We began our worship service by singing *Because He Lives*. Bro. George Benyola opened in prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead and bless us. Bro. Steve Champine and Sis. Diane Hawkins blessed us with their beautiful singing of the Lord's Prayer. Sis. Rosanne Champine also shared a song with us. How thankful we are to have the opportunity to enjoy the talents of our brothers and sisters.

Bro. Spencer Everett expressed to us that God has called Sister Kathy into His special service, knowing the kind of spirit she carries, the way she's grown spiritually, and the work she's done, sacrificing time she would be spending with her family to serve her brothers and sisters and all those in need. In the book of Romans, women are described as helpers to the priesthood. In I Timothy 5th chapter, the attributes of servants in Paul's day are explained. We enjoyed the beautiful Spirit that was present with us in hearing the Word of God.

We joined our voices in singing Ye Who Are Called to Labor, as Sis. Shirley Vitto washed Sis. Kathy's feet. The elders then kneeled in prayer to petition God for His blessing upon our sister in her calling.

Bro. Sam DiFalco ordained our Sister Kathy into the office of a deaconess. The Lord's tender sweet Spirit was very evident this day. We thank Him and praise Him for answering our prayers. May Sis. Kathy receive all the guidance she needs to fulfill her portion of the Lord's work here below.

Aliquippa, PA

By Dora Rossi

On September 8, 1985 the Aliquippa Branch was visited by Bro. Paul Gehly of Greensburg, PA and Bro. Don Ross of Edison, NJ.

Bro. Gehly opened the morning service by reading Psalm 139. He quoted David's words, "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me." The Lord knows whatever we think and desire in life. We cannot hide from the Lord. There is nothing we can do that the Lord doesn't know about. Bro. Paul related a few experiences from his childhood. He wondered, as many of us have, which church was the right one. Finally he met the Gospel and knew that he had found the right church.

Bro. Don Ross made some closing remarks, and the service was brought to a close so we could gather at the baptismal site in Imperial to witness Sis. Terry Rossi's baptism.

Terry Rossi had been attending our MBA and Sunday services regularly. She became very interested in the Church through her acquaintance with some of the children of the saints in our branch. Sister Terry made it a matter of prayer since she is the only one in her family who attended our Church. Terry also went to the GMBA Campout in South Carolina, where the Spirit of God touched her heart in one of the evening meetings. She made her wishes to be baptized known there, but returned to Aliquippa to be baptized today by Bro. Charles Jumper and confirmed by Bro. James Gibson.

Our sister had the following dream:

"I was standing in a park, with my father and a group of people dressed in red. My father kept saying, 'Come to my church.' I told him, 'I can't—this is all wrong! This isn't the Lord's way.' My father's group told me there was nothing wrong with their way, and tried to convince me to go with them. So I got on a bus with my father and these people. We drove past all of these churches near my house. They kept saying, "This church is a good one.'

"We went to a few more, but none of them was The Church of Jesus Christ. So I asked them, 'Well, what about The Church of Jesus Christ?" No one said anything, but they wouldn't drive anywhere near there. I got off the bus. The next thing I remember was that the bus with my father and all the people dressed in red was gone. I was standing in front of The Church of Jesus Christ and in front of the church were all the saints dressed in white. They were singing, and right before I awoke, I went and joined them. This dream revealed to me that this is the true Church."

What a wonderful experience our sister had to enlighten her mind as to what church was the right one.

May God use our young sister to bring the Gospel to her relatives and to those she comes in contact with.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

On October 20, 1985, many saints came to visit the McKees Rocks Branch to witness the ordination of Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. as a teacher in the Church. Represented were the following branches: Aliquippa, Clairton, Monongahela, Imperial, Vanderbilt, PA, along with Lorian, Niles, and Youngstown, Ohio. Also with us today was Bro. Paul's grandmother, Sister Nancy Ciotti of Anaheim, CA. 10 January, 1986

McKEES ROCKS continued . . .

Our preaching service was opened by Bro. Joe Genaro, who read from II Kings 2:9 & 10, referring to the request of Elisha for a double portion of the spirit of Elijah. Our brother indicated that because of the perseverance of Elisha, he was not denied the blessing. Bro. Joe admonished the young men in the congregation that they, too, can receive the blessing and power of God in their lives as illustrated in the example of Elisha. With the great work of the Church, we will need the power of God to fulfill His will.

Bro. Frank Calabrese followed, reminding us that the Lord has revealed that He would raise up men in the last days who would possess the spirit of Elijah, turning the hearts of the children of men to the Father. In closing, Presiding Elder Richard Lawson stated that in order for us to fulfill the great work of the Church, we must begin with the small things and do them well. The Lord will then lead us on to the greater things. Sis. Rose Palacios related that when the brothers spoke of Elijah, she saw a rainbow over the rostrum.

Our afternoon service was opened by Bro. Paul Ciotti, Sr., who continued on with the theme of the morning meeting. We then heard many wonderful testimonies of the saints praising God for His goodness and for the sweet spirit we felt throughout the day. Brother John Manes read the duties of a teacher to Bro. Paul, stressing the importance of a teacher being a peacemaker. Bro. Paul's feet were washed by his grandfather, Bro. Bill Colangelo. Truly the spirit of love and humility prevailed. Our young brother was then ordained into the office of a teacher by his father. After the ordination took place, Bro. Joe Genaro spoke the gift of tongues and the interpretation was given by Bro. Paul Ciotti, Sr. as follows: "I have called you forth as a teacher by My Holy Spirit.'

Brother Paul was given the opportunity to express himself. Our brother praised God for the privilege granted him to be a worker for the Lord and related his experiences pertaining to his calling into this office. Brother Lawson then asked Sis. Susan Ciotti to join her husband as we sang *First Love*. What a beautiful spirit prevailed throughout the day as the confirmation of the Lord was witnessed by all in attendance. This was the first ordination in our new church building, and we look forward to many more.

A beautiful dinner was then served by our sisters for all to enjoy. May the Lord bless our young brother in his new work.

Glassport, PA

"And to one he gave ten talents, to another five and to another one."

Each of us has talents given to us by God. We are aware of some of them, while others are not so obvious. Perhaps the "talents" that we see, such as singing or playing a musical instrument, are more easily known, but the Lord has given many gifts that we are to use to His honor and glory.

Bro. Tom Staley reminded us of this during our recently held Second Annual Talent Show (sponsored by the Glassport Sunday School). Bro. Tom cautioned us not to underestimate ourselves, and to consider things other than the obvious to be our gifts. A loving heart, a firm handshake, or a kind word can also be the evidence of a special gift from God!

Of course, in our talent show we witnessed musical talents too, with singing and various instrumental performances (such as a kazoo quintet playing *The Star-Spangled Banner* and a piano-guitar-saxophone trio rendering *Power in the Blood* and *When the Saints Go Marching In*). We heard from quite a few visitors, as well as from our own brothers and sisters, and were encouraged by the scripture and poetry that was read and by the words of the songs.

Afterwards, we all displayed our "talent" for having a good time! We went to the basement for a corn and hot dog feast, followed by ice cream sundaes. We had a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and returned home with both our hearts and stomachs full. We are thankful to God for the love that is shared among the saints and for His many blessings. We want our talents to grow, so we'll hear the words 'good and faithful servant' when we stand before the Lord.

This is one of the poems, written by Sis. Judy Mihalchik, which was read at the talent show. It was inspired by the following scripture: "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous. Nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:11)

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Chastening

- I know not why His hand is laid in chastening on my life,
- Nor why it is my little world is filled with strife.
- I know not why, when faith looks up and seeks for rest from pain,
- That o'er my sky fresh clouds arise and drench my path with rain.
- I know not why my prayers so long by Him have been denied,
- Nor why, while others' ships sail on, mine should in port abide.
- But I do know that my God is love, that He my burdens shares,
- And though I may not understand, I know for me He cares.
- I know the heights for which I long are often reached through pain,
- I know the sheaves must needs be threshed to yield the golden grain.
- I know that, though He may remove the friends on whom I lean,
- 'Tis that I thus may learn to love and trust the One unseen.
- And when, at last, His face I'll see and know as I am known,
- I will not care how rough the road that led me to His home.

STILL FAITHFUL continued . . .

walked up to him for help to find the number. As I approached him, he said, "Hello, Sister Carmela." It was Al Pezzenti, Sis. Florence's husband. Thank God, my prayer was answered.

I spent a lovely week with some of our dear brothers and sisters and little did I know many would be called home to be with the Lord, and I would not see them again. I left Youngstown and went to McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania and spent a lovely week there with the saints.

When I returned to New Jersey my eye problem became worse, and I was not able to drive very much. I went to a doctor in Newark and he gave me in)

jections, which helped quite a bit, but my eyesight was blurry.

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Ten days after the injections, I wanted to return to my home in Florida, so I packed my car and the next morning I started out. The day was foggy, misty, and rainy. My vision was blurred, and I hesitated to leave. I filled the tank with gas and thought to myself, once I get on the four-lane turnpike, I'll be fine.

All was well until I crossed the Delaware River bridge. I could not see the signs, and began to pray, "Lord, what shall I do? Please place me on the right road." I drove on, and recognized that I was on the Kennedy Turnpike. Great! All is well, I thought, but how was I going to get through the tunnel in Baltimore? Again, I said to God, "Lord, what shall I do?" A thought came to me to follow where most of the traffic was going. I did, along with the many other trucks and cars, and I made it through the tunnel.

All was fine so far, but my worries weren't over yet. Here comes Washington, DC with eight lanes going in each direction—how will I handle that? Again, I called upon the Lord. He led me to get off the I-95. I was traveling west now, and I didn't know what road I was on, but I wished I did, because there wasn't much traffic. When I realized I had been traveling on this road for a while, again I called on God, "Lord, I don't want to go west, I'm traveling south." As I said this I looked on the side of the road and there was a sign I was able to see: To I-95 South. Praise the Lord! I got on the right road.

Later in my trip, my eyes cleared up and the weather turned nice, and it was clear sailing all the way home. God is so good; I'm eternally grateful to Him.

At this writing, November 10, 1985, I continue to praise God for His love and care. I'm back to work and travel many miles, plus other duties that I am required to perform. There are times I feel I should not be driving, but I place myself in God's hands and He cares for me.

I love the words written in I Peter 5:7, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you." How true and how beautiful!

* WEDDINGS *

BENYOLA-VINSICK

Brother Dennis Benyola and Sister Renee Vinsick were united in marriage on Saturday, August 31, 1985 at the Perry, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The groom's brother, Bro. Jerry Benyola of Detroit Branch 1, officiated at the ceremony with the assistance of Bro. Elmer Santilli.

Musical selections were presented by Sis. Betty Santilli, with Reymon Rangel as soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Hopewell, New Jersey. May God bless them as they begin their new life together.

HUSBAND-LOVE

Mr. Wayman Husband and Miss Gail Love were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 28, 1985.

The wedding ceremony, South Bend Mission's first, was officiated by Bro. Mitchell Edwards.

Musical selections were offered by the bride's sister, Sherry Ann Love.

Gail is the daughter of Brother and Sister Leroy Love.

SPECK-BILSKY

Brother James L. Speck and Sister Kellie L. Bilsky were joined in wedlock at the Monongahela, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 5, 1985.

Brothers Robert Buffington of Imperial, PA and Sam Dell of Levittown, PA conducted the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were sung by Bro. Joseph Saeli, Jane Shrum, and Sister Bertha Bilsky. Pianist was Sis. Alice Saeli, organist was Sis. Erma Draskovich, and Becky Amalong played the flute.

The newlyweds will reside in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. May God richly bless them as they join their lives together in His service.

LOCKWOOD-ROGERSON

Delbert Lockwood and Rachel Rogerson were joined together in holy matrimony on October 19, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Erie, Pennsylvania.

Bro. George A. Kovacic officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sherri Lockwood.

The couple will reside in Waterford, Pennsylvania. May God bestow His richest blessings upon them.

DiFEDE-HUFNAGLE

Brother Michael John DiFede and Sister Judith Hufnagle were united in marriage on Saturday, October 26, 1985 at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bride's father, Bro. Bill Hufnagle of Cleveland, Ohio, officiated at the ceremony with the assistance of Bro. John D'Orazio of Lake Worth.

Sis. Barbara DiNardo sang several solo selections, accompanied on the piano by the groom's cousin, Richard Benyola of New Jersey.

Many guests came to the wedding from New Jersey and Ohio, as well as saints and friends from the Florida District. The newlyweds will reside in West Palm Beach, Florida.

New Arrivals

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

Twins: Jacquelyn Elise and Jonathan Tyler to Ralph and Sherry (Santilli) Creighton of Youngstown, Ohio.

Brandon Louis to Louis, Jr. and Beverly Visconti of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Justin Paul to Dennis and Doreen Everett of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Children Blessed

Troy Quatrell Parchman was blessed by Bro. Mitchell Edwards in South Bend, Indiana on December 9, 1984. On June 23, 1985, Bro. Mitchell blessed the following children: Jermaine Michael McLeod, Torrence Termayne McLeod, Cherise Monroe Diggins, Edker Lee McLeod, Quincy Darnell McLeod, and John Francis Allbritton.

Sunday June 16, 1985, Bro. Joe Calabrese blessed Jamilla Aki Cook, Bro. Vince Gibson blessed Aldon LaShon Cook, and Phillip Carlos Cook was blessed by Bro. Phil Jackson, all at the South Bend Mission.

Jacquis Shree Milligan was blessed by Bro. Brian Martorana at South Bend on October 6, 1985.

OBITUARIES

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

MARY GUERRIERE CORRADO

Sis. Mary Corrado passed on to her eternal reward on June 6, 1985. She was born on March 28, 1922 and baptized on April 1, 1951.

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Bro. Richard Santilli conducted the funeral. Sis. Mary was survived by her husband, Apostle A. A. Corrado (now deceased), a daughter, Sis. Annette Corrado, two stepdaughters, Sis. Amy Cook and Sis. Irene Williams, along with two brothers, two sisters, and four grandchildren.

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Sis. Corrado was a storehouse of knowledge and historical dates for those of us in the Youngstown Branch. Although ill for the past few years, Sister Mary bore her testimony and carried out her responsibilities as a member and as the wife of an apostle.

DAVID R. WILLIAMS

David Williams of Youngstown, Ohio passed from this life on August 5, 1985. The nephew of Sister Irma Nerone of Youngstown, he was born on January 30, 1944.

Brothers Richard Santilli of the Youngstown Branch and Tullio LaCivita of Detroit Branch 4 conducted the funeral service.

David is survived by his mother, three sisters, and four children.

ANTOINETTE LOREFICE

Sister Antoinette Lorefice of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed away on August 13, 1985. She was born July 15, 1906 and was baptized into the Church on October 12, 1980.

The funeral service was performed by Bro. Ralph Berardino.

Our Sister Antoinette was up in years and had lost her eyesight, but she very much enjoyed the visits of her brothers and sisters who traveled to Sharon. She was always eager to share in the love of our Lord and extolled His goodness.

DANIEL CORRADO

Brother Daniel Corrado, an evangelist from the Niles, Ohio Branch, went to his reward on September 20, 1985. He was born September 2, 1896 in Buguara, Italy.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Joseph Genaro and Jack Ford. Sis. Phyllis Koon, Bro. Dan's daughter, sang *How Great Thou Art*. The service was concluded with the congregation singing *Higher Ground*.

Bro. Dan is survived by his wife, Sister Loretta, to whom , he was married for sixty-six years. Also two sons, four daughters, and fourteen grandchildren. Bro. Dan was truly a pillar in the Niles Branch. His mild manner, warm smile, and words of comfort will be greatly missed by all who knew him.



Atlantic Coast Missions

By Joe Perri

SPARTANBURG, SC

Praise God for The Church of Jesus Christ, because it has been through the Church that we have found a beautiful family. Although our mission in South Carolina is some distance from New Jersey, visits have been made there and the work of God is progressing.

Bro. Nathan Peterkin has been preaching the Gospel in the city of Spartanburg, South Carolina for a period of seven years and has been broadcasting

over the radio for nearly six of those seven years. His messages have been and are being heard by a large number of people. Bro. Nathan introduces the radio program every Sunday morning from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. as the Gospel Program of The Church of Jesus Christ. After much prayer to God, Bro. Nathan and a few other brothers have converted a building in the rear of his property into a meeting place which can accommodate up to 35 people. Their first official meeting was held January 6. 1985.

What made that meeting special was



Members and visitors at Spartanburg, SC Mission.

Volume 42, No. 2

the baptism of Bro. Harold Littlejohn, the first convert in the city of Spartanburg. The saints from Gastonia. North Carolina, a mission under the Ohio District, were also present here on that day. Bro. Nathan has labored long and hard, with sincere faith in God that the day would come when he would begin to see the fruits of his labors. Many years, months, and days were spent in prayer by Bro. Nathan and his wife, Sis. Carmela.

On January 20, Sis. Ruth Spruill was baptized. Sis. Carmela was ordained a deaconess and five children were blessed.

On June 16, Sis. Shirley Gray was baptized.

Wednesday evening, June 26, Bro. Harold Littlejohn was ordained a teacher and on August 25 Bro. Andre McCullough was baptized and became the sixth member of the Church in the Spartanburg Mission.

On October 6, 1985, Bro. Beautford Keenon, Sis. Gloria Keenon, and Bro. Johnnie Gray were added to the membership of the Spartanburg Mission.

Many visitors come to listen to Bro. Peterkin preach and conduct Bible and Book of Mormon study. Brother Nathan speaks very boldly of the Restoration and the faith of the Church. There are several regular visitors to the mission who are close to becoming members of the group in Spartanburg.

Those of us who have visited this mission have come away encouraged,

(Continued on Page 10)

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Dedication Was Her Crown

By Mark Randy

Arlene Gamble was born June 23, 1910. She had a beautiful soprano voice. She received her teacher's degree from the University of Iowa and became an elementary school teacher in Randalia, Iowa. She married Adrian Gamble in Arnes, Iowa. She played the pipe organ for the 800-member congregation of the Peace Evangelical and Reformed Church before the Gambles moved to Modesto, California in July of 1953.

Shortly after arriving in Modesto, she dreamed of a voice which instructed her in a most marvelous way. The following day, I met her. She told her husband that I was an honest man, that she believed me and that I was a man of God.

Arlene became our pianist in the small hall we rented in Modesto. In October of 1953 she asked for her baptism. Her beloved husband went to the waters as well later on. When Adrian died a few years ago, Sis. Arlene chose to remain in Modesto, though her two sons live in Fresno and Tehachapi.

Arlene went to join her husband in Paradise June 15, 1985. She shall never be forgotten by us.

Sis. Arlene's own words: "Real love is always risky in a human sense. If you love another person, you lay your heart open to that person. His or her joys become your joys. His or her griefs and disappointments become your griefs and disappointments. The investment you make in that person's life may pay off, or it may not. Love asks no such questions. Love sets no price. That which can be bought is not love at all."

In Memory of Annie Mauro

By Joseph Lovalvo

I was introduced to Sister Ann and her husband, Sal, in Modesto, California by her brother, Joseph Cipponeri. They invited me to visit them at their home in Monterey, California.

That same year, 1955, the California District asked me to go on home missionary work. I accepted, and decided to go to Monterey. After taking the Gospel to several families, my wife and I told the people that we were going to look for a motel room where I could stay.

Sister Ann spoke up immediately. "Brother Joe can come to our home. I will take care of him; I will wash his clothes and he can share our food."

I lived with them for two and one half years. Sister Ann was one of the warmest, loving, affectionate, and charitable women that I have ever met. She was always ready to share her last dollar or food or anything she had to help the poor.

She asked for her baptism in a Ladies' Circle meeting where I was teaching the class.

In her testimony, she was always thankful for the Church and for what God did for her and her family.

In her afflictions, she always trusted in God and called the ministers to pray for her. She received many wonderful healings and experiences. We are all going to miss her very much.

In Loving Memory

Two years ago, I was asked to submit an article of "Thanks" to *The Gospel News*, and I regretfully failed to do so. For no good reason except that evil thief of time, procrastination. Now, I am duty-bound to make retribution, if that is possible.

In November of 1983, my dad, Bro. Daniel Corrado, an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ, was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery. His condition and his age (then 87) were against him. He came through the surgery successfully, but then had a heart attack during recovery and within a few days everything that could go wrong did go wrong to the point that I was told by the attending physician to alert the family in case we had to make some decisions regarding the use of lifesupport equipment.

Instead, I alerted my spiritual family—the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ—and after thirty days in the hospital, dad came home. His complete recuperation took about another month, but he was so thankful the Lord spared his life that he asked me to write a note of appreciation and thanks to all the saints and priesthood for their prayers, cards, calls, and concern. It just didn't get done.

In March of 1985, dad was again hospitalized; this time for congestive heart failure, and again he was released and able to enjoy life. But from that time on, we could not get his blood sugar under control (he was a diabetic). So on August 27, 1985, dad agreed to re-enter the hospital, this time to be regulated on insulin because this was the last means of treatment for him. While in the hospital, routine tests indicated other problems that required surgery. Again, he pulled through, but his heart was not strong enough to see him through the complications that followed, and on September 20, 1985, the Lord brought an end to his suffering and took him home.

Dad had several nice experiences while in the hospital that I'm sure he would want to share with the saints. During one of his bad days, while his son-in-law, Bro. Jack Ford, was anointing him, he had a vision. He saw a man and a woman enter his room and stand beside his bed. They stood in silence for a while, then the woman spoke, saying, "We have come a long distance to see you." The man said nothing. Dad had this vision just as Bro. Jack was saying in his prayer, "Lord, send one of your angels to comfort dad." What a blessing!

On another day, he seemed very discouraged at the progress of his illness; this was the first time he showed any sign of despair. But in the afternoon of the same day, he very encouragingly said, "I'll be home in three days," and he was! In three days, almost to the very hour, he was home—in his Heavenly Home.

Also, two days before his passing, we (the family) spent an evening of praying, singing, and scripture reading with dad which proved to be the pattern of his funeral service. Little did we realize it then, but we were sharing it with him first!

Lastly, this experience was of great comfort to those of us that remain:

Several years ago, my dad dreamed he was in a very large railroad station, with many tracks that led into the station. He asked the man in charge where his train was, and dad was told his fare

Missionary Visit to Africa

By Joseph Perri

This is the last of three articles outlining Brother Joe and Sister Mary Perri's visit to Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya in the early part of 1985.

As we entered into the compound through the gate, we had to walk a little ways to the house and as we got closer we could hear voices but could not make out what was being said. Upon reaching the house we were able to look into the window, and there we could see a group of people on their knees praying. When prayer was over I knocked on the door and a man opened it and before he was able to say anything I greeted him and proceeded to introduce Bro. Paul Carr and myself, telling him what our purpose was in coming to his house.

To our amazement, this man began to say, "It's a miracle! God is so good! God is wonderful!" Upon asking him why he was speaking that way, he told us that since 1981 they had been praying that missionaries from America would come and God had made it possible that very morning. He didn't introduce himself as Mr. Osaka, but we knew who he was as soon as he began to talk to us. A very humble, mild-mannered man, very soft spoken. There were about six people whom we addressed as Bro. Osaka interpreted.

After Paul and I gave a brief talk, Bro. Osaka told us how that very morning a young man by the name of James looked out of the window and had an open vision. He said he saw three missionaries dressed in white-two male and one female, coming into the compound with three children. He said that Paul and myself were the two men he saw, and after hearing his description of the woman dressed in white, we told him that she represented the Church. We thought the three children in the vision might be three souls being born anew, but said nothing as our purpose was simply to make our acquaintance and to find out what was hindering the registration of our Church in Kenya.

Tears filled Bro. Osaka's eyes as he spoke with us. A few songs were sung for us in their native tongue, Swahili. We were asked to sit with Bro. Osaka under a tree, and there we spent a good part of the morning and afternoon going over the faith and doctrine and other beliefs of the Church. Bro. Osaka told us that he had been a Methodist minister, but because of conditions that existed in the church hierarchy, he resigned from his post and began to search elsewhere for the truth. He was able to obtain the address of our Church and had been corresponding with Bro. John Ross since 1981.

We spoke of many things which would make this article very lengthy, but throughout our conversation we could discern the sincerity of Bro. and Sis. Osaka. As it began to get late, we told them that we had a two-hour drive back to the motel, and that we had to leave. Bro. Osaka said to us, "Before you leave, I have something to say." He began to tell us that he saw something different in us and that the way we expressed ourselves touched both him and his wife. Further, he expressed his and his wife's shared desire to be baptized.

Paul's prayers truly had been answered; the Osakas told us there was something different about us which impressed them to the point that they requested their baptisms. Paul and I looked at each other, astonished yet overjoyed to hear of their wishes to embrace the Gospel. We proceeded to tell them that while we had the authority to baptize them that day, we wanted first to inform Bro. John Ross and the Church of what was taking place. We told him that we would telephone Bro. John Ross and would relay his decision to them on the morrow. We asked Mr. Osaka and his wife if they would abide by the decision of the Church, and without hesitation they said yes.

After we said our good-byes for the evening, we drove the two hours to our hotel where Paul called Bro. John Ross to relay the request of Bro. and Sis. Osaka to be baptized. We returned to their home the following morning at ten o'clock with permission granted for us to baptize, and we found them waiting at the gate with smiles on their faces. I baptized both Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka on February 18, 1985. They were wearing appropriate baptismal clothes when we arrived that morning, and when I asked him how he knew we would baptize him, he simply smiled and said, "Î knew.'

Bro. Paul confirmed Bro. Elizaphan and I confirmed Sis. Nina that same day. After the bestowal of the Holy Ghost, we administered the Lord's Supper to them. They were filled with joy and love as they each arose and bore a testimony thanking God for what they had witnessed and thanking us for making an effort to find them and visit with them. Tears came down their cheeks as they spoke. A few songs were sung for us in Swahili. One song which touched me as they sang was *Jesus Loves Me*. Bro. Osaka stated that what really touched him and convinced him of his desire to be a part of The Church of Jesus Christ was the pamphlet published by the Church, especially the words from the book of Revelation, "And I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven"

Bro. Osaka said that after he was baptized that morning he saw himself all in white, both his clothing and his body. The Lord showed him the pure state in which baptism had placed him.



Sister Nina and Brother Elizaphan Osaka in front of the kitchen hut at their compound near Kisii, Kenya, East Africa.

By this time we had to leave because it was late and we had to travel back to Nairobi—250 miles of mountain roads. Much of the way was paved but at some points the roads were very bad. The drive would take us about six and a half hours. Bro. Osaka offered a prayer for us in his native language, and as he did, tears flowed down his cheeks. As we said good-bye for a while, we embraced and soon we were on our way.

MBA Highlights

4

PA Area Campout

By Kathy Smith

One of the most rewarding and spiritually enriching activities sponsored by the Pennsylvania Area MBA last year was our Campout, held from Friday through Sunday, September 27 through 29, at the Heritage Reservation near Farmington, PA. The first evening meeting set the mood and put us in the proper frame of mind for the weekend. Bro. Jim King read the story of Samuel, a young man dedicated to serving God. Hannah, his mother, had prayed that the Lord would give her a child, and He answered her prayers. Young people with this type of dedication are needed to make our Church grow and prosper. The large number of children and young people in our midst represent the Church of tomorrow. Following this service, we partook of refreshments and an extended period of fellowship before turning in for the night.

Saturday's activities began with a chapel service followed by seminars for all age groups. The theme was a carryover from the GMBA Campout, "Sanctification of the Gentile Church," and what we as individuals can do to draw closer to God. The afternoon was dominated by recreation, resting, and gathering around the piano singing hymns.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone of Warren, Ohio opened the evening meeting with the thought of how fortunate and blessed we are to be living in America where the Gospel was restored. He related experience after experience of how God can reveal to us those things that enrich our spiritual lives, as well as our natural. Our brother told of how God revealed to him in Ohio that his daughter Carrie had asked for her baptism at the Campout in South Carolina. When she called him, he already knew of her decision. Bro. Chuck Jumper followed, telling us that the greatest asset to the Church is the fertile minds and energy of our young people. We should not be a "special occasion" saint. When we are not at church, we should hope that people will miss us and wonder what is wrong.

The remainder of the meeting, which ran beyond the regular closing time,

was filled with the spirit of testimony, especially among the young people. Their concerns and determination were reflected as they shared their feelings and desires. Many of our young brothers and sisters who are away at college during the school year expressed how difficult it was to keep the Holy Spirit alive within them being so far removed from the saints. Various other young people expressed how the Lord had warned them of approaching danger and how He delivered them time and again. A special duet was sung by Bro. Ken Staley and Sis. Jessie (Bright) Scaglione entitled Join Forces with the Lord. Once again we enjoyed refreshments, this time an "ice cream feast," before retiring to our comfortable quarters.

A full house was in attendance at our Sunday service. Bro. Chuck Jumper opened with the thought that God created light and perfect order out of darkness and chaos in the beginning of time. Through His Son, we have His light to guide our lives. Bro. Dick Lawson followed, exhorting the young people to make the Church a part of their careers in life. With God leading our lives, we will be in a position to be used by Him and by the Church. Brothers Jerry Giovannone, Paul Ciotti, and Paul Palmieri followed on the theme of applying the light of the Gospel in our lives. The light of Christ should shine forth to all the world wherever we are. Sister Carol Jumper and Brother Jeff Giannetti sang I Surrender All, and God's Spirit was felt in our midst. The elders then served sacrament to the brothers and sisters to conclude our service.

Finally the time was at hand to pack our cars and head for home, as a terrific spiritual weekend came to a close for another year.

Change of Address

Apostle Joseph Bittinger and his wife Sis. Edna have moved from the Florida District to Pennsylvania. Their new address and phone number are as follows:

> Joseph Bittinger 260 Solomon Circle Uniontown, PA 15401

> > (412) 438-6117

MISSIONARY VISIT continued . . .

We had a flat tire on our way back. Little did we realize as the spare was put on that it, too had a nail in it and would soon go flat as well. We stopped at a number of gas stations but no one could fix it and no station or store had an inner tube. We were able to drive within forty miles of the hotel where our wives were waiting. It was dark by this time and there were no lights on the road except for those of passing automobiles. We stopped the car on the shoulder of the road where there was a curve. It was a dangerous spot, so I asked the driver to leave the engine running and the lights on.

I went about fifty yards down the road to flag down a car. After about ten minutes, a car with two businessmen and a police officer stopped and they asked what I wanted. I told the officer what had happened and said we were missionaries returning from Kisii, and asked them if they would be so kind to drive us to the Pan Africa Hotel in Nairobi. We did not want to be stranded overnight. Our wives would be very worried when they didn't hear from us. I told the men I would pay them any amount they wanted. They agreed but said first they had to tell their families where they were going.

As we traveled, these fine gentlemen told us they could tell that we were either Europeans or Americans, and they knew that where we broke down there were a lot of thieves (rogues, as they called them) and something would surely happen to us before long. If the car we hired had been stolen or damaged, we would have had to pay for it, so we left our driver with the car. Through this incident with the flat tires we were able to preach the Gospel to these three men. They urged us to bring the Church to Kenya.

As we traveled as a group, Paul and his family and Mary and myself would sing various hymns. One taxi driver joined us in singing *How Great Thou Art.* He asked what church we represented and we told him, "The Church of Jesus Christ." He remarked, "What a beautiful name—that *should* be the name of the Church." He asked us if our church was in Kenya. Our answer was that we were trying to establish the Church in Kenya. He, like so many others, offered to help us. Everywhere we went, whether it was in Nigeria either in Lagos or in the bush, or in

(Continued on Page 9)



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

While time is something that is absent from the spiritual realm of God, it is the very essence of our life here on earth. If we perceived our lives the way God sees them, as a mere handbreadth of time, like the blinking of an eye, there would seem to be no time for us to serve Him, no time for us to prove to Him that we are willing to take upon us the name of His Son Jesus Christ and do His will, enduring all things until the end of our days.

Much of the time allotted to us is spent in the natural things of life. This is necessary, as a certain amount of time is necessary for us to see to the natural needs of our families and ourselves. We also have time, however, to do the things that we choose, whatever they might be.

It is a matter of personal choice how we spend the time we have to ourselves. Modern technology has brought us many time-saving devices, but it has also placed in our path more distractions. In this generation, more than ever before, we are faced with an astounding array of possible ways to spend the time we have.

The Apostle Paul said, "All things are lawful for me, but all things edify not" (I Corinthians 10:23). While there are many ways we can spend our time which are not bad in themselves, the things we elect to do with our free time often do nothing to advance us or those around us, naturally or spiritually. Those of us who have covenanted at the water's edge to serve the Lord all of our days should examine ourselves to see if the way we're spending our time is consistent with the commitment we've made.

Each of us has a different set of things in life that we enjoy. We can call them hobbies, pastimes, or any other term that describes the time we spend away from our daily labors. It is up to each of us to be sure that the things we do with that time do not draw us away from the Lord's presence, but rather they should draw us closer to Him. We must be sure that nothing we do in the time we're given would cause anyone to look with reproach upon us, the Church we represent, or the Lord we claim to serve.

It is important that throughout our lifetime, we continue to climb the spiritual path which leads to the mountain of the Lord's house. We can not reach a certain point on the road to heaven and then decide to stop and "rest" for a while, looking back with satisfaction at how far we've come. It's a steep climb, and if we don't keep moving upward we'll find ourselves falling. We must each constantly seek ways in which we can grow in the Lord's service. If what we're doing in our spare time isn't *bad*, but we could be doing something *better*, then we should be doing the better thing.

Each of us is responsible (and accountable) for looking at our own lives and, with God's help, ridding ourselves of the things that rob us of our time and hinder us, as individuals and as a Church, from reaching His throne. If we can't find time to hold a position of responsibility for church, or even to attend meetings, there must be *something* we can give up to *make* time for the Lord and His work here below. "Seek ye first," Jesus said, and the blessings we receive will overshadow what we thought was a sacrifice of our precious time.

If we can each make time this year to do a little bit more for the Lord and for His Church, to improve ourselves naturally and spiritually, to be better equipped to do His work, then collectively we will find ourselves doing a lot more to bring about God's eternal plan upon the face of the earth.

5

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock



What Do You Do When You've Made A Terrible Mistake?

Dear Girls and Boys,

It was a glorious, exciting time to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in the years when Alma and the sons of King Mosiah were used by God to tell the Lamanites how to serve God. Whole new nations of new believers crowded into the Nephite nation to join as one people. Mighty and marvelous miracles occurred for all to rejoice in. Testimony meetings were filled with the joy and power of God's holy promises coming to pass.

One young man, Corianton, sat by his father Alma, who was the greatest spiritual leader, and listened with all of his heart. He and his two brothers saw the power and beauty of serving God and longed with all their hearts to serve God as their father Alma and his close friends, the sons of Mosiah, did.

Alma's job as spiritual leader of the Church and chief judge over the land was not an easy one. Armed with mighty prayer, Alma would go or choose leaders to go and straighten things out. We can imagine the young Corianton's joy when he along with his brother Shiblon went with their father Alma and the great men of God Ammon, Aaron, Omner, Amulek, and Zeezrom, to stop the trouble among the Zoramite people.

Before they began their work, Alma offered up a mighty prayer of faith in these men's behalf. He prayed that God would give power and wisdom to Corianton and the others to preach strong, wise words and bring the Zoramite people to serve Christ. After he prayed for God's protection and power, he laid hands upon those who were with him and they were each filled with the Holy Spirit.

After that each man, even the young elder Corianton, separated from one another and went among the people, preaching the word of God to them. Because of Alma's prayer of faith, the Lord provided for them that they should not hunger or thirst or suffer any kind of affliction, and they received great strength from Him.

The Zoramites had become evil people indeed. The rich among them hated the poor and wouldn't let them into their fancy churches, where they had invented strange ways of pretending to worship. The rich prayed to statues and cared greatly about their money and possessions. The poor were overjoyed to learn that they could pray in their hearts and serve God truly in a simple, real way. The men of God had great success among the poorer class of people; thousands of them believed.

Yet Satan didn't give up. He began trying to destroy God's great work. He tempted the young man Corianton. Unaccustomed to being used by God, Corianton forgot the powerful prayers of his father Alma and the Holy Spirit which was upon him. He forgot how God promised great strength to His ministers. Corianton began to think he was doing so much on his own, without God's special help. He bragged about his own strength.

Then Corianton met a beautifullooking but evil woman named Isabel, who was a harlot. Harlots are the kind of women that don't want just one man to love them, but want all men to follow after them and give them money and presents. Corianton became so confused by his feelings for this wicked girl that he stopped preaching to the people and followed her out of the country.

The way Corianton was behaving confused the new members who were beginning to believe in God and trying to learn how to serve Him. When they saw their young leader chasing this bad woman, they decided that God's ways must not be the best, or else Corianton wouldn't have quit. Corianton would not listen to his older brother, who warned him against following this vain, shallow woman,

But God is in control of all that happens. The Spirit of the Lord spoke to Alma and said, "Command your children to do good, so they won't lead away the hearts of many people to destruction." Alma found his son and firmly spoke to him. He told Corianton that we cannot hide things from God. Unless we ask to be forgiven for the things we do wrong, they will be held against us on the day of judgment. Corianton had done much harm by thinking God's power was his own power and that he was the one doing good and not God working within him. When he'd chased after the harlot, the Zoramite people wouldn't believe Alma's words.

Corianton was aware that he had done wrong. Alma answered some of his other questions about life and resurrection and then commanded his son to listen to the advice of his older brothers, to never let the devil lead away his heart after sinful women and to turn again and serve God with all his heart, soul, and mind.

Corianton was sent back to the land of the Zoramites to admit what he'd done wrong, to confess all of his faults, and to continue serving God. Can you imagine the joy in the ears of those that heard this young man-no longer proud and boastful, but humbly full of honesty and love and joy of the Lord? The Book of Mormon reports that Alma and his sons went forth among the people preaching the truth according to the spirit of prophecy and revelation with great success, bringing many Zoramites to serve God. Corianton's terrible mistake was used to lead others to do good.

Alma 39-42

Sincerely, Sister Jan

Branch and Mission News

Anaheim, CA

By Pam Capone

Visiting our branch on Sunday, July 21, 1985 were Bro. Paul and Sis. Orletta Liberto from the San Diego Branch, Bro. Frank and Sis. Carol Dorsey from New Jersey, Bro. Doug and Sis. Ethel Henderson from Windsor, Bro. Ben Moore from the Valley Branch, and Sis. Beverly Schuette and her daughter Laurie from Florida.

Our visiting elder, Bro. Paul Liberto, spoke to us about what we have in our lives and how we need to have patience and wait on the Lord. He used Psalm 46 where it says, "Be still, and know that I am God."

On Saturday, July 27, many brothers, sisters and friends gathered together along with their soap and sponges at a corner filling station in Anaheim for a fund-raising car wash. This proved to be very successful as we raised money and had a good time with one another.

Visiting us on Sunday July 28 were Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Henderson from the Riverside Mission, Bro. Tony and Sis. Lydia Picciuto from Lindsay, and Sis. Beverly and Laurie Schuette from Florida.

"Love" was the theme that our Brothers Lloyd and Tony brought out how we must become more united in the love of God.

On Sunday August 4 we had with us two young sisters from San Diego, Kathleen Biddle and Mary Alaburda.

Corine Rachel, newly born daughter of Bro. Rusty Jr. and Caryn Heaps, was blessed in the Church by her grandfather, Bro. Rusty Heaps.

Sunday August 11 was a day Bro. Alex Krywenko will certainly remember, as this was the day of his baptism. Bro. Alex was baptized by Bro. Rusty Heaps and confirmed by Bro. Walt Jankowski.

Sisters Janice and Lynette Huttenberger sang *The Way That He Loves* in dedication to our new brother. Visiting us on this special day were Joe and Sis. Carolyn Micallef of Windsor, Ontario, and Sis. Santina Mercuri, Bro. Oscar Lopez, and Sis. Alma Granados of the Santa Ana Mission.

Feeling God's beautiful Spirit and her own personal repentance and conviction, Barbara Gamache rose to her feet during the testimony meeting and asked for her baptism. Sis. Barbara was baptized the following Sunday in San Diego at the California District Conference by Bro. Walt Jankowski and was confirmed by Bro. Paul Liberto.

On August 25 we were blessed with many visitors. Bro. Tom, Sis. Tava, and Kim Jones from the Bell Branch, Sis. Santina Mercuri and Bro. Louis Metzger from Santa Ana, Bro. David and Sis. Diane Koeth from Lindsay, Sandy ed out to be a huge success; and for this we are so thankful! Many brothers and sisters and friends from all over California as well as other districts came to share in the good times, both natural and spiritual.

 $\overline{7}$

Saturday evening, August 31, started the weekend off with a "Pizza-Dinner-Singspiration-Awards Night." The dinner began at 5:00 p.m., followed by a singspiration which included, as one brother put it, "smiles, chuckles, tears, and songs." The evening consisted of a "Church Intelligence Contest," with men vs. women--the men winning by only one point. Duets, solos, young people's group, "Over 60" group, the Anaheim Choir, a Spanish group, and congregational singing started off the evening.

Next came the "Awards Night" portion of our meeting. The brothers and



Top row left to right: Sis. Lucy Hemp, Sis. Nancy Ciotti, Sis. Elizabeth Simpson, Sis. Geraldine Garofalo (Holding plaque for her mother, the late Sis. Sophia Garofalo). Bottom row left to right: Sis. Helen Stroud, Sis. Millie Branum, Sis. Annette Labanauskas. Not pictured are Sisters Carolyn Girardi, Sadie Nicosia, and the late Sis. Josephine Palermo.

O'Brien (now of the Anaheim Branch), Dave and Sis. Sue Groner of the Valley Branch, and Sis. Elizabeth Gerace of Detroit's Inner City Branch.

Our visiting Brother Tom Jones spoke to us and brought to our attention how many people are lulled into a "false sense of security"—how that many people sit back and do nothing, thinking that they are secure in the Church. Bro. Tom warned us not to get caught up in that type of attitude, that in fact there is always work to be done for the Lord that each of us can do.

Labor Day weekend in Anaheim turn-

sisters of Anaheim honored ten sisters of the branch for their service and consistency in the Church and their love for the Lord. These ten sisters were presented with beautiful plaques with their names engraved on them. Three of these sisters have celebrated fifty years or more in the service of the Lord.

The following is a poem that Brother Rusty Heaps was inspired to write in honor of our faithful sisters:

There are those that come and join the Church,

(Continued on Page 9)

8 February, 1986

Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

Sunday, August 25, 1985 was a most memorable day for many brothers and sisters of the Michigan-Ontario District, particularly for those of us at Detroit Branch 3. But this day will always have a special place in the heart and mind of our newly baptized brother, Nick Francione.

Bro. Nick had asked for his baptism the preceding Thursday at the GMBA Campout in White Oak, South Carolina. Many brothers and sisters from throughout the Michigan-Ontario District gathered in great anticipation for this long-awaited event. In addition to our local visitors, Brother Freddie D'Antonio from Aliquippa, PA, along with Brothers Carl Amato and Walter Laird from McKees Rocks, PA came to Detroit on their way home from the Campout to witness this baptism.

Brother Nick Francione was born and raised in the Church and has attended services at Branch 3 for many, many years. He is known throughout the Church and has been active in Campout activities, as well as providing other labors and services for the Church through the years.

As many gathered at the water's edge, Bro. Gary Coppa opened in prayer. Bro. Paul Whitton baptized Bro. Nick, and Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo closed in prayer. At the start of the confirmation service, Bro. Louis Vitto led the congregation in a season of singing.

Bro. Norman Campitelle felt inspired to testify about the sequence of events that occurred in his life which prompted him to call for his baptism. He also reminisced about his relationship with Bro. Nick in the days of their youth.

Bro. Dominic Moraca spoke about the outstanding events of the past Campout and what they meant for him. He also commented on the theme of this year's Camp Song. Bro. Eugene Amormino spoke of the enthusiasm which came about because of this and previous Campouts. Then Bro. Carl Frammolino related stories from his youth and his association with Bro. Nick. He told how both were active in sports and about the friendship their parents shared.

Approximately thirty elders encircled Bro. Nick as they petitioned God for the deliverance of His Holy Spirit. Bro. Dominic Moraca led this prayer and Bro. Carl Frammolino confirmed Bro. Nick.

Bro. Nick expressed himself briefly. He cited that through most of his life he avoided baptism because he felt that as an individual, he had done nothing bad in the sight of God and felt that baptism was not necesary. He finally realized that baptism was essential if he wanted to share a place with God in heaven. He also noted the change that has come about in his life as a result of his decision. And he encouraged others who were not baptized to think about their current state of (un)spirituality and to consider a closer relationship with God. In concluding, he expressed his regret that his mother, who had recently passed away, was not here to witness this event.

Bro. Nick Pietrangelo then reassured Bro. Francione that his mother had indeed witnessed this great event. Several years ago, Sister Grace Francione related to Bro. Pietrangelo a vision wherein she saw her son, Bro. Nick, being baptized and she knew that one day it would come to pass!

Sis. Tracey Francione, Bro. Nick's daughter, was asked to reiterate the testimony she gave at Campout. In addition, she told her father she was available to give him spiritual advice, since spiritually, she's a little older than him.

A period of fellowship and refreshments followed the confirmation meeting. For this joyous occasion we give thanks unto God and pray that He will always guide and direct Bro. Nick in all his ways.

Ft. Pierce, FL

Dean C. Romano of Ft. Pierce, FL was baptized at the 1985 GMBA Campout in White Oak, SC on August 20 by Bro. John D'Orazio. He was confirmed that day by Bro. V. James Lovalvo. From Campout Bro. Dean moved his residence to Detroit, MI. May God bless him in his new life there.

By Joanne Graziosi

On Sunday, November 24, the Forida District met at the Fort Pierce Branch for their Spiritual Gathering. It was surely a day of rejoicing as the Lord showered His blessings upon us. Judy Graziosi, from Fort Pierce, made her desire to be baptized known the evening before, and we met at the water's edge on Sunday morning. Sis. Judy's grandfather, Bro. Sam Costarella, baptized her. The Lord blesed us with a beautiful spirit and everyone felt the 'first love' that Sister Judy felt. This was a double blessing for the Fort Pierce Branch, as Judy's husband Joe had been baptized the week before. Bro. Joe is the son of Sister Joanne Graziosi and the grandson of Brother Sam and Sister Ann Costarella.

All the saints returned to the church and Brother Dominic Moraca opened the meeting in prayer. Sis. Judy was called forward, and the elders encircled her and a prayer for the power of the Spirit was offered by Bro. John D'Orazio. Then Sis. Judy was confirmed into the Church by Bro. Tony Ensana.

After a few hymns were sung, Bro. Nephi DeMercurio delivered an inspiring sermon taken from Philippians Chapter 4, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Bro. Nick Pietrangelo followed and spoke on thinking positively. The world is negative and we should show them the love that Christ gave us. Both brothers were inspired by the Lord and we all shared in the blessings.

The priesthood administered Communion and turned the meeting over to testimony. Brother Ken Hatch asked to be renewed in the Church and the spirit of repentance was felt in his expressions. Our service came to an end, and all went their separate ways, but we felt a new unity with one another.

On December 1, 1985 the Fort Pierce Branch met at the waters of baptism once again, as two new converts, Sister Geryl Ann Hatch and her husband, Brother Mark Jonathan Hatch, had made their desire to be baptized known earlier in the week. Bro. Frank Rogolino baptized the couple and a blessing was felt by all who witnessed the baptism.

Bro. Sam Costarella confirmed Sis. Geryl and Bro. Frank Rogolino confirmed Bro. Mark.

Brother Vincent Moore and his wife Sherry brought their newborn daughter, Ashley Danielle, to be blessed by Bro. Frank Rogolino.

It was a day well spent for the Fort Pierce saints. We feel so thankful that

MISSIONARY VISIT continued . . .

Ghana—in Accra Town, Kumasi, or the Gulf Port of Tema, or even in Kenya, the request was the same: "Bring the Church here and we will help you."

We have the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ and oh, how we want to carry it to the people of this world, who are dying without really knowing of Jesus Christ and His plan of salvation as we know it. Brother Dominic Thomas spoke in April of 1985 of a dream he had had about "the Great Work of the Lord." Bringing the message of the Lord Jesus Christ, His Church Restored, and the plan of salvation to the nations of the world is what that great work is all about. May God bless all the saints throughout the Church and those who read *The Gospel News*.

IN LOVING MEMORY continued. . .

was paid and his train was going to Heaven. He was also told what track his train was leaving from.

We have lost a faithful husband, a loving father, but most of all, **a dedicated servant of God.**

Sis. Rose Corrado

PRECIOUS MOMENTS

The day dad passed away, I was given the following experience:

About an hour before he died, I was sitting at the foot of his bed watching him suffer when the words of a hymn came to me very strongly, When in affliction's valley/I tread the road of care,/My Savior helps me carry/The cross so heavy to bear. After these words were given to me, I began to pray and asked God to please help our dad carry the cross of affliction which was upon him and ease his sufferings. Then a few more words of the same hymn came to me, I have a peace in knowing/My Savior stands between. These words were a comfort to me, to know that God was there with my dad and stood between him and his affliction. After these words came to me, my dad, who had been sleeping, became very restless; so I went over to him and held his hand and put my arm around him. My husband, Jack, came into the room about then. and I asked him to offer a prayer. His words were, "Lord, give Your servant peace." About ten minutes after Jack prayed, daddy tried to say something but wasn't able.

We knew by looking at the heart monitor that he was slipping away from this life. As he came close to death, the look of suffering on his face changed to a look of peace. When he died, the look of peace on his face was of great comfort to me. A special kind of peace entered that small hospital room, a peace which cannot be described. It was very difficult to let go and let God have His way, but I will never forget the look of peace on dad's face as he took his last breath.

I wondered why this particular hymn was given to me, so a couple of days later I got my hymnal and read the words over. The last verse goes like this:

He died on Calv'ry's mountain, For me they pierced His side, For me He opened that fountain, The crimson, cleansing tide; For me He waiteth in glory. Seated upon His throne; He promised never to leave me, Never to leave me alone.

The words, "For me He waiteth in glory, seated upon His throne," were an assurance to me that daddy had gone to his Heavenly reward where the Lord was waiting for him, and I'm sure He never left daddy alone.

Sis. Esther Ford

ANAHEIM continued . . .

- And they stay a while, then take their leave.
- But there are those that make a commitment to God:
- They stay on and serve so that others may receive.
- We honor those that are before us,
- With a plaque and a few words of love,
- But the Lord does honor those that gave
- Of themselves with blessings from above.
- The Lord gave them blessings of long life
- And the blessings of strength to endure All of the heartaches and hardships of living
- With the blessings of a heart that is pure.
- So God bless you always, our dear Sisters,
- And may the years that are left
- Be full of joy and happiness

To be remembered as your best.

The next day, September 1, 1985, we met together for our Sunday service. What a wonderful sight it was to see the branch filled with visiting brothers, sisters, and friends.

Bro. Rusty Heaps opened the meeting and spoke on what the Lord requires of us as His servants. He used Deuteronomy 10:12-14, "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 command thee this day for thy good? Behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, and the earth also, with all that therein is."

Bro. Otto Henderson followed on the same theme, stating that every book in the Bible tells you how to serve God, and all we need to do is look to find out what is expected of us.

The Labor Day picnic on Monday was certainly a day filled with fun, competition, sunshine, great food, and friendly faces as many attended the Anaheim Sunday School Picnic. Planned activities at the picnic included softball, volleyball, lunch, an "olympic" obstacle course, a *pinata* for the children, and a bake sale auction.

We thank all of those who worked to make Labor Day Weekend in Anaheim a success and to all of those who traveled to attend and share in the good time.

An exciting project that is under way in Anaheim is our "Outreach Program." This program is a result of the Missionary Outreach Training Workshop pilot program that was held in Tse Bonito, NM in August 1985. Six brothers and sisters from Anaheim had attended the workshop, and returned with a new excitement for the missionary work in our own community. These six individuals have formed a committee and will be working along with the ministry in setting up projects to get the branch involved in missionary work. Committee members are Bro. Paul and Sis. Kay Gray, Bro. Alex Krywenko, Sis. Ruth Meo, Bro. Bob Sullivan, and Sis. Amaya Genaro.

The committee plans to get the branch involved in visiting hospitals, old age homes, juvenile halls, the Orange County Indian Center, etc.

We thank God for this new project and our prayer is that we might be the tools that the Lord will use in spreading the Gospel and bringing forth Zion. 10 February, 1986

FT. PIERCE continued . . .

the Lord has blessed us with two young couples in three weeks—Bro. Mark and Sis. Geryl, and Brother Joe and Sister Judy Graziosi. Their enthusiasm gives us much joy and happiness in our branch.

ATLANTIC COAST continued . . .

knowing that the work of spreading the Gospel in that city is being increased by God.

We cannot all be with our Brother Peterkin in the work God has assigned to him, but we can most certainly pray for the growth and perhaps the eventual establishment of a branch of the Church there.

Brother Nathan would surely like to hear of your support. If you are ever in the state of South Carolina, a visit to his home would be most welcomed. If a visit is not possible, a short letter would do. The address is:

> 715¹/₂ South Converse Street Spartanburg, SC 29301

The current meeting schedule is:

Preaching and Fellowship-Sunday 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Bible and Book of Mormon Study-Wednesday 7 to 8 p.m.

Prayer Meeting-Friday 7 to 8 p.m.

Fast & Prayer-Last Saturday of each month.

WISCASSET, ME

Bro. Richard Onorato is the elder in charge of the mission in Wiscasset, Maine. The present membership there is fourteen. The mission in Maine was started as a result of Bro. John and our late Sister Elizabeth Onorato's moving

their family there from Brooklyn, NY.

Our late Brother Frank Zayher, being an elder in the Church, made frequent trips to Maine, visiting his sister and brother-in-law, the Onoratos, and the result is that today the Atlantic Coast has a mission there. Our hope and prayer is that some day this mission will become a branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. There are families with children in the Church at this mission, and wherever there are children in the Church, the Church will be sure to grow. At the present time there have been seven children blessed in the Church at this mission.

Brothers Richard Onorato, Jr. and Edward Onorato are ordained teachers in the Church. Sis. Marie Perillo is a deaconess, and on September 22, Bro. Bruce Churchill was ordained a deacon. Each of the saints here express a strong desire to serve God and are grateful for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Richard is also dedicated to much prayer for the spiritual work in this part of the country. He is kept busy looking after the needs of the brothers and sisters in Maine. His wife, Sister Mary, gives him great support. Where there is only one elder to look after the flock, the brothers need all the support they can get.

Thus it has become the interest of the Atlantic Coast Mission Board to visit and encourage the saints of our outlying missions to remain faithful to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church, and to support and pray for their ministry. Also, that we may show our concern and support for our missionaries and the work God has entrusted to their care.

The schedule of meetings in Maine is as follows:

Sunday School-10:00 a.m.

Preaching and Fellowship-Sunday

11.00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bible and Book of Mormon Study-Tuesday 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Fast & Prayer-Last Saturday of each month.

Their place of worship is currently in Bro. Richard's home on old Route #1 in Wiscasset, Maine. The saints there are looking some day to have a church building of their own. Any who might like to send Bro. Rich and the saints a short note, it will be appreciated. If you are passing through the state of Maine, visit them on a Sunday morning and you will have the privilege of meeting the membership of that mission.

We are including here pictures of the saints in South Carolina and Maine. There are other missions like these that are far from the established Branches and Districts of the Church. Brother Dominic Thomas at one of our conferences called these places the Church's "outposts" and stressed their need to be remembered in all of our prayers.

We would like to hear a few lines from other districts who have "outpost" missions far from the mainstream of the Church where brothers and sisters are laboring to bring the Gospel to the dying souls of men. Be sure to include addresses and/or phone numbers so the saints can get in touch if they're in the neighborhood, or just to call or write to say hello.—Ed.



Brothers and sisters of Wiscasset, ME Mission.

An Indian Prayer

O Great Spirit,

Whose voice I hear in the winds,

And whose breath gives life to all the world, hear me! I am small and weak, I need your strength and wisdom.

Let me walk in beauty, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy—myself.

Make me always ready to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

* WEDDINGS *

NARO-D'ANTONIO

Brother Mark Naro and Sister Carey Beth D'Antonio were united in holy matrimony on August 31, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Paul Palmieri, with the assistance of Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Fred Olexa. Musical selections were presented by the Aliquippa Trio, Bro. Ken Staley, and the groom's sister, Sis. Carla Dziak. Sis. Sharon Staley served as organist.

The newly married couple will reside in Lorain, Ohio. Our hope is that the Lord will bless them in their life together.

PICCIUTO-BROWNING

Mr. David Picciuto and Miss Lori Browning were united in marriage on February 23, 1985 in Modesto, California. The groom's father, Bro. Dan Picciuto, presided over the ceremony, with Bro. Leonard Lovalvo assisting.

Musical selections were played on the piano by the groom's aunt, Sister Rose Deulus, and Bro. Bruce Picciuto, a cousin of the groom, was soloist.

The couple are residing in Modesto, California. May God bless them.

<u>CAMARDA-SPACY</u>

Mr. Sam Camarda and Miss D'Janelle Spacy were united in holy matrimony on June 8, 1985 in Modesto, California. Bro. Mark Randy presided over the ceremony, with Bro. Joseph Lovalvo assisting.

Piano selections were played by Joseph Parravano, with Sister Rose Lovalvo as soloist. The couple also sang *Born Again* to each other.

The newlyweds are residing in Modesto, California. May God bless them in their new life together.

PICCIUTO-McDANIELS

Mr. Daniel Picciuto and Miss Paula McDaniels were united in marriage on August 10, 1985 in Modesto, California. The father of the groom, Bro. Dan Picciuto, presided, with the groom's uncle, Bro. Tony Picciuto of Lindsay, California assisting.

Music was provided by Bro. Tony DeCaro at the piano, and Bro. Bruce Picciuto, cousin of the groom, as soloist.

The couple are residing in Modesto, California. May God bless their lives together.

New Arrivals

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

Ashley Danielle to Vincent Edwin and Sherry Lynn Moore of Fort Pierce, Florida.

Tyler Daniel to Dan and Karla Ciarolla of Modesto, California.

Jason Michael to Mick and Marie (Ausilio) Stephens of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Children Blessed

Natalie Duarte was blessed on September 29, 1985 in the Modesto Branch by Brother Leonard Lovalvo. Her parents are Hector and Jelipa Duarte of the Oakdale Mission.

OBITUARIES

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

KATHLEEN REBROSKY

Sister Kathleen Hnatt Rebrosky of the Greensburg, PA Branch passed from this life on October 21, 1985. She was baptized and confirmed into the Church on August 28, 1977 by Brother Paul Gehly. Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Paul Gehly on October 23, 1985. Sis. Kathleen is survived by her husband, Robert J. Rebrosky, along with five brothers and several nieces and nephews.

Sister Kathleen was an inspiration to us all. She was blessed with caring and compassion. The gifts she exercised in her life will remain in the hearts of those who knew her. She will be missed by her husband Bob and the many who came to know her.

SOPHIA GAROFALO

Sister Sophia Garofalo of the Anaheim, CA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away unto her eternal reward on August 16, 1985.

Sis. Sophia was born on November 7, 1904 in Naples, Italy, and came to the United States of America when she was three years old.

The funeral service was officiated by Bro. Rusty Heaps with the assistance of Bro. Walt Jankowski. Her favorite hymns, *In the Garden* and *In the Sweet By and By*, were played at the service.

Sis. Sophie is survived by her children: Eizabeth Gerace of Detroit, Sam and Frank Garofalo and Priscilla Kerner of Ohio, and Dan Garofalo, Ruth Maurick, and Geraldine Garofalo of California. She is also survived by eight brothers and sisters, ten grandchildren, and seven greatgrandchildren.

The things dearest to Sister Sophia's heart were her natural family, her spiritual family, cooking, and gardening.

WILLIAM WITTACK

Brother William Wittack of the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on

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Phone	
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November 14, 1985. He was born on May 7, 1918 and baptized into the Church on January 13, 1974.

Brothers Charles Smith and Anthony Ensana officiated at the funeral service.

Bro. Wittack is survived by one sister, Sis. Louise Micale, with whom he made his home. Our Brother Bill will surely be missed by all the saints of Fort Pierce.

CATHERINE CLOWERS

Sister Catherine Sherwood Clowers passed away June 25, 1985. She was born on November 7, 1891 and baptized into the Church in the early part of 1913.

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Harry Marshall and Robert McDonnell of the Bell, CA Branch.

Sister Clowers leaves to mourn her passing her husband, George Clowers, two sons, two granddaughters, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren.

Our sister was one of ten children born to Jacob and Catherine Beither, all of whom were blessed by Bro. William Bickerton in Zion's Valley, St. John, Kansas. Her grandparents, as well as her parents, who were one of the first couples married in Zion's Valley, were all members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

ARLENE GAMBLE

Sister Arlene Gamble passed on to her eternal reward on June 15, 1985. She was a member of the Modesto, California Branch of the Church, baptized in 1953 by Bro. Mark Randy. She was born on June 23, 1910.

Her funeral was conducted by Brothers Mark Randy, Joseph Lovalvo, and Leonard Lovalvo.

She is survived by two sons, Leroy and Larry, and their children.

Sister Arlene was a faithful sister, Modesto's organist and choir director. She loved music so much, and planned her favorite selections to be sung at her funeral. She will be missed by all.

ANNIE MAURO

Sister Annie Mauro passed on to her heavenly reward on July 27, 1985. A member of the Modesto, California Branch, she was born on October 13, 1903 in Italy.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Mark Randy and Joseph Lovalvo.

She is survived by many children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She was a faithful sister and will be missed greatly by all the saints.



Apostle Mourned

By Linda Italiano

Our Brother Apostle Angelantonio (Anthony) Corrado passed on to his eternal reward on December 18, 1985. having served the Church in the office of an apostle for nearly forty-five years.

Brother Tony was born July 26, 1903 in Bugnara, Italy, and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on January 7, 1923. He was ordained an elder on July 15 of that year and was called to the quorum of Seventy on July 17, 1927.

Bro. Tony's father, Bro. Joseph Corrado, also served as an apostle in the Church. After Bro. Joe passed away. Bro. Tony dreamed that his father came to him dressed as a general. In his hand he held a uniform, similar to the one he was wearing. He said to his son, "This is yours. Prove faithful and the Lord will bless you. As for me, I have finished my work."

On July 20, 1941, Bro. Tony Corrado was called and ordained into the quorum of Twelve. Last December, he, too, finished his work.

Bro. Tony's funeral was truly a time of reflection. We felt a joy that he had reached the day that he had looked forward to, yet we also felt an emptiness, knowing the place he had filled so lovingly and tenderly in our lives was now vacant.

The service was opened in prayer by Apostle Gorie Ciaravino of Detroit Branch 4. Bro. Ralph Berardino of Youngstown, Ohio, Bro. Tony's home branch, read the obituary. The congregation then sang The Pearly White City.

Apostle Russell Cadman of Fredonia, PA spoke of Bro. Tony as one of the great men of the Church, one who had a direct influence on all our lives. He read from Revelation 21:1-7 regarding the city John saw, and from II Timothy 4:7 & 8, paralleling life of Bro. Tony with that of the Apostle Paul. The congregation then sang one of Bro. Tony's favorite hymns from the Italian hymnal, Benedetto sia Sempre il Signore (sung to the tune of In the Sweet By and By).

Apostle Frank Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio acknowledged our dear brother as a "gallant soldier." He told how Bro. Tony was uplifting to all and looked after everyone, a gift granted to him through his father's prayer.

Bro. Dominic Thomas spoke of the personal way Bro. Tony touched his own life, as he did the lives of so many of us present this day. He told of Bro. Tony's greatness in the Quorum, of his strength to all the other apostles, and of his involvement in all the facets of the Church, from the General Church on down to the Branch level. He implored each of us to be unique spiritually, that we would be remembered for what we left behind us as Bro. Tony was being remembered today.

The service was concluded at the cemetery with the congregation singing O Paradise, and the reading of the final words of the Book of Mormoin by Bro.

(Continued on Page 7)

Volume 42, No. 3

GMBA Campout 1986 "Be a Part from the Start"

This year's camp marks the 20th Anniversary of the GMBA Campouts. In those twenty years of camps there have been countless blessings, experiences, conversions, and overall good times for all who have been a part of these events. All of us who have enjoyed camps in the past can attest to the benefits of attending a GMBA Campout. It seems that because of the efforts that have gone into camps both naturally and, more importantly, spiritually, the Lord has poured out His richest blessings upon all those who have attended. I myself remember offering my first testimony at a campout and even before being baptized receiving many wonderful blessings.

In a few short months, GMBA Campout 1986 will be upon us. Now is the time to begin preparations to BE A PART FROM THE START!! Those who have been a part of camps in the past are invited to return once again this year and enjoy reminiscing over twenty years of campout memories. And, for those of you who have never experienced the joy of attending a campout, we encourage you to make this year the first. The Lord will surely bless you for your efforts.

This year's camp will be held at beautiful Epworth Forest, located in

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Miracles of Our Times

Greetings in Christ to all readers.

"I speak unto all the ends of the earth—that if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief. And wo be unto the children of men if this be the case. . . . If there be one among you that doeth good, he shall work by the power and gifts of God" (Moroni 10:24 & 25).

The Church in Detroit began missionary work at Muncey, Ontario, Canada in the early 1930's.

We found this mission very promising, our enthusiasm being stimulated by the interest and love that was making this work a success. The love of God was practiced to the fullest. Some of us young people wanted to travel to Muncey as often as possible.

Miracles were real as the love for one another was real. There was an old blind woman who would attend regularly. Her name was Elizabeth Muskellunge. Her nephew, Angus Deleary, was bringing her to church every Sunday.

One Sunday, she requested to be baptized. Brother Matthew Miller, who was in charge at that time, performed the baptism. As our new sister was immersed into the waters of the Thames River and began to come out of the water, Bro. Miller wiped the water from her face with his hand. Suddenly Sis. Elizabeth shouted, "I see a hand!" We who were witnessing this baptism were shocked and amazed as we watched her running out of the water, her eyes wide open. "I can see! I can see!" she repeated. She was dancing for joy, there were tears of joy, and songs of praise filled the air.

The news spread fast. Sis. Muskellunge had been blind for sixteen years. Some were doubtful at the phenomenon, but some praised God. Many came to visit her, considering what had happened a miracle. Others only thought of it as a coincidence or a temporary situation, but Sis. Elizabeth could see well enough to thread a needle. Several baptisms resulted from this conversional miracle.

Shortly after this incident, I was ordained an elder. I made missionary trips to Muncey more often, along with other elders. Sister Phoebe Hall had been sick for quite some time. Her illness eventually developed into tuberculosis.

Her situation was a torture to my soul, as many prayers had been offered in her behalf, but she was getting worse. One day as Sis. Phoebe lay on a bench coughing, my mind was in agony, as I listened to the endless coughing and spitting. In my heart I was in constant pleading to a merciful God: "My God, my God, is there no mercy, God, for this poor woman? Is there no one that cares?"

Of what value was my ministry, I thought, if I could not heal this poor dying sister?

I rose to my feet and said, "I am going to anoint and pray for Phoebe."

The small group knelt and everyone was praying, as their hearts were touched also by her plight.

After the anointing Phoebe walkedhome instead of riding on the usual horse and buggy. She was healed and lived to 87 years old.

In spite of the poverty among these Chippewa people at the time, they were the most thankful people on earth, praising God openly at home, at church, and in the fields as they worked as farm laborers. It was their testimony that opened the doors for the Gospel to spread to Mt. Brydges, Ontario, and Cedar Springs and Farwell, Michigan. Warren Nellis and others of Farwell were visiting near Muncey when they heard of the Church. As they worked in

(Continued on Page 3)

50th Anniversaries

By Anthony J. Scolaro

October 20, 1985 was a special day at Branch 1 in Detroit as we gathered to observe fifty years in the Gospel for Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo and Sister Josephine Buffa.

While he's been presiding elder of Branch 4 for the past year, most of Bro. Nick's years in the Church have been spent at Branch 1, so we invited all of Branch 4 to come over today and rejoice with us as we honored our two senior members.



Bro. Nick Pietrangelo

Before our meeting got under way, Bro. Louis Pietrangelo gave a brief outline of our Bro. Nick's and Sis. Josephine's years in the Church. Brother Nick was baptized on October 13, 1935 in Detroit, Michigan by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico and was confirmed by Bro. Thurman S. Furnier. He was ordained a teacher by Bro. Anthony Pietrangelo on January 9, 1938. On August 4, 1946 he was ordained an elder by Bro. Joseph Lovalvo. He was ordained an evangelist on July 18, 1948 by Bro. Joe Lovalvo. On May 4, 1974 he was ordained an apostle by Bro. Gorie Ciaravino.

Our Sister Josephine Buffa was baptized in Detroit on November 3, 1935 by

An Experience

By Mabel Bickerton

During my recent stay in the hospital, I received many cards, gifts, and flowers. The long, wide window sill in the room was filled with beautiful flowers. One day my nurse said she would push the wheelchair so I could sit among the flowers. I replied, "It's like being in a garden."

One morning after I returned home, I was thinking about this incident when this poem, *The Garden*, came to me. I want to dedicate it to all of you, who showed your love and remembered me in prayer. It was overwhelming.

Thanks again and may God bless you.

Sincerely, Sister Mabel Bickerton

The Garden

There is a garden and I have been there, A garden of love, of hope and prayer. The place is bright and tended with care By the Master's touch on colors so rare.

- The Gardener is there with His tools of love,
- Pruning each plant with a smile from above.
- The flowers all nod with a greeting gay, "Good morning," they say, "Have a lovely day."
- These beauties have come from the East and the West
- To show much concern and to wish me the best.
- They know how it helps and lightens the load
- Along my pathway and down the road.

Mem'ries shall linger for many a year Of friends, brothers, sisters, from far

- and near. I thank the dear Lord for our fellowship
- sweet,
- And some day in the garden, we all shall meet.

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

Bro. Patsy DiBattista and was also confirmed by Bro. DiBattista. Along with her husband, Bro. Vito Buffa, Sis. Josephine spent many years doing missionary work in California. Sis. Sadie Nicosia of Anaheim, CA is her natural sister.

Sis. Josephine also has four children in the Church, Bro. Pete Buffa of the Saline Mission, Bro. John Buffa of the Sterling Heights Branch, Sis. Rose Altomare of Lorain, Ohio, and Sis. Frances Palposi of Branch 1.

As the congregation sang The Longer I Serve Him, the Sweeter He Grows, a corsage and boutonniere were pinned on Sis. Josephine and Bro. Nick respectively. We then sang Sister Esther Dyer's hymn, First Love.

Bro. Dominic Moraca read Psalms 1:1 & 2, "Blessed is the man who walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, etc." He also quoted Bro. W. H. Cadman, who often would say, "Consistency, thou jewel." Our brother and sister today have been a delight to the Lord in their consistent service to Him and to His Church. It is a beautiful experience to give your life to the Lord in your youth and to proceed in a consistent manner through the years.

Bro. Nick Pietrangelo offered a word of testimony, thanking God, for were it not for Him, nothing would be possible. Bro. Nick was especially grateful to have an understanding and supportive wife, whom he left at home so many times when called to do the work of the Lord. He quoted the Savior, saying, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God." This has been his testimony, and the Lord has truly blessed him.



Sis. Josephine Buffa

Our Sister Josephine Buffa thanked God for all things, for the Restored Gospel, and for her children, who have taken hold of the Gospel as well. After our sister gave her testimony, her son Bro. Pete Buffa rose to his feet and offered his thanks to God on behalf of his family for his mother, Sis. Josephine. Also visiting from the Saline Mission today were Bro. Pete's children and grandchildren.

After the Lord's Supper, Bro. Gorie Ciaravino offered some closing remarks regarding service to the Church, using Bro. Nick as an example. He told how through the years Bro. Nick has served, not only in his ordained capacities, but also on countless boards and committees. He never turned down an office saying that he didn't have time. He was dedicated to the responsibilities that the Lord placed upon him in the Church, whatever it was. Prior to his ordination into the Quorum of twelve, Bro. Nick was executive secretary of the General Church for over 30 years.

Because of our many visitors from across town, the Ladies' Circle of Branch 1 hosted a luncheon for all in attendance this morning. We enjoyed a season of fellowship with the family of God, and left rejoicing in the blessings we'd received.

GREETINGS continued . . .

the fields during the summer, the saints would sing hymns and talk of the glory of God.

Curiosity caused some to come and see what had made these Indian people such good workers and why they carried such happy attitudes. One hymn that was sung often had words to this effect: Jesus knows all about our struggles, He will guide 'til the day is o'er.

There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus, no, not one.

Notice

The Clairton, Pennsylvania Established Mission has a new mailing address:

> The Church of Jesus Christ Clairton Estb. Mission P.O. Box 491 Clairton, PA 15025

GMBA 1985: Moving Forward into 1986

By Ryan Gene Ross, GMBA Editor

The November 9, 1985 GMBA Conference held at the General Church Auditorium near Greensburg, PA featured progress in various projects, reflected on a wonderful campout, and prepared for greater times ahead in 1986. After an opening hymn and prayer, GMBA officers opened the conference on a spiritual note as recently baptized "Brother and (his) Sister" Jim and Doreen Schmidt of Metuchen, NJ; Sister Jamie Hickman of New Bern, NC; and Brother Nick Francione of Detroit Branch 3 were invited to share their testimonies. Each testimony was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Business began with the roll call of officers and those "present and absent" are noted in the forthcoming GMBA minutes (to be read aloud in your local meetings). The conference then sought to "finish" the unfinished business.

The **Religious Awareness Pamphlet** is only one religion (Greek Orthodox) away from completion and submission to the General Church for its review and recommendations. The **Pen Pal Program** was reported to be active. This program allows MBA members of all ages to write to members and young people of the Church in various mission fields, both foreign and domestic, who are eager to hear from their American counterparts.

The recently-revised **MBA By-Laws** are being reviewed by the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. The **Book of Mormon Concordance** project suffered a slight setback when some of the paper used in printing proved to be of inferior quality. However, the printing of the concordance should not be delayed significantly. A draft of the **Welcome Packet** project, directed toward the printing of a brief summary of the proceedings of our meetings and our beliefs for first-time visitors to the Church, has been submitted to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles as well for their review and approval.

The GMBA officers then gave their respective reports. On a financial note, the GMBA collected over \$9,300 from January 1 to June 30 of 1985, one third of which was raised through the special projects drive. This was accomplished with the participation of only 50% of reporting MBA locals! We encourage *all* locals to assist in this drive to support the missionary function of the General Missionary Benevolent Association. A detailed review of the officers' reports is presented in the GMBA minutes. However, of special note is the Camp Director's report by Bro. Brian Martorana:

Campout '85, held in White Oak, South Carolina, was a tremendous spiritual event. God's presence was manifested through experiences such as dreams, visions, the gift of tongues, and the interpretation thereof. Saints from the Carolinas introduced us to a song (which ultimately became this year's Camp theme song) written by Sister Esther Dyer, entitled First Love. This song set the tone for the week as the love of God touched the hearts of fifteen men and women who were moved upon to ask for their baptism! Long-term holdouts (now "real Brothers") Bill LaRosa (of Gastonia, NC) and Nick Francione joined the Army of the Lord along with these thirteen other new members:

Dean Romano	-Ft. Pierce, FL		
	(Now Det. Br. 1)		
Jamie Hickman	-New Bern, NC		
	(Gastonia Mission)		
Dana Lowe	-Tampa, FL		
Larry Ali	-Hollywood, FL		
Terri Rossi	-Aliquippa, PA		
Carey Giovannone	-Warren, OH		
Lisa Cartino	-Warren, OH		
Robin Cartino	-Warren, OH		
Michele Hildenbrand-Cape Coral, FL			
Becky Rogolino	-Brooklyn, NY		
Doreen Schmidt	-Metuchen, NJ		
Jim Schmidt	-Metuchen, NJ		
Andre McCullough	-Spartanburg, SC		

We were excited for each and every one of our new converts and we welcome them into the fold! May God bless them in their first year in The Church of Jesus Christ! Many wonderful experiences were expressed about their callings and even their confirmations.

The GMBA Activities Committee also presented two proposals to the conference. First is a new "Student Morale-Booster Program," intended to encourage those young members of the Church who, while away at college, are unable to attend meetings. Brother Steven Ross was selected to head a group of volunteers who will further develop this idea by contacting various young people for their suggestions and then establishing guidelines to support this isolated youth of the Church. Secondly, GMBA President Brother John Griffith proposed a "Missionary Visitation Program," under which the GMBA would sponsor each year an active missionary's visit to GMBA Conference. The missionary's presentation to the conference would serve to increase the awareness and enthusiasm of the members toward missionary work. While the missionaries are visiting, the General Church Mission Board would also have the opportunity to meet with them.

The Camp Procurement Committee submitted information on four prospective campsites available to the GMBA during the summer of 1986. A detailed analysis and cross-comparison of camps in Missouri, West Virginia, Indiana, and Virginia, along with slides of each campsite, provided the conference with a good idea of what each camp was like. After a thoughtful review of the facts, figures, and available dates, the conference voted in favor of Epworth Forest camp, near Ft. Wayne, Indiana. This year's camp will be held from June 14 to June 21, 1986. Brother Walter Laird was elected as 1986 Camp Director.

The election of GMBA officers resulted in the re-election of Brothers John Griffith (President), Charles Jumper (Vice-President), and Paul Ciotti, Sr. (Chaplain). Details of the election are in the GMBA minutes.

On Saturday evening, the Pennsylvania Area MBA presented a choral program entitled, "A Name Worthy of Praise," featuring soulful songs and familiar scriptures totally dedicated to honor and to glorify Jesus Christ. The Keystone State choir was "in tune" with the Spirit as all felt a blessing. After the program, tongues were spoken and interpreted as, "This praise is satisfactory unto the Lord."

Note: Our next GMBA Conference will be held May 17, 1986, at the General Church Auditorium. Plan to attend this conference.

I have served as GMBA Editor for about ten years and have decided to step aside to allow others to participate in this important promotional function for the GMBA. Please welcome our new GMBA Editor, Brother Jeffrey Giannetti, to this column. May God bless him and you readers of our articles in The Gospel News!—Ryan Gene Ross

5



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Editorial Viewpoint . .

Unity

One of the first Bible stories we learned as children was that of the tower of Babel, where the Lord came down and confounded the language of the people. It is still used today to explain to youngsters' curious minds why there are different peoples and languages upon the face of the earth. Another interesting lesson can be found in the same story, however:

> And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do (Genesis 11:6).

At this particular point in the familiar story, the Lord Himself admits that, by the mere fact that the people are *united* in the task which they have decided to undertake, nothing would be restrained from them. They had decided to build a tower whose top would reach unto heaven. An impossible feat, and yet the Lord said they'd be able to do it.

It is quite remarkable that the Lord God, Creator of heaven and earth, should acknowledge that so great a power existed in the unity of the minds and hearts of men. Not that it was a greater power than His own (we all know how He ultimately intervened), but the Lord seemed to be saying that their unity was definitely something to be dealt with; it was their unity, in fact, that He obliterated by confounding their language.

The lesson to be learned from this, I believe, is that we as a Church, who according to the scriptures and the Revelation of God have great, almost impossible-sounding things to accomplish, will be able to achieve them if we unite our hearts, minds, and actions in carrying out the will of God.

We all desire to do God's will, to bring about His kingdom on the face of the earth; there is no doubt about it. We must be careful, however, that none of us is saying, "Well, you bring about Zion your way and I'll do it my way."

If everybody in the land of Shinar had decided to build his *own* tower to reach heaven, I doubt that the Lord would have needed to intervene. But they were of one mind, led by one spirit (read Helaman 6:26-30), building one tower, and their unity is what caused God to move His arm against them.

As a Church, we must all familiarize ourselves with the chain of events, as written in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, which must take place in order for God's kingdom to come about. These two books are the blueprint for that tower of Zion, whose top, figuratively speaking, shall indeed reach unto heaven.

Let us make sure, furthermore, that each of our personal interpretations of these blueprints coincides with the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and the direction of the Church. Let us be of that one mind, following the Spirit of God, and build that tower in unity, that the Lord might look down upon us with pleasure and say:

> Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

What do you do after you've made a huge mistake? Sometimes after we've made this mistake, Satan whispers in our minds that now we really are bad and that not God or anyone else would ever forgive us if they knew what we had done. That's not true. God loves us each so much; as soon as we realize what a mistake we've made, all we have to do is to start to pray and talk to him and ask him to help us and forgive us. Sometimes when our hearts are still angry and hard we have to ask God to help us be willing to pray. He'll even make us strong enough inside not to keep making that same mistake.

Hundreds of years before Christ was born, the people of Israel were ruled by a group of wise judges who served God and were picked by the people. The people decided they wanted their country to be ruled by a king like the pagan countries around them.

The prophet Samuel tried to talk them out of this idea. He warned them that kings take over. They are in charge of the army so they can force anyone to do as they say. He reminded them that some kings are fair, but many are spoiled as children and grow up to be selfish, dangerous, and cruel. If you have judges or rulers that are elected, you can take them out of office if they are evil. Only war and usually death removes a king from his throne, though. Everything that the prophet had warned the people about happened. One wicked king followed another.

The seventh king of Israel, named Ahab, was called the wickedest king that ever was. Yet God forgave him. Ahab's father, King Omri, had been a soldier who'd taken over after the real king was killed. Omri never served God or taught Ahab to keep God's commandments. Before Omri gave up his kingdom, he wanted his country, Israel,



to be friends with the big trading city of Tyre. He encouraged his son Ahab to marry the daughter of the king of Tyre, princess Jezebel.

Now this woman was evil from the beginning. She worshipped statues of animals that were supposed to represent a god called Baal, killed babies to burn at the altars and murdered all of the prophets of God she could lay her hands on. To please her, King Ahab built an altar to her statue god Baal. People who served God were punished by her; those who served Baal were rewarded.

One day Ahab was at his palace looking at the next door neighbor's farmland where he grew grapes. He wanted to buy it to plant his own garden. But the owner of the land, Naboth, would not sell. His grandparents' parents had owned that very piece of land and Naboth believed it was wrong to let it go.

Spoiled King Ahab was moody and displeased. Jezebel found out why and decided to get the land for him. She hired two liars to say Naboth had broken the law. Before he could defend himself properly, a mob stoned him to death. Happy now, Queen Jezebel gave his property to Ahab.

When Ahab went to the vineyard to inspect his new property, God sent his prophet Elijah to meet him. Elijah had dedicated his life to serve God. He spoke God's truth even to this powerful, vicious queen and king.

The Lord told Elijah to say to Ahab, "Now you have murdered Naboth and taken his family's land. You will die in the same place that they stoned him. The dogs licked his blood and they will lick yours. You have caused your whole country to worship statues and commit sin. Because you are so evil, none of your sons will live to rule after you. Your wife has stirred you up to do evil and follow idols. The dogs will eat her body by the wall of the city of Jezreel."

This wicked, weak Ahab, led by Jezebel to commit sin, heard Elijah and believed. He knew that he had done much evil as a king. Ahab tore his clothes, put rough sackcloth on instead of his rich king's robes, and fasted in sorrow. The Bible says he went softly and lay in sackcloth. Everyone could see his guilt and sorrow.

The Lord spoke again to Elijah and said, "Do you see how Ahab humbles himself before me? Because he does this, I will not bring this evil during his lifetime. After he has died, when his sons are grown, I will bring punishment on his house."

Eleven years after Ahab died, war broke out against Israel. The enemy commander, King Jehu, killed all of Ahab's sons. As his army marched into Jezreel, he saw Jezebel looking out a high window and commanded her servants to throw her down to her death. The blood of this evil woman splattered on the wall and on the horses. Later, when King Jehu sent soldiers to bury her, they discovered that wild dogs had eaten her body. Truly God's words were fulfilled. Those who'd done evil died in evil ways. King Ahab had been spared the terrible pain of seeing these days only because he had truly asked God's forgiveness in fasting and sorrow. This is how honest and powerful our God is. What He says He will do, He does, and He can forgive the worst sinner of all their mistakes and sins.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

Conference Notice

The General Church's Spiritual Conference will convene for priesthood and teachers Friday, April 18, 1986 at 9:30 a.m. in the General Church Auditorium at Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Conference will run through Sunday, April 20, with Saturday and Sunday meetings open to all. As usual, meals will be provided on a pay-as-you-attend basis.

Plan to come and enjoy God's blessings as the saints gather from all corners of the vineyard.

Our Women Today

Correction

In the January, 1986 issue of *The Gospel News*, the date for the next meeting of the Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle was stated as April 6, 1986. The correct date is April 26, 1986. Please mark your calendar.

APOSTLE continued . . .

Ralph Berardino. The service was closed in prayer by Apostle Nick Pietrangelo.

We could expound on the goodness and love of Bro. Tony Corrado endlessly, but we thank God for the privilege of knowing him and having him with us for these many years. We pray that God will continue to bless those left to mourn our dear brother's passing, especially his three daughters, Sis. Irene Williams of Martinsville, NJ, Sis. Amy Cook of Phoenix, AZ, and Sis. Annette Corrado, with whom he lived.

Let us also remember the apostles of the Church in prayer, that God's will would be made known regarding the filling of the quorum.—Ed.

GMBA CAMPOUT continued . . .

North Webster, Indiana. Camp will begin on Saturday, June 14, and will conclude the following Saturday, June 21. Keep an eye open for camp registration forms and more information arriving soon in your local MBA. May God bless you. See you at Camp!

Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA Editor

Note: Busline and Amtrak services are available. Terminals for both are located in Warsaw, Indiana, approximately 15 miles from the campground. All major airlines are serviced through the Fort Wayne Airport in Fort Wayne, Indiana, approximately 45 miles from camp. So that they won't have to carry pillows, bedding, etc. with them to camp, people coming to campout by air, train, or non-chartered bus will be given the option of renting linens for the week.

Registration forms will supply these and other details.

Branch and Mission News

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola

On Sunday November 10, 1985, the Levittown Branch welcomed back our Sister Irene (Lupo) Knight, who made her wishes known that she wanted to renew her membership in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our sister has been attending church regularly and a good spirit was felt by all when she testified of her desire to remain faithful to the promise she made at the water's edge when she was baptized years ago.

Our prayers are with our sister, that God will give her guidance and direction in her life.

We are also happy to announce two weddings coming up in our branch. Jerry Valenti, Jr. and Patricia Fraschilla plan a June, 1986 wedding, and Joseph Benyola and Michelle Biagini are planning to be wed in October, 1986.

May God's blessing be upon these young couples for a life of happiness, peace, and contentment.

Rochester, NY

Upon arising from our beds and thanking God for another day, we gathered on December 14, 1985 at our weekly Saturday morning fast and prayer service. As we prayed for the many needs of the Church, we asked also that God's Spirit would be with us on the morrow as we would witness the ordination of Sister Kathy Natoli as a deaconess. After our prayer service, the priesthood answered a call from one of our members, Sis. Theresa Locci, who was sick and unable to attend the prayer service. Our brothers anointed her and asked that God might give her the health to attend the Saturday evening service as well as Sunday's meeting.

Although the weather held back many brothers and sisters who had the desire to be present, those that were able to attend received the blessings of God. Saturday evening we spent singing, testifying, and hearing our brother elders exhort. Those that testified thanked God for His rich blessings. Among the testimonies was our Sister Theresa, who felt the evidence of God's healing hand upon her. The Lord was not finished with His work that evening, for two others asked to be anointed and also received, thanks to His healing power.

Sunday morning the saints gathered from different parts of the vineyard anticipating the continuation of God's blessings. The service not only brought us the ordination of Sis. Kathy, but also the fifty-year anniversary of Bro. Ansel D'Amico as an elder of The Church of Jesus Christ. The priesthood presented him with a plaque representing the glorification of God, not of man.

Brother Frank Calabrese opened the service from Isaiah 40:31, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." Bro. Frank exhorted us to constantly wait upon the Lord's direction and inspiration in our lives. He told us that we must fast and pray and wait on God in **righteousness**. As a result, God will not only renew our physical strength as a people, but He will renew our spiritual strength as well. This renewed strength will enable us to serve one another as well as to serve as nursing mothers and fathers to Israel. He reminded us that we must never forget Israel, as remembering Israel will bring upon us greater blessings as a Church and as a people.

The service at this point began to center around Israel. Bro. Frank Palacios spoke briefly about the blessings in his life since he has put Christ first. We sang many of the beautiful Songs of Zion and testified about our desire to see Israel come home. Two of Sis. Helen Garlow's grandchildren were anointed and as the priesthood offered prayer for these two from the seed of Joseph, the power and presence of God was felt by all. We began to see how Sister Kathy's ordination, as well as every ordination and calling into God's Church, is for the purpose of furthering the work of God upon the face of the earth, that we might one day see Israel come home to their Lord.

Bro. Frank Natoli enumerated the duties of a deaconess, after which Sis.

7

ROCHESTER continued . . .

Rose Palacios washed Sis. Kathy's feet. Bro. Frank Calabrese ordained Sis. Kathy a deaconess as the blessings and spirit of Zion were felt, today and throughout the weekend.

Pray for our newly ordained sister, as well as all those that take upon them the work of Jesus.

We are thankful for all that God gave to us this weekend, but we hope and pray and strive to wait upon Him continually in righteousness.

Harrison, MI

By Ilene Coppa

Let me paint a picture for you of a lovely setting blanketed in sparkling white newly fallen snow. Some clings to the leafless tree branches and tops of fences. Not too cold, in the thirties.

We are driving along the highway which has most of its surface clear of snow. The blacktop appears dry.

Talking with our fellow passengers, enjoying their company, our automobile suddenly begins to sway and fishtail on the surface of the road. It seemed to last forever, but in reality it was just a few seconds before Bro. Silverio Coppa slowed the vehicle down and brought it back under complete control. On either side of the highway were ditches, some ten to fifteen feet in depth.

Upon arriving at the little Harrison Mission we related our experience. To be sure, the Lord knew this would be another red letter day in our lives, as our Brother Silverio Coppa conducted the services according to the Spirit of the Lord.

How blessed we are to have been present to witness Michelle M. Kruggel ask for her baptism. She stood on her feet, declaring she could no longer go on without the assurance that the Lord is with her. Growing up without the Lord had become too hard for her to bear.

When considering who should officiate in the ordinance of baptism, Bro. Silverio Criscuolo stated that he felt a strong desire to do the work, even though his physical condition wasn't the best. Arriving at the small, frozen Dodge Lake, we found the shoreline cottages closed up for the season, and a layer of ice on the surface which measured about three inches.

Our deacons chopped a hole in the ice, making it possible for Michelle along with Brothers Criscuolo and Coppa to descend into the icy waters.

Upon our return to the church building, Bro. Coppa offered prayer and laid his hands upon Michelle, confirming her into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Michelle is the granddaughter of Bro. Silverio and Sis. Mary Criscuolo, and their first grandchild to embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It would be a great encouragement to Michelle if some of the young folks of our Church would write to her. She is the youngest member, both spiritually and naturally, at the Harrison Mission.

Address any communications to:

Michelle M. Kruggel 8353 E. Stockwell Harrison, MI 48625

Spartanburg, SC

By Ruth Spruill

On November 6, 7, 8, and 10, 1985, a glorious occasion took place in the city of Spartanburg, South Carolina—a series of Revival Meetings.

Many of our brothers and sisters were invited to attend, and a few were able to make it here. Bro. Joseph Perri from Hopelawn, NJ came on Thursday the 7th and stayed with us until Sunday evening. We were also blessed to have our brothers and sisters from the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission in attendance with us at the Friday meeting, and we also enjoyed the company of Bro. John Genaro and his wife, who attended our Thursday meeting.

On Sunday, at the conclusion of our revival meetings, we were blessed to enjoy each other's company in a wonderful buffet style dinner prepared by Sis. Dorothy Wilkie, a faithful sister who often attends our church, Sis. Gloria Keenon, and Sis. Shirley Gray, both new members. We all shared so much joy in spending time together on that Sunday, both during the service and afterward.

The revival meetings, although they did not bring in as many visiting members and friends as we had hoped, still proved to be a success, as it uplifted us spiritually. We hope to hold more of these in the future.

Throughout the services we heard from Bro. Nathan Peterkin, who spoke to us from the Book of Psalms, "Hear ye the word of the Lord and abide therein. . . ." We also heard from visiting Bro. Joe Perri, who told of his wonderful experiences in Kenya. His message centered around the idea, "To whom shall we go?"

Bro. Rodney Dyer of Gastonia, NC spoke of Jesus Christ's 'Revival' on the mount, reading from Matthew Chapter 5 and bringing out the thought, "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Bro. John Genaro also expressed himself, and we heard his inspiring testimony concerning what God has done for him both before and after he came into the Church.

We heard many testimonies from our visiting brothers and sisters, as well as from members of our own group here in Spartanburg. It was also a joy to have five or six of our little future brothers and sisters in attendance at our meetings.

Our mission has grown from two to ten members in eleven months' time. The most recent baptism was that on December 8, 1985 of Sis. Alisa Grace. God has truly been with us in the year that we've been in existence, and He has touched the hearts of all who have entered our meeting place, causing them to return and learn of the true Gospel.

We hope that all of you will continue to pray for our mission's continued growth, as well as all of our branches and missions all over the world. May God help us all to not sit and be idle, but to continue to work—for the night is coming!

If any of you care to contact our mission, you may write or call:

> Bro. Nathan Peterkin 715 S. Converse St. P.O. Box 5712 Spartanburg, SC 29304 (803) 583-9146



Visiting brothers pose with members and friends of San Carlos, AZ Mission.

San Carlos, AZ

On November 9, 1985, the men's quintet from Tse Bonito Branch, called 'The Joshuas,' held an evening of singing and fellowship at the San Carlos Mission. The group comprises Brothers Dennis Calabrese, Larry Watson, Randy Nez, John Mancini, and Peter Genaro. Many inspirational songs were sung to the honor and glory of God by the Joshuas as well as the brothers and sisters from San Carlos. Visitors from the Arizona District were also in attendance on Saturday and Sunday to support our work here, as well as to partake in the wonderful potluck dinner provided by our Apache brothers and sisters.

The Sunday service was turned over to our newly recommended elders, Peter Genaro and John Mancini, to speak to us (They have since been ordained into the priesthood).

Bro. Peter used the Lord's prayer as his scripture, focusing on the passage, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done. . . ." He brought out how the kingdom of God had not come in its completeness until the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ were accomplished. As we read in the *Book of Mormon*, after His resurrection, the Lord's prayer does not include "Thy kingdom come," for it had in fact been established on earth. The kingdom of God was likened to the small stone that Daniel saw cut out of the mountain without hands, because man had nothing to do with it; it was a direct act of God. Bro. John continued on the same theme and related some recent experiences in his life of God's love and power. His inspiring words left us with many thoughts of Chirst's love and mercy for us. Many testimonies, as well as hymns of praise, were given in honor and glory to God by our brothers and sisters.

If you want to feel the Spirit of God and enjoy the warm hospitality of the brothers and sisters, visit our San Carlos, Arizona Mission.

Lakeside, AZ

The year 1985 in Lakeside, Arizona brought with it many opportunities for growth at our Branch. We had many trials, but through the trials we witnessed many miracles.

Sis. Helen Smith had a ruptured appendix. Prior to surgery she was anointed, and she recovered with no complications whatsoever.

Randy and Donna Hemmings had a son born with serious complication occurring during the delivery. Upon examination by the doctors some months later, the baby, through the prayers of many and the inspiration of the ministry, was found to be free from any health problems. Sis. Bonnie Smith, who had been ill for approximately two years, was told she had an abdominal mass which would require surgery. The week of the scheduled operation, however, during the pre-surgery exam, the doctor could not find the mass. Even with X-ray equipment the growth could not be found and the operation was cancelled. Many prayers had been offered on behalf of Sis. Bonnie throughout the entire Church, and God saw fit to answer those prayers.

Dana Meade, expecting a child, was informed by her doctor that she would not be able to move about for quite some time lest she endanger her own life and that of the child. Once again, God intervened and answered our prayers. Dana and her husband Pat have a beautiful son.

Our ministry has been truly inspired and we have been blessed beyond measure.

Our branch has an ongoing project at the Whiteriver Hospital, on the White Mountain Apache Reservation. Through the help of the Ladies' Uplift Circle we put together small layettes for newborn babies. A typical layette includes along with items of clothing a little note, welcoming the newborn and containing a copy of our *Articles of Faith*, encouraging the new parents to visit our Church. We enjoy this activity immensely and are ever thankful for the support received from the Local Circles and individuals throughout the Church.

To complete the year, a capacity crowd from all over the Arizona District, as well as several members from California, gathered in Lakeside to witness two ordinations. Bro. David Hemmings, son of Bro. Herb and Sis. Shirley Hemmings of Lakeside, was ordained a deacon. In preparation for the ordination, Bro. David's feet were washed by Bro. Isaac Smith, and Bro. Herb ordained his son. Bro. David moved here from the Monongahela, PA Branch. Bro. Harry (Skip) Smith was called into the Quorum of Seventies as an evangelist. Our brother, the grandson of the late Bro. Isaac and Sis. Gertrude Smith, the son of Sis. Helen and the late George Smith, moved to Pinetop, Arizona in 1971. He met and married Sis. Cheryl Calabrese, was baptized in Whiteriver, and has been ordained a deacon, teacher, and elder all since his move here from Pennsylvania.

10 March, 1986

LAKESIDE continued . . .

He has been directed by God and has a great love for the Seed of Joseph (American Indian). His support over the years for our work here has never wavered. For his ordination into the Quorum of Evangelists, Bro. Skip's feet were washed by Bro. Richard Christman, chairman of the Arizona evangelists. His uncle, Bro. Isaac Smith, ordained him. We rest assured that Bro. Skip will continue to rely on the direction of God in all things.

We look forward to the new year with great anticipation for God's blessings. Remember our labor of love here, as we pray for the Church everywhere.

Tse Bonito, NM

By Ralph Frammolino

A joyous weekend of praise and dedication to God culminated December 8, 1985, with the ordination of an evangelist and two elders in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Dwayne Jordan, president of the Arizona District, was ordained an evangelist, a calling that now fills the Quorum of Seventy. Brothers John Mancini and Peter Genaro were ordained elders.

Brothers, sisters, and friends from Tse Bonito, Phoenix, Pinetop, Albuquerque, Tucson, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Yucaipa, San Diego, Modesto, Pennsylvania, and as far away as London, England gathered for the weekend services, which began Saturday evening, December 7 with an evangelistic meeting.

Brother Paul Liberto, an evangelist from San Deigo, opened the evening meeting by reading from II Nephi Chapter 3, which prophesies about the Choice Seer and tells how he will convince his people of the Word of God that has already gone out before him. Bro. Paul said that this prophecy is being fulfilled today by saints in Tse Bonito and other branches and missions of the Church who are preaching the Restored Gospel and the *Book of Mormon* to the American Indian.

He also said that we in the Church should realize that it is best to stick to the basics of the Restored Gospel, and not become jealous of other organizations that use various techniques to attract large memberships. Like the candy company that has found success in using old-fashioned methods instead of turning to attractive new technology, the strength of the Church is in its basic tools—the *Bible*, the *Book of Mormon*, sincerity, diligence, and love, he said.

Bro. Frank Ciotti, an evangelist from Santa Ana, followed with an inspired message about the challenges and work facing the brothers who were to be ordained the following day. Then Bro. Mark Randy from Modesto spoke and underscored the necessity of demonstrating the love of God.

Saturday's spirit was a foretaste of the blessings the Lord had prepared for the following day, when saints and freinds filled the new Tse Bonito building to witness the setting apart and ordination of our three brothers.

Before the meeting began, the ministry met and offered a special prayer that God would bless the proceedings. A beautiful, powerful season of singing set the mood for the service, which was opened in prayer by Bro. Luis Maroquin of Santa Ana, CA. As Bro. Luis prayed in Spanish, God poured out His Spirit and Bro. Luis began to weep.

Bro. Ralph Frammolino of San Diego opened the meeting by saying he would be preaching a eulogy today because God had set aside this day for Brothers Dwayne, John, and Peter to die in the worldly dreams and ambitions of the past and take upon themselves the unselfish service to God and humankind. Like the Apostle Paul, these brothers would have to "die daily" when it came to their own wills.

For his text, Bro. Ralph used I Corinthians 9:16-23, where the Apostle Paul declared, "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some." Becoming all things to others means yielding yourself completely to God's will, he said.

Bro. Frank Genaro, an elder from Yucaipa, CA, then spoke about the birth and youthful spiritual ambitions of Brother Peter, his son. He recalled how, as a young man of eighteen years, Peter felt such a zeal to work with the American Indian that he informed his parents he would be leaving their home in California and moving to be with other Church people in the Arizona-New Mexico area. Bro. Frank said it was difficult the day he watched his young son pack his belongings and drive away, but now the sorrow has turned into joy with the calling of Bro. Peter into the ministry, he said.

Bro. Frank also related several experiences relative to his ministry, including the miraculous healing of his own father.

Brother Isaac Smith, an evangelist from Pinetop, AZ, spoke about the power of the human mind, a complex organ that itself defies understanding. He described how the human mind could instantaneously tell the muscles to lift a hand or foot. Likewise, God is the mind that moves the spiritual body. Bro. Ike said it is impossible to comprehend the mind of God, but we see evidence of His power and perfection in the way He coordinates the movements of the spiritual body.

When it came time to perform the ordinations, Sister Elaine Jordan sang Ye Who Are Called to Labor. Then her husband, Bro. Dwayne, was called forward and his feet were washed by Bro. Ike Smith, setting him apart for his work as an evangelist.

Bro. Robert A. Watson from Tse Bonito ordained Bro. Dwayne as an evangelist.

In brief remarks, Bro. Dwayne related an experience he had had seven years ago about his calling as an evangelist. He said God gave him a dream that Bro. Bob Watson would be ordained an apostle and that Bro. Bob's mantle as an evangelist would fall on him. This has now been fulfilled, first with Bro. Bob's ordination as an apostle in 1979, and now with Bro. Dwayne's ordination as evangelist.

After his remarks, Bro. John and Bro. Peter were ordained as elders. Like spiritual twins, these men have witnessed the calling of God simultaneously in their lives. Both were baptized on the same day at the 1973 Dunkirk, NY Campout (along with Bro. Ralph), both were ordained as teachers in the Church on the same day, and now both were being ordained elders.

Bro. Chuck Curry of Tse Bonito washed Bro. John's feet to set him apart for the ministry. Bro. Ralph ordained him into the office. Bro. Larry Watson of Tse Bonito washed Bro. Pete's feet, and Bro. Dave Majoros of Tucson, AZ ordained him into the priesthood.

God's Spirit gave a witness to the

truthfulness of these callings, too. For instance, Bro. Frank Genaro related two experiences that God gave him showing he would not ordain his son, but instead it would be Bro. Dave who would perform the ordinance. And Bro. Dave attested to this with his own personal experience about Bro. Peter's calling.

Following the ordinations, we were blessed once again when our new elders, Bro. John and Bro. Peter, administered communion to the congregation. For them, it was an especially sacred moment as they broke the bread and poured the wine; we could see tears fall from their eyes and the reverence with which they observed this commandment from the Lord, awakening in each of us memories of the first time we were able to take part in this ordinance.

Bro. Bob Watson, as well as our newly-ordained elders, each took a few moments to express themselves, rounding out a full and glorious day in the Lord.

Niles, OH

Sunday, December 8, 1985 was a special day for the Niles Branch and for Bro. Bob Batson as he was ordained into the office of a teacher. Once again there was an array of saints from various parts of the Ohio District that had come from near and far to share in the joy of witnessing our brother's ordination. Bro. Brian Martorana opened the service in prayer and after a beautiful solo by Sis. Kathy Natoli, Bro. Frank Calabrese was the first speaker.

Bro. Frank used for his text Matthew 7:28-29, pertaining to Jesus teaching with authority and how those that heard Him were astonished at His doctrine. Bro. Frank stated that we must be bold in declaring the Restoration and how the Gospel must be preached in power, that others may know and realize that the Latter Day Priesthood possesses the same authority that Jesus had. We are all ambassadors for Christ, a calling which summons us to live an exemplary life. It is necessary that a revival be initiated within each of us, which will enable us to herald the glad tidings of the Gospel Restored, not only to the Gentiles but to Israel as well.

Bro. Frank Natoli furthered the theme by asking if we are laying up treasures in heaven that will allow us to speak with authority. He stressed that it is the responsibility of each member as the body of Christ to labor and lay up treasures in heaven. We must empathize with those who are afflicted and fast and pray for their recovery. We must be willing to make the necessary sacrifices, whatever they may be, to move God's hand. The message was not only scripturally sound, but spiritually edifying. The morning service was closed in prayer by Bro. Ron Genaro.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone opened the afternoon service with prayer, followed by the administering of communion. Bro. Wayne Martorana read supportive scripture pertaining to the office of a teacher, using Ephesians 4:11 and Jacob 1:19 from the *Book of Mormon*. Bro. Joe Genaro then proceeded to wash Bro. Bob's feet. Prior to the ordination, Bro. Russ Martorana offered a special prayer that God's blessings would rest upon Bro. Bob. Bro. Ron Genaro then ordained him into the office of teacher. While Bro. Ron was praying, Bro. Joe Genaro spoke in tongues.

Bro. Bob expressed himself and stated that he felt abundantly blessed

to be called of God to this most holy office. He solicited the prayers of all in this new endeavor. Various ones testified that they had prayed the gift of tongues would accompany this ordination. We thank God for the answered prayers and the sweet, sweet spirit that was felt this day. Remember Bro. Bob in your prayers, that God would utilize him in his new capacity.

Because God Is Everywhere I Can Stop Looking

By Carl Huttenberger

A cold December morning Pierces through my bones. As I step out of the shade And into the pale glow of sunrise I begin to solicit its warmth. It satisfies me only a little And so I try to covet it again. Still I'm left chilled. Then I become voracious in my desires. Suddenly an ominous cloud shrouds my daystar. I'm left raw. Then a thought shakes me And I reach out my hand. Before I knew it I was basking in blazing warmth-Warmth I never thought possible. Because God is everywhere • I can stop looking. All I have to do is reach out my hand.

* WEDDINGS *

HUFNAGLE-LIPSCOMB

Brother James Phillip Hufnagle and Miss Sally Anita Lipscomb were united in holy matrimony on December 28, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Cleveland Branch 1 in Euclid, Ohio.

Brothers Ron Genaro and Bill Hufnagle, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony.

Musical selections were provided by Bro. Wayne Martorana. Rey Rangel sang a song written by the groom for the occasion. The couple are residing in Euclid, Ohio. We wish them God's choicest blessings in their life together.

CALVARESE-HEULER

Brother Tony Calvarese and Miss Frances Heuler were joined in marriage on January 4, 1986 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Euclid, Ohio.

Bro. Tony is a deacon in our branch. His wife Frances has been attending services here since June of last year. May the Lord bless them as they start out together.

New Arrivals

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

Jacob Andrew and Joshua Lee to Richard and Susan Guerrero of Niles, Ohio.

Lucas Aaron to Wayne and Tina Martorana of Niles, Ohio.

Susan Grace to Ron and Diane Pierzynowski of Detroit Inner City Branch.

Vanita Jeanette to Abraham and Valaria Reed of Detroit Inner City Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

ANTHONY LOMBARDO

Brother Tony Lombardo of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch 1 passed away on November 8, 1985. He was born December 18, 1925 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 16, 1941. He was ordained a teacher in the Church in November of 1957.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Vince Gibson and Bro. Bill Hufnagle.

Bro. Tony was born in Detroit, Michigan and moved to Ohio in 1946. He transferred to the Cleveland Branch in December of 1947. For a time, church services were conducted at Bro. Tony's home.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sis. Lucy, along with six children and three grandchildren. He will be missed dearly by all those who knew him.

-Wilder Words Jondon Han	Address Change
Phone _	

ALMA FINNICK

Sis. Alma Finnick of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her eternal reward on December 6, 1985. She was born August 24, 1924 and was baptized into the Church on May 7, 1949.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Henry Cardillo and Ralph Berardino.

Our sister is survived by her husband John; her son, Bro. John Finnick of California; a sister, Sis. Lena Carrozzino; and two brothers, John Damore of Florida and Bro. Phillip Damore of Arizona.

Sister Alma was well-known and well-loved in the Youngstown Branch and throughout the Church. Her courageous ten-year battle against cancer was an encouragement and inspiration to each of us. We will truly miss her vitality and spiritedness as much as her love for all of us.

PAUL LOVE

Bro. Paul O. Love of Mercer, Pennsylvania passed away on December 29, 1985. He was born July 29, 1903 and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on July 3, 1932. He belonged to the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

. Brothers Ralph Berardino and Don Pandone conducted the funeral.

Left to mourn our Bro. Paul's passing are his wife, Sis. Fearn, along with two daughters, one son, a sister and a brother, eight grandchildren, and eight greatgrandchildren.

Although Brother Love had been ill for many years, his testimony will live through the words of the brothers and sisters who visited him at his home in Pennsylvania and relayed his love to us while he was unable to meet with us.

CATERINA BENEDETTO

Sister Caterina Benedetto of Detroit Branch 4 passed on to her heavenly reward on Tuesday, December 31, 1985. She was born on September 9, 1908 in Pellaro, Reggia Calabria, Italy and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on October 5, 1930. Ordained a deaconess on January 17, 1947, she held that office with great reverence and honor. Many of the brothers and sisters in the Detroit area thought of her as a spiritual mother.

Funeral services were officiated by Brothers Paul Vitto and Anthony R. Lovalvo.

Sister Benedetto is survived by a daughter and son-inlaw, Sis. Santina and Bro. Tullio LaCivita, along with their two sons; also two brothers and three sisters in Italy.

Our sister, who gave so much in her service to the Lord, will be dearly missed by her family, friends, and all the saints who knew her.


American Indian Moses

"Evangelist T. Dom Bucci and the church he is associated with believes that the American Indians are from the house of Israel and that an American Indian Moses will come out of the Indian nation in the near future. He will be great and mighty, an instrument in the hands of God. He will bring to the Indian people unity, peace, salvation, and a restoration to their land, AMERICA. He will be called a deliverer and a Choice Seer. He will also convince many Jews of the truth of his mission.'

The message above was inserted in local newspapers in Indian towns in Oklahoma Indian Territory. Evangelist Bucci has made seven Indian mission trips to this area starting in 1957, then in 1959, 1961, 1964, 1969, 1971, and finally 1978. He visited such towns as Pawnee, Pawhuska, Okmulgee, Muskogee, Tallequa, Chickasaw, and Anadarko. His message was also televised from KOCO-TV in Oklahoma City on four Sundays, as well as from a Youngstown, Ohio station at various times for a period of about three years. The coming of an American Indian Moses in the near future is a very essential message. It is important that we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ make ourselves familiar with our unique beliefs concerning the Choice Seer and the ultimate gathering of the House of Israel.

Following is an article on the Choice Seer, consisting largely of paraphrased scripture, compiled by Bro. Bucci:

Interpretation and excerpts taken from the translation of ancient American records, also known as the

Nephite records, indicate the following prophecy given by Joseph of Egypt and written on brass plates. A Jewish colony immigrated to America about 600 BC, bringing with them the brass plates containing the prophecy and inserting them in their records, the Nephite record.

A messenger of God informed a young farm boy concerning these records, which were buried for about 1400 years. The young man was given permission to obtain the records and was bestowed with the gift and the power of God to translate them into the English language. The result is the translated Nephite records, The Book of Mormon.

HERE IT IS

Wherefore, Joseph of Egypt truly saw our day. And he obtained a promise of the Lord that out of his posterity the Lord God would raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel; not the Messiah, but a branch which was to be broken off, nevertheless, to be remembered in the covenants of the Lord that the Messiah should be made manifest unto them in the latter days, in the spirit of power, unto the bringing them out of darkness into light, out of hidden darkness and out of captivity unto freedom. This branch is the American Indian.

For Joseph of Egypt truly testified, saying, a SEER shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a CHOICE SEER unto my descendants (American In-dians). Joseph truly said, Thus saith the Lord unto me; A CHOICE SEER will

Volume 42, No. 4

I raise up out of your posterity and he shall be esteemed highly among your posterity, and unto him will I give a commandment that he shall do a work for his posterity (American Indians), which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with their fathers.

And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, except the work which I shall command him, and I will make him great in mine eyes, for he shall do my work. And he shall be great like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel, and a Moses will I raise up to deliver thy people out of Egypt. This prophesy concerning Moses was fulfilled.

(Continued on Page 11)

GMBA Notice

GMBA Conference will be held the weekend of May 17 and 18, 1986 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA. This conference will attempt to further familiarize church members and friends with our missionary efforts. A missionary from Mexico will be the guest of the GMBA for the weekend, and special events will be planned to acquaint us with the work in that part of the vineyard. We look forward to seeing all of you there, lending your support to this event. May God bless you for your efforts.

> Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti **GMBA** Editor

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

A Successful Investigation

The Lord moves in mysterious ways. In the following article, Bro. Mark reminds us how, through the Indian Mission at Muncey, Ontario, the Lord brought about the establishment of other branches and missions in Canada.—Ed.

Frank Ford, a Canadian immigration officer working at the United States-Canada border in Windsor, Ontario, volunteered in the 1930's to visit the recently established Muncey Mission with his friend and co-worker, Clifford Burgess. As I understand it, Mr. Ford's interest in visiting was not religious but investigative in nature, due to an erroneous report to the Customs Office that a church from Detroit, Michigan was violating the laws by collecting money from Indians on a Canadian reservation.

When these men attended the service at Muncey, upon listening to the testimonials of those present and the miracles reported by our grateful members, especially of Sister Elizabeth Muskellunge's receiving her sight, Mr. Ford confessed that the purpose of his visit there was to find out if a collection was being taken from these poor people.

"Collection?" exclaimed Chief George Nicholas, "These people come here to help us, not to take from us!"

Mr. Ford was astounded at such findings. "Then," said Mr. Ford, "This is the power of God in action; I have never heard of such miracles."

This "investigative" visit seemed to

have been ordered by a higher kingdom, yes, the kingdom of God. As a result of this visit, a branch of the Church blossomed in Windsor, Ontario, which is still there today, along with a mission of its own in Meaford, Ontario.

I must restrain myself from recounting all the many, many miracles, visions, blessings, and glory we experienced at Muncey. One song the children sang every Sunday stands out in my mind, "Looking this way, yes, looking that way, to Muncey, to glory, and nothing to pay."

So Mr. Ford and Mr. Burgess heard from the children's mouths only the praise and glory of God.

Two Indians from what is now known as the Six Nations Reservation (Grand River) came to Muncey to see for themselves what made these people so happy, so full of enthusiasm, so ready to talk of their experiences with their living God. Both of them hitchhiked the 130 miles to Muncey.

Eventually missionary work started in Grand River. The two Indian brothers who first came to visit Muncey were Hugh Beaver and Fred Hill.

In later years, both Bro. Frank Ford and Bro. Clifford Burgess became active missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ, especially among the Indians at Muncey and also the Grand River Reserve.

Missionary work is still going on among the American Indians both at Muncey and at Six Nations.

Let us have more of this enthusiasm today. Start now from wherever you are. You'll be just as happy in feeling the glory of our ever living Jesus Christ. Think of it right now. *He* is interceding for you at the right hand of Power; *love Him.*

The Lord smile upon you and give you peace.

Note of Thanks

The Clairton, PA Mission would like to thank all the brothers and sisters and friends who helped in any way to build a new roof on our building. Surely God saw to our great need and with much prayer, He provided. The way was made for work to begin on our roof and brothers from as far away as Ohio along with brothers and friends from branches in the area began the work.

After a couple of weeks, the work was completed, just in time before heavy rains came. The love of God was manifested through the work and we give God all the honor and glory.

To all my brothers and sisters,

I find great pleasure in writing this note of thanks to all of you who have confronted the Lord on my behalf, during both my recent surgery and my convalescence. I thank God for the mercy He has extended to me and am thankful for your efforts. I feel certain that, were it not for your prayers, cards, gifts, and phone calls, I would not have been able to weather the storm. May God bless you all, wherever you are, and may He sustain you throughout your stay on earth and permit your entrance into His eternal kingdom.

With deepest love and gratitude I remain,

Yours in Christ Jesus, Brother Alma Nolfi

Notice

Foreign Mission Committee Chairman Joseph Bittinger has appointed Joseph Ross as the Acting Sub-Committee Chairman of Africa as a result of the passing away of the former chairman, John Ross. All correspondence and donations relative to Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya are to be sent to Joseph Ross. This includes funds for orphans, scholarships, etc.

Joseph Ross has requested that Nephi DeMercurio serve as the Technical Advisor for the African Work. Please send all material to:

> Joseph Ross #2 Ross Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

Phone 412-375-1648

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

A Heavenly Treasure

When I began seeking and searching for God, it was at a time when all else life had to offer had failed me. The society and professional business world of my father and mother, who were both prominent morticians, held no attraction for me because their busy lives seemed hollow and shallow, lacking in meaningfulness and satisfaction in spite of natural comforts provided through monetary gains and their respected status in our community.

These considerations sank deep into my heart the years I attended Penn State University, where I obtained a bachelor of arts degree in secondary education. Even there I yearned and sought for a true relationship with God. Throughout my childhood and teenage years I had attended the Baptist Church regularly, but on the college campus I finally admitted to myself that I was Baptist only because I was brought up Baptist. Searching for God, I elected a course entitled "The Bible as Literature." The professor who taught this class believed that Joseph was the natural father of Jesus Christ. Instead of being enriched by this course, I was left with a deeper void than ever regarding religious matters. I can vividly recall saying in my heart, "Lord, I don't even know if You really exist, or if all the things concerning the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ are really true."

Yet, my continued quest for God brought me on Sundays sometimes into the congregation of the learned, philosophical university chaplain, sometimes to that of the eloquent Methodist minister off campus, and sometimes to the silent meditation meeting of the Quakers in the local community; but not one of these church services was able to "satisfy the deep and longing hunger of my soul . . . (nor) fill my heart with joys that multiply. Thus, when I had completed my undergraduate work in 1961, there still remained a void in my life that neither my higher education, nor my interactions among so many charming young people, nor my involvement in various activities, nor my participation in religious retreats had been able to fulfill.

Upon returning home to Farrell, Pennsylvania, I decided to resume membership in the small Baptist church I had joined several years prior. The first meeting I attended was a mid-week business meeting in which the members of the church were contending over financial matters and finding fault with the minister. Brokenhearted, I cried over this condition because I felt there was no place left for me to turn in search of God. My decision that week was to remain home and not be a part of any church.

It was then that God in His infinite love and mercy brought me in closer contact with the Church of His dear Son, The Church of Jesus Christ, to which Sister Vera Edwards had introduced me some months prior. Sister Eleanor Martin and her daughter, Sis. Meredieth Martin invited me to attend a meeting in their home and there I was further introduced to the Restored Gospel as the ministers of Youngstown, Ohio met in their home that evening. One song that impressed me was *Rejoice*, Ye Saints of Latter Days.

In the late summer of 1961 I journeyed to California with Sis. Meredieth Martin. There, in the San Fernando Valley Branch, I made known my desire to serve God and was taken into the water by Brother Anthony Brutz and confirmed by Brother Robert Watson, Jr. in December, 1961. Before this point, as one of the Songs of Zion so beautifully expresses,

My path had never found direction, Not a day had held perfection; Then I met Jesus on the way, Oh what a blessed, happy day! Precious day, He gave my eyes sight, Lovely day, He sent my path light; Since the day Jesus made me whole, A fire is burning in my soul.

In May of 1963 I returned to Pennsylvania and soon thereafter bore my testimony of The Church of Jesus Christ to Robert Smith. Robert was of the Catholic faith, but had stopped attending because he disagreed with some of the rituals required of him. Robert loved The Church of Jesus Christ the very first day he visited. His love for the Church grew and grew, until one day he requested to be taken down into the liquid grave from whence he arose in the newness of life in February, 1964. In September 1964 Robert and I were married. Approximately three months later, when he was only 26, God called Brother Robert home to his eternal reward. This was an extremely difficult time for me, and it was the comfort of the Church, the love of the family of God, that sustained me through the following months.

In September of 1965 I began my teaching career. For four years I taught English and one year Spanish in Pennsylvania. In 1970 I moved to New Jersey, where I taught English three years and substituted two years.

My father became severely ill in 1975, and this brought me back to Pennsylvania where I was able to spend his last days with him. After my father passed away, I remained home to take care of my mother, whose mind was beginning to fail. In 1978 I closed her funeral home and took my mother to Youngstown to live with me. She enjoyed attending the Church regularly, but her mind gradually became more afflicted. One evening while visiting Bro. Tony, Sis. Mary, and Sis. Annette Corrado, I shared with these three dear souls just how troubled I was over my mother's soul and her mental condition. We all knelt in prayer, and Bro. Tony petitioned God to clear my mother's mind. The following Sunday my mother stood in the congregation of the saints and declared, "The Lord has cleared my mind! I've attended other churches for many years, but I see something here I never saw anywhere else and I want to be a part of it."

Bro. Ralph Berardino had earlier had a dream in which he saw a sister place my mother's hand in his, so he performed the baptism of my mother, Sis. Ruth Mason. Since that time my mother's mind has failed much, but I have the consolation of knowing it is well with her soul and that Jesus *can* "heal the lame and blind, and *all* afflictions of the mind" whenever He chooses to do so.

The Lord opened another professional door unto me in 1975, as I gained employment as a counselor for delinquent youth in the state of Pennsylvania. Before taking the civil service exam for this job. I called a few saints and requested their prayers. With God's help I was hired. My assignment was to work with hard-core male youth offenders guilty of violent crimes such as murder, rape, assault, etc. While employed at this correctional institution, I attended Slippery Rock State University and obtained an M.A. in Educational Guidance and Counseling in 1981.

While taking postgraduate courses toward my master's degree, I sat under the teachings of knowledgeable professors who were experts in the field of behavioral science. These instructors ac4 April, 1986

80 Years Old

Sister Mary Mae Fleming was born March 21, 1906, and became 80 years old this year.

She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 4, 1950 by Bro. Joseph Shazer. She has been a faithful member of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch for 36 years.

In 1980 she was operated on for a brain tumor. She testifies that God pulled her through and at the age of 80 she is able to come to church every Sunday and thank God for how He blesses her from day to day. She always says, "It's the same old story," but we thank God even for this. He never changes.



Sis. Mary Fleming

50th Anniversary

From the expressions of faith and sincerity in the Sunday School class, one could feel the presence of the Spirit of the Lord. Bro. David DiBattista was the teacher and he was soliciting memories of how the Lord had blessed us and manifested His guidance over us and His love for us. Brothers and sisters responded spontaneously with experiences they had had in their lives with the Lord. We all gained strength from these testimonies and from knowing that we all suffer with the uncertainties of the flesh, but if we work together and talk with one another, we will certainly share in a greater portion of the Lord's blessings.

This feeling of the presence of God and that he was truly real and with us continued into the meeting. We were blessed with the visit of Bro. Richard Thomas from Detroit Branch 1. It was a particularly happy occasion for our brother, because it was his mother's 50th anniversary of her baptism into the Church. He told us that life had not been easy for his mother, but she endured these many years and stood firm in her faith in the Lord and her commitment to the Church. She lived up to the promise she made at the river on the day of her baptism fifty years ago.

Bro. Thomas talked to us about abiding with Christ. He read scripture from John 15. The seventh verse most accurately depicted the message of his talk, "If ye abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

As we go through life trying to serve God, we need the strength that comes only through Him and hearing about Him. "It's food for our souls," Brother Thomas said. Abiding, he went on, means to remain faithful to God for the rest of our lives, whether it be for fifty years or just a few, and whether we are great or small. He said, "I might not be able to go through life enduring as did the Apostle Paul, but I can go through as Brother Richard Thomas." When we are alone we can talk to the Lord and He hears us, and we feel comforted by Him because He abides in us. When we want joy in our lives we can go to Him because we know that with Him our lives will be enhanced and our joy will be full. When we want to know the truth about things, we can go to the Lord because He is honest with us. He knows our wants and desires. Brother Thomas quoted the Apostle Paul when he was coming to the end of his life, ". . . I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." He emphasized that in order for us to abide in the Lord and He in us, we would have to live righteous lives.

Bro. Thomas' words took on even more meaning when Bro. Louis Vitto asked Sister Grace Thomas to come forward and receive a corsage and be recognized for having been in the Church fifty years. Bro. Louis had many fond memories of our sister and was grateful to God that she had endured these many years. Sis. Thomas spoke for a few minutes about her life with the Lord and how He blessed her and never left her alone, even through the hard times. Her desire was to endure to the end of her days.

It was a lovely meeting that left us all with a clearer vision of what we have to do. If we are to prove faithful, we must abide in Christ, and live righteous lives. If we do this to the best of our ability, the Lord will abide in us and fill our lives to overflowing.

X



Sister Grace Thomas Sterling Heights, MI Branch

MBA Highlights

Sterling Hts. MBA

By Larry Sourvelis

On December 18, 1985 the MBA of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch were inspired of the Lord to get together and make up a total of 82 food baskets. The baskets, containing soups, vegetables, chili, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, jellies, canned hams, cereals, candy, and macaroni, were distributed to needy families in the inner city and other areas of Detroit. The people that received baskets, in many cases, do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Thank God who provides food for all flesh.

The Sterling Heights Branch would like to thank all the brothers and sisters from different branches who made this work possible by their donations and their labor.

The Lord says in Proverbs 3:9, "Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase."

We believe that if we obey God and do this, He will yield the increase. Amen.



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When Jesus Christ set up His Church, He gave commandment for certain ordinances, such as Communion and Feet Washing, to be performed by those who followed Him. We read that the Lord's disciples did not always understand the meaning behind these things when the Lord first administered them. When He told them, "Whose eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life," the scriptures tell us that many of them went back, and walked no more with Him (John 6:54, 66). Likewise when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He said to them, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter" (John 13:7).

While Jesus was still abiding on the face of the earth, these ordinances had no meaning for His followers. But after His death and resurrection, when the Holy Ghost entered into His disciples, they were able to understand what it was that Jesus had done for them, what the meaning was behind these sacraments. Only then, after they knew what these things meant, were they able to benefit spiritually by observing them.

Today we have the word of God and His Holy Ghost to guide us to an understanding of these things. As we continue to grow spiritually, the precious things that the Lord set up in His Church should become more and more meaningful to us.

It is not difficult, however, for these things to lose their significance in our lives. The Lord's Supper can become nothing more than taking a piece of bread and a sip of wine, unless we make a conscious effort to ponder upon what we are doing and why we are doing it. The blessed ordinance of feet washing can become a bothersome experience, even something to avoid, if we don't allow ourselves to become involved, with fullness of heart and mind, in what is taking place. We must each come to understand why Jesus instituted these things when He established His Church. If we do not, we might find ourselves just 'going through the motions,' not reaping the full benefit offered to us.

"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things . . ." (I Timothy 4:8). In this passage, we can interpret 'bodily exercise' not as physical activity, which we know to have a healthful effect, but rather as 'going through the motions' when it comes to observing the things of God.

Along with the more sacred ordinances of the Church, participating in testimony, attending church services, and even giving of our substance to the Church can become mere acts of 'bodily exercise,' unless we make the effort in all that we do to perform it unto the Lord, with full purpose of heart.

The Apostle Paul said, ". . . though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing" (I Corinthians 13:3). If we allow ourselves to ponder upon the things that we experience in the house of God, we will find ourselves more richly blessed, and more deeply rooted in the Gospel.

How can we work as individuals to make these things a more real part of our lives? We can prepare ourselves spiritually each day to be vessels of God's Holy Spirit. We can search the scriptures prayerfully, desiring to gain a deeper understanding of why we *do* the things that we do in the Church. As we work thus to prepare ourselves for the Lord's blessings, we will find them more abundant as we meet together, and more importantly we will come closer to being the holy people that the Lord would have all mankind to be.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

When Moses Was Afraid but Said Yes

Dear Girls and Boys,

How many times has someone asked you to help them do something you've never done before, or do something by yourself and you were too scared you'd make a mistake to say, "Yes, I'll try. Yes, I'll do it."? It's hard sometimes to have that courage even when it is something really good, like singing a song for the Lord or telling your best friend that what they're doing is wrong in God's eyes. But courage comes from God. Courage comes from faith that God is there, and God is watching and that He is so happy when we let ourselves change and grow and not be afraid to stand up for what is right and try to do work for Him. It's also realizing that God is in charge of the new thing you are trying to do. You can never fail if God's in charge.

In the faraway Bible days, a great man named Moses fought for courage to let God use him to do a big job, and Moses was a grownup, an eighty-yearold man, at the time he was afraid.

Moses was born as a member of the Israelite nation. He'd been adopted by a daughter of the Pharaoh when he was just a tiny baby, but he'd known he was not a member of the ruling Egyptians, but rather a relative to the poor Israelite slaves working for the Egyptians. After killing an Egyptian guard who'd been whipping an Israelite, Moses had to flee the country. He'd traveled far across the desert and then lived many years with a shepherd family there, whose daughter he married.

Over eighty years had passed since the baby, Moses, had been adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. All of these years the Egyptians only increased the murders and tortures towards the Israelite people. Finally these people began to cry unto God to deliver them and God heard their cries. As Moses was out walking his sheep to good pastures, he saw a fire burning on a bush, but the bush was not being burned up. He stopped in amazement and the Lord spoke to him.

"Moses, take off your shoes, this is holy ground. I am the God of your father and grandfathers, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob."

Moses hid his face and was afraid to look upon the Lord. The Lord continued, "I have seen the terrible things done to my people in Egypt. I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and bring them to a rich land of their own. Come now, I will send you to Pharaoh so you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Even though he was actually hearing God's voice, the human part of Moses feared. He said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring these people out of Egypt?"

And God replied, "Certainly I will be with you; and this is a sign that I've sent you. When you bring the people from Egypt, you'll serve God on this very same mountain."

"But Lord," argued Moses, "these people don't know about serving you. When I tell them, "The God of your fathers has sent me unto you,' and they say, 'Who is this God? What is His name?' what shall I say unto them?"

Moses doubted and feared and anticipated trouble as much as any of us do when we are faced with a new job to do for the Lord. He said to the Lord, "They won't believe me or listen to me; they'll say, 'The Lord hasn't appeared to you!'."

So the Lord gave Moses two amazing signs. With the first he threw his rod

down and it became a powerful serpent until he picked it up by the tail and it became a stick again. The second sign was the change in Moses' skin. When Moses put his hand inside his shirt, on his chest, and pulled it out it was covered with the decaying, horrible disease of leprosy. Putting it back in and taking it out made his hand whole again.

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"If they won't believe these signs, pour river water on the ground and it will turn to blood. Then they'll believe," said God.

Still Moses feared and doubted and tried to get God to pick someone else to do this new, unheard-of job. This adult man told God, "Lord, I'm not a good speaker. I've never been a good speaker. I'm slow of speech and slow of tongue."

"Who made your mouth?" the Lord asked. "Go, and I'll be with your mouth and teach you what to say."

Yet Moses still feared and told God to send anyone but him. Finally the Bible tells us the Lord was angry and He told Moses that He'd send Moses' brother Aaron to help him; Aaron was good in speech. The Lord instructed Moses, "I will speak unto you and you will tell Aaron and he will be a spokesman for you to the people of Israel. But you take this rod in your hands with which you will perform signs."

So Moses put aside his great fears of what people would think, and what if no one believed him, and step by step followed God's instructions for a great plan to establish a brand new nation, free from slavery and free to serve God. A man too scared to say 'yes' at first let God change him to be a leader of a mighty nation. The Pharaoh did finally let the people go and many hard-earned lessons later a new generation of believers served God in truth—thanks to one man who let God overcome his fears and use him.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

Doubt sees the obstacles, Faith sees the way; Doubt sees the blackest night, Faith sees the day; Doubt dreads to take a step, Faith soars on high; Doubt questions, "Who believes?" Faith answers, "I."



Branch and Mission News



Andrew Judy translates Bro. John Vela's sermon into the Navajo tongue for visitors at Tse Bonito. Later, we all gathered outside for a photo.

Tse Bonito, NM

By Peter Genaro

"And when these things come to pass that my seed shall begin to know these things it shall be a sign unto them; that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which He hath made unto the people who are of the House of Israel" (III Nephi 21:7).

It was truly a memorable occasion when our friends from the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ in Pinon, Arizona (in the heart of the Navajo Nation) came to meet with us and worship together with us on October 27, 1985. We shared in a service of preaching and praising God, perhaps the way it was some one-hundred-fifty years ago.

'Ah, we knew the day would come'... when we saw Andrew Judy, a Navajo Indian from Pinon, Arizona, interpreting into the Navajo language a sermon given by Brother John Vela, an elder who was visiting from the Santa Ana, CA Mission, along with his wife, Sis. Martha, and Bro. Ysidro Dominguez.

Bro. John spoke to us concerning Christ's words, "Other sheep I have which are not of this fold. . ." He related many beautiful experiences of healing and manifestations of God's power in the latter days among our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters. We shared in a wonderful testimony service, giving praise to God for the light of the Restoration that has come into our lives. We spent the afternoon in fellowship and getting better acquainted over a pot luck dinner.

Detroit Branch 4

By Kerry Carlini

The year of 1985 provided Detroit Branch 4 a mixed bag of blessings. We enjoyed the company of many visiting saints, new members, ordinations, as well as many spirit-filled meetings where we left praising and glorifying the Lord for His goodness towards us. Yet, as sometimes happens, we have been touched with affliction and the loss of loved ones.

From our rostrum we have been blessed with visiting elders, in that Brother George Benyola gave an inspiring account of the miraculous healing of his granddaughter. Brother Nephi DeMercurio related the dealings of the Lord in his life, especially in preparing him for his work in Nigeria. Brother Joe Ross admonished us towards obedience, like unto Naaman's, that we might receive a greater portion of God's Spirit. Bro. Dominic Moraca instructed us to build our homes on the solid rock of the teachings of Jesus, that we might withstand the storms of life. He said it was the love of the saints that carried him and his family through their times of trial. Taking his message from Alma 32, Bro. Paul Palmieri encouraged us not to be compelled to be humble, for more blessed are those that willingly abase themselves in the eyes of the Lord. Bro. Carl Frammolino stated that like the early saints who met at the waters of Mormon, we must be "willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light."

One summer Sunday we were treated by a visiting Indian sister, Myrtle Kiser, who sang *In the Sweet By and By* in her native Delaware tongue. She continued, testifying of her life as a child on the reservation and the experiences which led her into the Church.

Two of our members, Sister Marie Fera and Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo, celebrated fifty years of faithful service in the Church. These two members join the other Branch 4 saints who have already reached fifty years, Bro. Gorie

(Continued on Page 8)

8 April, 1986

BRANCH 4 continued . . .

Ciaravino, Sister Lillian Furnier, Brother Anthony and Sister Anne Lovalvo, Sis. Marion Maisano, Bro. Jerome and Sis. Providence Palermo, and Sister Yolanda Pietrangelo.

Of special interest to our branch is the work that is being started up in Independence, Missouri. Because Brother Anthony Lovalvo has been a vital part of this new work, our branch has been able to get a first-hand report of the progress and the wonderful experiences had pertaining to this new effort. We pray that God will bless this work and that many, not only in Independence but wherever the Gospel is preached, will open their hearts to the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Omaha/Bedford

By Joyce Matthews

The Omaha/Bedford Mission experienced a weekend of blessings on November 23 and 24, 1985.

Saturday afternoon, the sisters gathered at the church for a season of singing and prayer while the brothers were out visiting the sick and those who had expressed an interest in the Gospel. What a blessing it is to be able to pour out our hearts to Our Heavenly Father about our mutual cares and concerns as well as praise and thanksgiving for our many blessings.

Bro. Mitchell Edwards opened the Saturday evening service with the theme of "Blessed Assurance." He spoke of the assurance that we have of our salvation and the testimony we have of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to tell to others. Bro. Mitchell concluded his discourse with the blessed assurance we have that God's kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.

Bro. Clifton Wells followed, exhorting us to go out and preach the Gospel by telling others what God has done for us. We must submit perfectly that God will be able to rule and reign in our hearts, that He might use us to bring His kingdom about on earth.

Sunday morning, we gathered at the Missouri River to witness the baptism of Sister Hattie Mason. Sis. Hattie has been attending the meetings in Omaha for several months. She has stood and testified to the goodness of God in her life. She's had hands laid on by the elders for an affliction and received strength and relief. Sis. Mary Jane Harris testified later that God gave her the words "perfect submission" as Brother Vince Gibson led Sis. Hattie into the icy river.

Back at the Church, the brothers proceeded with the ordination of Bro. Clifton Wells as an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Mitchell Edwards washed Bro. Clifton's feet and prayed for God's blessings on Bro. Clifton. He prayed that God would grant Bro. Clifton the gifts that Bro. Penn had years ago, and the discernment of God, to know how to come in and go out, and that Bro. Clifton would be a willing shepherd to the flock in Omaha, Nebraska. Then Bro. Vince Gibson laid hands on Bro. Clifton and prayed that God would use Bro. Clifton's words to draw men unto Him, and that after they would come, God would allow our Bro. Clifton to be a father unto them, that he would have wisdom and love for all who would call upon him.

Following the ordination, our newlybaptized Sis. Hattie was confirmed by laying on of hands. During the testimony service that followed, many confirmations came forth attesting to both the calling of our brother into the priesthood and to our sister's calling into the Church. Several visions which took place during the ordination and confirmation were related by various brothers and sisters.

The Omaha/Bedford Mission rejoices in these and all the blessings that God has bestowed upon us. We ask for the prayers of our brothers and sisters throughout the Church, that our mission will continue to grow and that the saints here will continue to serve God in Spirit and in Truth.

Cleveland, OH

Sunday morning January 19, 1986 was a foggy and drizzly wet day. We set out for the drive to the Cleveland Branch to attend morning worship.

After our opening prayer and announcements, Presiding Elder Bill Prentice opened our service with Alma Chapters 5 and 46. We all felt God's blessings in our brother's talk.

When the meeting was opened for testimony, Reymon Rangel stood up immediately and related a dream he had had the previous night in which he was given two choices. Reymon then said that his choice was to be baptized. We continued with the testimonies while Bro. Bill Prentice stepped over to Reymon and spoke with him.

When Bro. Bill came back to the podium, he announced that we were going to resume our meeting after the baptism. We all gathered at Sims Park and walked down to Lake Erie for the ceremony. "Happy Day, Happy Day, when Jesus washed my sins away!" Bro. Bill Hufnagle performed the baptism.

We returned to the church and continued with the confirmation of our new brother in Christ. Bro. Vince Gibson confirmed our brother into the Church. After the confirmation, we continued with singing of hymns and *Songs of Zion*. More testimonies were heard and several brothers and sisters asked to be anointed. We thank God for a truly blessed day.

An American Indian, Bro. Reymon is the husband of Sister Robin (Alaburda) Rangel. He has been attending worship services in our branch for about three years. He also plays the guitar and was a soloist at all of the recent weddings in our branch. Our prayer is that God may continue to bless our new brother in Christ and his wife, Sister Robin, in the years to come.

Detroit Inner City

By Lisa DiFalco

Sunday January 5 was an eventful day for the brothers and sisters of the Detroit Inner City Branch. Even as all Sundays are special, we felt an extra blessing in the words our brothers had in store for us this first Sunday of the new year.

Our Brother Eugene Amormino opened the service, and with the inspiration of God he read from Isaiah 43:18, "Remember not the former things, neither consider the things of old."

Bro. Eugene told us to leave our bitter experiences of the previous year behind, saying that nothing we do now can ever change the past, but rather to look forward to the new year with hope. "Do you have a hope, or are you afraid to die?" Bro. Eugene asked.

He elaborated on his question by saying that those of us who've made a commitment to serve God, but feel somehow that we're not as close to the Lord as we should be, ought to be making our way back into the arms of God. Our brother also petitioned our friends who have not made that commitment to consider it.

Bro. Eugene also explained the importance of leaving those "former things" we have been forgiven for in the past, and not let Satan deceive us into believing that we never really were forgiven. Satan's greatest tool is guilt, and he'll try to hold it over our heads, but Bro. Eugene told us not to bring this guilt into the new year. He said to stop considering "the things of old," and believe that when Christ died on the cross all sin and guilt was nailed there with him. Then when we ask forgiveness, He forgives. When we ask to forget, He will. Amen.

Bro. Eugene expounded on how even little things that we do can bring about transformations in our spiritual lives which can make us become vihicles to spread the word of God, while bringing about part of the Restoration of the Church as a whole.

Then he continued with Isaiah 43:19, "Behold I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert."

Bro. Eugene expressed the importance that we understand as we undergo our transformations that Christ never promised us that we would have no trials, but that He *did* promise that He would be our deliverer. In the wilderness He would make a way for us where none other could, and in the spiritual deserts around us He would cause rivers of living water to flow for His people.

Bro. Eugene then related an experience a brother had on his way to work. The voice of the Lord told him to look out his windshield, and he beheld a mountain, and the Lord said, "There is a way over that mountain." The Lord then told our brother to look, and as he did he saw a valley, bushes, and a tunnel. Each time he came to one, the Lord would say, "There is a way." The last time the Lord said, "There is a way through me."

We were all stirred in hearing our brother's words, and it carried over into song. The brothers came forward and sang *Blessed Assurance*, and the sisters sang *Amazing Grace*, to close the service.

Vanderbilt, PA

I would like all of our brothers and sisters to hear of some of our blessings and sorrows in the year 1985.

On February 19, 1985 our Brother and Sister Wilmer Barron celebrated their Fiftieth wedding anniversary with a beautiful dinner given by their children. May God bless them all their remaining years.

On August 26, 1984 Bro. Thomas Hughes was baptized by Bro. James King, Bro. Tom was very ill with cancer, and he passed away May 31, 1985. Our brother is survived by his wife, Sis. Pearl Hughes, four daughters and two stepsons.

Brothers Robert Nicklow and Malcolm Paxon transferred to our branch from Monongahela in August and it is such a blessing to have them both in our midst. We are also happy to have Bro. Joseph and Sis. Edna Bittinger back at our branch after some years in Florida. Sis. Edna is ill and we ask the saints to remember her in prayer.

On September 8, 1985 Kerri Beth and Joshua Ray King were blessed in the Church by Bro. Bob Nicklow.

In November, 1985 Felicia A. Thomas, a great-granddaughter of one of our sisters, was blessed by Bro. Lawrence King.

Bro. and Sis. James Link Jr. are an inspiration to all the brothers and sisters at Vanderbilt. They travel a great distance every week to be in our presence. May God bless them and their daughters for this great effort.

November 3, 1985 Bro. Raymond Keller committed himself to the Lord. He was baptized by Bro. Lawrence King. It was a great blessing this day, as all of his children were present to witness the baptism. God surely was smiling down on all of us.

Anaheim, CA

By Pam Capone

The Anaheim Branch has had many blessings. One of them is that we are very often blessed with visitors from all around the country. Some say it's the warm weather in winter that attracts people, but we hope it's the warm welcoming spirit that attracts the family of God.

Visiting the branch on several occasions has been Bro. Tony and Sis. Rose Palermo from Phoenix, Bro. Carl and Sis. Marie Huttenberger from New Jersey, Bro. Larry and Sis. Cindy Henderson from Windsor, Ontario, Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Henderson from Riverside Mission, Bro. Louis Metzger, Sis. Santina Mercuri, and Sis. Alma Granados from Santa Ana Mission.

We would like to welcome Bro. Oscar Lopez, who has recently transferred to our branch.

On September 29, 1985 we had Bro. John Vela and his wife Sis. Martha visiting us. On October 6 we had Bro. Kenny Lombardo and Sis. Rhonda Ross in our midst. On October 16 we heard a report on the General Conference straight from a Pennsylvanian, General Church Executive Secretary Paul Palmieri. Visiting that same Wednesday evening was Sis. Lorraine DeMercurio, Sis. Betty Duckworth, and Sis. Arline Whitton.

November 10 brought Bro. Jim and Sis. Lydia Dulisse, along with Bro. V. J. Lovalvo and his wife Sister Mary. Bro. Lovalvo spoke from Matthew 19:16-26, on the rich young ruler and what he lacked to enter into the kingdom of heaven. He urged us to reflect upon ourselves and what we lack in view of all the riches we have.

On December 1 we had Bro. Ken and Donna Henderson from Windsor, Ontario and Sis. Angeline and Joyce Trovarelli from Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

On December 15 Bro. John and Sis. Joy Azzinaro from the Valley Branch spent the day and worshipped with us.

Special meetings and recent events in the branch include:

- * An IMA/Africa presentation and slide show given by Sisters Mary Ann Nicosia and Shari Ciotti on September 10. This evening proved to be very exciting as our sisters described their recent trip to Africa in great detail and shared with us upcoming goals and projects.
- * The annual Thanksgiving basket

(Continued on Page 10)

ANAHEIM continued . . .

distribution was a great success as thirty baskets (complete with a turkey and all the trimmings) were given to needy families in the Orange County area.

- * A young men's retreat was held in a Big Bear cabin on the weekend of December 13-15. Our brothers and young men returned from the mountain benefiting from the special time they were able to share.
- * Christmas was once again a special time of year as "Christmas in Mexicali" was once again underway. Friends, brothers, and sisters worked together in providing gifts for those in Mexicali, Mexico. This type of project gives an indescribable blessing to all those involved. The following poem, I think, best describes the way God blesses us when we share and truly give-not only at Christmas, but always.

The food that I share with others Is the food that nourishes me. The strength that I spend for others Is the strength that I retain. The freedom I seek for others Shall take away my pain. The load that I lift in others Makes my load disappear. The good I see in others My greatest good shall be. The love that I feel for others Comes back my life to cheer. The path that I walk with others Is the path God walks with me.

Unknown

Clairton, PA

By Tirann Udosen

On November 12, 1985, the Clairton Mission was host to an evangelistic meeting. Bro. Dick Lawson opened the meeting in prayer and we sang *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning.*

Bro. Bob Buffington opened the meeting, speaking on Ebenezer. He was followed by Bro. Alma Nolfi, who spoke on Daniel's wisdom in his decision to serve God. Bro. Joe Ross followed on the excellent spirit and attitude carried by our brothers traveling to India. Bro. John Griffith, General Borad of Missions chairman, offered a special prayer asking God's special blessing upon these brothers. One of the brothers making the trip, Bro. Paul Palmieri, spoke of his expectations in the forthcoming trip.

The meeting was closed with the hymn *Blessed Assurance*, and Bro. Jim Campbell offered the closing prayer. For this occasion the Clairton building was filled to capacity with brothers and sisters from many of the district branches. After the meeting refreshments were served by the Clairton members in the dining room.

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola

On January 12, 1986 the Levittown Branch was filled to capacity to witness the ordination of two brothers and to hear the word of God preached by two visiting elders.

Brother Lawrence King from the Vanderbilt, PA Branch opened our meeting and related to the congregation that God wants His people to work for Him willingly, to spread this Gospel throughout the world. We need to ask ourselves the question, do we *really* want God to use us? There are no age restrictions when working for the Lord; He can call us to do His work at the age of 12 or at the age of 75.

Brother James Crudup of the Freehold, NJ Branch added to our brother's theme by indicating that we must give 100 percent to the Lord. We have a job to do *now*; we are responsible for spreading this Gospel *now*! We read in our Church history what the saints of old did in spreading this Gospel, what will the history book say about us?

The congregation then sang Jesus Use Me. This song was very appropriate for the two ordinations that followed. Our Brother James G. Speck (the father of Bro. James L. Speck) was ordained a teacher in the Church by Bro. Samuel Dell, and our Brother Mark King was ordained a deacon by his father, Bro. Lawrence King. A good spirit was felt throughout the congregation and our prayers are with these two brothers, that God would give them the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding needed to uphold the offices they now occupy.

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

A great way to start the new year is with an ordination, and that's just what we did in Riverside on January 5. Brothers and sisters gathered from different branches and missions to witness Sis. Bennie Jones ordained into the office of a deaconess. She dedicated her life to God over twenty years ago and has given much time to fasting and praying and searching the scriptures daily to learn more of God. Ĵ.

There were several experiences confirming her calling. In one, our sister saw herself and many of the saints working in a large field, as if planting seed of some kind. Some were digging, some were planting, and some were watering, when a man appeared to her with a beautiful gem and said, "Take this, it belongs to you." She didn't know the man, but knew he was a man of authority.

Sis. Bennie's feet were washed by Sis. Juanita Toribio, and she was ordained by Bro. Isidro Dominguez.

Bro. Otto Henderson opened the service speaking of how we grow from babes to adults in the Church, and if we grow in the Lord, He can make something beautiful of our lives.

We also had a very special guest with us, Bro. Rudy Meo and his wife Sis. Harriet. I asked Bro. Rudy if he would sing for us and he sang *The Name of Jesus*.

TREASURE continued . . .

curately described behavioral problems; however, they were unable to produce solutions. On the other hand, it has been a beautiful and astounding experience for me to witness ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ-some of whom have had little formal educationaccurately pinpoint individuals' needs and then, under the influence of the Spirit of God, give the solution to each problem. How marvelous and excellent is the Wisdom of God! No wonder the Apostle Paul considered all else as dung! Personally, when I have needed assistance in dealing with difficult issues in teaching or counseling situations, I have found that all the college instruction I received was of no help to me, and I have had to resort back to what I

April, 1986 11

learned in the Gospel of Jesus Christ Restored, to "cry unto Him over the crops of your field. . ."

In conclusion, I desire to praise God forever for the Gift of His Son Jesus Christ unto you and unto me. He is indeed a Heavenly Treasure within our hearts and within our lives. I'm also thankful unto God for the beautiful *Songs of Zion*, which capture and express many of our feelings, beliefs, hopes, and joys. May God continue to bless you is my prayer.

> Sis. Connie Smith Youngstown, Ohio

MOSES continued . . .

But a SEER will I raise up (an American Indian), and to him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the Indians, and not to the bringing forth of my word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing them of my word, which has already gone forth among them.

Wherefore, Joseph, your posterity shall write (Nephite records), Judah shall write (*Bible*), and their writings shall grow together, unto the confounding of false doctrines, and establishing peace among the Indians and bringing them to the knowledge of their fathers in the latter days and also to the knowledge of My covenants, saith the Lord. And out of weakness he shall be made strong in that day. My work shall commence among all my people unto the restoring thee, O house of Israel, saith the Lord.

And thus prophesied Joseph, saying, Behold, that SEER will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise, which I have obtained from the Lord, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise, and his name shall be called after me, and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing which the Lord shall bring forth by His hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people (American Indians) unto salvation. Yea, thus prophesied Joseph: I am sure of this thing even as I am sure of the promise of Moses; for the Lord hath said unto me, I will preserve thy seed forever.

And the Lord hath said: I will raise up a Moses; and I will give power unto him in rod; and I will give judgment unto him in writing, yet I will not loose his tongue, that he shall speak much, for I will not make him mighty in speaking, but I will write unto him My law, by the finger of My own hand, and I will make a spokesman for him.

And the Lord said unto him also, I will raise up unto the Indians a SEER and I will make for him a spokesman. And behold, I will give unto him that he shall write the writing of the Nephite records unto the Indians, and a spokesman, an Indian, shall declare it. And the words which he shall write shall be the words which are expedient in My wisdom should go forth unto the Indians, and it shall be as if the Nephites had cried out unto them from the dust; for I know their faith. And they shall cry from the dust; even unto repentance unto their brethren, even after many generations have gone by them. And it shall come to pass that their cry shall go even according to the simpleness of their words.

Because of their faith their words shall proceed forth out of My mouth unto their brethren (the American Indians), and the weakness of their words will I make strong in their faith, unto the remembering of my covenants which I made unto thy fathers.

And now behold, my son Joseph (the Prophet Lehi speaking to his youngest son between 588 and 570 BC), after this manner did my father of old prophesy. Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed; for thy seed (posterity) shall not be destroyed, for they shall hearken unto the words of the book (Nephite records). And there shall rise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in words and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith to work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren (the American Indians).

> T. Dom Bucci Evangelist

* WEDDINGS *

JOHNSON-CAPONE

Warren Johnson and Cheryl Capone were united in marriage on November 30, 1985 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Anaheim, California.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Rusty Heaps and James Huttenberger.

Musical selections were provided by pianist Diane Surdock, soloist Darren Surdock, and a duet by Janice Huttenberger and Lori Capone.

The newlyweds will reside in Garden Grove, California. May God bless Warren and Cheryl as they begin their new life together.

New Arrivals

Congratulations are in order to the proud parents for

the indicated new members of their families:

Lisa Rochelle to Paul and Kay Gray of Anaheim, California.

Mfon Eha to Monday and Tirann Udosen of Clairton, Pennsylvania.

Kimberly Ann to Wayne and Pam Donkin of Glassport, Pennsylvania.

Twins, Brian David and Brandon Daniel to Dean and Joann Patello of Glassport, Pennsylvania.

Daniel Joseph to Joseph and Demetra Arcuri of Metuchen, New Jersey.

Sara Beth to Stan and Susan Davis of Lake Worth, Florida.

Michelle Justine to Michael and Susan Mancinelli of Detroit Inner City Branch.

Christina Lindley to Bruce and Cindy Churchill of Wiscasset, Maine.

April, 1986

OBITUARIES

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

JOSEPHINE PALERMO

Sister Pietra (Josephine) Palermo of the Anaheim, California Branch passed away on October 29, 1985. She was born on July 15, 1898 and was baptized into the Church in 1927.

She is survived by a son and a daughter, two sisters, and three grandchildren.

Our Sister Palermo will be missed by all who knew her in the Anaheim area.

PAUL VANCIK

Brother Paul Vancik of the San Carlos, Arizona Mission passed on to his eternal reward December 14, 1985. He was born on the Church colony in Kansas December 31, 1912 and baptized into the Church in March of 1939. Brother Paul was a deacon in the Church.

After retiring in 1975, he and his wife Sara moved west to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation, where they served as lay missionaries for the past ten years. As there were no elders residing at the mission during this time, the Vanciks' presence at San Carlos provided muchneeded help to the Indians and kept the Church established there.

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Bro. Paul is survived by his wife Sara (daughter of the late W. H. Cadman), five daughters, ten grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two sisters and two brothers besides his many friends, brothers, and sisters at the San Carlos Mission, where he served as Sunday School superintendent.

A viewing was held in Scottsdale, Arizona and services were later held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania with Brothers John R. Griffith and Idris Martin officiating.

FRANK ROGALLA

Frank C. Rogalla passed from this life on December 24, 1985. He was born July 14, 1934.

The funeral was conducted by the late Brother Dan Casasanta, with the assistance of Brothers Paul Ciotti and Richard Lawson.

He is survived by his wife Marge, four children, and three grandchildren. He is the father of Brother Joe Rogalla of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch.





May, 1986

The Experience of Sis. Nina Osaka of Kisii, Kenya

As Brothers Paul Carr and Joe Perri drove through the mountainous Kenyan countryside in search of Elizaphan Osaka (January, 1986 Gospel News), the Lord was at work, in His marvelous way, preparing the Osakas to receive these brothers and the Gospel they brought with them.

On Saturday night, February 16, 1985, I retired to bed after praying to God for His protection upon my family and also for The Church of Jesus Christ, with whom my husband had been corresponding. My prayer was that missionaries from that church would come to Kenya. Early in the morning, I was awakened by a voice that said, "Wake up!" I saw a man and he was wearing a funny grey hat.

He spoke to me and said, "Clean the blackboard," and so in my dream I took the duster and cleaned the blackboard. After I did so, the man started to write on the blackboard again, and I asked him why he was writing, since I was just told to clean the blackboard. He said, "Visitors are coming. I am writing the topics that the visitors will teach you."

After this experience, I heard another soft voice telling me to pray. I then awakened my husband and at first he thought something was wrong. I assured him that there was nothing wrong and I proceeded to tell him what I saw and that I heard a voice tell me to pray.

We dressed and went near our table, where we knelt down and sang a chorus of Jesus Loves Me, This I Know, for the Bible Tells Me So. After we sang, we began to pray as were directed. As it was very early in the morning, we returned to bed for a short while.

When the time came for me to arise again from bed, I did so and began to prepare the breakfast. When we finished our meal, I cleaned the house and arranged it for our Sunday School service. When the meeting was over, I arose and gave my testimony as to what had occurred during the night.

When I related my experience, a young man by the name of James began to tell of what he saw in an experience during the night. He related to us that he saw two men and a woman dressed in white (the woman had three small children with her) enter through the gate into our compound. He described the two men as both being husky, one tall and one short. When he finished telling us what he had seen, we knelt down to pray at the request of Brother Osaka. We were each asked to pray that God would show us what these experiences meant. We did not know what God was doing and what we would experience later that morning.

As we finished praying, we heard a knock at the door and as Bro. Osaka proceeded to open the door, we were very surprised to look out and see two white men standing outside of our door. Just as James saw, one man was tall and one was short.

The tall man (Bro. Joseph Perri) asked us if we knew Brother John Ross. He then proceeded to introduce himself and

Volume 42, No. 5

Bro. Carr (the short man), and stated that they had just arrived from Nigeria; that they were missionaries from The Church of Jesus Christ. The joy we experienced cannot be described, for God had heard our cry, our prayer, and

(Continued on Page 4)

GMBA Campout 1986

"BE A PART FROM THE START"

Campout 1986 is only one month away and before you know it, we'll be packing our bags and on our way!! If you are one of the few who have yet to make plans to attend, there is still time for you to "Be a Part from the Start."

This camp promises to be a special one, for, in addition to the usual, enjoyable events of campout, we will also be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the GMBA Campout. It is sure to be a blessed week.

For those who have just been convinced to attend, camp begins Saturday June 14, and concludes the following Saturday June 21. This year's camp will be held at Epworth Forest, located in North Webster, Indiana. Let us keep a prayer in our hearts that the blessings of God meet us there. I encourage all to attend, for your efforts will be richly rewarded. May God bless you and we'll see you at Camp!

> GMBA Editor Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti

Greetings in Christ



By Evangelist Mark Randy

CREATION WAS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL GOD GAVE MAN A MOTHER

Greetings in Christ to All Readers,

A Mother is among the greatest treasures on earth. "Her value is priceless."

A Mother puts a gleam in the eyes of her children and a joy in the heart of her husband.

A Mother tries her best to weave the fibers of life that her children can live by; though at times the threads don't seem to fall into place, since sometimes they seem to tangle, but the heart is assured that Mother is still trying to work out the best design that she can with God as her guide.

Not all Mothers are given the honor of being great or famous. Some are thought of as being weak, some meek, some bold, and some strong.

But we, her children, know in our hearts that Mothers, if they could weave the tapestry of life perfectly and take all of the tangles out, if they could be the greatest designer of all, that this she could do.

We love you Mothers-both past, present, and future. I love the memories.

Mark Randy

This Is a Mother

A virtuous mother that cares enough Is like a jewel true, priceless. Helps the mental and spiritual growth By her wisdom, kindness, and caress.

This is a mother.

She has an added gift untold Because in her trust children grow. She's a special person above gold By her children you will know. This is a mother.

Her husband sings her a refrain, Her children will call her blessed. Favor's deceitful, beauty is vain, But mothers that fear God are praised. This is a mother.

Mark Randy

Address Correction

Bill and Evelyn Crall P.O. Box 1028 Anadarko, OK 73005

Phone 1-405-588-3883

Missionaries Wanted

Are you searching, looking for something to do for God? There is a little field in the West for you to work. It is a place called San Carlos, Arizona. The Church is looking for elders who will make a short-term commitment. By serving there for two or three months, you will be a precious link in the chain of supporters until a full-time missionary is appointed.

Two brothers have volunteered to work for February, March, and also July of this year. We are looking for others to come and stay, and be nursing mothers and fathers during the remaining months of the year. Will you come? Will you answer this call for help? Will you fill the gap?

The work in San Carlos is alive. In 1985, there were three baptisms. This year, a new sister has been baptized, and other men and women are interested in the Church. This great work awaits you. You can be used as an instrument to further the work there. You will receive more than you give.

Many brothers and sisters at San Carlos are asking God for brothers to come and fill the gap, even for a short stay. As liaison between the Arizona Mission Board and San Carlos, I beseech you in the precious name of Jesus to respond to this call. Contact me soon to apply:

> Bro. Stephen Saffron 8330 E. Weldon Scottsdale, AZ 85251

> > (602) 947-6785



San Carlos Mission

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

Subject: The Peaceful Reign

I have been directed by the Holy Spirit of God to write on one of the most important hopes and expectation of the saints in these latter days: **The Peaceful Reign**, or, as the scriptures refer to it, **The Kingdom of God** established on the face of the earth *prior* to the **First Resurrection**, which is also known as the **Millenial**.

In Isaiah 2:2-4, it is recorded:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nations, neither shall they learn war any more.

In conjunction with Isaiah's vision of that which would transpire in the last days, he also predicts the following:

And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf shall also dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isaiah 11:5-9).

The scripture I have quoted aboveon its face value-seems to be either a contradiction, a paradox, or almost an impossibility that such a thing could happen on the face of the earth. Many ministers and eloquent orators have given this scripture the interpretation that the "lion and the lamb" indicates both the "high and mighty" and the "lowly and meek," in that order, referring to human beings, but I am going to bring out an entirely different meaning. It is, in fact, the Faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. I shall endeavor to prove by the Word of God that the above scripture will have a literal fulfillment on the face of the earth while men and women are still "in the flesh." To substantiate this reasoning, I quote from the Book of Mormon, I Nephi 22:17, which reads:

Wherefore he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it so be that the fulness of his wrath must come, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire. Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.

Nephi continues his prophecy:

And because of the righteousness of his people Satan has no power; wherefore, he cannot be loosed for the space of many years; for he hath no power over the hearts of the people, for they dwell in righteousness and the Holy One of Israel reigneth (I Nephi 22:26).

Some, no doubt, may be under the impression that what is written above refers to the time of the Resurrection or at the end of the world and the Great Judgment Day following. The Revelation of John predicts that Satan will be bound for a thousand years and will have no power over the saints who are in the company of Christ (the First Resurrection or Millenium). I realize that almost the same wording of "Satan being bound" or "cannot be loosed for the space of many years" is used by Nephi, but the scripture used in the 22nd chapter of I Nephi does *not* refer to the First Resurrection, nor to any time in the hereafter, for Nephi ends his discourse with this phrase: "And now behold, I, Nephi, say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh" (I Nephi 22:27).

I want the reader to keep in mind that I am writing of things that are going to come to pass while men and women are living in their mortal bodies (in the flesh), not of events in the hereafter. It is difficult, I know, for many people to visualize the condition that will evolve as spoken by Isaiah. When will it come to pass? How will the Lord bring this about? As a preliminary to answering these specific questions, I will show how the Lord can do these things.

When Christ was crucified in the land of Jerusalem, there were three days of darkness and destruction; much darkness, the likes of which men had never seen in their lives (so it is written in the Book of Mormon). On this continent of America, because they had crucified the Lord Jesus on Calvary's Cross, God caused mountains to become valleys; cities were inundated with water: some cities were burned to the ground by fire. Many people had exclaimed (on this land) that it was impossible that God would destroy such cities as Zarahemla or Moronihah, or other cities which were densely populated. But it is written that these cities were destroyed, and so were the sinners destroyed on this land. All this in just three days! After the three days were over, only the "more righteous" were spared on the face of this continent. Just think for a moment, dear reader; God destroyed the wicked in three days! He spared only the "more righteous."

Scientists warn us of the tremendous power of nuclear bombs and the horrible destruction they can cause to humanity. They also warn of the dreadful fallout after the explosions, and how it will be impossible for mankind to exist after the bombings because the earth and the air will be polluted for many centuries. This is dreadful indeed! But the difference between the destruction by nuclear bombings and their dire aftermaths, and the destruction that God can cause, is this: When God destroys wickedness (and leaves only the more righteous), the land and the air 4 May, 1986

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

are not polluted with any kind of "fallout" like that which comes from nuclear bombs. When God flooded the earth and the waters receded, the lands became purified, not polluted. So it happened when He destroyed some of the cities and people on this land of America. They did not have to fear any kind of "fallout." No atomic, Hydrogen, or nuclear weapon can compare in its intensity with the power of God Almighty. No scientific mind can ever conceive of anything that would divide the waters as the Lord parted the Red Sea, or allow a person to be swallowed by a large fish, as God did with Jonah, and still live! Praise the Lord for His great and marvelous powers, for He can certainly destroy, and He can create as well! Now back to the scriptures.

The mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the tops of the mountains, and exalted above the hills; and many nations shall say, "Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, up to the house of the God of Jacob, and there we will learn of His ways, and we will walk in His paths. . . ." Here is an indication that The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is symbolized as a "mountain of the Lord's House." The Lord's House is His Church! It is to rise in glory as a "Mountain established on the tops of the mountains and exalted above the hills." The glory of the Lord's House (the Church) will tower above all other religious or political organizations; it will overshadow everything and anything created by mankind. What will cause people of all nations to "flow unto it, and say, Come, let us go to the mountain of the Lord, up to the House of the God of Jacob, and there we will learn of His ways, and we will walk in His paths"?

Two things are mentioned by the prophet Isaiah that are necessary to the building up of this glorious House: **Righteousness** and **Faithfulness**! It is written: "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." Volumes can be written (and have been) on "Righteousness and Faithfulness." How are these two things achieved? Let Jesus answer: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

If one loves God above everything else, one leaves all worldliness and cleaves to His commandments without any reservations, dedicating oneself with all his heart, soul, and mind to God's service. And, if one loves his neighbor as himself, there will never be any desire to hurt, offend, or bring reproach upon another human being. Put these all together and they spell "RIGHTEOUSNESS."

I would like to add two other things which will cause people to come to the "mountain of the Lord's House." They are: Love and Healings! Christ was the embodiment of perfect love: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life'' (John 3:16). He also came to heal, not only the body but the broken heart as well. It is recorded that, "Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people" (Matthew 4:23). These two, love and healings, are powerful attractions that will motivate people to want to 'come and see' for themselves.

It is imperative that the Gospel that was restored in these latter days be lifted as a "STANDARD" for all people to see. That "STANDARD" is the righteousness of the people of God. The Church of Jesus Christ must set the example in all phases of righteousness: Living, speaking, acting, fulfilling, faithfulness, and the demonstrating of the gifts of His Spirit, especially the gifts of Love and Healings. Moroni said, ". . . if the day cometh that the power and gifts of God shall be done away among you, it shall be because of unbelief" (Moroni 10:24). Powerful and indicting words, are they not?

Continued in next month's issue.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My deepest thanks go out to each and every one of you for the prayers, phone calls, cards, visits, and words of encouragement I received during my recent affliction and surgery.

I am still recuperating, but I trust in God and pray continually for the welfare

of the Church and all the saints. Continue to pray for me, that I might be able to worship with you once again.

May God bless you all.

BrotherEugene Perri, Sr. Lake Worth, Florida Branch

I would like to thank my brothers, sisters, and friends for their prayers, cards, flowers, telephone calls, and support during my husband's illness and recent passing away. May God bless you and your loved ones.

> Sister Mary Ross Aliquippa, PA

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

granted our request. We had been praying for four years that missionaries from America would come to preach the Gospel to us. We did not see the woman that James saw in his experience. I thought possibly she might be the wife of one of the brothers, and asked if they had brought their wives. They said to us that their wives were in Nairobi. Bro. Perri and Bro. Carr told us that the woman in white represented the Church. This filled our souls with joy. Finally, the Church had come to Kenya.

Our brothers entered the house and both Bro. Perri and Bro. Carr addressed the men and women who were in our meeting hall.

When our service was over, we asked them to come outside so that we could talk. We sat under a tree and began to discuss the reasons why these brotners came to visit us. Bro. Joe related to us their experience of traveling to Kisii and how God blessed them in finding us.

We explained to Brothers Joseph and Paul what the reasons were that made us leave the church we were a part of; why we separated ourselves from that organization. We told of the difficulty we were having trying to register The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya. Brother John Ross had been writing to us and instructing us what to do, but the door was shut. Brother Ross sent us money for our travel, and many days were spent in traveling 250 miles one way to Nairobi. As we spoke, Bro. Joe wrote our remarks on a pad we had given him.



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints" (Revelation 19:7 & 8).

These words, given to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, speak of the day when the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes to wed His bride, the Church. She has made great preparations for this wedding day, making herself ready, as is expected of all brides, in a fine white garment, "the righteousness of the saints."

We are blessed to know, in these latter days, that these things must shortly come to pass. God has made us part of a chain of events which no other religious organization understands nor accepts. As we read how God will use this Church to bring Israel back to Him, and how He will ultimately use Israel to bring all nations to His truth, we are humbled to realize what an important work the Lord has given us to do.

We also believe in the continued revelation of God to His people. As the Lord directed Noah to build an ark, as He led the family of Lehi to a promised land, as He showed men such as the brother of Jared and the Apostle John all things from the creation unto the end of time, we know that He continues to reveal to us and direct us today.

The revelations of this never-changing God are always consistent with the words recorded in the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon*, for they, too, are the revealed words of God. It should come as no surprise to us, then, when the Lord gives us a commandment to become a more righteous people in His sight. As the wedding day of the Lamb of God approaches, the bride must make herself ready. According to the scriptures, in order for the Bridegroom to wed His Church, she must truly be arrayed in that fine white wedding garment, "the righteousness of the saints."

While we know that many things must come to pass before the Son of God will return to claim His bride, we must not use this knowledge as an excuse for failing to attain greater heights of godliness in our lives. We have been commissioned to bring the Restored Gospel to Israel and to the four corners of the earth. Without the direction, power, and Spirit of God upon us, we will surely wander in the wilderness. Unless we yield ourselves fully to the dictates of the Holy Ghost, we will continually lean upon our own frail understanding, which is truly foolishness in the sight of God.

The righteousness of the saints brings faith, strength, and power to The Church of Jesus Christ. But this righteousness is not something that comes about all by itself. The decision to live more righteously rests with each one of us, with you and with me, not so much for men to see, but for God to see our willingness to serve Him and abide in His will.

It may take time for us to fully attain the righteousness God seeks, learning and growing a little day by day. Being human, however, is no reason for us not to put forth our full efforts. As we endeavor to reach the throne of God, He will use us in greater and greater ways to bring about the restoration of the House of Israel. All nations will come to the mountain of the Lord's House, and Satan will be bound. Most importantly, we will at last be the people that God wants us to be; the Bride of the Lamb will finally have on her wedding garment.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Using Your Talents

Dear Girls and Boys,

Talents are strange things; like love they can't be used up. In fact, the more talents you use, the more of them you have—just like the more people you love, the more people you have who love you. Jesus wants us to be free to love and to grow in our talents. In the Bible, in Matthew 25:15-30 He tells us a story about talents which has two meanings.

The natural meaning talks about the old measure of money called a talent; the spiritual meaning talks about abilities to do things, our talents. In the story, a man leaving for a faraway country gave his three servants pieces of money to take care of while he was away. To the first he gave five talents (or, abilities), to the second he gave two talents, and the third received one talent.

While the man was away, the first servant took the five talents and used them. If he was afraid to try, he somehow overcame that fear and increased those five talents to ten. The second man had two talents. He too used the talents and they grew to be four talents. The third man was given one talent. He was afraid of failing; he was afraid to risk taking the one good talent the Lord gave him and use it. He was afraid to be in charge of it himself and even afraid or unwilling to lend it to other people who would help him develop that talent so it would grow some. He buried it in the ground, away from people's sight.

When the master returned to see what his servants had done, he was well pleased with the first servant who had used five talents and acquired five more. He put this servant in charge of many things. Likewise, he was pleased with the servant who had taken two talents, used them well, and earned two more talents. But when the Lord spoke to the



third servant, he discovered that he had hid his talents.

The Lord asked him why he hadn't even, at least, lent the talent to someone else who would have been in charge of it and developed it to some extent. The Lord took the talent away from the frightened servant and gave it to the first servant, who was willing to work and develop many, many talents.

Now we see the same thing in our lives. How many times has someone asked us to do something and we say no, only to see someone else be willing to try and they do real well? And then they feel brave about what they've done so far and they are willing and ready to try something harder. That's how talents grow.

If we're frightened or nervous about failing, we need to remember that the Lord loves us and will provide us with the wisdom and courage if we just go on and tell Him how worried we are and beg Him to help us. Soon, a little child willing to pass the offering basket has the courage to sing in a program, give the delegate's report at GMBA, and as the years pass, stand up in front of the Lord and everyone to testify of God's goodness. The sister or brother who quietly attends a business meeting or sits in on a committee meeting where they hear others openly exchanging ideas, can eventually become an officer and guide a group to greater good for all.

Here's a brief list of talents you can read and use as goals so that when the Lord approaches you it will be with his faith in *your* ability to try and use talents He has given you. Check with yourself if these are things you have done, can do, or will try to do:

Shake hands with visitors Talk with our elderly Love others

Stop gossip with kind words Bring flowers to someone Help a tired mother with a cranky baby Help carry things for someone Cleaning our church building Comforting others Helping teach a Sunday School class Tape record a meeting for someone who is ill or away Taking part in a program Praying for someone who's sick Inviting a friend to church Fixing covers on hymn books, Bibles, or Books of Mormon

Thanking someone for a job well done Attending a business meeting and voting

Add your own:

If you have a talent you've buried, dig it out, dust it off, and let the Lord use it. When the voices of fear and failure (Satan's voice) whisper, "Oh, but you're older, you're far behind in that talent, others are better than you now. Why try? You may look stupid. . . .'', don't listen! Remember to read Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." If you are afraid to invest that talent by yourself, then lend it to be guided by someone who does know how to develop talents. Today do your best with the talents that you have and you will be ready in the future to add to the rich enjoyment of a satisfied, full life, using your talents and guiding others in developing their own.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan Steinrock 820½ Woodlawn Grand Haven, MI 49417

Your Prayers Requested for Quorum

The apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ will be meeting together in Detroit from May 27 to May 31, 1986.

We ask that all of you remember them in prayer this week in particular, that God would reveal His will to them and direct them in their endeavors to carry on with the great work of the Lord.

MBA Highlights

California Area MBA

By Carl Huttenberger

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord, come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more, fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

These were the words that echoed from the walls of the Modesto, CA Branch Sunday morning February 16. It was appropriate, as God truly filled our cups that weekend at our Area MBA Singspiration. Like the old saying goes, "It is better felt then telt."

Originating in San Diego in the South, a chartered bus departed Friday night. It was a rainy night over the whole state, but God watched over us. The bus stopped at Anaheim and then in San Fernando Valley, picking up more saints along the way.

Thirteen-year-old Anthony Azzinaro of the Valley Branch had a beautiful experience. The weather was really bad, and he was afraid that we might not make it, so before he left he prayed and asked God while in the shower, to show him if it would be safe to go or not. If the answer was yes, he asked God to let the lights flicker twice, and if no, that they would flicker once. Sure enough, the lights flickered two times. He told his mother, and she cried because she knew God would be with us, and that God answers the prayers of our children.

After a day of fellowship Saturday, the singspiration began Saturday night. It was advertised in local newspapers and the building was filled to capacity.



Busload from the California MBA surrounds Bro. Del Carneval at his home in Fresno, CA.

There were so many wonderful songs performed from many talented people. The Spirit of God filled the building as we praised His name in song. After the meeting the Modesto Branch had pizza and salad for everyone.

It was standing room only on Sunday as we witnessed the ordinations of Brothers Matthew and Mark Picciuto into the priesthood. There were testimonies of dreams, and experiences and beautiful visions had during the service. God's power emanated from the building. There were visitors from California, Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Mexico. After the meeting we were again treated to a delicious meal before we left Modesto.

There was a strong desire among the brothers and sisters on the bus to stop and visit Bro. Del Carneval. We arrived at his home in Fresno late Sunday afternoon. All forty of us crammed into his living room. We created a banner that read, "We love you, Bro. Del." and each of us signed a personal message on it. We sang a few hymns and Bro. Del was anointed, along with his wife Sis. Penny. Our desire was that the entire Church could have been there to feel the love that we each had for our brother.

Bro. Del said we lifted him ten feet off the ground. He in turn lifted us up just as high. Bro. Del was going into the hospital the next day. We know that God will go with him through it all. Without Him our meager existence would be worthless indeed, and we can honestly say it is good to be a Saint of Latter Days.

California District Conference

The Kingdom of God in the Flesh was the topic that was presented at the opening session of our conference at the Bell, California Branch on Friday, February 7, 1986. Several brothers expressed their thoughts on this subject, that we as ministers should have the confidence that God is with us, and that the Kingdom of God is within us.

After opening prayer by Bro. Ken Jones, Saturday's business was handled in an orderly fashion. The Saturday evening program was presented by the Santa Ana, CA Mission. The program included both singing and testimonies. Four choirs were heard by the saints as we prepared to worship God on Sunday. They were the Bell Branch's choir, San Diego's choir, the Anaheim choir, and the Riverside Mission choir.

Bro. Tony Picciuto opened the preaching service, speaking about searching our spiritual roots and being identified as saints of God. Brothers Luis Pacheco, Luis Marroquin, and V. J. Lovalvo followed. Our conference was brought to a close with prayer by Bro. Leonard Lovalvo.

Florida District

A beautiful mixture of saints from the surrounding branches and missions joined together in Lake Worth, Florida to enjoy the blessings of God in perfect love and harmony. District President Mike Radd greeted all that made an attempt to attend the gathering.

A few musical selections were presented before Bro. Charles Smith of the Ft. Pierce Branch opened the service. Brother Chuck, as we affectionately call him, expounded unto us many beautiful words of life. He used as his text the 33rd Psalm, where it tells us how we should praise the Lord for all things that he created. By the word of God all things are done. This great God whom we serve sees everything that is done. He will judge all mankind according to their works. We need to go back and recapture the beauty of the Garden of Eden, and to maintain the righteousness of the Lord. We must exceed any righteousness we may see in the world. Brother Chuck exhorted us not to be complacent or satisfied with what we have in the Gospel. We need to set our sights higher and make our horizons broader where the Gospel is concerned. The Lord will turn and overturn until He finds a people that will serve Him in righteousness.

Bro. Dominic Moraca followed, encouraging those who have not yet made a commitment to think about it. He said he rejoices in the fact that after the Gospel was reduced to only one person, it was again restored in these latter days.

Bro. Mark Kovacic continued, expounding on the similarities between the love of God and the love of a parent. No other love is so great. Brother Mark

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

8

Sunday November 10, 1985 was a day of rejoicing for the brothers and sisters of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3, as the Spirit of the Lord prompted a new name to be written down in glory. Brother Scott Anderson asked for his baptism and became the newest member of the family of God here.

Brother Spencer Everett of the Sterling Heights, MI Branch was visiting our congregation this day as part of the district elder exchange program. Bro. Gary Coppa, our presiding elder, felt directed to ask the two evangelists present to speak to us this morning. Brother Spencer being one of them, the other was Bro. Nephi DeMercurio.

During the morning service, our Sis. Mary Coppa saw a vision of a beautiful rainbow set behind Bro. Spencer while he spoke. The vision was brief, but it caused her to dwell upon it for some time. She wondered what significance it might have. In the meantime, the vision recurred. Sis. Mary prayed in her heart for some understanding of what she beheld. She then received the interpretation that the two visions represented the two evangelists that were asked to speak. Sis. Mary then prayed silently, if God wanted her to relate her experience, He would allow Bro. Gary to leave the meeting open for testimony.

A season of testimony started at 11:55 a.m. and continued until 12:45 p.m. Many brothers and sisters expressed their joy in the Gospel and their thankfulness to God. No one wanted the service to end as we were enjoying the blessings of God.

As we were preparing to partake of the Lord's Supper, Sis. Joann (Coppa) Anderson entertained a prayer in her heart that if God was calling her husband Scott this day, then allow Bro. Gary to ask, "If anyone in the congregation wants anything or would like to be baptized, then let him ask and he shall receive whatever he needs." At the close of the service, Bro. Gary Coppa posed the question exactly as Sis. Joann had prayed it, and Bro. Scott took the opportunity to ask for his baptism.

Bro. Scott testified of the love God

had shown him throughout his life and of his thankfulness to God.

Bro. Scott was baptized that evening by his father-in-law, Bro. Mario Coppa, and was later confirmed by his brotherin-law, Bro. Rick Elzby.

Bro. Rick travelled four hours in snowy weather from the Meaford, Ontario Mission to join Scott at the confirmation service. Bro. Rick testified how necessary it is to always be prepared. He also stressed the importance of utilizing our talents in the Gospel.

Bro. Scott was again asked to testify. He spoke about the promise he made to God that he would ask to be baptized if God would only do three things for him. God had seen him through personal tragedies, such as the loss of one of his brothers, and other family afflictions that included another brother's bout with cancer. Even now, God had been answering Scott's prayers. But still, Scott demanded that God show him more. That weekend Scott and Joann were involved in an accident where God had spared them from injury and tragedy. Scott knew then that his "plea bargaining" with God was at its limit, and he felt empty, as if he had nothing left in this world. He did not want God to pass him by, so Bro. Scott asked for his baptism.

At the conclusion of this confirmation service, Bro. Louis Vitto reminded us that when we make our covenant with God, it is as if we receive an identification card. We must *not* let this card expire; it is this card that will get us into Heaven. Furthermore, we must pray that God will inspire our hearts and minds that we might serve Him!

Branch 3 has prayed many times that the Lord would bless us with growth, and it seems that our prayers are beginning to be answered. We thank God with all our hearts for this day!

Sunday, December 15 was a day rich in blessings for Branch 3. God's Spirit was felt by all and a number of beautiful testimonies were expressed by the saints.

In particular, this day held special meaning for our Sister Lena Campagna. Our sister offered her testimony and expressed her desire to be renewed into the fold of the Lamb of God. Bro. Gary Coppa asked Sis. Lena to step forward for the priesthood to lay their hands upon her as they petitioned God for His Spirit and blessing.

We rejoice along with out sister and ask God to guide and direct her life and bless each pathway she trods.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

On January 19, 1986, we of the McKees Rocks Branch were made to rejoice with the angels in heaven as one more soul made her covenant with the Lord.

Christine Stewart, the sister of Sis. Hilda DeVito, made her wishes known to become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, and was taken into the waters of baptism by Brother William Colangelo. She was confirmed by Brother Dan Casasanta. Sister Christine was raised in the Church as a young girl, but drifted away as she grew in life. She returned after fortynine years to the Church and to the God of her father and mother. How beautiful it was as she testified of now being on a solid foundation, and she is desirous to remain faithful until the end.

A number of experiences were given to confirm the calling of our sister as a child of God.

Metuchen, NJ

By Ken Lombardo

A few months ago, in the Metuchen Branch, a beautiful testimony was given in the Sunday afternoon service. April Zukosky, 10 years old, testified that about 7:30 one morning she was playing the organ in their home. While she played *Near the Cross* from the *Saints Hymnal*, she looked towards the table in the dining room. There she saw a vision of Jesus sitting at the table. He had long, blond hair, a white suit, and brown sandals on His feet.

He stretched out his arms for her and faded. She ran to the next room to tell her father what she had seen. April's grandmother is Sister Theresa Siano, and both of their testimonies were a great uplift to our branch.

We remember the Lord told us in the scriptures that our old ones will dream dreams and our young ones would see visions, and we praise Him for the constant fulfillment of His promises to us because they are the blessings for which we live.

Gastonia, NC

By Margaret Iorio

The Saturday after Campout many of the brothers and sisters from various states stopped to visit us.

On Saturday we gathered at Bro. Bob Dyer's home. We had Bro. V. J. and Sis. Mary Lovalvo from California with us. We enjoyed many beautiful testimonies and the Lord really blessed us. Bro. Jim spoke many encouraging words. As the evening wore on, we all retired to our respective places of rest in preparation for the Sabbath.

The following morning we met at our meeting place, and what a surprise it was to find the room filled with so many brothers and sisters from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida, California, New Jersey, and New York. We had our own new brothers and sisters with us as well, Bill, Ray, and Kim LaRosa, and Jamie Hickman.

After we sang *First Love*, Bro. Jesse Carr from Greensburg, PA opened in prayer. We then heard a solo from Sis. Iva Fedorka from Glassport, PA. Bro. Lovalvo related his experience in writing the hymn *How Many Times*.

Bro. Jim Lovalvo then spoke from Matthew 4 and various parts of III Nephi. He exhorted us to watch and pray, that the Evil one will promise us things as he did to Christ, and make things look so rosy to us, but we must be watchful. He also brought forth the significance of Abraham's sacrifice.

After we sang Yield Not to Temptation, Bro. Joe Genaro from Niles, Ohio followed, speaking on how we must be careful not to be caught by the earthly promises of the Evil one. We must learn to discern what is right through God's Spirit.

Bro. Molinatto then opened the meeting for testimony. We heard many

beautiful testimonies, and Bro. Jon stated how we can all do our part if we wait on the Lord.

During an anointing, the gift of tongues came forth, which was interpreted as, "Have faith."

After our service was brought to a close, the sisters from North Carolina served a delicious lunch. It was a great day spent in God's service with our outof-town brothers and sisters.

The following month we were visited by our district president, Bro. Ron Genaro of Niles, Ohio. Our brother spoke on the topic of love, especially the love God has for us. After testimony service, Bro. Ron offered a special prayer that the Lord would direct us in purchasing a building. Our desire is to do the Lord's will in this matter.

We meet once a month, and it's like meeting for conference each time. We live so far apart, some in the west of the state, and some in the eastern part.

Greensburg, PA

August 26, 1985 was a happy occasion for all the saints and friends of the Greensburg Branch.

Sister Chantell Marie Rhodes was baptized by Brother Paul Gehly and confirmed by Brother Dan Todaro.

We all welcome our new sister to her new family.

On January 5, 1986 we had reason to rejoice at Greensburg. We had a few visitors, Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Gibson and Bro. Jack and Sis. Libby Rosemeier from the Aliquippa Branch.

We all shared in the good spirit we felt this day. During testimony Brother Bob Beam stood to say how thankful he was for the Gospel and asked to be renewed in the Church. Bro. Jesse Carr reinstated our Brother Beam.

Bro. Bob was the lead singer in the Greensburg Quartet ten years ago. It is a blessing to our branch to hear him sing the praises of God once again.

The following Sunday, January 12, the Spirit of God was upon us once more. Our visitors were Bro. David Nolfi, Bro. John Griffith & family, Bro. Jim Moore, and Bro. Jonathon and Sis. Sherry Olexa. During testimony Sister Patty Beam asked to be reinstated. Bro. Paul Gehly reinstated our Sister Patty. After our sister's testimony Bro. Jim Moore from Imperial Branch stood and said he felt a strong spirit of love for Brother and Sister Beam, whom he had never met before. He stepped down into the congregation and embraced our brother and sister. All who shared in this meeting were truly blessed.

Lake Worth, FL

By Josie Jasmin

On Sunday December 22, 1985 a new deacon was ordained in the Lake Worth Branch. It was a day filled with the blessings of God being manifest in numerous ways. The seed of Joseph, our Lamanite friends, visited us from the Brighton Reservation and Oklahoma City, OK. We enjoyed the singing of their gospel music group, called "The Family Four Quartet," and also their fellowship as they joined us for lunch.

During the morning worship service, Bro. Gene Perri expounded unto us concerning the truth of the Restoration and the Seed of Joseph. It was also brought to our remembrance, this being the holiday season, that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Bro. Gene used the way Jesus gave so much to mankind, and never receiving the honor which He so rightly deserved, as an example to illustrate his point.

Bro. John D'Orazio reminded us that we were also prodigal sons and daughters before we were baptized, and how it was only through the grace of God that we find ourselves under the sound of the Restoration.

Our cups were overflowing with spiritual satisfaction. The cake was baked, and now we were ready for the icing, the ordination of Brother Rocco Benyola into the office of deacon. Bro. Everett Jasmin washed Bro. Rocco's feet and Bro. Mike Radd ordained him.

There were many confirmations concerning our brother's calling into the work of the Lord. One dream concerned Bro. Jasmin, presiding deacon, calling Bro. Rocco to come and help him fix the water pipes in the church building, so that the water could flow more freely.

May, 1986 10

LAKE WORTH continued . . .

We are thankful to have Bro. Rocco called to this office and we pray that he will receive many blessings as he endeavors to do the will of God.

We were pleased to have Brother and Sister Eutsey from Cape Coral, Florida visit with us on Sunday, January 12, 1986. Bro. Eutsey used a subject which was very sweet to our ears. He expressed himself very well on the times and the seasons, and the coming of Zion.

He read from II Nephi chapter 29, and also made reference to Daniel 2 and Mormon 8:31. Our eyes and minds were opened to the many happenings about us, giving us warning to prepare ourselves and draw closer to God. We must take the Gospel more seriously, making it our whole life, and leave all the cares of this world behind. We must press forward and make Christ and His Gospel our first priority!

Bro. Gene Perri followed, enlightening our minds concerning the Book of Mormon and the prophecy of the coming of Jesus Christ, along with the darkness that covered this land and Jerusalem when Jesus was crucified. He explained how the Book of Mormon and the Bible go hand in hand, and how together, they are one in God's hand.

Bro. Gene told us how we are planning our own future, and he likened each one of us to a factory which can manufacture good things or harmful things to our souls. He asked us to evaluate ourselves to see what it is that we are producing in our factory. We were advised to get ourselves in shape so we will be able to make that march to Zion. We must go full force ahead, and not linger behind, if we are to attain the benefits of Zion which have been promised to those of us who endure. What a joy it will be to live in Zion, its beauty so great, full of love, peace, and happiness. "What a day, glorious day, that will be!"

W

We're also glad to have our winter residents, Bro. Michelangelo and Sis. Angeline Gioia from Detroit, Michigan Branch 1. We extend our warmest wishes and prayers for better health to Bro. Eugenio Perri, Sr., who has been very much afflicted. May God bless you all.

Audio Visual Committee Catalog

Number	Description	\underline{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. <u>Video Tapes</u> .	\$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. <u>Cassette Tape</u> .	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 A. Lovalvo (of Michigan), Frank Morle and others. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
4	GMBA "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	GMBA "1984" Campout Sing-a-Long Hymns and songs sung during GMBA "84" Campout at Massanetta Springs by Campout Choir, trios, individuals, 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 GMBA Program. Atlantic Coast M.B.A.—Saturday evening program after Conference. Cassette Tape.	3.50
When ord	lering tapes, please send to:	

Audio-Visual Committee The Church of Jesus Christ Print House P.O. Box 30 8423 Boettner Road Bridgewater, MI 48115

The Church Print House will handle all distribution of tapes. Thank you.

General Church Audio-Visual Committee, Fred D'Antonio, Walter Laird, and Carl Amato

(Catalog will continue in next issue.)

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

When we finished telling them of all that had transpired and how we came to be acquainted with the Church, Bro. Joseph asked for a *Faith and Doctrine* pamphlet, and the subjects we began to talk about from that time were what the man in my dream had written down on the blackboard.

The impression that my husband and I received while talking to Brothers Perri and Carr will remain a lasting one. We saw the sincerity and desire both had to spread the Word of God and contribute to the growth of the Church. My husband and I could not wait to finish with our discussion so that we could request to be baptized. The brothers told us that they had to call Brother John Ross to ask permission to baptize us, and that if permission was granted, they would return on the morrow.

We were both baptized on Monday, February 18, 1985. Since that time until now we are on fire for the Lord and His Church. It will be The Church of Jesus Christ that will bring souls to God.

We thank the Church who made it possible for Bro. Osaka and myself to come to America. We have seen much and have experienced love—the love of God—as never before. As we return to our home in Kenya, we ask for your prayers that soon the Church will be registered in our country.

God has raised up men of high position and influence who have advocated our cause. Our defender gave a stirring defense of our work. He replied to the officials that "The Church of Jesus Christ has done more for our country in the last four years than other churches have done." We need not fear for The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya, even in troublesome times. We want to go to as many places as we can to tell others of the love of God and to prepare them for the coming of Jesus. We are dedicated and full of zeal and courage, and are valiantly pioneered for our work in many places in Kenya. We believe that the greatest period of "soul winning" is just before us, and that we shall soon see what we have so long hoped for: The outpouring of the Spirit of God in all of its fulness, where many will take their stand for the truth and will join The Church of Jesus Christ on its march to the kingdom. Revelation 14:6-7 says, "I saw another angel fly in the midst of Heaven having the everlasting Gospel to preach to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people,

etc." Surely we shall behold His Glory. Amen!

We extend to our brothers and sisters in America our love.

Bro. Elizaphan and Sis. Nina Osaka Kisii, Kenya

FLORIDA DISTRICT continued ...

reminded us of the day to come when a child will leave his parents and go out to play with the wolf and the lion. It will be this perfect love of God that we sing about.

Bro. Frank Rogolino brought to our minds how God loved the world enough to give His only Son to die for our sins. Such perfect love!

Brother Bert Sheffler spoke, giving us an insight on the true pleasure of serving the Lord and the hope we have by serving Him to the end of our days. We have to live in this world, but we don't have to partake of the world and its so-called glory.

The Lord's Supper was administered, and our day came to an end. Our hearts were filled, our souls were satisfied, and the Love of God abounded within us.

* WEDDINGS *

BAKER-FALLAVOLLITTI

Frank Baker and Lisa Fallavollitti were united in marriage on August 31, 1985 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Lirio Fallavollitti, the bride's uncle.

Musical selections were provided by Bro. Joe Saeli as well as Bro. David and Sis. Lana Fallavollitti, with Sis. Alice Saeli at the piano.

May God bless the newlyweds in their life together.

COLEMAN-MILLER

David Coleman and Rose Marie Miller were joined in wedlock on November 2, 1985 at the Warren, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Rose Marie is the daughter of Bro. Bert and Sis. Ina Miller.

Bro. Bob Ciarrochi officiated at the service. Musical selections were played by Sis. Barb Nuzzi.

The couple resides in Virginia Beach, VA, where David is stationed in the U.S. Navy.

CASTELLANOS-JONES

Bro. David Castellanos and Sis. Gina Jones were united in holy matrimony on Saturday November 3, 1985 at the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bride's father, Bro. Ken Jones of the Riverside, CA Mission, officiated at the ceremony with the assistance of Bro. Tom Jones. Bro. V. J. Lovalvo offered a sermon at the wedding.

Musical selections were presented by Bro. Tony and Sis. Lucy DeCaro, along with Bro. Bruce Picciuto. Bro. Barry Mazzeo sang *The Lord's Prayer*.

The bride and groom had prayed that their wedding would be a spiritual one, and many who were present testified that it was indeed a spiritual wedding.

The newlyweds are residing in Moreno Valley, CA.

WOODS-RISOLA

Bobby Lee Woods and Wendy Lynn Risola were united in holy matrimony on February 22, 1986 in New Port Richey, Florida.

WEDDINGS continued . . .

Bro. John Griffith of Monongahela, Pennsylvania officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by two of the bride's uncles, Kenneth Lombardo and Domenick Risola. Bro. Michael DiFede was pianist.

The couple will reside in Palm Harbor, Florida. May God bless them in their new life together.

CARRABIA-HEMINGWAY

Brother James Anthony Carrabia and Sister Janis Fay Hemingway were united in holy matrimony on Saturday March 22, 1986 at Detroit Branch 3 of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Silverio Coppa with the assistance of Bro. Gary Coppa.

The groom's cousin, Sis. Nina DiCenzo of McKees Rocks, PA, was pianist and vocal soloist.

The newlyweds reside in East Detroit, Michigan. May the love they vowed before God grow more precious, and may He grant unto them the beautiful fruits of His Spirit.

New Arrivals

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

Twins, Nicole Amy and Jennifer Anne to Staley and Cheryl Nnadi of Columbus, Ohio.

Kiesha Nicole to Charles and Karen Brown of Warren, Ohio.

Nicholas Robert to Danny and Lori (Ciarrochi) Prokup of Warren, Ohio.

Ashlee Renee to Brian and Bonnie (Edwards) Henry of Warren, Ohio.

	Address Change
Phone	

Laura Mariesa to Daniel and Mary Bertolo of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

Brian Joseph to Brian and Kathy (Scaglione) Smith of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Children Blessed

Bro. Vincent Gibson of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch blessed twins Nathan Lloyd and Timothy Vincent Peterson on August 5, 1985. They are the grandchildren of the late Bro. Rudy Peterson, a Cherokee Indian from the Grand Portage, Minnesota Reservation.

On February 16, 1986, Bro. Harold Burge blessed Ieasha Annette Keys in The Church of Jesus Christ in Erie, Pennsylvania. The same day, Bro. George A. Kovacic blessed Joe Lewis Gambill III in the Church.

OBITUARIES

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

KATHLEEN REBROSKY

Sister Kathleen Rebrosky passed away from this life on October 21, 1985. She was born on October 2, 1924 and baptized on August 29, 1977 by Brother Paul Gehly. She was a member of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Paul Gehly.

Sis. Kathleen is survived by her husband, Robert Rebrosky, as well as four brothers and several nieces and nephews.

Our sister expressed many times in her testimony how thankful she was for the Gospel.

JOHN ROSS

Evangelist John Ross of the Aliquippa, PA Branch passed on to his eternal reward on February 17, 1986. He was born on June 24, 1908 in Monte-Nadamo, Italy and was baptized December 2, 1928. Our brother was ordained into the priesthood on January 16, 1944 and joined the Quorum of Seventy on April 21, 1957.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers James Gibson, Thomas Ross and Joseph Ross. Apostles Gorie Ciaravino and Joseph Bittinger also participated. Musical selections were presented by Joan Gibson, Sarah Palmieri, Marty Jumper, Carol Lynn Jumper, and Betty Eiler.

Bro. John is survived by his wife Sister Mary, two sisters, a brother, four sons, and a number of grandchildren.

Bro. John was a pillar in the Aliquippa Branch. He will be sorely missed. Our prayer is that the Lord will comfort his family in their time of loss.)



June, 1986

Volume 42, No. 6

General Church Conference: It's Up to You

By Anthony J. Scolaro

Saints from the Arizona, Atlantic Coast, California, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Districts turned out in record numbers the weekend of April 18-20, 1986 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA to attend the annual Spiritual Conference. As each of us had come anticipating the blessings of God to be in our midst, none of us was disappointed.

In Friday's morning and afternoon sessions, open to the priesthood and ordained teachers of the Church, the Quorum of Apostles answered questions from the elders in an attempt to further unify the Church in the understanding and the teaching of the Doctrine of Christ.

Friday evening we were privileged to hear Brothers Ralph Frammolino, James Huttenberger, Clifton Wells, Peter Genaro, Brian Martorana, James Crudup, Willie Brown, and Frank Natoli, all relatively young elders in the Church. The Lord truly inspired their minds as they addressed us concerning the level of spiritual excellence we as individuals must seek to attain. If we believe ourselves to be mediocre, or "average," then we will go no further. But if we allow ourselves to become **excellent** in the sight of God, He will use us to do great things in His sight. In order to achieve this, however, we must draw close to the Lord.

It was stressed by our brothers that we, The Church of Jesus Christ, have been given the responsibility to lay the foundation for Zion. As we eventually achieve spiritual perfection, even as Christ commanded us, we will be led to Zion. While we may from time to time feel a *portion* of the Glory of God, He has much work for us to do before we can experience His full Glory. It was pointed out that it is easy for us to take for granted the precious things God has given us, so tremendously have we been blessed. We must be ever grateful to Him for His goodness.

Saturday morning was devoted to the remembrance of Christ's suffering for mankind. General Church President Dominic Thomas spoke to us concerning the observance of the Lord's Supper. He reminded us of the Lord's message to the Church, to call a general fasting and prayer for the spirit of righteousness, so that His Glory might be present in the Church. Bro. Dominic explained how the power of God is essential to the effective preaching of the Word and the converting of souls to Christ.

As we prepared to receive the Lord's Supper, our brother read passages from both the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* where Jesus administered bread and wine to His disciples and instructed them to do these things in remembrance of Him. Bro. Joseph Lovalvo followed, recounting the many injustices Christ innocently suffered at the hands of His opponents. As the story was repeated to us, we had to consider the example set by Christ and ask ourselves, "Would I be willing to suffer unjustly, to turn the other cheek, to hold my peace when falsely accused?" With our hearts pondering upon these things, the congregation sang hymn 272, *Alone*, the words rehearsing to us once again the unparalleled sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the sins of the world. We were truly united in heart, mind, and spirit as we partook of the bread and the wine, which represent the broken body and spilled blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We reconvened Saturday afternoon to hear from a number of speakers representing various aspects of the American Indian work. Apostle Robert Watson, chairman of the American Indian Committee, gave some introductory comments centered on the commission, found in the *Book of Mormon*, to those Gentiles who would receive this book into their hearts: That we should bring this Gospel first to Israel and then to all the nations of the earth.

As Joseph in the Old Testament provided food for the house of Israel in a time of famine, we know that the Seed of Joseph must bring this spiritual food, the Restored Gospel, to all the House of Israel, and it is up to us to bring Joseph's seed to the understanding of these things, that they might be prepared to carry out the plan of God.

We heard from two native American Indians about the state of the American Indian today. Percy Little Eagle, a Sioux Indian originally from South Dakota, addressed the widespread problem of alcoholism among the Indian people. American Indians are biologically more susceptible to this disease than

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

The Need for Moral Character

Will we be spared from the doom to come?

Some time ago I read in the news of Albert Einstein warning a distinguished audience in Pasadena, California on January 25, 1932, that the neglect of the "moral source" of western culture threatened to extinguish our civilization. "We are hopelessly doomed," he said. The occasion was a dinner at the California Institute of Technology given in his honor. This warning, along with many others, has gone unheeded.

Being alive today takes on a greater significance when we consider what the world has survived in the intervening half century.

The more powerful the tools of destruction, which the creative ability of the past generation has delivered into the hands of so many nations and people, "the greater must be man's moral power to use them wisely."

Man does not lack the intelligence to overcome the evil forces in society; what is lacking is the selfless, responsible dedication to serve the well-being of mankind.

The very Jesus Christ we follow came and lived as a selfless servant to lift the spirit of all who would follow Him unto a greater moral character. Jesus made the love of a neighbor equal to the love of God (Matthew 22:36-39, the Two Great Commandments). Our selfless service, even when done in a small way, is that growth of character. Albert Einstein was known to help a troubled young student whose need for counseling reminded him of his own early years as a youth.

Another great man of our time was General, and later President, Dwight D. Eisenhower. Upon reviewing his troops after the great invasion of France, where thousands were killed and countless wounded, he saw a soldier crying openly. He asked the soldier to take a walk with him. As they both walked some distance, the soldier asked, "General, are you ashamed of me?" "No," answered the general, "as a matter of fact, you remind me of myself, only I have not been brave enough to cry openly."

"But I showed a sign of weakness," replied the soldier. "No, my friend, I thought you were very brave; we all feel like crying at times, only some of us are not willing to admit it for fear of those who may think of us as being weak." They both returned from their walk laughing out loud. Those who saw them coming asked what had happened. "That's a private matter," said the general.

Our moral character shows more when we are brave enough to admit our struggles, confess our needs, and share our concerns.

Our civilization suffers from moral decay; the inability to stand up and be our brother's keeper, to speak up of the immoralities, to tell our children the truth of society's self-destructive behavior, and to be a model of integrity in their eyes.

We need not only to personify the importance of mental ability, but also to continually stress the importance of the development of the whole person.

The betterment of our life and our society depends not so much on our scientific knowledge, but far more on the fulfillment of human traditions and ideals.

We believe that great persons, before and after Jesus Christ, have contributed more towards humanity with respect to the development of ethical behavior than science could ever accomplish.

Our actions and our deeds testify before us far more, long after our feeble words of rhetoric are forgotten. Moral behavior is the structure of the very fiber of our life, as well as of our society. If we neglect to teach and practice moral behavior, we have been responsible for destroying our only chance to be the builders and keepers of the very society we live in.

"Morality began in the Garden of Eden;" there was freedom of choice, but man was morally obligated to obey the law of freedom. Like our first parents, we all have the same tendency to try the fruit of death rather than the fruit of life.

Focusing on Jesus Christ, on His mission and also on His warning against unfaithfulness, the burden rests with us: We have a choice—shall we choose life or death? Nothing worth having is easily obtained—choose today.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and acts of kindness in the illness and passing of our beloved husband and father, Brother Louis Benyola.

We sincerely appreciate everyone's love and caring. God bless you all.

Love, Sis. Ann Benyola & Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for all your prayers in behalf of John Furnari and Angelo Licata of our Mission. John is recovering from his surgeries and expects to return to college in June. The Lord's mercy and your prayers have sustained him through his illness. When John was diagnosed as having cancer eight years ago, the doctors gave him two years to live. He is a living testimony of what God can do.

Angelo passed away on March 28, 1986. He was diagnosed as having cancer one year ago. We observed how Angelo faced his illness with integrity and understanding. He opened his home to all the saints. He was anointed many times and we frequently talked of the things of God. He attended our services regularly.

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

This is the second of a three-part article concerning God's promises to the latter-day Church.

As I have been directed by the Holy Spirit of God to write on the important hopes of the saints in the "Last Days" regarding the "Peaceful Reign" (or Zion), I shall continue to put down in writing what we shall do to prepare ourselves for that beautiful event:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:2-4).

The aforementioned things are some of the characteristics that are going to help the Church increase proportionately until the House of the Lord becomes established on the top of the mountains and exalted above the hills. In order to be recognized and acknowledged by mankind, and especially by God, the Church must set the **standard** for all nations to follow. When the Church (or any Branch thereof, or any individual) permits any manner of worldliness, or

any features that other organizations (religious or otherwise) are practicing, and introduces them among us, we are no longer leaders, but followers instead. The Church of Jesus Christ cannot and must not be a follower; it must be a leader in all things. Jesus once 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). Again, He said, "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:20). The intent of these words were, that if the Disciples would maintain the two elements of being the "salt of the earth" and the "light of the world" as Jesus had instructed them, they would certainly be the "beacons" of the whole world.

When Christ ascended into heaven, He gave His Disciples a final commandment:

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).

This last commandment is what I believe to be the "Everlasting Covenant" spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he predicted, "The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the **everlasting covenant**" (Isaiah 24:5).

Students of history are well aware of the "dark ages" that came upon the earth. For many hundreds of years the earth languished in stagnation as far as scientific advances were concerned. There was a little growth in art, but not much in anything else. Isaiah prophesied that ". . . darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people" (Isaiah 60:2). All this because they (the early Church) had transgressed the laws of Jesus Christ.

History is replete with facts, not theories or myths, that the early Church went into an apostate condition because it did transgress the laws of Christ in that the love of God began to diminish very quickly from among the brethren

(Read Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History, Eusibius' Church History, and others). The ordinances were changed: Baptism went from immersion in the open waters to pool and font baptism, and shortly afterwards to sprinkling and pouring. The Lord's Supper changed from administering bread and wine, indicative to the Lord's flesh and blood, to a simple wafer and a belief in transubstantiation. Feet Washing vanished, tongues ceased, and dreams and visions became lost gifts. And so it went until the True Church of Jesus Christ, set up by the Son of God, was no longer to be found upon the face of the earth. Therefore, the prophecies of Isaiah concerning the "mountain of the Lord" being established on top of the mountains, etc, was not the early Church. It had to be in these last days!

God restored the Gospel (1827-30) with that purpose of causing The Church of His Holy Son, Jesus Christ, to eventually become that "Mountain' which Isaiah so beautifully described But, because of greed, ambition for power, and self-exaltation, the beauty of the simple Gospel of Jesus Christ became tarnished by the imaginations of man, and the intermingling of false doctrines with the pure and unadulterated gospel-which could not mix just as oil and water cannot-so that the impure doctrines and false revelations rather than the true and simple gospel of the Lord became the norm. God eventually made another choice, William Bickerton, who along with others organized The Church of Jesus Christ in Greenock, Pennsylvania, as the original and early Church of the Lord which was organized in Jerusalem.

The Kingdom of Christ-in His own words-was not made up of armies, nor of weapons of war, nor of the strongest men in the world, but rather of poor and humble men. He called the lowly, the sick, and the blind, and He healed them. All whom He called He brought to the same level, and gave them the same commandments. When He was before Pontius Pilate and was asked whether He was a king, and if so, where was His kingdom, He answered, "My Kingdom is not of this world; if it were, My followers would fight for Me. . . ." etc. The Kingdom that Christ was referring to would be set up as predicted by the prophets and by Himself. The Kingdom that Christ said would come on earth and God's will be done as it is in heaven was to be made up of the humble of heart, dedicated and consecrated to the

A Tribute to Evangelist John Ross

By Jeffrey Giannetti

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:25).

The above verse typifies the life of our brother John Ross. He was most certainly a "doer of the work," and the fruit of that work illustrates how he was "blessed in his deed." Bro. John possessed an unceasing zeal for the missionary work of the Church, as his nine missionary trips to locations such as Italy, Africa, and India illustrate.

Our brother was instrumental in establishing the church in our present foreign mission locations. Bro. John also served for many years as Vice Chairman of the Foreign Missions Committee and Subcommittee Chairman of the African work. Through his efforts, various church literature was translated and printed in the Efik language of Nigeria.

Through the years, Bro. John had written literally thousands of letters to our foreign missions, teaching and strengthening them always. Many in the Aliquippa Branch can attest to seeing our brother's lights burn long into the night as he labored for the Church. The efforts of Brother John were of great worth to the Church in helping bring this precious Gospel to the dying souls of men.

In Brother John the Church has lost a pillar. However, we take courage in knowing that our brother is now with the Lord. Our prayer is that God will comfort Sister Mary and her family during this time of loss. In conclusion, Brother John often ended his prayers by asking God to grant to all mankind the things our brother desired for himself. We can say that, with the help of God, our Brother John did much in his lifetime to make this prayer come true.

NOTE OF THANKS continued . . .

Although we have experienced much affliction in our mission, the Lord has always come to our rescue. Thank you for your telephone calls, letters, and cards.

Thank you especially for your prayers. God bless you all.

Bro. Joe Furnari

Volunteers Needed

The Tse Bonito, NM Branch will host a Vacation Bible School from July 6-12, 1986. We are in need of volunteer teachers and assistants. If you would like to volunteer to spend some time spreading the Gospel to these beautiful Navajo children, please contact me for more information:

> Sister Bonnie Metzler 1524 West 860 South Orem, UT 84058 801-226-3871

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

Lord, filled with the lowly and unselfish facets of love, and brotherhood; a kingdom where not only the nature of man is changed, but the very nature of beasts and plants is changed: The lion shall dwell with the lamb, the bear shall eat straw like the ox, the wolf and the kid shall lie down together, a little child shall play on the hole of the venomous asp. Who can imagine such a state of affairs on earth? But it will come to pass! As the Lord lives, it will occur! Because He said so in the Holy Scriptures. This is not a fantasy, but a reality! The Restored Church will eventually become the Kingdom of God on earth, where 'none shall hurt nor destroy in all My Holy Mountain, saith the Lord, for the knowledge of God will cover the earth as the waters cover the seas."

Some refer to the above Kingdom on earth as the "Peaceful Reign;" others call it Zion. Whatever name one prefers to give it, it is still the Kingdom of God on earth. This is the same Kingdom that the Prophet Daniel saw and predicted would be established. He saw a stone cut out without hands, which smote the image at the feet and then became a great mountain which filled the whole earth (Daniel 2:34,35). Isaiah saw this mountain and described what would transpire in it: The lion and the lamb, the wolf and the kid, the bear and the ox, etc; all living harmoniously with each other. The Prophet Ezekiel prophesied that, "I will make with them a covenant of peace, and will cause the evil beasts to cease out of the land: and they shall dwell safely in the wilderness, and sleep in the woods" (Ezekiel 34:25). The same prophet continues:

And I will make them and the places round about my hill a blessing; and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing. And the tree of the field shall yield her fruit, and the earth shall yield her increase, and they shall be safe in their land, and shall know that I am the Lord, when I have broken the bands of their yoke, and delivered them out of the hand of those that served themselves of them. And they shall no more be a prey to the heathen, neither shall the beast of the field devour them; but they shall dwell safely, and none shall make them afraid. And I will raise up for them a plant of renown, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more (Ezekiel 34:26-29).

The Prophet Isaiah also said, "Be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy" (Isaiah 65:18).

This same prophet had predicted that the "Word of the Lord" would go out of Jerusalem, and the law would go forth from Zion. Zion in this case is the Kingdom of God on earth, and the "Jerusalem" mentioned is the "New Jerusalem" that shall be built by the Seed of Joseph (on this land of America) with the help of the Gentiles and as many of the House of Israel that shall come. Please note: The prophet said that "I (God) create Jerusalem a rejoicing . . ." Jerusalem of old already existed, so this "creating" a Jerusalem. where there shall be rejoicing, and "her people a joy" has to refer to the last days when the "New Jerusalem" shall be built and the powers of heaven shall be in the midst thereof; and even the Lord Jesus shall make His appearance there. Then and only then will Jerusalem (the New one) be a city of re-

[&]quot;Therefore, go forth unto this people, and declare the words which I have spoken, unto the ends of the earth" (III Nephi 11:41).



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

This past General Church Conference brought forth a tremendous message: "It's time for **you**, as an individual, to stand up and be counted in the Army of the Lord."

This fact, important as it is, can easily fall into the background at this time of year when many of our young people finish their schooling and go out looking for work, seeking to establish a career. It is important, of course, that we be equipped with the means whereby we might support ourselves naturally. However, the Word of God proves to us time and again that this is *not* the most important thing in life. Solomon refers to all the natural things as vanity, and we must resolve not to make the pursuit of vanity the chief concern in our lives.

Many of our grandparents never dreamed of attending college. In fact, some were fortunate to be able to learn to read, let alone complete high school. Nevertheless, those who had committed themselves to serve Christ did so with all their energies, making use of whatever abilities they had to advance the Gospel, and the Lord blessed them. Truly, He has blessed this generation with the privilege of obtaining a higher education, naturally speaking.

Today more than ever before, we have the opportunity to choose from so many different skills, professions, and crafts. Are we any less responsible to apply what we've learned to the betterment of God's kingdom here below? I think not. There is so very much to do for the Church, in so many different ways, and in so many different places. We must all work harder for the Lord and His Church.

What talent has the Lord blessed you with? Is it something that you could not possibly use in His service? No matter what your abilities, there is a place for you in the Body of Christ.

Perhaps you are still unsure of what special ability the Lord has given you. I would urge you, then, to seek Him in prayer, and ask Him to make it known what you can do for Him. Ask Him to use you, and not only will He give you plenty to do, but He'll also guide your life in a direction whereby you'll be able to develop and increase your God-given talents. As long as you put Him first in your life, He'll provide the means for you to get by naturally as well. "He said He'll take care of me, So I am satisfied."

A life of service to God is the most fulfilling career a person can pursue. As the Lord blesses us with access to an ever-increasing variety of vocations and professions, we can see the Body of Christ becoming an organization of qualified, dedicated, hard-working people, blessed by God with countless talents and called by Him to unite in using them for His Church. As we all endeavor to hearken to His will, to be directed by His Spirit, this Zion we dream of will become a reality.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Lost Day

Dear Boys and Girls,

In a wonderfully interesting book written by an aeronautical engineer named Harold Hill, I read a true story about how modern scientists had to accept the truth of the Bible. Of course many scientists believe there is a marvelous order to the whole universe. and many more accept Jesus. Yet sometimes, you will meet friends and even teachers who will try and tell you the Bible is just a nice collection of stories and myths from the Israelite people. Don't believe them! There was a Joshua! Christ died on the cross for you and the Lord did shut the lions' mouths so Daniel was not harmed. Our God is alive.

Now this is what happened in the late 1960's when Mr. Hill was working with NASA to land a man on the moon. Scientists began working with huge computers, charting the movements and positions of the heavenly bodies, checking backward in time on the paths of known asteroids and meteors to insure safe passage for our astronauts. That way a satellite or returning spaceship of ours wouldn't hit something or come down on the wrong spot when returning.

The more they worked, the harder it was to understand just why their calculations were off. There was a whole day, a complete rotation of the earth. missing! Finally, one scientist who knew about God told his co-workers something like, "You know, as a child in Sunday School, we studied how Joshua and the children of Israel were fighting a terrible battle against their enemies. Then the Lord came and fought the battle for them; first He sent huge hailstones down from heaven which hit the enemies. Then Joshua spoke in front of his whole army and told the sun and moon to stand still. The



Bible says (read Joshua 10:13) that the sun stood still for about a whole day!"

The scientists probably doubted their friend, but they tried his idea out anyway. It was almost perfect. Going back to the days when Joshua defeated his enemies, the elapsed time was only 23 hours and 20 minutes. Forty minutes were still missing.

Someone else remembered another Bible story when the sun went backward. This happened when King Hezekiah was dying (read II Kings 20:1-11). When Isaiah told the king he would die, he cried and reminded God that he had walked with a perfect heart and had done what was good in God's sight. God remembered. He promised Hezekiah that he would be healed in three days and live fifteen years longer.

King Hezekiah wanted a sign that this was true.

Isaiah asked him, "Do you want the shadow of the sundial to go forward or backward?"

Hezekiah answered, "It's easy for time to go forward, let it go backward ten degrees."

Isaiah cried unto the Lord and it was done. Now ten degrees on the sundial is exactly forty minutes. The lost day was found. The Bible held the answer.

How was this done? The great scientist Newton demonstrated how the earth could be suddenly slowed down without a violent shock to people. Large meteors striking the earth could slow the earth for a time by striking the earth's mantle. The inner molten core would continue to rotate and would eventually pull the mantle back up to speed. Smaller meteors could do the same thing to a lesser degree. Explorers in the Pacific Ocean have discovered a huge sinkhole area at the equator, between Hawaii and the Philippines, where huge meteors struck. Sand deposits in California can be attributed to huge tidal waves that such a meteor impact could cause. This is just one small way that our great God could have slowed the earth so that time stood still.

All we really need to know is that we serve a true and living God. He holds the past; He holds our future. The hailstones in Joshua's day did not crush the people of God; the hailstones of today will not crush us. Each human suffers pain and trouble, which is one way for us to grow. But we who love and serve God in our hearts need never fear that growth. We have faith in the God of Joshua and Hezekiah, who is our God today. Remember, "Fear knocked on the door. Faith answered and there was no one there."

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

Blessings at Campout 1985

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to relate some of the things the good Lord allowed me to see and hear at Campout last year.

One morning as I was praying in my room, the Lord spoke and said to me, "I have given you two sets of eyes—one to see the natural beauty that I have created and the other to see My spiritual beauty, to edify My Church, and that is what you will do."

Sunday morning at camp, Bro. Isidro Dominguez offered opening prayer in the Spanish language. I hated to miss out on what he was saying, as the Spirit of God surely fell upon us as he prayed. I felt God's Spirit burning inside of me, and suddenly I could hear his prayer first in Spanish and then line upon line in English. Sis. Olga Mavrich of Aliquippa, PA also heard it in her native Slovenian. Praise God!

As sacrament was passed, each elder was being escorted by an angel of God next to him. I saw many beautiful lights all around the room. As various anoint-

Our Women Today

General Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Aliquippa, Pennsylvania on April 5, 1986. Sisters from Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania were in attendance, as well as a friend from the land of India.

The Aliquippa Circle started the day with the devotions. They sang *First Love* and *I Don't Know Why Jesus Loves Me*. Each sister introduced herself and told how long she was a member of the circle—from 61 years to six months. A passage of scripture from I Corinthians 13 was read. Sis. Mabel Bickerton, our president, was grateful for what the Lord has done for her, especially since her recent accident. The Circle work has meant a lot to her and has given her spiritual growth in the Church.

New Circles have been organized in Meaford, Ontario; and in India.

Communications were read from Sis. Mary Criscuolo, Bro. Joseph Calabrese, and Circles from Africa and India. After the roll call of officers and reading of the last Conference held at Hopelawn, New Jersey, reports of the local and district Circles were given by the delegates in attendance.

The answers to the assigned questions were read: "Who gave the name of the man who had interpreted the writing upon the wall of the temple written by the finger of God?" Book of Mormon, Alma 10:2. "Who are the Lord's seed, and heirs of the kingdom of God?" Book of Mormon, Mosiah 15:11. "What is your life?" Bible, James 4:14. Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Louis Benyola, Anthony Corrado, Daniel Corrado Sr., Robert Creevy, William Wittack, Lydia Bittinger, Alma Finnick, Joanne Frammolino, Grace Francione, Etta Henderson, Lena LaCommare, and Geraldine Timothy.

Donations were made to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund, Nigerian Student Scholarship, African and Home Missionary Funds. One hundred twenty-four cards were sent and four *Gospel News* articles were submitted. The next Conference will be held at Detroit, MI on October 3, 1986. A vote of thanks was given to the Aliquippa, PA Circle for their hospitality.

The remainder of the conference was spent in hearing from those who had visited our missions abroad, Sis. Arline Whitton, Sis. Darlene Large, and Sis. Mary and Bro. Joseph Perri. They all agreed that the saints in Africa and India are God-fearing, warm and lovable people—which was the theme of the day.

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

"They that dwell under his shadow shall return; they shall revive as the corn, and grow as the vine: the scent thereof shall be as the wine of Lebanon" (Hosea 14:7).

Sunday November 17, 1985 was an eventful day that will long be remembered in the hearts and minds of the brothers, sisters, and friends of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3. This day was set aside for a "Homecoming Reunion," where more than 200 friends, visitors, brothers and sisters who have been associated with Branch 3 at one point in their lives gathered once more to commemorate all our past, present, and future members, families, and friends.

Bro. Gary Coppa, our presiding elder, acknowledged the memory of all the precious testimonies rendered throughout the years in our branch. He read a synopsis of the history of Branch 3 as we know it today. A portion of the synopsis follows: Detroit Branch 3 of The Church of Jesus Christ began as a mission in November of 1933. The first meeting was held on November 26 over a store building on McDougall and Gratiot on Detroit's lower east side. The elders then were Brothers Patsy DiBattista, Joe Giansante (Johnson), Joe Corrado, and Anthony Ruzzi.

The "East Side Mission" became a branch on July 13, 1935. Bro. Patsy DiBattista was elected presiding elder with Bro. Silverio Criscuolo and Bro. Tony Ruzzi as counselors.

The dedication of Branch 3 in their very first building, located at 3156 Arndt St., took place on May 1, 1938. There were three baptisms on that dedication day.

Quite a few Branch 3 members moved to California during the 1940's, so that a Los Angeles Mission was formed under the jurisdiction of Branch 3 (This was before the General Church was organized into districts.).

The church building on Arndt St. was sold in August of 1946. The new building on East Seven Mile Rd. was built by the members of Branch 3 with help from members of other branches. The dedication service there was held November 6, 1949. Bro. Peter Capone was presiding elder.

Bro. Gary directed our attention to Alma 17, and likened the faith of the Nephites to that of our early forefathers in the establishment of the Church in Detroit. The Nephite people "fasted and prayed much that the Lord would grant unto them a portion of His Spirit to go with them, and abide with them, that they might be an instrument in the hands of God to bring their brethren to the knowledge of the truth" (v. 9).

As Branch 3 is currently seeking a place to relocate, Bro. Gary reminded us of the message God gave unto the Nephite people, as it applies to us today: "Go forth among thy brethren and establish my word; yet ye shall be patient in longsuffering and afflictions, that ye may show forth good examples into them in me, and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls" (v. 11). God's promise lives on today, as we see the establishment of missions and branches throughout the Church. The word of God is making its way into the hearts of many.

BRANCH 3 continued . . .

Those who spent 50 years or more in the Church honored us with a hymn. Sisters Vienna Carrabia, Frances Cece, Lena Pontillo, Frances Cannavo, Domenica Tamburrino (64 years), and Bro. Mike Piacentino all together represented a total of 224 years of service to the Lord.

Other "golden oldies" who had made their mark and were important pillars in the branch were also acknowledged, though some had gone on to their rewards and others were not with us today. These included Brothers Conti, Corrado, Criscuolo, Dragonetti, Molisani, Piersante, Randazzo, Saragosa, and Vitto, and Sisters Conti, Corrado, Mary Criscuolo, Josephine D'Amico, Impastato, Sally Romano, and Zampagliona.

Our most recent addition to the fifty years or more group was Sis. Jennie DeMercurio. In honor of her golden anniversary, we set aside a time to pay tribute to her dedication and unyielding faith in God.

Bro. Paul Whitton presented a synopsis of Sis. Jennie's life and works in the Church. Sis. Antonia (Jennie) DeMercurio was born in 1907 in St. Louis, Missouri. She met Giuseppe (Joe) DeMercurio, who had come from Italy, and they were married. Later, they moved to Detroit in search of more stable employment. It was while working at Ford Motor Company that Bro. Joe met Bro. Cannavo. Not long after that, Sis. Jennie, who had five young children, committed her life to God.

She was taken into the waters of baptism in Detroit by Bro. V. James Lovalvo on November 10, 1935. She was confirmed later that day by Bro. Patsy DiBattista.



Sis. Jennie DeMercurio

Sister Jennie put her faith and trust in God and she received many experiences from the Lord. She loved to read and study the Book of Mormon and was an active participant in the Ladies' Uplift Circle. When Branch 3 moved to Seven Mile Road, Sis, Jennie would take three buses one way to get to Circle. She and Bro. Joe enjoyed helping the aged. Sis. Jennie made many loaves of bread and other baked goods for bake sales and other functions. She brought up her seven children (Victor, Vincent, James, Joe, Sis. Angeline, Frank, and Bro. Nephi) in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

We give honor and thanks to God for being with Sis. Jennie these fifty years. Through God's strength, she has remained steadfast unto the calling and her example of service will not be forgotten. Our prayer is that God's Spirit will stay with our dear sister the remainder of her days on earth.

The brothers and sisters of Branch 3 honored Sis. Jennie with a corsage. Sis. Lorraine DeMercurio had the privilege of pinning the corsage on her motherin-law. Sis. Jennie then expressed her heartfelt gladness and her happiness in the service of the King.

The service was left open for testimony and many lovely testimonies were rendered unto God. Bro. Paul Whitton's former Sunday School class presented us with a hymn.

In closing, Bro. Gary Coppa prompted us to consider the fact that Branch 3 is composed of the brothers and sisters in Christ as well as the children of the saints. We should not let this be as the last supper, but we must think of this day as a new beginning. Branch 3 is composed of people who have gone in different directions to spread the word of God and who have kept it in their hearts.

Following our reunion, the brothers, sisters, and friends gathered in our basement to partake of a glorious dinner/luncheon prepared by our sisters. Pictures of times past and present were posted here for our viewing pleasure.

As the many who were and are in association with Branch 3 returned on this day to commemorate its history, we long for the day when all those that dwell under the shadow of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away (Isaiah 35:10).

Sinaloa, Mexico

By Jesse C. Guerrero

Sometimes, members of The Church of Jesus Christ wonder why our brothers spend time in other lands, wondering if it would not be better to concentrate those efforts here in the United States. However, when one can see the strides that are being made in Mexico, among the Seed of Joseph, this wonder is changed to amazement that our brothers and sisters in Sinaloa have made the progress they have.

A year ago, Bro. Joe and Sis. Jean Ciarolla, accompanied by Bro. Jesse and Sis. Mary Ann Guerrero, went to visit our missions at Ahome, San Isidro, and San Jose, near the city of Los Mochis. There they encountered people who were very anxious to develop their skills in communicating with their neighbors and relatives about our faith and doctrine. In spite of their desires, they were having some difficulties, especially when they were met with resistance from people who were dead-set against the *Book of Mormon*.

Bro. Ciarolla asked many questions at that time. The answers which he received resulted in an intensive use of recorded lessons, which had been made following the conference in Bell, California in February 1985. In addition, Bro. Ciarolla had suggested to the ministers in the three Sinaloa missions that they consolidate into two, thus permitting more interaction between the ministers and members in the Ahome and San Jose Missions.

The spirit of cooperation was manifested, so our brothers informed us in correspondence following our visit in late October, by an experience. Bro. Ventura Ochoa, presiding elder at the Ahome Mission, recounted that one of the new members had said that he had felt the hand of God caressing him following that visit.

Thus, when we returned in December 1985, we noticed a positive change in our brethren in Mexico. Numbers of visitors and members have both increased. We were told to expect from forty to seventy people at our post-Christmas gathering there, including children.

What a pleasant surprise everyone had on Sunday, December 29, 1985. When services began, the building at Ahome was about half-filled. After a few special hymns had been sung (and can they sing!), we noticed that the church was filled almost to capacity. Our Brother Light counted about 150 at the service.

We were surprised and most blessed to see Sis. Rose Anderson from Santa Ana and Sis. Mirna Tapia of Modesto, along with Lorena Quinones and Humberto Torres. They were headed further into Mexico to visit family in Pedernales, Michoacan, and stopped at Ahome for the Sunday service.

After an inspired sermon by Bro. Ciarolla from Isaiah 9:6 and Luke 4:18, we proceeded to enjoy a sumptuous dinner prepared by our sisters from the missions. I feel that I witnessed a miracle, for after everyone had eaten and bear in mind that food had been prepared for 80 people maximum there was enough food left over to feed another group, probably of the same size, reminding me of the dividing of the bread and fish by Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord is working with the Seed of Joseph. It is evident in the spirit that one feels among them, as well as the advances which they have made in constructing a church building in San Isidro. It is particularly evident when, at the services mentioned above, a young lady from another Restoration organization went to our services, stayed for the entire meeting, including the ordination of a deacon and deaconess, and then commented that she had received a blessing and asked if there was a branch of The Church of Jesus Christ in the San Diego area.

We ask for your continued prayers for the success of our Church in Mexico. Our feeling is that the breakthrough seen in Tijuana is about to take place in Sinaloa as well.

Valley Branch, CA

By Joyce Azzinaro

It is 4:20 a.m. I am on a bus to Modesto, California, which our Area MBA has chartered for a singspiration there. I am inspired to write this article, but as I look around the bus and see only two seats empty out of 46, I feel to praise God. We are all anxious and excited about this weekend of blessings we will receive by singing and praising God together. I love this Church and I thank God for being in my life so completely. As I, and all the members of the Valley Branch await the construction of our church building, we find ourselves calling upon God in fasting and prayer. The progress has been slow due to more setbacks. In order to cut down on some major costs, we changed the size of our parking lot. The city council classified our changes as major modification, and called for a public hearing at a future council meeting. Thankfully we were just recently permitted to go ahead with the building without having to wait for this parking lot approval.

The trustees have continued working hard to see that all things are moving along. Hopefully within a month we will see some progress actually taking form on our church property.

We continue to seek God's guidance in our every step. We have stuck together as a branch by having our Wednesday night meetings, MBA, fast and prayer, and Ladies' Uplift Circle meetings in alternating homes, keeping each other spiritually uplifted. We pray continually for the sick in our Church. We thank God for the other California branch ministers who have visited us, especially Bro. Ralph Frammolino from San Diego, who has just become our newest member, to help keep us going and spiritually strong. Our work has not yet begun. We are all standing by with helping hands in God's work, and to give God all the honor and glory. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Lake Worth, FL

On February 23 our hearts were happy when we witnessed two new converts going into the waters of regeneration. Brother James Bond had made his wishes known the day before in our fast and prayer service. He was baptized by Bro. Mike Radd and confirmed in the Church by Bro. Jesse Carr.

Brother Roger Williams asked for his baptism early Sunday morning and told us how he had fought all night with the Spirit before making his decision. He was baptized by Bro. Mike Radd and confirmed by Bro. August D'Orazio. The windows of heaven were opened this day, pouring a great blessing upon us all.

"God is so good, He's so good to me!" Remember the saints in this part of the vineyard as we surely will remember all of you.

CONFERENCE continued . . .

most people, and it has unfortunately become common among them.

A Seminole Indian woman, Rosie Billie, gave us some insight on the history and present condition of her people on the Brighton Indian Reservation in Florida. We were reminded of Nephi's prophecies, that these people would be scattered by the Gentiles before they would be gathered.

From the West, we heard from Brothers Joe Lovalvo and Eddie Perdue, both of whom have been involved in the work among the Mexican Indians for many years. We were especially privileged to hear from Bro. Luis Pacheco of Mexicali, who spoke with great enthusiasm and power regarding the Gospel spreading through Mexico. Brothers Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin of Santa Ana, both originally from Guatemala, expressed their desire to return to their homeland and bring this precious Gospel to their people.

There were many others present who are involved with the Indian Work throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. While there was not time to hear from each of them, we were blessed to see them gathered, as it were, from every corner of the continent to meet with the Church on this day.

Saturday evening we met together once again, this time to learn about the missions of the Church that have been established around the globe. Truly the Lord promised us in these latter days, that if we would take the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, He would empower us to take it to the four corners of the earth. On this evening, we saw the evidence of this promise being fulfilled as a slide presentation was given by the Foreign Missions Committee of the General Board of Missions.

As slides from various parts of the world were projected on the screen, a narration provided us with a background of the various countries and an overview of the Church's progress in each one.

The continent of Africa was best represented, with our Church and Secondary School established in Nigeria, growing successes in Ghana, and a new work getting under way in Kenya. We were reminded of one of

10 June, 1986

CONFERENCE continued . . .

Bro. E. U. A. Arthur's favorite scriptures, "The harvest is great, but the laborers are few," as we saw the potential for growth and the need for workers in the field.

We also saw and heard about the Church in Italy, where many of our members are getting up in years. Because the saints in Italy live so far apart, the conference held there recently by Bro. V. J. Lovalvo was the first opportunity for many of them to meet one another. Again the need for spiritual shepherds was made clear.

The Church in the land of India continues to grow. We truly had reason to reflect upon the things God has given us as we saw the poverty and disease that affects so many of the people there. The many ways in which we can help further the work of the Church in India became evident to us through what we saw and heard this evening. The central theme of the presentation was summed up in an original song at the end entitled, *Can You See the Need*?

A question-and-answer period followed the presentation, with answers being supplied by various brothers on the mission board as well as active missionaries. Again, it was a blessing to see brothers who have traveled many miles, spreading the Restored Gospel, gathered together tonight to report on how God has blessed the Church.

SUNDAY

Sunday's meeting was one not to be soon forgotten. A record crowd of about twleve hundred filled the General Church Auditorium to capacity. The Spirit of God was with us from the beginning of the service, when young Richard Santilli of Youngstown, Ohio asked for his baptism after opening prayer. We heard Bro. Dave Majoros of Tucson, Arizona sing a beautiful song, I'll Rise Again, after which Marjorie Rogalla of McKees Rocks, PA requested baptism. By the time we were through, June Hendrick of the Muncey, Ontario Mission and Mike Cocco of Lorain, Ohio had also asked for their baptism. We praise God for calling four more soldiers into His Army!

Brother Paul Carr, who along with his family was back home from Nigeria for a while, was our opening speaker this morning. Under the Lord's inspiration, Audio Visual Committee Catalog

Number	Description	$\underline{\text{Cost}}$
7B	November, 1984 Sunday after GMBA Conference– Sunday–Speaking by Gerard Valenti, Peter Scolaro, and Dominic Moraca. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
7C	November, 1984 GMBA 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
9A	April, 1985 General Church Conference. Friday evening- Speaking by recently ordained EldersSaturday morning-Speaking by V. James Lovalvo and Robert Wat- sonSaturday afternoon-Speaking by Eugene Perri, Ford Boadu of Ghana, Africa; Paul Benyola, Joseph Milan- toni, and Dwayne JordanSaturday evening-Sing-a- Long by congregation and others. <u>5 Cassette Tapes</u> .	13.50
9B	April, 1985 General Church Conference—Sunday morning Speaking by Dominic Moraco, Peter Scolaro, Sam Dell, Ford Boadu of Ghana, Africa; and Joseph Perri. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
9C	April, 1985 General Church Conference—Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Set of 9A and 9B. <u>7 Cassette Tapes</u> .	17.00
10A	May, 1985 GMBA Program. Michigan-Ontario District Saturday evening program after Conference. <u>Cassette Tape</u>	3.50
10B	May, 1985 Sunday after GMBA Conference—Sunday speaking by Louis Vitto, Alex Gentile, Paul Palmieri, Joe Furnari, Joe Calabrese, and Tony Lovalvo. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
l0C	May, 1985 GMBA Program by Michigan-Ontario District and Sunday morning service. <u>3 Cassette Tapes</u> .	8.00
	Songs of Zion-Volume 1 Sung by Bob Batson, Marty Jumper, Iva Fedorka, Karen Progar, Nancy Botwright, Carol Jumper, Carolyn Grif- fith, Shirley Paxon, Tammy Morle, Pete Giannetti, Jr., John M. D'Antonio, Ryan Ross, Ron Genaro, Jeffrey Gian- netti, Ken Staley, Barbara DiNardo, Ann & Paul Ciotti, Jr. Accompanists: Ken & Sharon Staley, Nina DiCenzo, Mar- ty Jumper, and Tammy Morle. <u>1 Cassette Tape</u> .	6.00
	Future volumes will contain remainder of the "Songs of Zion" sung by our Church talent. <u>You will be notified</u> .	

When ordering tapes, please send to:

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General Church Audio-Visual Committee, Fred D'Antonio, Walter Laird, and Carl Amato

(Continued on Page 11)

(Catalog will continue in next issue.)

CONFERENCE continued . . .

he told us that the time is far spent and that the Lord *wants* to work with us. The Gospel is being spread throughout the world, and there is a great amount of work to do. Get *involved* in the Gospel, he stressed, because if you don't you'll be pruned away, according to the scriptures.

After a song by Bro. Luis Pacheco, we heard from Bro. Eddie Perdue of Tijuana, Mexico, whose life is truly a testimony of one who has been involved in the Gospel.

General Church President Dominic Thomas addressed us next, stating that there is a spirit of renewal in the Church. It is a time when we are beginning to turn away from a kind of "lethargy" and making a greater effort to concentrate on the Lord's work.

Jesus said, "Ye are the light of the world." If The Church of Jesus Christ is truly that light, then it will be our righteousness, our understanding, our sincerity, and our compassion that will shine unto others. The plainness and the clarity of the Restoration will be the beacon which draws the souls of men unto Christ. As this time comes, Bro. Dominic asked, what will we as individuals do? Will we slide back, or will *everybody* get serious and become a part of God's work?

There have been many in past years and even today who have given up everything and dedicated themselves to the work of the Lord. However, they are in the minority. Today it has to become a majority. We must fast and pray. We must seek the Glory and the blessings of God-our recent step toward greater righteousness was just the beginning. All of us must learn to learn more about the plan of God. Where are the scholars? Where are those who are trained in the ways and cultures of other nations? Where are those who have learned foreign languages? The Church needs you today, our brother pleaded. This isn't just pretend. We cannot let this important work slip by us any longer. There is no greater work, no greater career, as it were, than this great work of the Lord.

As our brother president spoke thus, a brother in the congregation rose to his feet and spoke under the inspiration of the Spirit, "Thus saith the Lord, Work while it is day, for the night cometh, when man's work is done." Bro. Dominic made an appeal to us for more workers like our late Brothers Alvin Swanson, John Ross, Dan Casasanta, and Antonio Corrado.

Before the close of the meeting, Bro. Joseph Milantoni, president of the Quorum of Evangelists, made a special appeal for workers to go to Independence, Missouri and Dallas, Texas, where a mission has been established for some years.

Throughout this Conference, the Spirit of God was manifested in many different ways. We were truly blessed from the moment we arrived until the time we departed. If there was a theme that ran through this Conference, it was this: What are **you** going to do about the great work of the Lord? The answer is up to you.

CAMPOUT continued . . .

ings took place, I saw a personage in white join the circle of elders with a beautiful bright white light surrounding them all. On three occasions, I saw the arm of God, a big, powerful, pure gold arm. Several allusions to the arm of the Lord were made by various people throughout the week, in confirmation of this vision.

At times I would see various of our young people encased in a brilliant white light, sometimes with an angel standing next to them. The day after I would see this, they would ask for their baptism. During all of the confirmations, I saw a gold or white cloud over the elders and always, the angels would stand in between each of the elders or form a circle around them and there was a personage in pure white that usually stood in the middle of the circle. I know it was the Lord.

When the choir sang on Friday I stood in the back and listened. I couldn't believe the beautiful sound I was hearing. We truly were entertained by the angels of heaven, because they were standing next to each brother and sister as they sang—a beautiful sight to behold.

I think those of us that were fortunate enough to go to camp can truly say that we experienced a week of HEAVEN! I enjoyed seeing each of you and I thank our dear Lord Jesus for loving us so much and for being with us all week and letting us feel His peaceful, sweet Spirit. May God be with you all till we meet again!

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

joicing and her people a joy. There has not been much joy nor rejoicing in the old Jerusalem nor in the present one. Therefore, the prophet could not have been prophesying of the old, but of a "New Jerusalem." Read on to see what else the prophet was made to say by the Lord:

And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord (Isaiah 65:19-25).

Please note that the prophet now says, "The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock;" whereas in the eleventh chapter he said that "the wolf shall dwell with the lamb," etc. The prophet is showing that the ferocious beasts shall not only lie together in peace but feed together also. The carnivorous nature of the beasts shall be changed into an herbivorous one. What a glorious time is ahead for The Church of Jesus Christ! What a Peaceful Reign indeed! Now, what of the people in the Peaceful Reign (or Zion)? What kind shall they be? Let the prophet tell us:

Thou shalt not see a fierce people, a people of a deeper speech than thou canst perceive; of a stam-

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

mering tongue that thou canst not understand. Look upon Žion^T the city of our solemnities: thine eyes shall see Jerusalem a quiet habitation, a tabernacle that shall not be taken down; not one of the stakes thereof shall ever be removed, neither shall any of the cords thereof be broken. But there the glorious Lord will be unto us a place of broad rivers and streams; wherein shall go no galley with oars, neither shall gallant $ship^2$ pass thereby. For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our king; he will save us. Thy tacklings are loosed; they could not well strengthen their mast, they could not spread the sail: then is the prey of a great spoil divided; the lame take the prey. And the inhabitant shall not say, I am sick: the people that dwell therein shall be forgiven their iniquity (Isaiah 33:19-24).

¹The city of Zion here is to be understood in a larger sense, as the Kingdom of God.

²No ship of war.

New Arrivals

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

Daniel Isaac to Michael and Tammy Jo Price of Herndon, Virginia.

Seth Paul to Paul and Arlene Holan of Lorain, Ohio.

Christopher Ryan to Matt and Pat Collison of Meaford, Ontario.

Christopher Marc to Diane Matthew of Windsor, Ontario.

Jade Alyss to Kevin and Denise Naro of Lorain, Ohio.

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* WEDDING *

SCOLARO-ALESSIO

Brother Timothy Alan Scolaro and Sister Renee Lynn Alessio were united in holy matrimony on Saturday April 12, 1986 near Lorain, Ohio.

Bro. Anthony Scolaro of Detroit Branch 1, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony, with a sermon by the bride's uncle, Bro. Jerry Giovannone of Warren, Ohio. Sis. Kathie Perkins, the groom's sister, played the organ.

The bride's cousin, Bart Gensburg, was soloist, with additional musical selections sung by Sis. Lisa Ciccati, Sis. Marilyn Scolaro, and Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosanne Champine.

The newlyweds are residing in Scottsdale, Arizona and attend the Phoenix Branch. We wish God's richest blessings upon them in their life together.

OBITUARIES

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

DONALD BEACH

Brother Donald Beach passed on to his heavenly reward on January 5, 1986. He was a member of the Herndon, Virginia Branch. He was born February 5, 1928.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Chatman Young.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Marjorie, two sons, three brothers, and two sisters.

ANGELO LICATA

Angelo Licata of Cincinnati, Ohio passed away on March 28, 1986. He was born January 12, 1928 at Grotte, Sicily.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Joe Furnari.

Angelo opened his home to all the saints and was well known for his hospitality. We hold our church services in Cincinnati at his and Sis. Rose's home. Angelo supported our mission from the start and actively attended our meetings.

He is survived by his wife, Sis. Rose (Amormino) Licata, his sons Bro. Charles and Thomas Licata, his mother and father, and two brothers and two sisters. He also leaves three grandchildren.

We loved Angelo and he will be missed by our mission as well as all the brothers and sisters that knew him.

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July, 1986

Volume 42, No. 7

Florida Area Campout

By Doug Obradovich

World terrorism is a major concern when choosing a vacation spot today. At a time when such horror is affecting so many, it's comforting to know that there still are places of refuge. On April 25-27 one such site was located right here in the United States. A group of 150 people found safety from not only terrorism, but even from television, newspapers, radio, or any other medium that brings the accepted 'norms' of society into our lives.

The Florida Area MBA held its annual campout retreat in Lake Placid, located in central Florida. Those attending had much to enjoy. The moment the campers arrived, they were assigned bunkhouses which bore different titles. The brothers were delighted to spend their weekend in The Garden of Eden, the Land Bountiful, and The House of Israel, while the sisters happily spend their time on The Hill Cumorah, Mount Sinai, Salem, and even Paradise . . . although everyone claimed to have enjoyed a little bit of paradise.

Camp officially opened on Friday evening in Zion, the main meeting hall, as all hands joined in a large circle and Bro. Joe Catone, Jr. invited God to spend the weekend with the saints. This prayer was answered on many occasions throughout the weekend, as the Lord made Himself manifest in several ways.

Chapel on Saturday morning was held in an outdoor meeting hall. It must have been a similar morning that inspired the verse, "Good Morning, God!/How fresh the air./How beautiful/Of You to share/A touch of heaven/Here on earth . . ." While Bro. Duane Lowe opened in prayer, Sis. Jill Kovacic saw a vision of a man she felt was Jesus Christ, kneeling in a grove of trees. Certainly God was wishing the saints a good morning.

"Let Not the Sun Go Down" was the title that Bro. Joe Catone gave to this year's seminars. Each class kept this constant theme as the campers learned a little more about being peaceable followers of Christ.

Saturday after lunch was a time to enjoy a whole gamut of different activities. Some chose to row boats peacefully across the lake. Some participated in the organized sports, headed by Sisters Nancy DiNardo and Dana Lowe. Some chose to fish lazily off the dock, while others sat casually under the shade trees. Some chose the serenity of the empty bunkhouses to read some scriptures, or to watch the slides provided by Bro. Walter Laird of past GMBA Campouts. Whichever event was chosen, the day was enjoyed by all.

The Saturday evening meeting was under the direction of Bro. Mark Kovacic, the Area MBA Chaplain. Before the evening ended, the saints had enjoyed the uplifting words of the priesthood, testimonies of new and old converts, beautiful singing, the manifestation of the gift and interpretation of tongues, and many other expressions of God's love.

The Florida District took charge of the Sunday meeting, under its new district president, Bro. Dennis Moraco. He gave the meeting over to the preaching of the Word of God, which fed the saints. So powerful were the brothers' words, that two new converts asked for their baptism.

After lunch, Bro. Mark Kovacic baptized Bro. Alvin "Skip" Swanson, Jr., and Bro. John D'Orazio baptized Bro. John Cote. We gathered in the cafeteria for our last meeting, where the gift of the Holy Ghost was bestowed on Bro. Skip by Bro. Bert Scheffler and on Bro. John by Bro. Mike Radd. Sis. Patty Jasmin Cote also asked to be reinstated into the Church, and Bro. Gene Perri, Jr. laid hands on her.

In the same fashion as the camp began, with the saints and friends joining hands in a large prayer circle, Florida Campout 1986 came to a tearful close. The weekend was successfully spent sheltered from the dangers and terrors that the world offers. Maybe the greatest horror is not world terrorism at all; perhaps the greatest terror is a life without the peace of Jesus Christ. The Florida District has three new witnesses who will attest to that.

Our Creator

would never have made such lovely days, and have given us the deep hearts to enjoy them, above and beyond all thought, unless we were meant to be immortal.

Nathaniel Hawthorne

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Some answer this question in this manner, "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God."

"That is the one thing we must not say," wrote C. D. Lewis, a former atheist, in his classic little book, *Mere Christianity*.

We then must conclude in our mind who He is: evidence demands a verdict. Whom we decide Jesus Christ is must not be an idle intellectual exercise; it must be to truly determine that Jesus is the Lord.

What did Jesus say of Himself? The most extraordinary claims are in John's Gospel. "I am the bread of life, if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. . . . if anyone thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living waters." (John chapters 6 & 7)

"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life. If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." (Chapter 8)

His contemporaries did not understand those words when they were spoken. But they clearly understood His claim to be the Son of God, equal to the Father, a claim which most Jews considered blasphemous. They picked up stones to cast at Him when He said, "I have come that they might have life and have it abundantly. I and the Father are one."

The reader must conclude in his own heart whether His claims are true or false. If Jesus' claims are true, then He is Lord; we must either accept or reject His lordship. If His claims are not true, what did He gain as a result of making them? Certainly He gained no earthly kingdom; His death would have been a needless tragedy for a hopeless cause.

Fortunately there is historical and contemporary evidence that Jesus is Lord. Philip Schoff, author of History of the Christian Church acknowledges the moral purity and dignity of Jesus, revealed in His every word and work, and acknowledged by universal consent. How could He be any less than Lord, when He returned the wisest answer to tempting questions, when He calmly and deliberately predicted His death on the cross, His resurrection on the third day, the outpouring of His Holy Spirit, the founding of His Church, the destruction of Jerusalem-predictions which have been literally fulfilled.

Even an historian who was a dedicated opponent of organized Christianity, William Lecky, said, "The simple record of these three years of active life has done more to regenerate and soften mankind than the exhortations of moralists."

What contemporary evidence is there, that Jesus was *not* the Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life?

America has a high percentage of churchgoers who confess that "Jesus is Lord," a Gallup Poll shows.

Yet no modern nation has higher rates of crime, divorce, illegitimacy, or abortions. Is there no impact of belief of Jesus on ethics?

This paradox so troubled George Gallup, Jr., president of the Gallup Poll, that he asked a number of questions in 1984 to measure the depth of "spiritual commitment" among christians.

Only one person in four said that religion is the most important influence in their life. Only a quarter of the christians polled claimed to lead a very christian life. And only twelve percent might be called "highly spiritually committed," answering 'yes' to those two questions and others—people who constantly seek God's will in prayer, who try to put their belief into practice, and wish that their faith was stronger.

But these highly spiritually committed people, of whose life Jesus is the Lord, are substantially different from others. Gallup found that 68 percent of them say they are happy, compared to only 30 percent of the spiritually uncommitted, even though their income is lower than the overall average. Family life is more important to them, and they are more tolerant of different races and religions. Not surprisingly, they are twice as likely (46 percent compared to 22 percent) to be working with the poor, the sick, or the elderly.

Gallup concluded that their deep faith has a transforming effect on their lives, just as Jesus promised it would. But churches have done a poor job of getting that message out.

Isn't it time to go back to the first love? Time for redidication, time for family first and time to assume our just claim as followers of Christ. Jesus is Lord of Lords. King of Kings. He is therefore Lord of our life.

Let the light shine that others may see that we are children of light.

Mark Randy

Notice

Special Event

The San Carlos Celebration Committee

announces the

25 Year Anniversary Celebration

November 22 & 23, 1986

San Carlos, Arizona

A wonderful celebration is being planned, and we want you there! Together we will reminisce, share experiences, and have a weekend of blessings. Check with your presiding elder for forthcoming details. Make your plans now! This invitation is extended to all.

The Committee:

Bro. Phil Damore Bro. Steve Saffron Bro. Norman James

It Is Written



By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

Dear Saints of the Lord,

Continuing the guidance of the Holy Spirit in writing about the hopes and aspirations of the people of God in the "last days" relative to those things which shall occur in Zion (or, as The Church of Jesus Christ has often referred to it, "The Peaceful Reign," which is the Kingdom of God on earth), I will continue to point out the wonderful things that shall transpire therein:

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Isaiah 2:2-4).

What a marvelous picture the prophet has portrayed to us. We must believe that all the above must come to pass. This is the Word of the Lord, not of man. Just think, brothers and sisters, what a wonderful era of peace shall be upon the face of the earth! No wars! No famines! No enmities; not even with the beasts of the fields! Isaiah likens the Kingdom of God (Zion) to a tent that cannot be uprooted; surrounded by beautiful streams of water where no ships of war will ever pass again. And the riches of the land with all of its immense resources, which the sinners abused, will become the riches of the people of God; and there will be no more sickness or diseases to trouble the Saints; and no sinners will be therein. The prophet Hosea, in conjunction with Isaiah, says:

And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heaven, and with the creeping things of the ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and I will make them to lie down safely.

And I will betroth thee unto me . . . in righteousness, and in judgment, and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord (Hosea 2:18-20).

It is truly amazing how the different prophets saw and foretold of the same events that were going to transpire upon the face of the earth. They lived hundreds of years apart, yet by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit they saw the future; that which is in store for the people of God in the last days. Written below are some of the prophecies concerning the Peaceful Reign (Zion). Remember this: Zion, when understood in its entirety, is the Kingdom of God on earth. And when the Peaceful Reign (Zion) is fully established, and the New Jerusalem is built, then will it come to pass that the Word of the Lord will go out of Jerusalem (the New Jerusalem, the capital city of Zion), and the law will go forth out of Zion (the Kingdom of God on earth) which is filled with peace (the Peaceful Reign). And all this will take place just prior to the First Resurrection (Revelation 20th Chapter).

The prophets rejoiced in that which the Lord gave them to see and predict by His Holy Spirit. We, too, must rejoice and praise the Lord for opening our eyes and our hearts to the understanding of the prophecies. Following are some more prophecies by men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit which relate to the conditions that will prevail in the Peaceful Reign (Zion):

For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody (Isaiah 51:3).

At destruction and famine thou shalt laugh: neither shalt thou be afraid of the beasts of the earth. For thou shalt be in league with the stones of the field: and the beasts of the field shalt be at peace with thee. And thou shalt know that thy tabernacle shall be in peace; and thou shalt visit thy habitation, and shalt not sin. Thou shalt know also that thy seed shall be great, and thine offspring as the grass of the earth (Job 5:22-25).

The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am the Lord your God dwelling in Zion, my holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and all the rivers of Judah shall flow with waters, and a fountain shall come forth of the house of the Lord, and shall water the valley of Shittim (Joel 3:16-18).

Following are some of the *Book of Mormon* prophecies concerning the establishment of the Kingdom of God on the earth:

And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling of the covenant which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a New Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you (III Nephi 20:22).

Please note that the covenant that God made with Jacob is found in Genesis 49:26, which reads:

The blessings of thy father have prevailed above the blessings of

(Continued on Page 11)

Conversion in Lorain, OH

By Katherine Cocco

During the latter part of March, 1986, I received a dream. My husband and I were walking hand in hand along a very long road. As we approached the end we were standing on the shore of a beautiful body of water. The water was crystal clear and calm with flowing ripples. The sun cast a golden glow on its glassy surface. What a beautiful sight indeed! To the right and to the left there was more of this beautiful water. As we stood there together viewing this lovely sight I removed my hand from my husband's and was lifted from this beautiful place.

I awoke and began to ponder upon the dream. The interpretation came to my mind. During our 38 years of marriage we have walked hand in hand. The road has been long and sometimes very hard and rough-my husband and his family are of another faith. Throughout our marriage I have tried my best, with much prayer, to live as an example to Mike and my family. We have been blessed with children and grandchildren. Hand in hand we've walked through life's journey to the edge of this beautiful shore I saw in my dream, and now it would take the hand of God to touch Mike and call him into the waters of regeneration. I could do no more but continue to pray for him along with the prayers of all the saints. I knew, however, that it wouldn't be long before God would accomplish this wonderful miracle.

Mike had been under the convicting power of God for some time. He fought against the love of the saints and the Gospel, but slowly he had begun to attend more meetings, accept invitations, and visit the saints with me. He would also invite them to our home and enjoy their company. This was foreign to him in the past. Slowly he was learning to love us.

As the Spiritual Conference was scheduled to take place in Greensburg, PA last April, Mike had a strong desire to attend—the first time ever since we were married. Plans and arrangements were made. We arrived Saturday afternoon. Mike was excited and participated in every session from the moment we arrived until closing. He was the first to lead the way, always wanting to sit up front and be early so as not to miss anything. He was experiencing much joy and the Spirit of God was manifesting itself in his heart.

As the callings for baptism were being proclaimed during Sunday's service, and the blessings were pouring down upon the saints, he was resisting the desire to proclaim his own repentance and call for his baptism. During the sermon of Bro. Dominic Thomas, as he was pleading for workers in the vinevard. Mike received a vision of Jesus Christ. Christ appeared to him above the apostles and elders sitting on the rostrum. He had His arms outstretched and beckoned Mike to come unto Him. Mike closed his eves and rubbed them in disbelief. He opened his eyes once again, and the vision of Christ was still there before him. As the vision began to fade, Mike felt a sensation throughout his whole being. He began to cry without shame as we sang Just As I Am.

After closing prayer Mike turned to me and proclaimed his desire to be baptized. He could resist no more. Christ had broken the chains that had him bound for so many years. Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Mike was baptized in Lorain, Ohio by Bro. Joe Calabrese and confirmed by Bro. Frank Calabrese into that beautiful river of life on April 22, 1986. All honor, glory, and praise to our Lord, Savior and King.

Note of Thanks

This is to express my special thanks to all the saints for your prayers and fastings on my behalf, and for the daily inflow of cards and phone calls.

So that you may all know my progress, I am currently on radiation treatments for a disease called myeloma, a cancer that attacks the bones. According to doctors, the longrange outlook is promising. They want me to resume a full and active life and observe the proper precautions for the remainder of my life.

I am very grateful to God for His tender mercies towards me. For the greater part of my life I have preached and proclaimed His Holy name, and with His help and your continued prayers, I will continue to do so. For I, like all of you, want to see the Church flourish and prosper in God's Holy Spirit, with all the gifts and blessings which belong to The Church of Jesus Christ.

In my affliction I find consolation in the following:

Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised (Hebrews 10:22 & 23).

Please continue to remember me along with all the sick.

Bro. Dominic Moraca

An Experience

Dear Brothers and Sisters from coast to coast,

I want to use this means of thanking all of you for your prayers and cards in my behalf for the recent heart attack I suffered, and would like to state that I am now recovering very well.

I would like to give you my experience. The day before my surgery, my son Domenick could not work because of my condition, so he came to the hospital to visit me and spend the afternoon with me. It was a very dreary and dark day, but when Bro. Duane Lowe poured oil upon my head, my son Domenick suddenly saw a great light illuminate the room and felt a great blessing. He knew that God would take care of me and God would help the surgeon in the operation.

I again want to praise God for His mercy and compassion in seeing me through this ordeal.

Sincerely, Brother Sam Risola, Sr. Tampa, Florida Branch

Saturday afternoon, March 23, 1985 was the close of a particularly trying week, which had caught up to me. The responsibilities of being a mother and wife can sometimes leave us emotionally and physically exhausted. Feeling lonely

(Continued on Page 12)



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Vision

In this month's paper, Bro. Jim Lovalvo concludes his article about the future expectations of the Church. His writings explain how the city of Zion will serve as a resting place for the righteous during times of destruction throughout the world. The Peaceful Reign should be real to all of us. It should have significance in our daily lives, giving us hope for a better day on earth. It should be part of our vision.

When Christ began His ministry on earth, relatively few of those who claimed to be followers of God recognized Him as the Messiah. Many who were well-versed in the scriptures, who spent much of their time in the synagogues, could not see that Jesus was fulfilling the prophecies they had so often studied. What they lacked was vision, or understanding, of the plan of God.

Today, as we endeavor to follow the teachings of Christ and do the things He has commanded us, it is important that each of us has a true vision of the things God has in store for His people and His Church. As events in the world which lead to His second coming continue to unfold, we must be sufficiently rooted in the Restored Gospel to recognize them, to the point where we rejoice in our hearts, rather than fear, when we see the ominous signs of the times.

What does The Church of Jesus Christ mean to you? It must be more to us than just a pleasant place to spend a Sunday morning. It has to be more than the group of people we see once or twice a week. We must identify with the General Church, a great body of people united in a common goal. If we all have that spiritual vision, our priorities will be aligned toward the fulfilling of the word of God. So that we may all better understand what the Lord requires of us, we must all strive to become more familiar with His word. By meeting together often and becoming involved in the work of the Lord, we will improve our vision of the plan of God.

Of the billions of people on the earth today, very few understand that the angel has flown through the midst of heaven, carrying the everlasting gospel. Through God's infinite mercy, we have been blessed with this understanding, and we must treasure and nurture it as a precious legacy. We are accountable for carrying out our part in God's plan, as recorded in the *Book of Mormon*. We must not tell ourselves that somebody else will fulfill the mission that we have been given. It is our duty to maintain a vision of the future of the Church, to understand the significance of the Restored Gospel.

If you don't appreciate the necessity of the *Book of Mormon*, the heritage of the Seed of Joseph, the coming of the Choice Seer, the gathering of Israel, or the establishment of the Peaceful Reign, you are in danger of being spiritually blind, lacking the vision that is essential in recognizing the will of God. If we as individuals do not have a clear understanding of what God has in store for the Church, we may not recognize His prophecies being fulfilled. Like the many in old Jerusalem who turned Jesus away, we will not know the Lord when He comes.

I would encourage each of us, then, to do whatever we can to understand what God has in store for His servants, studying the word of God and the faith of the Church, that we would have vision to see ahead, and the strength to glance neither to the right nor to the left when storms and tribulations come upon us. "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he" (Proverbs 29:18).

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

In I Corinthians 12:12-31, the Apostle Paul tells us that all of us who serve God and love each other are parts of one body. Each person is a different body part. When I began to think upon this scripture, so many wonderful thoughts came to mind.

I realized how silly it is for me to be jealous of a brother or sister who can do something better than I can. I remember as a young person at Campouts resenting a different group of young sisters and being very rude and jealous. We laugh about those days now, but even as an adult there are times I feel those old feelings of jealousy, hate, or resentfulness sneaking in. Usually the root of these feelings is fear—fear that I'm not as good as someone else, or that someone will see me as a failure, or that I *will* be a failure.

Think what a body would do if the feet were afraid to move! What if the hands were afraid to reach out and grasp something or if the muscles that support the hands and feet refused to work and said, "No way! If I'm not the one out in front, I won't support that part of the body that is!"

Have you ever had a muscle in your eye or in your face tic, flicker and feel so odd? Well, it is the same way with the body of our Church. If one tiny muscle, one precious member, is 'out of sync,' not working right, it affects the outlook and the well-being of the whole body.

Even the tiniest body parts—the lifegiving red blood cells—are vital. Perhaps those are the constant prayers prayed in secret by faithful members.

Who would be the tongue? That is a precious member of the body. The Apostle James in the Bible tells us what a powerful member the tongue is, to do good or evil, and how hard it is to control. So much good work can be done by



a tongue that sees the good instead of the bad—by a tongue that refuses to say the bad and discouraging words that hurt or assassinate someone's character behind his back.

Who will be the ears? Quick to hear the good. Quick to hear the secret pain someone needs to share, quick to understand and direct the body to do good.

Who will be the fingernails, standing close there to protect the sensitive fingertips of the groping hand, which must reach out into the void and pat a head or smooth away tears, or reach out where they might be rejected?

Will you be the faithful heart, firmly beating away, steadfastly and earnestly sending nourishing good prayers out on behalf of all the body parts? Vitally needed in all areas of our wonderful Church are those quiet deep souls who will day in and day out carry great spiritual burdens for the more delicate or infirm body parts.

Are you a white blood cell? Ready to dash in and sacrifice *your* time, *your* life, to heal pain and the disease of sin in someone else's life?

Are you a joint or a wonderful stretching ligament, someone who connects one part of the body, one way of thinking, to another whose ways or culture may be different?

We each are vitally needed. One whole body needs many different working parts. It indeed is silly for us to waste our energies coveting somebody else's job or position. There is always a way to tone and strengthen our individual body part.

Muscles need to be used or they will wither. Our spiritual gifts are like that.

We must pray to God to remove our fears, to flex our body parts and let them grow strong and useful. One body part cannot function without another for the body to be whole. Even the smallest, most hidden body part is vital to the health of the whole body. The whole body suffers when one part suffers: when one part (person) is honored, we are all honored. As God has set each person in the body as it pleases Him (verse 18), then let us feel the joy and honor in that and develop our body part to be a member of a beautiful, smoothly functioning body, building the kingdom of God upon the face of this earth.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

BLOOD	SAY
BODY PARTS	SPIRITUAL
FOOT	SUM
GIFT	SUPPORT
GOD'S	TALK
GOOD	TALK (AGAIN)
HAND	TELL
HOPE	TONGUE
MUSCLE	THINGS
PRAY	WORD

В	0	D	Y	Р	A	R	Т	s
L	E	Е	U	G	N	0	т	Р
0	Р	K	U	К	L	F	R	Ι
0	0	L	L	L	I	Α	0	R
D	Н	Α	Е	G	Y	D	Р	I
R	Т	Т	s	Α	Y	0	Р	т
0	0	D	N	Α	Η	0	U	U
w	0	т	H	Ι	N	G	S	A
G	F	Е	L	С	S	U	М	L

Notice

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference will be held on October 4, 1986 at Detroit, Michigan Branch 2. Sister Joann Cotellesse is in charge of accommodations. Her address is 4300 Beach, Ecorse, MI 48229, and her phone number is (313) 388-8832.

Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario Circle Retreat

By Cathy Mulla

The Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle held their first annual retreat on March 1, 1986 in Ann Arbor, Michigan. There were fifty-two sisters and friends in attendance.

The sisters were greeted by Area President Arline Whitton and Vice President Lorraine DeMercurio. Sis. Lorraine read from James 1:19-27, reminding us to clear our minds and keep ourselves unspotted from the world, that we should be doers as well as hearers of God's word.

After lunch was served we had seminars. They were divided into three groups, and the topic of study was entitled "Restoration Clinic." Each group was asked to review and compare their everyday activities and how they can incorporate their daily routines into a spiritual agenda. The end result was to focus our attention on the things God wants us to do. There is room for improvement in all of us and we must adhere to God's improvement plan if we want to reach that "perfect 10" or perfect state. Following the seminar discussions, the sisters enjoyed a wonderful dinner. The remainder of the evening was for fellowship and fun. Sis. Teresa Piacentino celebrated her natural birthday and her 45th spiritual birthday on this day.

Brothers Car. Frammolino and George Benyola joined the sisters for the Sunday service. Bro. George read from Jeremiah 18:2-10 and expressed himself by telling us how we can do better to serve God. When we made our commitment, we began to take shape as the Potter began His work. Unless we become pure as refined gold, the Lord won't accept us. If we want to be molded into what God wants us to be, we must be prayerful.

Bro. Carl Frammolino followed, reviewing the goals that were established for the benefit of our souls this weekend. He emphasized that the role we take on and the work resulting from that role is for the perfecting of the saints. We follow one Lord, one faith, and one baptism so that we may all come in the unity of the Church.

There was a season of testimony where many sisters expressed their heartfelt thanks before the Lord. A special prayer was offered for the many problems and illnesses that befall many of our sisters and their families today.

To the many that attended this retreat it was an enlightening experience. We hope everyone strives for those qualities necessary for the perfecting of their souls.

PA Area Circle Meeting

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Circle met at Fredonia, PA on April 26, 1986. Our chairperson, Sis. Martha Gehly, welcomed the 34 sisters that were present. Today's theme was "Mothers of the Bible." Each local gave a report on a mother from the Bible or Book of Mormon. The sisters that were present gave their name, branch, and number of children and grandchildren they had. Sis. Harriet Byers of Monongahela received a beautiful corsage for having the largest family.

The officers were all present and a communication was read from Sis. Mabel Bickerton. She requested that we send yarn to Sis. Ruth Mountain, who is making afghans for Indian children.

Plans are being made to have an Area Circle Retreat. It will be held at the McKeever Environmental Learning Center on August 22-24.

The next PA Area Circle meeting will be held November 1, 1986 at the Imperial, PA Branch. The Lord truly blessed all those who made an effort to be here today.

MBA Highlights

Anaheim MBA

By Carl Huttenberger

The Anaheim, CA Branch is known for being a very young group. This has been an asset to our MBA. We are all involved in the MBA activities, and our participation and excitement spreads from one person to another, then back to us again. All the thanks go to our God, who has truly answered our prayers.

Our MBA meets each Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. The first week of each month, we have a joint revival meeting with our beloved brothers and sisters from the Santa Ana Mission. At our last revival meeting a sister from Santa Ana heard the voice of God saying, "I have provided for you in the past, and I will continue to provide for you and bless you."

Our MBA classes are divided into an adult class, a young people's class, and a young teenagers' class. At the present time we're making in-depth studies of the Book of Mormon. Once a month, we have what we call an open meeting, where many groups get together to perform plays, songs, spiritual trivia games, and other activities that are both exciting and educational. We reserve this night for periodic singspirations as well, or sometimes we'll devote it to testimony or prayer.

The Anaheim MBA often plans activities for Sunday evenings. These are usually quite informal, such as gatherings at the homes of the saints for dinner and fellowship. Sometimes we return to the branch for more testimony, prayer, or discussion groups. All these activities are supervised by our brothers in the ministry.

We have also planned many fundraisers, such as car washes, bake sales, hot dog sales, garage sales, and many others. We are planning a bike ride along the Santa Ana Riverbed (a twenty-mile ride to the ocean, where brothers and sisters in Newport Beach will be waiting for us).

Our MBA is truly on the move. Thank God for so many young, enthusiastic saints who are always willing to give of their time and energy for the betterment of the MBA and our spiritual lives.

We've said much about our young people, but the fact is, we have many older brothers and sisters without whose matchless enthusiasm our MBA

Florida District

By Josie Jasmin

The saints along the East Coast of Florida gathered in Lake Worth Branch for a mini conference sponsored by the evangelists.

Bro. Dominic Moraca addressed the congregation and pleaded for the prayers of the saints to help him in his time of affliction. He asked the royal priesthood of the Son of God to anoint him, and we once again exercised faith, as taught by Jesus Christ, "even as a grain of mustard seed."

Evangelist Gene Perri, Jr. was presiding, and felt to pass the Lord's Supper this morning. We experienced something new, by this ordinance being performed early on the Lord's Day, preparing each one of us for a day of total subjection and honor to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Moraca expressed himself on the subject, "If the Lord should come today,

am I prepared to meet Him?" The Spirit of God overshadowed our brother, and it impressed everyone to see his earnest desire in serving and praising God.

Bro. Dom expounded upon the joy of the saints, which truly is in the Lord. He used as his text Psalm 51, where David pleaded with the Lord for mercy, asking Him to purge and cleanse him completely.

Our brother explained the importance of seeing our sins and asking forgiveness, and to never deny our sins, but to be honest of heart to the Lord. Truly the joy of the saints is in the Lord; this is the only way to salvation. We must have a broken heart and a contrite spirit. "What a friend we have in Jesus,/All our sins and griefs to bear." We must increase in faith, to prove ourselves, run the race, and pass the test that is before us. We were never promised a beautiful rose garden. There are many thorns along the way which we must endure. Bro. Dominic pleaded for those in their youth not to wait for old age, because it may never come. "Be prepared!" he exclaimed, and related the incident of Enos, who poured his heart out to the Lord on behalf of his

brethren. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Bro. Charles Smith continued, presenting the message of the great power of God, and stressing the importance of being men and women after God's own heart. We are to be truthful in our service to God, and lift the banner of truth, showing the world that we are the true people of God. We must examine our lives and get rid of those things that avail nothing for our souls. We must shine as bright as the noonday sun.

Bro. Gene Perri, Jr. concluded the service by encouraging the saints to "Be on fire in your service to the Lord." He mentioned the missionary work in Independence, Missouri that is progressing and also those who have volunteered to travel to Kenya. It is a big sacrifice to do missionary work, but the reward is great. Every member can be a missionary and tell others of this Gospel.

After breaking for lunch, we reconvened for fellowship and testimony. We enjoyed ourselves immensely this day, and are longing for the gathering, the great gathering of the Church and the House of Israel.

Branch and Mission News

San Diego, CA

By Carolyn Martorana Light

Recently, we in the California District were blessed with the recommendations of four brothers to the ministry. All of these brothers are young men, eager to work for the Lord and His Church.

One of them, Bro. Bob Womack, is a member of the San Diego Branch and was ordained February 23, 1986 in the presence of many brothers, sisters, family members, and friends.

As Sunday School began, the church building was beginning to be filled with people from California, Arizona, and Mexico, and anticipation of a blessed day in God's House could be felt by all. Various songs were offered to the Lord for this special occasion, including *Open My Eyes That I May See*, which is Bro. Bob's favorite hymn.

Presiding Elder Lou Ciccati opened the Sunday service by relating an experience had by Bro. Domenic Castelli concerning Bro. Bob's calling into the ministry. Bro. Domenic is a faithful pillar of the Church and has served many years in the priesthood. One evening, after praying that God would use the young men for His purposes, he had a dream.

In the experience, he saw the ministry of the San Diego Branch assembled together and Bro. Bob was in their midst for questioning. After questioning was complete, those present unanimously agreed that our brother was called of God. Bro. Domenic also saw other brothers whom God would call in the future. We praise God that He once again revealed His will unto one of His servants.

Bro. Lou then related the responsibilities, characteristics, and duties of an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ, citing writings of the Apostle Paul and excerpts from the Minister's Manual. He stated that we need young men to continue Christ's ministry and admonished our young brother to take these things seriously and apply them in his work for the Lord. Apostle V. James Lovalvo then exhorted us, using the 13th Chapter of Alma regarding the calling of a man of God. He explained that the High Priesthood was prepared from the beginning and that this Holy Order is after the order of Christ. Bro. Jim added that the responsibility of souls rests upon this ministry.

Bro. George Heaps followed, speaking on the purpose of setting apart by the washing of feet. This ordinance, a commandment of God, is used to set an individual apart for a specific work.

Bro. Bob was then called forward to take part in this ordinance, which was performed by Bro. Ralph Frammolino.

The congregation sang Ye Who Are Called to Labor while Bro. Bob was encircled by the priesthood members, after which a prayer was offered by Bro. John Mancini that God's Spirit and Power would be evident in the ordination.

Bro. Bob was ordained into the priesthood by Bro. George Heaps. Bro. Bob then spoke briefly, praising God for entering his life through the testimony of a brother with whom he had worked. Our brother expressed a desire to work for God and to be a servant to His people and an example to all those with whom he would come in contact. Our morning service was then closed and we gathered for lunch and fellowship.

The afternoon service featured speaking by three young elders. Bro. John Mancini of the Tse Bonito, NM Branch expressed how the Gospel of Christ is alive in his heart and his life. He shared many experiences that God has blessed him with over the years and told how God has been ready to aid him as a Spiritual Father. He used John 10 to show that Christ is the Good Shepherd and desires His sheep to hear and follow His voice.

Detroit, Inner City

by Lisa DiFalco

On January 26, friends and members of the Detroit Inner City Branch experienced an outpouring of God's Spirit. We were filled with blessings that could not be contained. The Champine brothers, Larry, Gary, Steve, and Claude came to share with us the songs the Lord has given them.

While Sis. Rosanne Champine sang Because He Lives, Joshua and Janette Wickley were brought forward to be blessed. We ask everyone to remember these two Indian children, who recently lost their mother, in prayer, that God will fill the place of their parents, that they may face uncertain days ahead just because He lives.

Following the blessing, the Champine brothers sang many of the beautiful songs which they've written since coming into the Church. They related their many experiences of how God called them out of the world to give them better than the best that the world had to offer. The worldly fame they enjoyed for a season could not solve their problems or hold their lives together.

One by one God began to work with this family; solving their problems and restoring their souls. In the world they were known as The Champine Brothers, but thank God we now know them spiritually as our Champine Brothers. And God has given them a "new song" to sing.

For the first time in their lives they were able to sing and write their own music. Under the inspiration of God they wrote songs which related to scriptures that they did not even know existed until after they had already written the song. The Spirit of God came down as they sang We Shall Behold Him, and we all sang It's My Desire to close. Directly afterward, Bro. Joe Milantoni announced that Philip Blount would be baptized.

We met the next Sunday, February 2, prepared to witness the baptism of our soon-to-be Brother Philip. Bro. Sam DiFalco of the Sterling Heights Branch introduced the service, telling how he felt directed by the Lord to be with us today. He started from the beginning of time, when Jesus Christ was with the Father. We know this only by faith. Bro. Sam questioned us, "Can we believe a man can divide the sea?" No, we can't. But we do believe that God can. From the creation of the earth to the restoration of His Church, everything was done by God. The revelation upon which this Church is built is made by God. None of this perfect work could be brought about by a man's hand. That is why our Church stands in none other but the name of Jesus Christ.

We brought Bro. Philip Blount to the river to be baptized. Bro. Sam DiFalco performed the baptism, and our new brother was confirmed by Bro. Carl Frammolino. Bro. Phil then expressed himself, saying that it's his desire to serve the Lord all of his days, and thanked God for bringing him into this Church.

Our new brother had to move away and is attending the mission in Cincinnati, Ohio. We ask all to remember him in prayer.

Yucaipa, CA

By Carol Kirkpatrick

We've had some wonderful blessings so far this year at the Yucaipa, California Mission.

First, we had the joy of a young boy being blessed on January 5. Christopher Schroeder was blessed by Bro. Clarence Kirkpatrick. He is the son of Irene Schroeder.

On February 16, Irene Schroeder was baptized. We had had rain for a whole night and a day, and we went to the mill creek for the baptism. The creek was a rushing torrent from all the rain, but God was with us and with Bro. Kirkpatrick, as he stood against the current and baptized our beautiful new sister. The rain had stopped, and the sun was breaking through the clouds. God blessed this day with all of His special touches. Our hearts were all touched as we sang *I Surrender All* at the water's edge.

We returned to the church and Bro. Frank Genaro confirmed our sister. The day was full of beautiful testimonies and our hearts were full. We hope that God will continue His blessings on our little mission. We pray that He will call more souls into our midst.

We want to thank all the brothers and sisters that visited us over this past year, and we hope to have more visitors this year. Come and share the blessings with us and meet our new Sister Irene.

We ask that you remember our older members in your prayers, as they are in much need of prayer.



Irene Schroeder is baptized by Bro. Clarence Kirkpatrick of Yucaipa, CA.

Tampa, FL

February 23 was a day to remember, a day of blessings. We sang *Good Morning God* and were led in prayer by Bro. Frank Rogolino of the Ft. Pierce Branch. Presiding Elder Duane Lowe said he felt he was in every branch represented here this day. Bro. John Griffith spoke on Luke 10:25-37, where a lawyer asked Jesus, "Who is thy neighbor?"

Brother Griffith expounded on the story of the Good Samaritan, saying that we have to go back to our first love, to our commitment to the Lord at the river's edge, and not be a hypocrite as

(Continued on Page 10)

10 July, 1986

TAMPA continued . . .

were the priest and the Levite, but to be a caring person to our friends and neighbors, and to give our testimony whenever the opportunity presents itself, that God may work and call other souls into the fold.

Be active in the Church; do what God expects you to do with your talents. Our Brother John expressed his sincere belief that a nation would indeed be born in a day, that we should not be discouraged concerning the progress of the Restored Gospel, but that we should continue our testimonies to all people, especially to the Seed of Joseph. He exhorted us to be more righteous, and to put God first in our lives.

Bro. Ken Lombardo sang a beautiful hymn, *Then Came the Morning Light*, which was a sermon in itself on the death and resurrection of Christ.

Bro. Frank Rogolino spoke on the blessings of God upon His people when He enhances their abilities in preaching, singing, and the writing of hymns.

Bro. John D'Orazio of the Lake Worth Branch spoke on how we must be 'doers' and not just 'listeners.' God is always there for us, provided that we are living close to Him. Bro. Saverio Risola closed our meeting in prayer.

Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

On Tuesday February 25 we at the Roscoe Branch met with a group of brothers, sisters, and friends from the Pennsylvania District and others from various parts of the Church. Sister Arlene Buffington from the Imperial, PA Branch and Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino from Detroit, MI came to enlighten us on how the Songs of Zion came forth and to teach us to sing some of the newer ones. Our Brother Eugene played the piano and was accompanied by his wife, Sister Donna, in the singing of the songs.

Sis. Arlene related her experiences from God in the bringing forth of these hymns. Before each song was presented, Bro. Eugene or Sis. Arlene would make some remarks concerning it. Bro. Eugene read some scripture and we felt the Spirit of God in his words

(Continued on Page 11)

Audio Visual Committee Catalog

Number	Description	$\underline{\mathrm{Cost}}$
12	August, 1985 Pennsylvania District Conference—Sunday Speaking by Frank Calabrese, Paul Palmieri, John Grif- fith, William Colangelo, and James Moore, Jr. <u>1 Cassette Tape</u> .	6.00
13A	1985 GMBA Campout Choir Selections <u>1 Cassette Tape</u> .	3.50
13B	1985 GMBA Campout Congregational Singing <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	6.00
13C	1985 GMBA Campout Choir Selections and Congrega- tional Singing. <u>3 Cassette Tapes</u> .	8.50
13D	1985 GMBA Campout Choir Selections, Congregational Singing, All Meetings, All Chapel Services, Testimonies, etc. in a Cassette Album. <u>12 Cassette Tapes</u> .	45.00
14A	October, 1985 General Church Conference—Saturday Meetings—Ladies' Circle Report, GMBA Report, General Mission Board Report, Brother Elizaphan & Sister Nina Osaka of Kenya, Africa Ordinations.	9.00
14B	October, 1985 General Church Conference—Sunday morning speaking by Dennis Moraco, Carl Frammolino, Frank Ciotti, Isaac Smith, Nephi DeMercurio, Joseph Milantoni, Joseph Lovalvo, and Dominic Thomas. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	6.00
14C	October, 1985 General Church Conference—Saturday and Sunday. Set of 14A and 14B. <u>5 Cassette Tapes</u> .	13.50
15	"In Defense of the Book of Mormon" by Apostle V. James Lovalvo. Refutes 15 criticisms against the Book of Mor- mon. Booklet Included.	10.00
16	"Why We Sing" by the Champine Brothers of Detroit, Michigan. Selections of spiritual songs composed, arranged and sung by the four Champine brothers. <u>1 Cassette Tape</u> .	8.00
17	"Wave the Flags of Zion" sung by Gene & Donna Amormino, Champine Brothers, Rosanne Champine, Tracey Francione, Diane Hawkins, Kathy Natoli, Kathie Perkins, Peter & Marilyn Scolaro, Anthony J. Scolaro, and John Straccia. Set of 13 "Songs of Zion." <u>I Cassette Tape</u> .	8.00
18A	November, 1985 GMBA Program. Pennsylvania Area MBA Saturday Evening Program after Conference. <u>1 Cassette Tape</u> .	4.00
18B	November, 1985 Sunday after GMBA Conference— speaking by Brian Martorana, Paul Whitton, Jerry Giovan- none, Joseph Calabrese, Paul Palmieri, Richard Santilli, and Joseph Arcuri. <u>2 Cassette Tapes</u> .	5.00
18C	November, 1985 GMBA Program by Pennsylvania Area	8.50

MBA and Sunday morning service. <u>3 Cassette Tapes</u>. When ordering tapes, please send to: Audio-Visual Committee, The Church of Jesus Christ Print House, 8423 Boettner Road, P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI

48115. The Church Print House will handle all distribution of tapes. Thank you.

General Church Audio-Visual Committee, Fred D'Antonio, Walter Laird, and Carl Amato

ROSCOE continued . . .

as he expounded them to us, which caused our hearts to overflow with joy.

Refreshments were served afterwards, and we continued to have a good time of fellowship with each other. We want to thank Sis. Arlene Buffington, Bro. Eugene, and Sis. Donna Amormino and all those who came to Roscoe that night for the blessing we had by their coming. Since they came, we will be able to sing the Songs of Zion with a better understanding. We want to thank and praise our God for such a wonderful evening.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

On Sunday February 9, 1986, we of the McKees Rocks Branch, along with visitors from Aliquippa, Monongahela, Lorain, Ohio and Warren, Ohio, were privileged to witness another soul surrender to Jesus Christ. Debra Ciotti was baptized by her grandfather, Brother Bill Colangelo, and confirmed by her uncle, Brother Paul Ciotti. What a beautiful spirit prevailed as our new sister glorified God and expressed her desire to be a blessing to others. This was our first baptism utilizing the pond on our own church property.

A beautiful experience took place in our branch on Sunday, February 16, 1986. In our morning service, Bro. Don Ross of Edison, NJ gave an inspiring message. His theme centered on the bread and wine Christ supplied for the Nephites, with an emphasis on the importance of communion. The spirit of this message carried over into our afternoon service. At the completion of the passing of communion, the gift of tongues came forth with this interpretation: "This is My Body, This is My Blood, This I have given for you, saith Jesus." Bro. Dan Casasanta stated that as the prayer was being offered for the wine, he saw a vision of Jesus on the cross with His head bowed. We thank God for this reminder of the sufferings of the Son of God and the power that is in His blood.

On Sunday February 23, another soul rendered obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Rhonda Joswiak was taken into the waters of baptism by her uncle, Bro. Paul Ciotti. Our new sister was confirmed by Bro. Richard Lawson.

Sister Rhonda gave a beautiful IT IS WRITTEN continued . . . testimony expressing her appreciation to God for the love she found in this church.

This was our third baptism this year, fulfilling a dream given to our late Brother Dan Casasanta wherein he saw three women being called by God. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Anaheim, CA

By Pam Capone

Springtime is a time of new beginnings and new life. It is a time when seeds that have been planted begin to grow and develop. Anaheim Branch has been blessed with a spiritual springtime, and for this we praise the Lord. God has blessed our group with visitors and has added to our membership.

On January 5, we had Sis. Louise Bruno and her husband from Detroit, Michigan. Toby Genaro from Yucaipa shared in a beautiful meeting with us on January 12 as Sis. Tami Buscaino asked for her baptism. She was baptized the following Sunday by Bro. Rusty Heaps and was confirmed by Bro. Jim Huttenberger. Bro. Lenny Benyola from New Jersey was visiting with us that day.

On March 2, Bro. Tony and Sis. Betty Capone from Bell, and Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Margaret Henderson from Riverside witnessed along with the rest of us the request for baptism by two young men: Kevin Sanislo and Joe Capone.

Our two new brothers were baptized the following Sunday by Bro. Jim Huttenberger. Bro. Kevin was confirmed by Bro. Rusty Heaps, and Bro. Otto Henderson confirmed Bro. Joe.

Visiting with us that day were Bro. Tony and Sis. Betty Capone, Sis. Santina Mercuri from Santa Ana, and Sis. Virginia Suprenant of the Valley Branch.

The following Sunday, March 16, was our feet washing service. We were blessed with God's Spirit that day, and as our Sis. Mary Ann Nicosia was being anointed for an affliction, two sisters received visions of the Lord and His angels participating in the anointing. Both sisters understood the Lord to be saying, "Do not fear, I am with you; leave your cares with me."

my progenitors unto the utmost bound of the everlasting hills: they shall be on the head of Joseph, and on the crown of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.

The blessings that God gave to Jacob, by covenant, were to the utmost bound of the everlasting hills. The Church of Jesus Christ understands the "utmost bound of the everlasting hills" to be this land of America. Jacob's blessings were transferred to the head of Joseph (or upon his seed, the American Indian). Let us continue with the Book of Mormon prophecies:

And they* shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob, and also as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem.

And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem.

And then shall the power of heaven come down among them; And I also will be in the midst (III Nephi 21:23-25).

Behold, Ether saw the days of Christ, and he spake concerning a New Jerusalem upon this land. . . . And that a New Jerusalem should be built upon this land, unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for which things there has been a type (Ether 13:4 & 6).

I have given the reader sufficient scriptures that have indicated a Reign of Peace on the face of the earth such as has never before happened. Never has it been known for the wolf and the lamb to lie together nor for the lion to eat straw like the ox; nor has it ever been known that man and beast would dwell in peace one with another. Yet, the scriptures abound with such references. Unlikely as it may seem, it will come to pass. The glory that awaits the people of God in the Peaceful Reign (Zion) is beyond the imagination of mankind, but it will come to pass! The

* The Gentile Church members

(Continued on Page 12)

12 July, 1986

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

Word of God says so. Let the scoffer sneer in disdain; let the unbeliever laugh up his sleeve; let the scorner smirk and say, "It's only a myth;" let the scientists, the sociologists, the anthropologists, the psychologists, the psychiatrists, the astronomers, and all the wise men of the earth raise their voices in mockery and unbelief, the Word of God says that it will come to pass! People scorned Noah while he was building the Ark, but the flood came to pass! The people of Zarahemla belittled the idea that God would destroy their city, but it came to pass! It was thought that the walls of Jericho could never come down, but it came to pass! Therefore, the things that men think to be impossible are made possible by God. The poet has penned:

- Nothing is impossible when you put your trust in God.
- Nothing is impossible when you're trusting in His word.
- Hearken to the voice of God to thee,
- "Is there anything too hard for Me?"
- Then put your trust in God alone and rest upon His word,
- For everything, oh, everything is possible with God.

So, my dear brothers and sisters, let us live in righteousness and cleanse our lives completely so that we can be worthy to be the fore-runners and forebuilders of that glorious kingdom which will happen on the face of the earth. Destruction is imminent, disease is striking the earth as never before; diseases never heard of before. Sickness and disease is striking also the people of God! This is the beginning of sorrows. However, the scriptures tell us that those who are found righteous shall be spared. Isn't it worthwhile to eschew worldliness (or even the appearance of evil) and clothe ourselves in robes of righteousness, putting on the whole armor of God? Paul the apostle said:

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints (Ephesians 6:14-18).

The prophecies are true; the Word of God is true and will never fail. The events spoken by the prophets will materialize. My hope and prayer is that The Church of Jesus Christ becomes the leader in righteous living, so that the whole world will become aware that there is a place where LOVE and HEALING are predominant features, and where the gifts of God are visible daily. This little stone will become the "mountain of God's House" and all nations will flow unto it. Thus IT IS WRITTEN!

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

	Address Change
Phone _	

and depressed, I sat down to calm my nerves by rocking my infant son, Peter. I began to pray for extra strength from God.

Suddenly, as if all my senses had dulled, I was surrounded by complete darky ess. I could feel and see nothing but darkness. Then there appeared a radiant glow before my eyes, and as I was looking at this light, I tried to move my head to look around the room. Instead, I could only feel the gentle pressure of two hands on my head. I knew at that moment that the Lord was anointing me. I felt a warmth from His hands melt into my head and down into my shoulders. As this was happening, He uttered these words to Me: "Have faith, my child. Look to ME for all your needs and I can do anything."

Then there was a short pause, during which time I felt an unbelievable calmness and peace come over me. Then again He said, "Did you forget that I would never leave you alone?" The pressure of His hands lifted and the room turned light again. There were uncontrollable tears streaming down my face and I became aware of my surroundings. Looking down upon the beautiful child lying in my arms, I realized all the things, both temporal and spiritual, with which the Lord has blessed me. Those of us who share responsibilities of parenthood know that there are certain times when our concerns overwhelm us, but once again, the Lord allowed me to draw from His "storehouse" of strength.

I thank Him for giving me this beautiful experience, and for reminding me of his comforting love. All we have to do is call upon His name—and He's there.

> Sister Linda Benyola – Metuchen Branch

ANAHEIM MBA continued . . .

wouldn't be nearly what it is today. I truly thank the Lord for them. They keep moving on, and pushing us, the younger ones, to grow in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I hope other MBA's throughout the Church carry this kind of excitement. It has truly lifted us up. Wednesday nights are always a refreshing break from the drudgery of everyday life. Again, all our thanks go to God. Without His guidance, we are indeed, nothing.

Children Blessed

On May 18, 1986 Lance William Baldwin, three years old; LaNena Marie Baldwin, two years old; and sixmonth-old Gerald David Baldwin were blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ in Erie, Pennsylvania by Brother Harold Burge.



August, 1986

May GMBA Conference

By Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA Editor

"Hola y bienvenidos a Mejico" (Hello, welcome to Mexico.).

It may seem strange to be opening an article on the May GMBA with a phrase welcoming you to Mexico. However, this GMBA Conference afforded us the opportunity to have several brothers and sisters from Mexico present with us throughout the weekend. Through this experience, we were able to enjoy a small taste of The Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico. And, as those who attended will surely testify, the time spent with our Mexican brothers and sisters was seasoned by God's Holy Spirit.

Our brothers and sisters' visit to the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA marked the introduction of the GMBA's Missionary Visitation Program. It is the aim of this program to further familiarize church members with the various mission fields of the Church. And, if the success of this initial endeavor is an indication, we are off to a great start. The Spirit of God was poured out abundantly throughout the weekend and the joy of becoming acquainted with our Mexican brothers and sisters cannot be adequately described by my words.

The guests of the first Missionary Visitation Program were as follows: Isidro and Rosano Gonzales, Marcellino and Clotilde Granados, Daniel and Angela Mora, Esther Nava, and John and Marta Vela. We were also privileged to have Paul, Orletta, Karen, and Lisa Liberto with us from San Diego, CA. What a blessing it was to witness members of the Seed of Joseph exhibit the same love for the Gospel of Christ as we do. It is evident that the Lord is beginning to make bare His arm in restoring the House of Israel.

The weekend's festivities began on Saturday morning, as we were introduced to our visiting brothers and sisters. We enjoyed listening to a number of musical selections sung in Spanish and accompanied by the guitar, or 'Mexican piano,' as it's sometimes called.

Following the introduction of our brothers and sisters, we hastily completed the business portion of the conference (details of which are available in the GMBA minutes) to allow time for the much-anticipated day's events. The masses on Wall Street had nothing on us, as we completed a day's business in the morning session! We dismissed the morning meeting looking forward to the day ahead.

Our afternoon was spent with everyone circulating to and from three different seminars, each of which was informative, well-planned, and most of all, spirit-filled.

Seminar One was entitled "The Life of a Missionary." In this seminar, the brothers and sisters from Mexico described many of their everyday experiences and explained how the Lord always prepares a way for the spreading of the Gospel. During this seminar, two people testified of seeing a light appear around the Mexican brothers and sisters as they sang.

"The Urban Work" was Seminar

Volume 42, No. 8

Two's title. Brother John Vela related numerous experiences illustrating God's dealings with the saints at the Santa Ana Mission in California. During one of Bro. John's sessions, as he spoke of the power of God, Bro. Joe Genaro spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was given: "I will make the way." Praise God for His marvelous power!

Seminar Three was entitled "The Mission Board Perspective." In this session we enjoyed an informative slide presentation by Bro. Paul Liberto of the California District Mission Board, illustrating the various mission fields in Mexico. Needless to say, the afternoon's activities were thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.

In our evening meeting we enjoyed a moving program performed by the Ohio Area MBA. Their skit and singing brought a beautiful and compelling spirit into the meeting. Following this inspiring program, all of the young people who had a desire to work for the Lord (which was nearly all in the congregation) were called to the front. While standing there, Sally Hufnagle of Cleveland, Ohio decided to stand up for Jesus as she asked for her baptism. Brother Paul Palmieri then offered an inspired prayer, petitioning the Lord to use the youth of the Church in spreading the Restored Gospel to all mankind. The Spirit of God was so prevalent in this meeting, we hated to bring it to an end. However, we closed with the anticipation of meeting together once again the following day.

The most succinct way to describe our Sunday meeting is to say that the spirit

In Loving Memory

By Josie Jasmin

We are all God's children, from the morning hour of birth— He lets us live and laugh and love, and have our day on earth.

He guards us through the afternoon, 'til sunset's rays are cast,

Then, one by one, with gentle words, He calls us home at last.

Our hearts are grieved at the passing on of our beloved Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. We know that our loss is God's gain, and in this we do rejoice. Bro. Eugene will be sadly missed by the saints of Lake Worth, Florida, where he was a faithful member for the past 14 years. He came to Florida from New Brunswick, New Jersey, after living there for 48 years.

Though his voice is silenced now, we will still hear that precious voice in our hearts and memories. Our brother had such a great concern for the saints and their afflictions, day and night. He was a valiant soldier of the Lord, ready and always willing to preach the Gospel. Bro. Eugene lived his life for the Gospel of Peace. We know he has left a great legacy to his family, something that money cannot buy. Our prayers are with his family, that they will be comforted by our heavenly Father. The following hymn, one of our Bro. Eugene's favorites, is appropriate:

Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord to Thee; Take my hands, and let them move At the impulse of Thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee; Take my voice, and let me sing Always, only, for my King.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold, Take my moments and my days, Let them flow with ceaseless praise.

Take my will and make it thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

We wish to acknowledge the many expressions of kindness by our dear brothers and sisters in the recent illness and loss of our loved one, Eugenio Perri.

Sister Betty Perri and family

Independence, MO

We are planning to introduce our Church to the Independence area through a combination Singspiration/Sermonette meeting on August 16 and 17, 1986. We are inviting all those who can participate in this missionary effort to exercise the talent that God has given you. We invite choirs, quartets, trios, soloists, and congregational singers to share in this opportunity to tell others of our beliefs. We will sing the Songs of Zion along with all our other favorite hymns. Bro. Eugene Amormino has volunteered to coordinate the music for this event.

We are also asking for volunteers to spend a day, a week, a month, or more in support of the on-going missionary work that was started last year in Independence. Bro. Sam and Sis. Josephine Dell of Levittown, PA have volunteered to be the first resident missionaries. We have a two bedroom, air conditioned home available to our missionaries there. Will you please contact us if you can assist in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

General Church Development Committee: Paul Benyola, Chairman 609-235-9027 Leonard Lovalvo, Vice Chairman 209-522-3926 Eugene Perri, Secretary 305-746-3616

A Song of Zion

WON'T IT BE SOMETHING TO SEE ISRAEL SMILE

Too many heartbreaks, too much despair, Too many teardrops for Israel to bear; But God will recover her blessings again, Won't it be something to see Israel then!

Long years of silence, born of distress, Too full of sorrow to ever express; But in pretty Zion their voices will ring, Won't it be something to hear Israel sing!

Scattered and driven, pushed back by men, Prisons of high walls and prisons of sin; But God loves her children, He calls them His own, Won't it be something to see them come home! Zion's bright city, shining like gold, No earthly city as bright to behold; And lighting that country for mile after mile, Shining so bright will be Israel's bright smile! Welcome home Israel,

won't you come in, My, you look lovely returning from sin; Your dress is so white with gold borders so wide, Won't you make someone a beautiful bride!

CHORUS:

- Gather her babies, all her young men, All her fair daughters, go gather them in; Raise from the dust
- and the tears where they bow, Won't it be something

to see Israel smile!

AN EXPERIENCE

I dreamed I was walking towards an Indian girl. She was about my age and had long braided black hair, wearing a brightly colored Indian costume with beads. She dressed me in a costume like hers and smiled at me. I smiled back, and in the distance saw a group of people gathered in a circle, holding hands.

I walked over to the circle and sat down with them. To my right was an old Indian man and to my left were two more Indians, then my mother-in-law, Sis. Arlene Buffington, then another Indian, and then my sister-in-law, Sis. Becky. As I sat there, I heard these words: "Won't it be something to see them come in,/Gather my people, gather them in,/Won't it be something to see them come in." Then I looked up into the sky. It was a heavenly blue, and I thought to myself what a peace I felt, what love, what a blessing.

Sis. Patti Buffington

Evangelist Joe Milantoni Remembered

By Ralph Frammolino

When I was a boy growing up in the Michigan-Ontario District, I attended a church program that revolved around the story of a man who was resisting the call of God. The climax of the story came when the man's stubbornness prompted a response from the Almighty Himself—represented in the play by a deep, booming voice over the microphone.

Although the moment was dramatic, everyone chuckled because they recognized the voice immediately.

It belonged to Joe Milantoni.

The role was perfect. In the mind of at least this small boy, it only made sense that God Himself would have the same kind of smooth bass voice that was the trademark of Bro. Joe, a tireless evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ.

From Detroit Branch 2 to Muncey, Canada; from San Carlos, AZ to Detroit's Inner City, that voice was an unmistakable balm and inspiration to the saints. It resounded with the truth, power, and conviction of the Restored Gospel. It was the standard for community singing, ringing out with such favorites as, *Oh, How I Love Jesus*. It was a voice that echoed through the silence of a prayer service and touched the heart of God. It was a voice of profound boldness and comfort.

With the recent news of his death, the impression of Bro. Joe's voice is the strongest. But there are other impressions, too, like his open smile and the knowing glint in his eyes.

As a young man, Bro. Joe was blessed with a physical prowess and strength that made him an excellent football player. Perhaps he could have been a gridiron star, but the Lord had other plans.

Here was a worker, a true evangelist and missionary who would be willing to uproot his family and move thousands of miles away for the cause of Christ. His feet crunched the snows of Muncey, walked in the dust of San Carlos, and traveled down the forlorn skid row of Detroit in his search for a lost soul.

He was tireless. During the 1973 GMBA Campout, while the young people were singing songs and asking for their baptisms, Bro. Joe was locked in a solitary struggle against the devil for the soul of a woman hooked on drugs. Bone-tired, Bro. Joe offered repeated prayers, day and night, until she was able to emerge from the battle victorious. Today she is a wonderful sister in the Church.

He was filled with faith. One day, Bro. Joe was conducting a fasting and prayer service at the San Carlos Mission when he had a beautiful experience. In an open vision, he saw Jesus descend until he was face to face with the Master.

Brother Joe took the opportunity to ask the Lord why the Church was progressing so slowly, particularly among the Seed of Joseph. Jesus looked at him and said, "Love Me and serve Me." Again Bro. Joe asked. Again Jesus said, "Love Me and serve Me." The third time, Bro. Joe's question was met with the same response. Jesus did not give him an answer, only a commandment. That was good enough, however, for Brother Joe.

He was loved. Few men attracted the sincere, immediate affection of people like Bro. Joe did. He had a presence that was commanding, yet not intimidating. His rapport with the Seed of Joseph was the strongest. Had he chosen politics, Bro. Joe could have been elected to public office easily.

He was bold. When my mother was suffering from cancer, Bro. Joe was so touched by her plight that he once stopped a communion service in the middle. The elders had just passed the bread and were prepared to pour and administer the wine when he was inspired to pray for her. "There is no time when we are closer to God," he explained.

He was different. Sometimes Bro. Joe could seem just a little aloof, like there was something else on his mind. But men of God are like that, since they have a clearer vision of something the rest of us cannot see.

He was a dreamer. He talked about starting missions where none existed.

Brother Joe meant a lot to me. And in the days after his death, brothers and sisters throughout The Church of Jesus Christ have thanked God for knowing this true evangelist. Let us, who are of the younger generation, be mindful of Brother Joe's good example and redouble our efforts to further the great work of the Lord.

The last time I saw Bro. Joe was at the April 1986 Spiritual Conference, and he was standing at the pulpit before a large congregation in the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg. He was making an appeal for missionaries on behalf of the Quorum of 70. His voice boomed: "I represent 70 men, called of God. . . ."

The words were filled with power. Once again, it reminded this little boy, now a man, that when you heard Brother Joe Milantoni speak, it indeed was like hearing the voice of God.

From the Father's Golden Pen

By Yvonne Saffron

The Great Author lifted His pen from the last page of the masterpiece. He closed the book and looked at its cover. The title read, *The Life of Joseph Milantoni, Servant of Jesus Christ.* As He lovingly leafed through the pages of this earthly record, He smiled. Here, indeed, was a faithful follower of the Most High God!

Chapter headings appeared, one after another:

A Child Is Born of My Spirit

Untiring Labor

Total Commitment

The Standard Held High

Campout Commissioner

My Missionary

The Strong Warrior

The Great Author looked upon the final page. There was one last sentence to write. He lifted His pen. Lovingly and carefully He wrote:

And it came to pass that on June 28, 1986, in accordance with the decree of the King, the great man of valor, Joseph Milantoni, set aside his earthly armor.

He laid down His pen and tenderly closed the book. Another book awaited

(Continued on Page 4)

4 August, 1986

GMBA continued . . .

we felt throughout the day on Saturday was in our midst again on Sunday. Brothers Paul Liberto, Isidro Gonzales, John Vela, and Daniel Mora spoke under the inspiration of the Spirit of God about the workings of the Lord with the Seed of Joseph in Mexico. The young were encouraged to prepare themselves to work for the Lord. We were reminded of the rich heritage of the Church, and of our responsibility to bring it to the world. And the name of the Lord was blessed for the extension of His hand to the Seed of Joseph and the many blessings witnessed among them.

As the meeting drew to its conclusion, our hearts were saddened that our brothers and sisters from Mexico would soon be leaving us. In a short period of time, we came to love them and found once again that the saints of God are the same regardless of race, color, or location. The love of God exists wherever the Restored Gospel is embraced. And truly our brothers and sisters have embraced this Church with all their hearts and souls.

We are especially thankful for the efforts of Bro. John Vela and Sisters Esther Nava and Rose Palacios, who translated for us the words of our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters during their visit.

In conclusion, we thank the Lord for a glorious weekend filled from start to finish with His Spirit. Our hope and prayer is that the Lord will continue to work among the Seed of Joseph and the whole world, that we may see the day when the "mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above the hills and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord; to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us his ways and we will walk in his paths."

EVANGELIST continued . . .

Him, a brilliantly white one. Its title: The Lamb's Book of Life. He opened it and wrote in golden letters:

Joseph Milantoni

The Great King rose as angels lifted their voices in welcoming chorus. With open arms and with the words, "Well done!", He received His good and faithful servant.

The items printed above represent a number of tributes to Joseph Milantoni received by the editor. While each contribution is appreciated, space does not permit printing all of them. It is hoped that these two will suffice.—Ed.

Branch and Mission News

Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise

Sister Mary Scalise was ordained a deaconess in the Church on December 29, 1985 in the Bell, California Branch. She was set aside for the office by the washing of feet, which was administered by Sisters Rose Scalise and Ruth Flow.

Our sister's calling was confirmed by a dream had by Sis. Margaret Henderson. She was ordained by Bro. Tom Jones. A wonderful spirit was felt by all that were present. We had two visiting brothers that day, Bro. Clarence Kirkpatrick of Yucaipa and Bro. Paul Liberto of San Diego.

Bro. Paul opened, speaking of being a servant for the Lord, with Romans 6:16 and Romans 8th Chapter. Bro. Clarence followed on the same theme of servanthood.

Just prior to the ordination, Bro. Robert McDonnell spoke on the several duties of a deaconess, dwelling mainly on the spirituality of the office.

After testimony and a beautiful song in Spanish, a luncheon prepared by our sisters was served. The day was filled with fellowship with the saints, a day enjoyed by all. May God continue to bless us in our endeavors to serve Him.

On December 22, 1985, young Alma Toscano was baptized into the Church as a member of the Bell Branch.

Our meeting started with congregational singing. Bro Bob McDonnell was our principal speaker, using Luke 7 as his theme.

Young Sis. Alma was baptized by Bro. Tom Jones and confirmed by Bro. Harry Marshall. We pray that God's Spirit will remain with her all the days of her life.

Levittown, PA

By Dottie Benyola

On Sunday, March 23, 1986 Helen Carlyle asked for her baptism. Our sister has known the Church all her life, but decided today that she needed to make a commitment to serve the Lord.

Bro. Gerard Valenti baptized Sis. Helen and she was confirmed by Bro. Samuel Dell. Sis. Helen recently underwent surgery after her baptism and felt that God was by her side, giving her an inner peace. We pray that God will grant her a quick recovery so that she may testify of his goodness and mercy.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

On April 21 and 22 the Sterling Heights Branch hosted a very special occasion, with Bro. Luis Pacheco of the Mexicali, Mexico Mission present as we all sang praises to the Lord in English and Spanish. Also, Bro. Luis's wife, Sister Julia, was in our midst along with her parents from Tijuana, Mexico.

These two nights were filled with nothing but peace, love, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Many experiences of God's goodness were shared. Our Brother Luis, who has been in the priesthood for six years, related how when he was working on a sanitation truck the Lord miraculously saved his life. As Bro. Luis was cleaning out the hopper inside of the front-end loading truck, the compacter began to enclose upon him. He immediately prayed to the Lord for help, and the hydraulic mechanism ceased to operate. No man intervened, but only the Lord Jesus.

Bro. Luis continued to relate his

5



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Liberty and Law

"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).

Those of us who have tasted of the Gospel of Jesus Christ are aware that, though we be endowed with the Spirit of God, we have the freedom to choose right or wrong, just like anyone else, in all that we do in our lives. In order for us to keep the commandments of the Lord, we must use the liberty He has given us to always seek good in our own lives and in the lives of others.

We are not given a book of rules, telling us what is permissible in our lives and what is not. The Lord has placed within us instead a portion of His Spirit, which He said would lead and guide us, and show us things to come.

Yet, while we are blessed with the liberty to use this gift to help us lead our lives, we often find ourselves looking for rules written down somewhere to help us make our decisions. In many instances, we are trying to find out just how far we can go before a written law is broken.

"All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not" (I Corinthians 10:23).

While it may seem good at times to establish laws governing our behavior, this goes against the liberty of the Spirit of God. The Lord caused it to be written that ". . . the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane. . ." (I Timothy 1:9). In other words, if we are truly seeking to be led by the Spirit of God, we won't need to ask if something we want to do is acceptable before the Lord. If our desire is truly to do that which is pleasing in His sight, we will not have the attitude, "If it's not written anywhere that I can't do this, it must be okay."

On several occasions, the Lord has revealed to His Church that we must sanctify ourselves and become a pure people in His sight. If we continually look for laws to be passed so we won't break them, our lives may only be marginally acceptable before God. In a day and time when it's more important than ever to be living as close to the Lord as we can, we should remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh. . ." (Galatians 5:13).

Let us each endeavor to enjoy the liberty that Christ has given us, and put our full efforts toward exercising the Spirit of God in our lives. "But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:25).

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

One Man Listens to God

Dear Girls and Boys,

The walls of the great city Jerusalem were destroyed; the Israelite people were scattered and taken away by the Persian army. Once the marvelous temple of gold built by Solomon glittered in the sun. Now the temple was in ruins. A few Israelites who had escaped their enemies still lived around the ruins. At least one group, led by Mulek, came across the ocean to the Americas. Everyone else had been carried away to Persia to live as captives, as slaves and servants.

Jerusalem had been a special city to God. It was where His people, the Israelites, were supposed to gather and worship. Little by little the people had started to sin, to do wrong. They began shopping on the Sabbath. They married nonbelievers and started worshipping statues of other religions. They forgot the great God who had delivered them so many times from enemies and dangers. They broke His laws and commandments.

God sent prophets among them to well them to stop or else be destroyed by enemies. They refused to listen and God allowed the mighty Persian army to come upon them and take them away.

Seventy years had passed in captivity. In faraway Persia one Israelite man named Nehemiah was chosen to serve the great Persian king, Artaxerxes, as cup-bearer. A cup-bearer's job was to protect the king by tasting all of his food and drink before him to be certain he was not poisoned. It was an important job. Nehemiah was with King Artaxerxes at all times and grew to be loved and trusted by the king.

Nehemiah loved the Lord. He was sad that the city of Jerusalem was ruined. He fasted and prayed and told God how sorry he was that his people had sinned



and forgotten God. God and Nehemiah knew the Israelite people needed a center for their people to live and their religion to be.

It was against the Persian law to show sad feelings in front of the king. But Nehemiah knew he had to have the King's permission to rebuild Jerusalem. One day as he served the king, he allowed his sorrow to show. He'd never looked sad before, so when the king noticed, he asked Nehemiah what was making his heart sick.

Nehemiah was very afraid. But God gave him the words. He told the king that he was bothered because the city where his grandfathers were buried was in ruins. The king told him he could go and rebuild it. With joy in his heart, Nehemiah also asked for the king to write letters providing him with wood from the king's forest and letters of permission so the wild enemies of the Israelite people also could not attack him.

All this the king did. Nehemiah's enemies around Jerusalem were furious. They did not want anyone to help the children of Israel. When Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem, he sneaked out at night to quietly explore what remained of the city walls and to plan what to do.

Immediately he decided to rebuild the walls and then, once safe inside with gates and watchmen, to rebuild God's temple.

The Israelites' enemies began to attack them. Nehemiah armed every man with a spear. He put trumpeters around to sound the alarm so when the attacks came, everyone building the wall could rush to that place and fight to save their friends.

For fifty-two days, Nehemiah and his

workmen-soldiers never took off their armored leather clothes except to wash. They worked and fought to defend themselves. Brick by brick, timber by timber, the walls of the city arose. Soon the huge gates were hung and a protected city rose up once again where true believers could gather and live and worship the one true God.

Jerusalem was restored. One true believer, who fasted and prayed and was willing to risk his life to serve God, led his people back—back to the city of David and to the paths of the one true God.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

KING
NEHEMIAH
OF
ON
ONE
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SPEAR
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WALL

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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)

STERLING continued . . .

testimony, which indeed is filled with wonderful examples of the Lord taking care of His servant. Sister Julia Pacheco and her mother and father also expressed their love for the Lord and His Church, and how the Lord has richly blessed the saints in Tijuana, in Mexicali, and in San Diego. Our Bro. Luis's father-in-law pointed out how the young should take advantage of our strength and work hard in the vineyard of the Lord.

Visiting with us also from the Anaheim, CA Branch were Bro. Bob and Sis. Sandy Sullivan. They both had a beautiful testimony on their lips of how the Lord has blessed them. They carried with them the spirit that we all had felt at the General Church Conference in Greensburg the preceding weekend.

We were blessed on both evenings with many visiting elders from throughout our district. As some were anointed on Monday night, the gift of tongues came forth and Bro. Pacheco received the interpretation: "Whatsoever things ye ask for in My name, I will grant it unto you." Feeling the prompting of the Lord's Spirit, many of the saints who were burdened with various afflictions of mind and body came forth to be anointed and praise God, the Lord healed them. After singing Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Bro. Nephi DeMercurio closed in prayer, and a mighty prayer it was.

On top of all this, it was snowing outside in the Michigan springtime. Before they left, Bro. Luis and his family got to see some snow.

Windsor, Ontario

By Pat Collison

Beginning from our week of fasting and prayer scheduled by the Church for greater righteousness, we are happy to report that we have felt the rewards of these efforts. Our first blessing was when Sonny Garlow made his wishes known to renew his membership in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was reinstated on March 30, 1986.

Along with our faithful branch elders, we have been blessed with visiting elders from far and near who lend a helping hand from time to time. This has added a freshness to our thoughts and outlooks.

As a young person, I was impressed by Bro. Ralph Frammolino of the Valley Branch in California. A young elder in the Church, he spoke to us about the scripture, "To everything there is a season. . . ." He read from Ecclesiastes and concluded with Solomon's lament, "All is vanity." In reading these words for myself I have realized that youth is vanity. I have given more serious thought now about my youth and my choices in life.

Rochester, NY

By Kathy Natoli

On April 13, 1986 the promise God made unto Abraham was once again remembered! Sister Kathy Klem, of the Seed of Joseph, went to the waters of baptism, as God continues to gather His people. Our new sister asked for her baptism the previous Wednesday evening, so with much anticipation we gathered Sunday morning awaiting the blessings of God. Many from Sister Kathy's family were in attendance to lend her their support as well as feel the blessings of God.

Bro. Frank Natoli spoke briefly on the Prodigal Son and how, just as this son



Frank Natoli of Rochester, NY baptizes Sis. Kathy Klem.

asked forgiveness and wanted to return home, our new sister found herself in the same situation, and, not by coincidence, so will all of Israel one day.

We closed our service and headed for the cold waters of Lake Ontario. Only ten months earlier at the same spot, Sis. Kathy's mother, Sis. Helen Garlow, was baptized. Although the day was cool, the sun shone beautifully upon our sister as Bro. Frank Natoli baptized her in the liquid grave.

We returned to Church and Bro. Ansel D'Amico confirmed our sister, that the Holy Ghost would dwell within her. A season of testimony, as well as a meal, followed our afternoon service.

We of the Rochester Mission ask an interest in your prayers for our new sister Kathy Klem, that she would never deviate from that straight and narrow path, and that she, along with all of us, would begin to build Zion.

San Diego, CA

By Carolyn Light

When the letter from Bro. Dominic Thomas was read concerning the Apostles' request that the Church engage in a week of fasting and prayer to increase our level of righteousness, the San Diego Branch went into spiritual action that the glory of God would prevail among the saints everywhere. The priesthood encouraged the members to fast and pray as often as possible during the week of March 9th. And as the ministry met, they decided that in addition to dedicating our midweek service to this cause, that at least one elder would be available at the church each night of that week to accommodate those who would further desire to meet and pray for the welfare of God's people. Our small efforts were blessed many times over.

Sunday, March 9, we began the week with a beautiful meeting. That evening we gathered to witness the baptism of Sis. Gloria Frias, originally of Los Mochis, Sinaloa, Mexico, and now residing in San Diego. Our new sister has been attending our Monday night services, which are conducted in Spanish. Sis. Gloria is the eighth person to render obedience to God as a result of this new work ar ong the seed of 8 August, 1986

SAN DIEGO continued . . .

Joseph in our area. Many gathered for the confirmation of Sis. Gloria and God's blessings descended. The spirit of repentance fell upon Reme Morales of the Bell Branch, and he too requested to be numbered among the people of God (he has since been baptized). Others asked to be prayed for, that God would strengthen them, and Bro. Harvey Cordoba asked to be reinstated into the fold of God. Testimonies, songs, and prayers were offered and we experienced a joyous evening.

The weeknights that followed brought many blessings and recommitments. Each night the saints and friends gathered to petition God to strengthen and fortify His people, that they might live more righteously before Him. Each meeting contained its own beauty; we prayed, sang, related experiences, read and discussed scriptures, anointed the sick, and testified, as the Spirit of God directed.

Saturday morning was also dedicated to fasting and prayer. As the saints of God met the next Sunday, the Lord guided the brothers in the priesthood to remind us of the events of the past week. They related that God has observed our efforts and has blessed us, and that we must retain this heightened sense of spiritual awareness and duty before God. Indeed, as we have seen, small investments of time and effort truly do pay big spiritual dividends.

Perry, OH

From the Perry Newsletter

Upon returning from the General Church Conference in Greensburg, PA on Sunday, April 20, we stopped in Youngstown to witness the baptism of Richard Santilli. The baptism took place at Bro. Mike Italiano's home, where there is a beautiful lake. Richard was baptized by his father, Bro. Richard Santilli. Everyone then went to the Youngstown Branch for the confirmation service.

A nice group of brothers and sisters gathered around 7:30 p.m. for a short meeting. Bro. Richard was confirmed by his uncle, Bro. Elmer Santilli. Our new Brother Richard testified that he had felt God's calling during the week. Our prayers are with our new brother, that God will use him to further the cause of the Gospel.

Erie, PA

By Phyllis Kovacic

On March 5, 1986 at our evening MBA meeting we were honored to have with us Bro. Vince Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio. It was a surprise to us all. Our brother came to Erie to see Bro. George Kovacic on Mission Board business.

Bro. Gibson gave a beautiful talk on the missionary work of the Church. Our special hymn tonight was *In the Service* of the King, and our brother spoke on what he called the Good News of the work going on in the Church.

This same evening our branch had a little going-away fellowship for Bro. George and Sis. Jill Kovacic and their daughter Nicole, because they were moving to Florida. Bro. Gibson spoke on how Bro. George had helped the Ohio Mission Board and worked on the *True Vine Journal*, and that he will be missed by the Ohio District.

Bro. George spoke on his experiences and how sad it was to leave, but also that he was looking forward to helping the saints and working for the Church in Florida. We pray the Lord will use our brother in that part of the vineyard. We in the Erie Branch are also saddened by their departure but are happy that they will still be numbered among God's Wonderful People. Remember them in your prayers and their endeavors.

Please remember the Erie Branch also, that we may increase by those people looking and searching in their hearts for the Truth, and are interested in their soul's salvation. We will continue to pray for our people everywhere and especially the missionaries. We know that if we look to God in all things, He will give us strength at all times.

We were blessed to have Bro. Joe and Sis. Vicki Calabrese visiting us on April 26 and 27. Saturday evening our Brother Joe presented his slides of India. We had invited visitors and it was an evening well spent. After witnessing the poverty of India we are surely more thankful to have the bountiful provisions in this land of America. How truly blessed we are!

Our Sunday morning meeting was our second blessing because it was our Spring Fellowship day and again we had

many visitors. Bro. Joe Calabrese opened our service, speaking on how Christ instituted and set up His Church. He read from Luke 4:18 and related how this verse affected him in bringing the Gospel to India. Bro. Joe told us how receptive the people in India were when he preached to them, how they were in such need of both natural and spiritual food. Our brother also related some personal words of testimony on how he accepted the Church, and the miracle of his eyesight. Many in the world are blind to the truth and beauty of the love of Christ. The Church is here today as it was when Christ set it up. Let us always remember to pray for those who are endeavoring to spread the Gospel.

In conclusion, let us also remember what Bro. Bob Watson said in his prayer at General Church Conference, "let the stumblingblocks we encounter in life be stepping stones to the things God has in store for us."

Bro. Harold Burge closed our meeting, and we adjourned to partake of a beautiful lunch and a time of fellowship. May God's blessings be with all.

Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

Sunday February 2, 1986 was a day that Detroit Branch 3 set aside for learning more about the *Songs of Zion* and hearing the experiences of Sis. Arlene Buffington from Imperial, PA. Her visit was one that we had long awaited, and the Spirit we felt today, along with the joy we shared, was sweeter than anything on earth. A little window of Heaven opened up to us this day and God's glory was shining brightly.

We also had visitors today from Branch 1, the Inner City Branch, and the Sterling Heights Branch. After we opened with *There's Not Anything That Jesus Cannot Do*, Bro. Eugene Amormino gave us an introduction to the *Songs of Zion* and read about Zion in the scriptures.

Sis. Arlene's husband, Bro. Bob Buffington followed, citing the passage of scripture that reads, "Blessed are they which labor to bring forth my Zion." It is a kind of spiritual labor, he said, to sing about Zion. Bro. Bob asserted that we are the only church to bring forth the belief that there is a Zion that awaits those who endeavor to serve God with full purpose of heart. He then read from I Nephi 22:23-27, asking us to consider the time to come when the righteous will be gathered from all over the earth to dwell with the Holy One of Israel, and that these things will take place in the flesh. That place of gathering will be known as Zion.

Sis. Arlene then related how God has worked in her life to bring about the Songs of Zion, and elaborated on Bro. Eugene's help in arranging the music. Truly, God has worked with our sister and blessed her with a talent that is divine in nature.

As we sang the Songs of Zion throughout the morning service, Sis. Arlene would comment after each one and related how she was inspired by God to write the words and remember the melody. Each song is accompanied by a genuine blessing. Sis. Linda Cross from the Inner City Branch presented two of the songs.

This service was filled with the Spirit of God and many present wanted our meeting to continue. Our presiding elder Bro. Gary Coppa felt prompted by the Spirit to continue with an afternoon service following a luncheon prepared by our sisters.

That afternoon the brothers and sisters were given the opportunity to choose any of the Songs of Zion they wanted to know more about and hear in its proper arrangement. As the afternoon continued, we experienced a wonderful peace and love.

Sis. Arlene commented on the joy that she has shared not only in her home, but also among the saints. The Songs of Zion are cheerful, and we must be a joyful people, professing God's goodness unto us.

As we posed our questions to Sis. Arlene, she filled us in on the responsibility that accompanies a gift from God (such as hers). A gift is not something to be envied and it is serious in its purpose. Bro. Bob had said earlier today, "To whom much is given, much is required." Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene have experienced many trials, but their hope has endured and they are utilizing their experiences to bring about the will of God.

Our afternoon service closed at 4:30 p.m. Our spirits were lifted, and what was measured naturally as a day well spent seemed like only a few minutes

spiritually. Many of us could have spent several more hours experiencing the beauty of the Spirit we shared. Our feeling is that the *Songs of Zion* are a direct communication from God. We pray that God will strengthen the seed of Hope throughout the Church and bless our Sister and Brot'her Buffington in the desires of their hearts.

Lorain, OH

On Sunday, April 13, the Lorain, Ohio Branch had many visitors in our midst. They had come to see the marriage of Sis. Renee Alessio, originally from this branch, to Bro. Tim Scolaro, originally from Detroit Branch 1.

From the start of Sunday School until the closing prayer of our service, God's presence and blessings were felt by all. Bro. Jim Huttenberger of Anaheim, CA opened the morning service with scripture from Hebrews 12 concerning faith, godliness, and Christ's example of suffering and exaltation. He spoke on endurance and that striving for eternal perfection, attaining our personal goals as well as attaining the goals of the Gospel. He exhorted the saints to run the race with patience, and brought forth the examples of Joseph of Egypt and Job.

The Church is going through a travailing period of much illness, our Bro. Jim said, and it will take hard work on our behalf to move the hand of God. Our brother ended with the invitation of Christ, "Come unto me all ye who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

Bro, Ralph Frammolino of the Valley Branch, CA followed. He read from Matthew 4:1-10, and exhorted unto us how Satan will use every means he can to tempt us. We must hold fast and persevere with faith and diligence. Hold fast to God's word and His promises, no matter what comes before us. As the devil tempted Christ, he will tempt us also. We must never yield to temptation, whether it be of the world, of family, of friends, or of any other situation that might draw us away from God. We have the Lord's promises to stand upon, to sustain us through all trials or afflictions if only we have faith, and trust and obey His word. We will win the victory. We will see God if we persevere and prove faithful.

Bro. Anthony Scolaro from Detroit, MI gave a brief history of his life, testifying how he met the Church. He praised God and is very grateful for his family and all the blessings of God he and his loved ones have received.

Our Brother Fred Olexa brought the meeting to a close. He thanked God for the inspiration and blessings that were felt all day. He reminded us of the signs of the times, and how prophecy is being fulfilled in the world around us. He proclaimed that the latter days are here.

The key word in today's message was perseverance. Carry on, brothers and sisters, run the race, proving that we, as the people of God, are about our Father's work. Let's look at what's happening in the world today in light of our awareness of God's plan for His Church and His people. Truly, His will is being made manifest.

Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosanne Champine sang *Come and Taste*. The singing was inspired and all who heard it were greatly blessed. Today's 'miniconference' was a harbinger of greater blessings that were to come in Greensburg, PA the following week. We praise God for the inspiration and desire that He places within our hearts through the words of His holy priesthood.

Detroit Inner City

By Lisa DiFalco

We're happy to say that it's happened again. Another soul was brought to Christ on March 2, 1986. Sister Betty J. Conkeren was the sheep which the Good Shepherd ran out to save.

Bro. Mike LaSala opened the service in prayer that morning, and we sang *Shall We Gather at the River*. Some of us were surprised when Bro. Eugene Amormino said this was a funeral hymn. But, he explained, we were about to witness the death of the "old man," or old woman, as the case was today. The death of our old ways, like a caterpillar that sheds its dead skin, you'd never know the beauty it contained inside until the butterfly is set free.

Our sister was set free of her old ways, old sins, and old self as she was baptized by Bro. Eugene, and we saw a new creature that God had touched, whose simple and innocent beauty shone as a butterfly

(Continued on Page 10)

10 August, 1986

DETROIT continued . . .

We went back to church to see our sister bestowed with that Comforter that Christ promised would never leave us, unless we should cast it out ourselves. Bro. Tony Gerace confirmed our sister.

Bro. Eugene commented how Jesus spoke that He is the vine, and we are the branches. God speaks to us through our Spirit. It is a lifeline between Him and us. It leads, guides, directs, and shows us things to come. And we rejoice that Jesus has brought our Sister Betty to be a new bloom on our vine.

Tampa, FL

The Tampa Branch members were excited as our General Church Trustees were visiting us. We all expected a blessing and were not disappointed as it was a beautiful day, and we felt the blessing would be just as wonderful.

Bro. Duane Lowe, our presiding elder, thanked the Trustees for their many efforts on behalf of the Church and turned the meeting over to them.

Bro. Alex Gentile from Detroit Branch 2 opened the meeting in prayer and spoke on Alma 30:43, where the Antichrist Korihor demands of Alma, "If thou wilt show me a sign, that I may be convinced there is a God, yea, show unto me that He hath power and then I will be convinced of the truth of thy words." Alma then showed the power of God when Korihor was struck dumb and became a beggar and was ultimately trodden to death by the Zoramites. Even though he finally admitted that the devil had deceived him, God showed no mercy toward him. Bro. Alex related how disturbed he was when his father died, how he could not understand why God did not answer all the prayers in his father's behalf, until God made him to understand that it was best to take him at this time and save his soul, than to live longer and perhaps lose it.

Bro. Dick Lawson of McKees Rocks, PA was the next speaker. He said that he was looking for a sign when he first came to the Church, but he didn't want the brothers and sisters to pray for him because he knew that God would answer their prayers. He later realized that the sign he was booking for was there all around him, as ne saw the power of God manifested many times. Bro. Joe Ross from Aliquippa, PA continued, saying that we should build our homes on a solid foundation and not on sandy ground, so that when trials and tribulations come, we will be strong.

Bro. Sam Randy from Modesto, CA expressed himself regarding the great joy in serving God and the many experiences God has given him.

During testimony later that day, Bro. Domenick Risola related the experience he had when visiting his father at the hospital just before his recent heart surgery. Bro. Duane Lowe was also there to anoint Bro. Risola on this particularly cloudy day, and as he did a burst of light filled the room. Bro. Domenick then knew that God would be with his father throughout the operation. This experience prompted him to ask for his renewal into the fold of God. What a beautiful way for a meeting to end!

Atlantic Coast

By Renee Benyola

On Friday, April 25, 1986, Bro. Joe Arcuri, Bro. David Catalano, and Bro. Dennis and Sis. Renee Benyola left Metuchen, NJ and were joined by Bro. Harold Littlejohn of Spartanburg, SC on their way to visit the Seed of Joseph in Ridgeville, SC. This day will go down in the history of the Church as being the day when the first meeting was held in the start of a major work for God in this area.

On the first day there, we traveled to the Four Holes Indian Organization Edisto Tribe, and met their chief, Robert Davidson. Matthew and Pearl Creel, two of the people living on the reservation, took us around to visit and distribute food boxes from the Atlantic Coast Caring and Sharing Program to the needy Indian people. We were also tremendously helped by Robert and Jackie Myers, who opened many doors for us to get into the reservation in the first place. We fed ten to fifteen families and about thirty children. Time did not permit us to pass out all the food, so Robert and Jackie distributed the remainder to an additional nineteen families.

Saturday evening, after the deliveries were made, we had a get-together at Mrs. Julia Myers' home. The Spirit of God was so strong that all of us felt a great blessing. After opening the meeting, Bro. Joe Arcuri anointed Jackie Myers for a broken rib, which was causing her much discomfort. Her husband Robert was then anointed for severe stomach problems that have prevented him from sleeping. His mother Julia was also anointed for a problem with her throat which impairs her breathing, talking, and eating. God's inspiration was present and was truly felt in the prayers offered that evening.

The next morning we again held a meeting in the home of Julia Myers the first official service held in Holly Hill, South Carolina. The testimonies and the blessings of God lifted everyone there. Jackie testified that after she was anointed, that night she felt a hand go inside of her and lift out the pain she had endured for so long. Robbie said that after he was anointed he slept peacefully, like he has never slept before. Julia, his mother, said that a large mass came up out of her throat that was choking her.

God is showing His power to His chosen people. It's up to us, however, to spread the Gospel and to show them the gifts that they can have. I thank God that I was part of this beautiful experience. The condition these people live in is so poor; they are so humble. We went down there to teach them of God and His commandments, but by their humbleness and faith they unknowingly taught us!

Muncey, Ontario

By Barb Racz

God has called another soul into His Church, and her name is June Hendrick.

The spirit of repentance fell upon our new sister in Christ at the Spiritual Conference in Greensburg Pennsylvania. Anyone who was at this conference surely was touched by God's strong Spirit on the Sabbath Day Meeting.

A week later, on April 27, 1986 we at the Muncey Mission were visited by Bro. Tony and Sis. Angela Scolaro from Detroit Branch 1, Sis. Lisa DiRado and Bro. Andy Parravano from Branch 2, Bro. Doug and Sis. Birdie Ford from Meaford, Ontario, and our presiding missionary, Bro. Peter H. Capone from Branch 3.

After we sang Taste the Grass on the Summit, Bro. Tony Scolaro opened the service on John 1:19 and chapter 12 of Ecclesiastes. From his text, Bro. Tony spoke of the coming of the Son of God, which ended the law of Moses and began the Gospel of Love. Because Jesus is our Mediator, we must be baptized in His name and born of His Spirit, and endure to the end. The Spirit of God gives us our breath and life, spiritually speaking. So we must fear God and keep His commandments, for we are formed by the hands of God, of the dust of the earth.

Bro. Pete Capone followed, speaking from Acts Chapter 19. He spoke of the baptism by the Holy Ghost, which we recieve by the laying on of hands through the priesthood of the Church. Everything must be done in the name of Jesus Christ.

After sacrament was administered, June was taken down to the waters of the Thames River by Bro. Tony Scolaro. It was a beautiful, warm day and we sang Shall We Gather at the River and Now I Belong to Jesus.

Sister June was confirmed by Brother Peter H. Capone. We wept tears of joy as we saw our new sister receive the Lord's Supper for the first time.

We take this opportunity to thank the Lord, and it is my prayer that as we grow in God's love, He will multiply His fold. With love and greetings to all, amen.

Spartanburg, SC

By Ruth Spruill

"Ye who are called to labor/And minister for God,/Blest with the royal priesthood/And called by His word/To preach among the nations/The news of Gospel grace/And publish on the mountains . . ."

Truly, God has blessed the Spartanburg Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ once again, for on Sunday May 4, 1986 our Brother Harold Littlejohn was ordained into the priesthood of the Church.

The Spartanburg, SC Mission is a mission under the Edison, New Jersey Branch, of which Bro. Arthur Searcy is presiding elder. Bro. Arthur was here this day, along with Bro. Wilbert McNeil from the New Brunswick, NJ Branch. We also had Bro. John Genaro and his wife from the North Carolina Mission visiting us today. Our service was well attended.

Our beautiful meeting began with an inspiring message from Bro. Searcy, who spoke from Alma 13:1-14, concerning the priesthood after the order of the Son of God. He also spoke from the Church Law and Order concerning the duties of an elder. Bro. Nathan Peterkin followed, speaking on the anointing into the priesthood of the Church.

Bro. Wilbert McNeil washed our Brother Harold's feet, and he was ordained by Bro. Nathan Peterkin. We then heard a few words from our Brothers John Genaro and Wilbert McNeil.

Truly, Bro. Harold Littlejohn was called into labor, and we hope that all our brothers and sisters will pray for him in his new field of endeavor, as an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Levittown, PA

By Kellie Speck

The saints from Levittown and visiting brothers and sisters from the Atlantic Coast District assembled together on May 4 to dedicate a new Sunday School room addition that was recently completed at our branch. Before opening the meeting, Presiding Elder Paul Benyola spoke briefly, stating that the room was especially built for the growing number of young people and children in this branch, and he thanked God for all the prayers that were answered.

Bro. Paul then related some of the history of our branch, of Bro. Sam and Sis. Josephine Dell's direction in a dream to move from Youngstown, Ohio to Levittown, PA in 1952. They started the work here by holding meetings in a Union Hall, and later in Bro. Dell's home, until the Levittown Mission was built and dedicated in 1974. In May of 1985 it was decided to add on to the church building. Bro. Sam spearheaded the project with the help of the other members.

We then gathered in the addition, where Bro. Leonard Benyola of the Hopelawn, NJ Branch offered a prayer dedicating the room for the service of the Lord, that all who might gather there might be blessed.

Bro. Gerard Valenti offered our open-

ing prayer and a group from Levittown sang *The Standard of Liberty*.

Bro. Joe Perri of Hopelawn, who was about to leave on a missionary trip to Kenya, opened the service. He stated that our buildings may not be as magnificent as some of the church buildings around the world, but you can feel the warmth of God's love and His Spirit in our Church. He asked us if we could rededicate our lives to the Lord, that we would be pure and holy like a temple, that the Lord would dwell in us as stated in Corinthians 3:16.

Our brother also related how, as Solomon sacrificed many animals in his temple, we should sacrifice our broken heart and our contrite spirit to the Lord.

Bro. Leonard followed, speaking from Isaiah 66, where the Lord says: "The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: Where is the house that ye build unto me? And where is the place of my rest?" Our brother explained that we ourselves are the temple that we build unto God, and he cannot abide therein if we are not clean and righteous.

Bro. Valenti then emphasized that when we work on the house of the Lord, it is a labor of love. He said that even after working on our addition for a full day, he would go home and not feel tired.

Our Bro. Sam Dell briefly spoke, saying even when he was in church alone, he could feel God's Spirit here. He told us that in his whole life he has never had more strength—even though 18 months ago he thought he would never be able to set foot in church again, as he was very ill. But now he wants to do all he can, because it is so important to be able to know that we've done something for the Lord. Our brother and his wife Sis. Josephine are involved in visiting Independence, Missouri, where there is interest in organizing another mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Sam has been very energetic in building the addition, and we are thankful for the brothers and sisters, who also gave of their energy through their labors and donations, and didn't leave this project unfinished.

We closed the meeting by singing The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning, which was written especially for the dedication of the first Temple in Kirtland, Ohio.

* WEDDING

LaROSA-FISH

Ralph V. LaRosa and Debra L. Fish were united in holy matrimony by Brother Rodney Dyer at an outdoor setting at Lake Wylie, SC.

The newlyweds are making their home in Gastonia, NC. May God richly bless them.

New Arrivals

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

Ellen Denise to Ellen and Paul Williams of the Carolina Mission.

Christopher Williamson to Sharon and William Thomas of the Carolina Mission.

Robert James to Raymond and Nancy Jean Price of Tampa, FL.

Brienna Lynn to Dusty and Jeri (Dulisse) Wilson of Honolulu, Hawaii.

Jameson Tyler to Ken and Sharon Staley of the Clairton, PA Mission.

Charity Michele to Emil and Donna Bekavac of the Clairton, PA Mission.

Colby John to Ken and Florence Lombardo of Metuchen, NJ.

Amanda Grace to Richard and Jessie Scaglione of Monongahela, PA.

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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.

MILTON TIMMS

Brother Milton Timms of the Carolina Mission passed on to his eternal reward on May 23, 1986. He was baptized into the Church at South Bend, Indiana in 1979, and later transferred to the Carolina Mission when he moved to South Carolina.

Bro. George Timms of Herndon, Virginia and Bro. Jon Molinatto of the Carolina Mission officiated at the funeral. Our brother had requested that we sing *Shall We Gather at the River* at this service.

Brother Milton leaves his wife, a son and a daughter, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild, three brothers, and two sisters. He will be greatly missed by those who loved him. His testimony was always how thankful he was for the strength the Lord gave him to attend Church meetings.

EUGENIO PERRI

Brother Eugenio Perri, Sr. passed on from this life to the next on May 29, 1986. A member of the Lake Worth, FL Branch, he was born December 25, 1897 in Calabria, Italy and became a member of the Church at Dunlevy, PA in the year 1921. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1922 and became an evangelist in the Church in 1923. At the time of his death, he was the oldest member of the Quorum of 70.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Cleveland Baldwin with the assistance of Bro. Charles Smith.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sis. Betty Perri, two sons, Brothers Eugene Jr. and Joseph Perri, a daughter, Sis. Lydia Mazzeo, and a brother, Frank Perri, who lives in South America. Also surviving are seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. May God comfort those who mourn his loss.

DARLEEN PURSLEY

Sister Darleen Pursley passed on to her heavenly reward on June 2, 1986. She was born on April 28, 1939, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 17, 1985, by Bro. Alex Gentile. She was a member of Detroit Branch 2.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Daniel Parravano and Anthony Lovalvo.

Sister Darleen is survived by her husband, Roger Pursley, two sons, Gary Piatt and Roger Pursley Jr., two daughters, Cindy Piatt and Julie Pursley, her mother and father, and a brother.

Sister Darleen will be missed very much by the Brothers and Sisters of Branch 2 who loved her and admired her for her faith and courage.



GMBA Campout 1986

By Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA Editor

Beginning on Saturday, June 14 and continuing throughout the week, brothers, sisters, and friends from the Atlantic Coast, Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and South Bend, Indiana gathered at the Epworth Forest Conference Center located in North Webster, Indiana. In total, over 350 people were in attendance at the 20th Annual GMBA Campout. The Spirit of the Lord greeted us upon our arrival and continued with us throughout the week. We enjoyed a time of isolation from the everyday cares of life, while concentrating our efforts on the things of God. The result was a rewarding week, seasoned by God's Holy Spirit.

Through twenty years of campouts, over 240 souls have decided to make Jesus their choice and be baptized. Once again, that same decision was made at this year's camp, as five new converts were baptized into the Church. Our new brothers and sisters are: Beatrice Robertson of Erie, PA; Brent Smith of Lakeside, AZ; Rebekah Gerace of Detroit Inner City; Nancy Micale of Levittown, PA; and Clara Preler of Glassport, PA. In witnessing the calling of our five new brothers and sisters, we can certainly understand why the angels in heaven rejoice when a sinner comes to Jesus. Our hearts were filled to overflowing as we observed the baptism of each new member. Our prayer is that God will bless our new members in their service to Him and on behalf of the GMBA, we welcome them into the fold of God.

Experiences have become an important ingredient in Campouts over the years and this year was no exception. The gift and interpretation of tongues were experienced, visions were seen, people were healed, and the Spirit of God was felt throughout the week.

Brother Isaac Smith of Lakeside, AZ spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was, "Thus saith the Lord, Do not wait until tomorrow." Brother Paul Ciotti also spoke in tongues while confirming Sister Nancy Micale into the Church. The interpretation was, "So shall I do, saith the Lord, unto all those who come unto me, shall I write their names in the Book of Life."

Another experience occurred during the Wednesday morning chapel service. While Brother Dwayne Jordan of Tse Bonito, NM was speaking, a sister saw a personage standing next to Bro. Dwayne. As our brother would scan the congregation from side to side as he spoke, the personage would be scanning in the opposite direction, thus covering the entire congregation.

Still another experience occurred during the baptism of Bro. Brent Smith. Peter Katsaras of Miami, Florida saw a shadow leave Brent's body and swim away just as he was being immersed in the water. The remarkable part of this experience is that the person who had it is only fourteen years old.

There were other experiences that space does not allow us to recount. Suffice it to say that the manifestation of God's Spirit was prevalent all week long and we thank the Lord for His kindness toward us. Perhaps one of the most talked about events of the week were the seminars, which is only appropriate, since the theme of the seminars and of the Campout was Jesus Christ. Each age group testified of enjoyable and spirit-filled classes. It seemed that as we sought to know more of the Lord in an attempt to draw closer to Him, He rewarded us with an outpouring of His blessed Spirit. Through this study of our Lord, we see just how true the scripture is when it states that if we draw nigh unto the Lord, He will also draw nigh unto us.

This Campout also gave us the opportunity to reminisce over twenty years of past Campouts, as we celebrated our 20th Anniversary on Tuesday night. Bro. Joseph Ross introduced the meeting by giving a brief history of the evolution of Campout as we know it today. We then enjoyed a memory-filled slide presentation covering twenty years of Campouts. Despite some technical difficulties, the presentation was a pleasure to view and brought back a number of beautiful memories.

In summary, we experienced another wonderful Campout filled with the blessings of God. The many young people in attendance returned home with a desire to do more for the Church and work in God's kingdom here below. We thank the Lord for a glorious week. We should also commend Camp Director Walter Laird and his committees for a job well done. Even under adverse conditions, such as giant mosquitos and unpleasant water, the complaints and discomfort were kept to a minimum. To Bro. Walt and his committees we say, "Good job!" $\mathbf{2}$

A Testimony

I have been baptized since September, 1985. Prior to my baptism, I was attending meetings in the Tampa, FL Branch for about one year. I had been to many other churches, searching for the Truth. It did not take me long, after attending The Church of Jesus Christ, to know that this was the True Church, but I was a little hesitant to ask for my baptism. Within myself, I felt that I needed a tremendous experience, or, as many people say, a 'bolt of lightning,' from God in order to confirm my decision.

While sitting in an MBA meeting in Tampa one Saturday night, the Spirit of God came into the meeting. I decided to ask Bro. Duane Lowe if the elders would lay hands on me for spiritual encouragement. Bro. Frank Mazzeo, visiting that evening from New Brunswick, NJ, then began to speak, and all his words seemed directed to me. God was touching me, and then I knew that the love of the saints was good enough for me. I decided not to wait for that 'bolt of lightning' and I arose and asked for my baptism.

God had answered my prayers. I later learned that several brothers and sisters had had experiences and dreams concerning my baptism. A brother and sister from Cape Coral Mission had a very strong feeling that I was going to ask for my baptism. They did not know me; they just pointed me out to one another. All of this happened before I ever thought to ask the ministry to lay hands upon me. After I had heard about this, I realized that I had to open the door to Jesus first, and then He would work with me. Since then I have had many wonderful experiences.

When I attended the Florida Campout, I was asked to come before the congregation and give my testimony. I am a shy person by nature, and I got very nervous as I stood on the podium. Brother Mark Kovacic was behind me, and I turned to him and looked him in the eyes and touched him on the knee, looking for comfort from all my anxiety, and asking him what was expected of me. He seemed to be filled with the Spirit of God, and he told me to let God direct me. As he said this to me, it seemed that the Spirit moved from Bro. Mark to me. Suddenly a calmness came over me, and I began speaking. I don't remember what I said, but later many brothers and sisters approached me, telling me what a beautiful testimony I had given. All I can do is to thank God for every word He directed me to say.

Recently, God came to my rescue again. Being a construction subcontractor, I work outside, and one particular day, we were very busy and it started to rain. I whispered a prayer to God that if it was His will, would He allow us to finish the job. As soon as I finished praying, the rain stopped. I was working on a scaffold that day and I could see that there was rain all around me, but not on the building we were working on. We were able to get the job done that day, thank God. I can't thank Him enough for His blessings and I feel that He will continue as long as I keep the door open for Jesus. I will always try to be a soldier of the Lord.

> Bobby Woods Tampa, FL Branch

50th Wedding Anniversary

BRO. RUSSELL AND SIS. ETHEL CADMAN HONORED

By Martha Gehly

Brother Russell and Sister Ethel Cadman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary during the weekend of March 7 and 8, 1986. They were married March 12, 1936 in Mayville, New York. They have been blessed with four daughters, twelve grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Their family consists of: Bro. Paul and Sis. Čarolyn Gehly, who have four children and six grandchildren; Sis. Esther McCartney, who has three children and one grandchild; Bro. Arthur and Sis. Martha Gehly, who have two children and one grandchild; and Mr. Glenn and Sis. Eileen Larimer, who have three children.

On Friday March 7, all of the family members gathered to honor their parents at a hall for dinner. On the following day, an open house was held. Many friends and relatives gathered to honor the couple. All six of Bro. Russell's living brothers and sisters were in attendance.

Bro. Russell and Sis. Ethel joined The Church of Jesus Christ on May 5, 1946. They began to hold meetings in their home, and also traveled to Youngstown, Ohio and Monongahela to attend church. God has certainly blessed their marriage, their family, and their forty years in the Church.

In Memory of an Evangelist

By Diane Ciotti

Bro. Daniel Casasanta passed from this life to his eternal reward on March 12, 1986.

Bro. Dan was born May 23, 1909 in Bugnara, Italy. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 30, 1924 at the age of 14. Our brother was ordained an elder in October of 1931, and an evangelist in July of 1941. Bro. Dan served as presiding elder of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch for many years.

Bro. Dan was very active in the missionary endeavors of the Church, and served as a member of the Foreign Missions Committee. Our brother made four missionary trips to Italy. His first visit there was in 1961 with Bro. Chester Nolfi. Bro. Dan spent an entire year in Italy organizing the Church there. He made a return trip in 1973 along with his wife, Sis. Fannie, and Sis. Rose Nalevanko. The third trip to Italy was made in 1981, when Bro. Dan and his wife were accompanied by Bro. John and Sis. Mary Ross. As part of this missionary trip, they also visited the nation of Ghana, Africa. Bro. Dan's last trip to Italy was in 1983, when he went with his wife and Bro. Bill and Sis. Chris Colangelo.

Bro. Dan also did extensive work here in the United States in trying to reach various outposts of the Church.

Our brother's theme in life was, "Others, Lord, Yes Others, Let This My Motto Be." As has been evidenced by the above-mentioned missionary trips, this truly was his theme. We of the McKees Rocks Branch have been able to view this first-hand for many years. Truly our brother was a father to many, and set a good example for all to follow.

Much more could be said about our brother, but we just want to thank God that our brother's experience of some years ago, wherein he visited the Paradise of God has now become a reality. We pray for those who are left to mourn, especially his wife, Sis. Fannie, and his two daughters, Sis. Erme Lawson and Sis. Betty Ann Manes, along with their families. Since our brother's passing, a number of experiences have been received, revealing that he is now in glory. Praise God!

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

A sister from Metuchen, New Jersey sent me the following questions which she would like answered in *The Gospel News*.

QUESTIONS: Do Faith and the Holy Ghost work hand in hand? What does it mean in Acts 13:4 where it states, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost . . ."? Can we talk to the Holy Ghost? How can we make the Holy Ghost work inside of us?

First of all, let me clear something up. The Holy Ghost and the Holy Spirit are one and the same. As far as I have been able to ascertain, the English language is the only one in which the Holy Spirit is referred to as the "Holy Ghost," our word 'ghost' coming from the German geist, which means 'spirit.' All other languages use the term, "Holy Spirit." In the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ, the Holy Ghost (or Spirit) is defined as follows: "The Holy Spirit is the invisible power and glory that emanates from God. It is present and active in the spiritual experiences of men."

One more thing I want to clear up. There has been and probably still is (though remotely, I hope) a mistaken concept about when a baptized person receives the Holy Spirit. I have heard some say that they did not receive the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit) until some time after the laying on of hands for Its reception. Some have said it was a few months later; some have even said that it occurred one or two years after their confirmation. Let me clear up these myths. The Church of Jesus Christ believes that a baptized person receives the Holy Spirit immediately upon the laying on of hands by the ministry. This ordinance concludes the "birth of water and of the Spirit." If a person were not

to receive the Holy Spirit (the promise of Christ) at the laying on of hands, there would only be the "birth of water."

If, as some have supposed, the Holy Spirit was received at some later time as opposed to the time of confirmation (laying on of hands), this would not be according to scripture. In the eighth chapter of the Acts of the Apostles is recorded a fact. The apostles in Jerusalem sent Peter and John down to Samaria and they laid their hands upon those who had been baptized, at which time they received the Holy Ghost. In the Book of Mormon (Moroni 3), it distinctly states that the disciples laid their hands upon the baptized persons and bestowed the Holy Spirit upon them.

There is no such thing as receiving the Holy Spirit at some time other than at the laying on of hands at confirmation time. What some people are doing is mistaking the "reception" of the Holy Ghost at the time of confirmation with the "operation" of the Holy Ghost in their lives at a later time. For example, not all converts feel an overpowering display at confirmation. Some do. Because some do not feel any dramatic outpouring at the laying on of hands, they mistakenly think that they have not received the Holy Spirit. Then, later on, they experience a touch of the Glory of God and they think, erroneously, that this is the reception of the Holy Spirit. It is merely the operation of the Holy Spirit which they feel, not the reception.

Another thing. If one did not receive the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) at the laying on of hands and was to pass from this life, he or she could never enter the kingdom of heaven, for Jesus said, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee (speaking to Nicodemus), Except a man be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God" (John 3:5). I pray that no one confuses and mistakes the "reception" of the Holy Ghost with Its "operation" in their lives.

I would like to clear up another item. I have heard some use the phrase, when either praying or speaking, "The spirit of the Holy Ghost." I hope that whoever uses this expression would realize that they are, in effect, acknowledging that the Holy Ghost has a spirit. This would make the Holy Ghost a distinct entity with a spirit of its own. There is no such thing as "the spirit of the Holy Ghost." The Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit) is the invisible power and glory that emanates from God. It is the Spirit of God by which He (God) governs, controls, and guides the universe and mankind.

Now to answer the questions: 1) Do the Holy Ghost and faith work hand in hand? The answer, simply put, is "Yes." The Holy Ghost works within a person according to his or her faith. When one prays to God in the name of Jesus Christ for direction—or for any specific thing—God responds by letting His Holy Spirit direct and guide that person according to the degree of faith displayed.

2) Concerning Acts 13:4, "So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost . . ." In that particular instance, the disciples had been praying to God for direction. The Lord then responded by letting His Spirit speak to them. When I say speak, I mean that it was possible that someone was given the "Word of the Lord" and it was repeated audibly. The scripture says, "The Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul (Paul) for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2). God can speak to us either through tongues, visions, dreams, or by uttering the Word of the Lord. And all these things are done by the Spirit of God (the Holy Ghost)!

3) How can we make the Holy Ghost grow inside of us? We cannot "make" the Holy Spirit do anything. We can "allow" the Holy Spirit to work more often in us by applying ourselves to living righteously, keeping God's commandments, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. When we do all these things, God's Holy Spirit manifests itself in our lives so that others will see that we are truly the followers of Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit does not "grow" in us. We are the ones that "grow" spiritually. The more we apply ourselves to the Word of God, and to keeping Christ's commandments, the more God will let His Spirit work in us. It is written: "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). A more detailed account on the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit can be found in the forthcoming book, A Dissertation on the Faith and Doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22 & 23)

A History of the Printing of The Book of Mormon

By Robert A. Watson General Church Historian

4

It is my intent to summarize the development of *The Book of Mormon* from its earliest manuscript through the printing of the different editions, working toward the version we use in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Let me begin by directing you to the Book of Mormon published by our Church some time after the year 1923. Please refer to the page entitled, "The Publishing of This Work," across from the page with the testimony of the witnesses. You will find there the following information: The committee of Thurman Furnier, Charles Ashton, and W. H. Cadman did not have access to the original manuscript nor the Palmyra edition of *The Book of Mormon*, the first one published in 1830. They used the following as a basis for the publication of our Book of Mormon:

1) The Nephite Record, published in 1899; 2) Book of Mormon, published in 1920; 3) Book of Mormon, published in 1923; 4) Book of Mormon, published by J. O. Wright & Company of New York. This book by J. O. Wright was a reprint of the third American edition and was published around the year 1858. The committee, as mentioned above, was governed mostly by the 1923 edition. They found slight variations in the different editions which they used, mostly due to the setting of the type. I will now review the history of the original manuscript and also the first edition of The Book of Mormon, namely the Palmyra edition (please keep in mind that our Church's committee did not have access to either of these works).

When the *Book of Mormon* was being translated, there were two manuscripts in existence, one that was kept by Joseph Smith and the other by Oliver Cowdery. When arrangements were being made for printing, Joseph Smith went to Harmony, Pennsylvania; but before he went, he left the following directions:

First, that Oliver Cowdery should transcribe the whole manuscript.

Second, that he should take but one copy at a time to the office of the printer, so that if one copy should be lost or destroyed, there would be one copy remaining. Third, that in going to and from the printer, he should always have a guard attending him for the purpose of protecting the manuscript.

Fourth, a guard should constantly be kept on watch night and day at the house, to protect the manuscript from malicious persons who might seek to destroy it.

All these things were apparently strictly adhered to.

The manuscript that was written and copied from the original by Oliver Cowdery is the only complete manuscript in existence today. (It was purchased by the Reorganized Church on April 18, 1903 for \$2,450.) The history of this manuscript is as follows: It was the one used by E. P. Grandin, the publisher who printed the *Book of Mormon*. Joseph Smith translated the records and the manuscript he used was copied by Oliver Cowdery and was given to Grandin for printing.

Joseph Smith retained the original copy, which he placed in the cornerstone of the Nauvoo house in October 1841. When the cornerstone was opened forty years later, it had deteriorated so badly that many of the pages were undecipherable. The few that were, were divided between Joseph Fielding Smith of the Mormon Church and Joseph Smith of the Reorganized Church, and possibly a few others.

Meanwhile, the copy of the original manuscript was in the possession of Oliver Cowdery up until a few months prior to his death in March of 1850. At that time Cowdery gave the manuscript to his brother-in-law, David Whitmer, who was one of the three witnesses who were shown the plates by the power of God. When Whitmer died in January 1888, this manuscript was given to one of his grandsons, namely, George Schweck. It was from him that the manuscript was purchased by the Reorganized Church.

But back to the printing of the original Book of Mormon. When the translation from the plates was nearly finished, Oliver Cowdery and Martin Harris solicited Egbert B. Grandin, manager and principal owner of the Wayne Sentinel, a newspaper which was printed in Palmyra, NY.

Mr. Grandin first declined the job of printing, thinking it was a poor proposition. Joseph Smith then went to Thurlow Weed, printer of the *Rochester Telegraph*, who after examining the manuscript also refused to print it. When Smith went back to Grandin a second time, he agreed to print the book at a fee of \$3,000 for 5,000 copies.

Martin Harris mortgaged his farm to Grandin, and on August 25, 1829, a contract was drawn up. Harris agreed to pay Grandin the \$3,000 in a period of eighteen months after the printing began.

Hyrum Smith took approximately twenty-four pages at a time to John H. Gilbert, who was Grandin's typesetter. He hid the twenty-four pages under his vest, with his vest and coat tightly buttoned. The manuscript was taken back at night. During the process of printing, one called Equire Cole stole some of the proof sheets and began printing them in serial form in the *Palmyra Reflector* on January 2, 11, 13, and 22 of 1830. He titled the series, "Joseph Smith's Golden Bible."

When Hyrum Smith and Oliver Cowdery tried to persuade Cole to stop, he refused. Joseph Smith then came from Harmony, PA and threatened Cole with arrest for violation of Copyright law. Cole then stopped, which angered the people of Palmyra. They held a mass meeting and pledged themselves not to purchase a copy of the *Book of Mormon* when it was published, and also to use their influence in preventing others from buying it.

This anticipated boycott caused Grandin to stop printing the book. However, following meetings with Joseph Smith, he received cash and on March 26, 1830, there appeared in the *Wayne Sentinel*, along with the title page of the *Book of Mormon*, the following advertisement: "The above work, containing 600 pages of large duodecimo (a size of paper) is now for sale, wholesale and retail, at the Palmyra Book Store by Howard and Grandin."

Continued in next month's issue.

^{. . .} for it persuadeth them to do good; it maketh known unto them of their fathers; and it speaketh of Jesus, and persuadeth them to believe in him, and to endure to the end, which is life eternal.

And it speaketh harshly against sin, according to the plainness of the truth; wherefore, no man will be angry at the words which I have written save he shall be of the spirit of the devil. (II Nephi 33:4 & 5)



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Aren't you glad to have the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ in your life? No matter how it came your way, it's something to be grateful for. If you were born and raised in the Church, don't you count it an extraordinary blessing that the Lord saw fit to bring you into the world under His true and pure Gospel? Perhaps you met the Church through a spouse. How fortunate you are, then, to have met your companion and to have been given the opportunity to know the truth.

Did you come into the fold through the testimony of a brother or sister in the Church? If so, there must be a special thankfulness in your heart that God was merciful to you, allowing your path in life to cross with that individual and eventually bringing you to the Church.

We're all thankful, no matter how we came into the Church. When we first joined this happy band, many of us doubtless had a desire to convert the entire world. Even with the passing of time, don't we still want others to experience the goodness of the Gospel? How would it be if *everybody* knew what it was to experience the blessings of God in their lives? Wouldn't the world be a better place if all of mankind possessed the Spirit of God?

Each of us can do something to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In some way or another, you can let others see what it means to know the Lord. We don't all have to stand on street corners, exhorting mankind unto repentance, but we all can endeavor more earnestly to keep the Spirit of God alive in our lives. We can all try harder to keep a testimony of God's goodness on our lips. By being a *consistent* servant of God in the presence of those who see and hear us in our daily lives, we will be more likely to win them over to the cause of Christ.

In a world where many include themselves in the category of "Christians," we must strive more diligently to let all that we do and say reflect the **love** by which Jesus Christ said all men would know His disciples. If we proclaim our priesthood to be the only one with the authority to bestow the Spirit of God upon mankind, we are responsible to carry that Spirit with us in all that we do, that men might indeed see the evidence of God's Spirit in our lives.

If we don't do these things, we'll have less opportunity (and less liberty) to tell others about the Church. If our neighbor's overall impression of us is *not* one of a servant of God, a true Saint of Latter Days, he won't be interested in hearing why our Church is unique among churches.

It all works together, hand in hand. By being a more righteous people, not only will God's Spirit be poured down upon us as we meet in His house of worship, but our daily lives will also be brimming with that same Spirit and love of God. People won't be able to help but notice something different about us. By the Spirit we carry, the things we do and say (and the things we don't do and say), and the manner in which we react to different situations in our everyday lives, we can communicate very clearly to our fellow man that we possess something special in our lives that is truly worth having.

As we strive to carry a greater portion of God's Spirit in us, we'll all become true men and women of God. The blessings of God will be made manifest every time we meet together. We'll come to His house filled, and leave it even more filled. We'll be an uplift to one another and a blessing to all who meet us. Our righteousness will go far to bring souls into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Let each of us, therefore, pray more diligently, and make a greater effort, greater than ever before, to walk uprightly before God and live according to His will. Let us truly be the light of the world, that city on the hill. The blessings we will receive in so doing, God has promised us, will far exceed our greatest imaginations.

5

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

The Girl with a Loving Heart

Dear Boys and Girls,

One of the great-great-great (and on) grandmothers of Jesus wasn't even Jewish or an Israelite. Her name was Ruth and she was from a country named Moab. Now most of the people from Moab believed in and prayed to little statues. They never knew about or served the one, true, living God.

Ruth was married to a young man who was an Israelite. They lived with his parents and brother, who also was married. Ruth loved her young husband's mother, a woman named Naomi.

But sickness struck the family. Naomi and Ruth saw their beloved husbands become ill and then die. How hurt and bitter Naomi felt. She told her friends, "Don't call me Naomi! Call me Mara, which means bitter."

Naomi had left her home in Bethlehem to go to Moab. After several years of living there, their loved ones became ill and died, leaving both women alone and widowed.

Naomi told Ruth to go back to her mother's home, because she herself was going to return to her people and her old home in far-away Bethlehem. Naomi gave Ruth advice to find a new young husband to marry.

In those days there were no cars or trucks. A few wealthy people hired camels or donkeys to carry their possessions. If a person decided to move away, he either left many things behind or carried them himself. Naomi was leaving much behind; her home and possessions and the graveyard where her husband and two sons were buried.

But her daughter-in-law Ruth hugged her as she was leaving and cried out, "Don't make me leave you! Wherever you go, I will go. Where you live I will live. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God. Wherever they bury you, I will be buried."

So the young woman and her motherin-law started on the long walk back to Bethlehem, where Naomi had come from many years before. Her property there was in ruins. They had little to eat, but God knew their needs and was ready to care for them.

People were shocked to see Naomi returning—and returning with a strange young woman from Moab instead of her two sons and her husband. Everyone pitied her when they realized she had no one except this daughterin-law from Moab.

But they did not know the kind of young woman Ruth was, or how much she loved Naomi, or how hard she would work to care for her mother-in-law.

Ruth went to the wheat fields where young hired hands were cutting grain owned by a rich man named Boaz. The young men paid attention to her, but she kept working and did not encourage their attention. People noticed what a modest, nice girl she was.

Boaz saw her working and the quiet way she acted. He told his workers to leave extra grain on purpose where she was gathering. When she carried home her huge pile of grain, Naomi was astonished. "Where did you gather today, that you were able to get so much?" she asked Ruth.

When Ruth said it was from the field of Boaz, Naomi advised her to go there every day. She realized that Boaz had paid special attention to her young daughter-in-law.

Every day, Ruth continued to gather. On the last night of harvest, a big feast was planned. Naomi told Ruth to wash up and wait until dark. After it was dark everyone slept in the big gathering barn. Naomi told Ruth to quietly slip in after everyone was asleep, to lie down at Boaz's feet and pull his cover over her.

This was a way to show Boaz that she wanted to be his wife. Ruth did as her mother-in-law instructed. The sleepy Boaz awoke with a shock. Someone was lying at his feet! He called out in the darkness and said, "Who is there?"

Ruth quietly answered the great Boaz. Boaz was filled with amazement. Yet he had watched Ruth for many weeks and had seen what a decent woman she was. He had especially noticed the good care she had given his relative, Naomi. He told Ruth to go home and gave her a lot of grain to take to Naomi.

Boaz went the next day to another cousin. Israelite law required that every widow must be cared for. If a man died, his nearest relative should marry the widow and raise up sons in the dead man's name. But the cousin did not want Ruth.

Boaz was flooded with joy. He asked Ruth to marry him. Naomi came to live with Boaz and Ruth, and when they had children, she helped care for the little ones. Surely God had been good to the ones who had loved and served Him. Their first son was the first in a long line of good men, the forefathers of Jesus of Nazareth. One strange girl from Moab who loved much was the greatgreat-great (and on for many generations) grandmother of our Lord.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

CAMPOUT continued . . .

Finally, we conclude this report of Campout '86 anticipating the blessings of Campout '87, and longing for the day when the whole world, every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, will be a part of one great Campout. To quote our camp theme song, we long for the day when "We shall sing on the mountain of the Lord, and give Him praise and glory for His love, and every knee shall bow, every tongue confess, that Jesus is the Lord." May God bless you and we'll see you next year at camp!



Note of Thanks

We would like to thank all our brothers, sisters, family, and friends for their love and concern during the illness and passing of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Bro. Dan Casasanta. Your telephone calls, visits, cards, flowers, telegrams, and most of all your love and prayers, were most deeply appreciated. May God bless and reward you.

The Dan Casasanta Family

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your letters, calls, cards and, most of all, for your prayers during the recent illness and passing away of my father. The love and the concern of all the saints is truly something to behold! I know that there is no way my mother and I could have made it through any of this without your support. Words cannot express how grateful we are for each and every one of you and for being a part of this beautiful family of God. We ask a continued interest in your prayers.

May God Richly Bless You, Sis. Karen and Sis. Rose Milantoni

A Poem

Lord,

Have I ever truly thanked You For what You've done in my life? I'm only beginning to understand. I feel so incredibly blessed right now.

Lord,

Have I ever sufficiently praised You For all that You are? Never enough. I am in constant Amazement at Your wonders.

Lord,

Have I ever cried before You How much I need You every day? Of course. That's why I can Experience such utter peace.

Lord,

Have I ever really told You How much I love You? I couldn't possibly have. Because I've never loved you more Than at this very moment.

> Sis. Vicki Draskovich Greensburg, PA

Branch and Mission News

Miami, FL

On March 9, 1986 the Miami, Florida Mission was blessed in seeing another soul baptized into the fold of Christ. Brother Miguel Becelis was baptized in Biscayne Bay by Brother Mark Kovacic, as the saints watched from the shore line. Also present to witness this ordinance was Brother Miguel's parents and sisters.

After the baptism, the saints and families gathered back at the hall for the confirmation. Brother John D'Orazio, from the Lake Worth, Florida Branch offered a prayer and Brother James Scheffler, from the Cape Coral, Florida Branch laid hands on Brother Miguel to bestow the Holy Spirit and confirm him as a member in The Church of Jesus Christ.

A joyous time was spent in hearing the word of God preached and the saints testifying of the goodness and blessings of God.

Brother Miguel was born in Caracas, Venezuela and is currently attending college in Miami, while living with his family. May God bless our new brother.

Monongahela, PA

By LuAnn Carson

On the evening of April 20, 1986, the Monongahela Branch was blessed with many visitors, but more importantly, we were blessed with God's wonderful Spirit. Carrying over the theme from General Church Conference, Bro. David Majoros powerfully sang, Wave the Flags of Zion.

Bro. Edward Perdue then opened our meeting, telling some highlights of his twenty-seven years of work in Mexican mission fields. God placed a driving force in our brother's soul, causing him to quit his job and dedicate his life to full-time missionary work. For his efforts, he's been blessed with many healings, miracles, and answered prayers. We too can behold such miracles if we only humble ourselves and ask in faith, believing that we shall receive.

Sister Evelyn Perdue followed her

husband, relating many wonderful experiences, along with telling about a few stumblingblocks that could have discouraged them if they had not been sincere and dedicated. "Unless God is directing your work, you can accomplish nothing," Sis. Perdue reminded us.

Our next speaker was Bro. Louis Pietrangelo, who read from I Corinthians 13 about charity. Bro. Lou stated that charity, the pure love of God, is the only real thing we have in our lives. All the rest will pass away, but charity will stand through all our trials and afflictions, even through death.

Bro. David Majoros followed, telling us that God has a great work, and He will accomplish it. Let us each hope that we are the ones involved in it. Though we may not realize it, each of us has a mission field. At our natural jobs we should ask the Lord to bless our work to His honor and glory. Whether we're a cook, a mechanic, a singer, or a mother, others should see the love of God in our work and in our lives. If we dedicate ourselves to the Lord, and if God sees that we put our hearts into our everyday work, then he will use us further. Our brother's last words were, "Praise God!" What more could we add?

The same blessings and spirit prevailed throughout our day on Sunday, April 27. Bro. Perdue opened our preaching service with a few words concerning the work in Mexico. He and Sis. Perdue taught the people there many things, such as how to be clean, how to keep house, and how to take care of their children. But the most important thing they taught them was the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Israel is still in prison, spiritual bondage. They need to know who they are, where they've been, and where they're going. Giving them this understanding is our job, the Divine Commission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Perdue read from Isaiah 53, a prophecy of the life of Christ. Though He had no comeliness or physical beauty that He should be desired, we see a spiritual beauty in Christ. He was despised and rejected, esteemed as naught. Jesus bore our iniquities, was wounded for our transgressions, and led like a lamb to the slaughter. But lHe

(Continued on Page 8)

8 September, 1986

MONONGAHELA, continued . . .

broke the bands of death and became an intercessor for all mankind. This is the Christ that we serve today. Our brother closed by exhorting us to take Jesus by the hand and never let go of Him, for he that endureth to the end will be saved.

Bro. Philip Jackson followed with a plea to not only listen to the words spoken this morning, but to put them into action. We might not be able to travel to Mexico or Africa, but one thing we all *can* do is pray for the furthering of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a job that belongs to each and every one of us.

The meeting was then closed, and after lunch and a season of fellowship, we returned upstairs for our afternoon meeting.

After our Brother and Sister Perdue testified of God's work in their lives, many others expressed themselves in testimony. When the meeting was closed, we all felt that our cups were running over with God's blessings. Again we close with our Brother David's words, "Praise God!"

Greensburg, PA

By Darlene Markazene

Fellowship—a part of God's plan from the beginning—that we should gain strength and support not only from Him, but also from one another.

We are so thankful that we have been blessed with the fellowship of many visiting brothers and sisters during the summer months.

June 1 brought visitors from near and far. Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Buffington (Imperial) and Bro. Duane, Sis. Betty Ann, and Sis. Dana Lowe (Tampa), along with Sis. Betty's mother, were in our midst.

Our Brother Duane opened our service with Matthew 16:15, "But whom say ye that I am?" Bro. Duane proceeded to relate what Jesus means to each of us today—that if we will put Him first, He will give us the "manna" needed to strengthen us daily and provide for all our earthly needs.

Bro. Buffington continued on this

same subject, emphasizing the Lord's promises to us if we should keep all His commandments: "Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. . . And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail" (Deuteronomy 28:1-13).

On June 8, our building was once again filled with many visitors: Bro. Bill and Sis. Chris Colangelo (McKees Rocks), Bro. Frank and Sis. Ina Giovannone (Warren) and Bro. Joe Genaro (Niles).

Bro. Frank opened with Alma 34:32-34, stating that the Boy Scout motto, "Be Prepared," might best summarize this passage of scripture, for no one knows how or when he will meet his heavenly Father.

Bro. Bill followed. In order to be prepared, he stated, we all have a work to do, but how thankful we should be that Jesus will give us the needed energy if we but ask Him, as the thief on the cross did, "Remember me this day."

Bro. Joe opened our afternoon service by continuing on the theme, "Be prepared." Bro. Joe related many beautiful experiences, revealing the power and strength of this mighty God whom we serve.

Our hearts were filled on June 15 as we saw John and Sis. Mabel Bickerton of Monongahela walk into our building. What an added blessing it was to hear Sis. Mabel's beautiful testimony!

Many of our own members returned to us on June 22 from another glorious Campout. Also visiting with us that day were Sis. Janice, Sis. Lynda, and Steve Brown of Lake Worth, Florida. Hearing Sis. Janice tell of God's presence through her recent surgery was an uplift to us as we realized that the prayers of the saints were answered once again.

Both the young and the old were honored on June 29. First we witnessed the beautiful blessing of Karen Lynn Mellor, daughter of Brad and Kim Mellor (Cleveland) by Bro. Paul Gehly. Then, following our services, a 75th birthday dinner was given for Sis. Yolanda Fallavollitti. Her children and grandchildren were all in attendance to honor her that day. It is such a blessing to have our older brothers and sisters, such as Sis. Yolanda, as we have gained much from their examples, testimonies, diligent faith, and untiring works. May God continue to bless each and every one of them.

The events of the entire Fourth of July weekend brought much excitement and reason to celebrate for the saints in Greensburg. On July 4, we held our annual Sunday School picnic; we were honored to have in attendance Bro. Carl Frammolino (Detroit Inner City). Bro. Carl remained with us throughout the weekend. He held a seminar for us on Saturday afternoon, July 5. An open discussion took place, and those in attendance felt quite encouraged and enthusiastic upon its completion. That evening, we met once again for singing, testimonies, and socializing.

Sunday, marking the last day of this glorious weekend, was shared by many, as our little building was once again overflowing. In addition to Bro. Carl, we were visited by Bro. Vince Gibson (Cleveland), Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nolfi and family (Glassport), and Bro. Tom and Sis. Elizabeth Staley (Glassport). All three visiting elders spoke to us on the love of Christ, the commitment we must make to serve Him, and the rewards which shall follow.

We pray that God will bless each and every one that has put forth the effort to visit us, and we extend an invitation to all our brothers and sisters, as we can truly say that through their fellowship we do gain much support and strength.

Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise

Sunday March 23, 1986 was a most memorable day for many brothers and sisters of the Bell Branch. This day will always have a special place in the heart and mind of our newly baptized brother, Remi Martinez.

Brother Remi had asked for his baptism the preceding week in San Diego, at their Spanish evening meeting.

Presiding Elder Tom Jones opened our morning service with a few remarks, and Bro. Luis Pacheco opened in prayer. We had many visiting brothers and sisters from Tijuana, as well as District President George Heaps from Anaheim, Bro. Paul Liberto of San Diego, and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Anna Kirkpatrick from Yucaipa, CA.

Our Brother Pacheco took his text

from Luke 15, concerning baptism. Bro. Liberto followed on the same theme, expounding on the 17th Chapter of III Nephi. We also heard from Bro. Heaps. After a few closing remarks from our presiding elder, our Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters sang a song to the glory of God.

Bro. Bob McDonnell opened in prayer at the water's edge, and our new Brother Remi Martinez was baptized by Bro. Luis Pacheco.

After our new convert was confirmed by Bro. Harry Marshall, he expressed himself briefly. For this joyous occasion we give thanks unto God and pray that He will always guide and direct Bro. Remi in all his ways.

Detroit Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On July 20 we at Branch 1 felt a genuine renewal of the spirit when Brother Rudolph Zaccagnini stood up during the meeting and asked for his baptism. He mentioned that he was touched by Bro. Jerry Benyola's sermon and truly felt the Spirit of God. Bro. Jerry had spoken on Matthew 11:28-30, where the Lord said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

We also had a visiting elder, Bro. John Ali of Glassport, PA, who spoke about how, unlike our adversary, the Lord gives us the opportunity to go back and try again if we lose our way. Our young brother just graduated from high school and will soon be tested for his cosmetology license. He truly felt a personal message from the Lord in the inspired message of our ministers.

Within an hour we were at the baptismal site, where Bro. Peter Scolaro, with the assistance of Bro. Louis Pietrangelo, baptized our new brother Rudy. After being confirmed by Bro. Jerry Benyola, Rudy's sister Salina Carlini related an experience she had had.

She said that her brother had understood from a dream he had had a couple of years prior, that when he got baptized, there would be two others, because in his dream there were three pair of shoes at the water's edge. Traveling to the site from her own Branch 4, Sis. Salina began to pray that she would see three people in white baptismal clothes. When she arrived there, she saw Bro. Peter, Bro. Rudy, and Bro. Lou. She then realized that her brother had misinterpreted the dream, and that the other two pair of shoes belonged to the ministers. So pray for Bro. Rudy, that he may feel this newly-found peace. And rejoice, that another soul has come to Christ.

Rochester, NY

Rochester, New York officially became an Established Mission under the Ohio District with a visit from District President Ron Genaro and First and Second Counselors Henry Cardillo and Phil Jackson.

On Saturday May 31, we met to conduct business and establish Rochester under the Ohio District. As time permitted, Bro. Henry Cardillo exhorted us concerning the love and blessings he received in coming into this Gospel. His words to us were a preparation for the Sunday service.

Once again, we gathered together Sunday to hear from Brothers Ron Genaro and Phil Jackson. Both brothers spoke well and refreshed our souls.

It was truly a blessing to have our brother district officers with us. Our desire in Rochester is that we would increase in Spirit as well as in number, that the Spirit of Zion would flourish in the city of Rochester, New York.

Dos Mas in Riverside

On June 22, 1986, as we were preparing to leave for the river to baptize Rudy Carrillo, the Spirit of God fell upon Lorraine (Zamora) Larmore and she cried out, "I want to be baptized, too." It is always a great blessing to bring one of the Seed of Joseph into the fold, and this day we were doubly blessed. Brother Harry Marshall was visiting us this day and took part in various ways throughout the services.

The following Sunday Brother Jose Teles made himself right with God.

The Lord is blessing us with dreams and visions, and we give Him the glory. Our sister Eleanor was recently anointed for eye problems. After the elder put the drop of oil on her head and prayed, she testified that she felt oil running down her forehead and into her eyes, as if the whole bottle had been poured out.

Please remember the Riverside, CA Mission in your prayers, as we continue to fight the battle against the evil one who would have all good destroyed.

Clairton, PA

By Tirann A. Udosen

On May 11, 1986, the Clairton Mission was filled to capacity with approximately 200 saints and friends to witness the ordinations of Bro. Ken Staley into the priesthood and Sis. Iola Kershaw into the office of deaconess.

Our morning meeting began by singing *Give Me Understanding, Lord.* Bro. Russell Cadman spoke from the Book of Mormon on Alma 13th Chapter, concerning the holy priesthood of the Son of God. Bro. David Nolfi followed, illustrating how the Church is a mother to us, and Bro. Ken today becoming a husband to the Church. Our brother asked us, "Where would we be without the Gospel?" Truly we would be vile sinners without the light of Christ in our lives. After our morning service we broke for a buffet luncheon served by the Clairton Mission.

Before our afternoon service there was inspirational singing. Bro. English Webb spoke on the ordinances we would observe today. Bro. Paul Palmieri washed Bro. Ken Staley's feet, and Sis. Iola Kershaw had her feet washed by Sis. Regina Harris. The building then echoed with the saints singing the beautiful hymn, Hallelujah. Bro. Ken Staley was then ordained by Bro. English Webb, and we all sang Blessed Be the Name of the Lord while some twenty elders present embraced our new elder. The Spirit of God was truly present. Sis. Iola Kershaw was ordained by Bro. David Nolfi, and we then sang I Know Whom I Have Believed.

As communion was served that afternoon, the plates of bread were emptied and more bread had to be broken and blessed. Bro. Palmieri remarked what a wonderful day it will be when we will have to keep having bread blessed because of the multitude of saints. After communion we sang *Near the Cross*. Bro. Jim Moore of Imperial spoke.

CLAIRTON, continued . . .

followed by our Bro. Ken, who thanked God for all that He had done in his life.

Sis. Gerry Lindart related a dream she had had many years ago, in which she saw herself being served communion by Bro. Ken.

Our day was filled with many blessings, and we thank our God for blessing our mission. We rejoiced in seeing the many saints from the different branches come together as one to be a part of such a beautiful and wonderful day.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

April 27, 1986 marked another beautiful day for the saints of McKees Rocks, as we witnessed the baptism of Marge Rogalla. Our sister, who asked for her baptism the previous week at the General Church Conference, was taken into the waters and baptized by Bro. Paul Ciotti. Sister Marge was confirmed by Bro. John Manes. Sister Hilda DeVito saw a beautiful light around the ministry as the confirmation took place.

Our new sister started to attend our meetings this past New Year's Eve. She testified that she was touched that night and knew that her place was in The Church of Jesus Christ. Since then she has received two beautiful experiences, one of them an open vision and the other a dream, revealing the calling of God in her life. May the Lord continue to guide the footsteps of our sister.

Bible School on the Navajo

By Peter Genaro

The theme for this year's Bible School was, "Jesus, I love you." It was another beautiful success as seventy children eagerly came into the church building at Tse Bonito, New Mexico.

We all enjoyed a week of interesting lessons, exciting homemade crafts, singing songs 'til we could sing no more, and, of course, snack time. We had a special 'story time' each evening to begin, presented by one of our members, before we had our weigh-in of pennies between the boys and the girls. Would you believe by the end of the week it was a tie at 10 lbs. each?! This will start us off for next year's Bible School.

We ended the week with a short program and an outdoor picnic for all the parents. They all came out to help eat the two hundred hot dogs that were prepared. This is becoming quite an annual event, as we tossed water balloons, ran a three-legged race and a sack race, and finished the evening with toasted marshmallows and watermelon. The parents had a great time, and of course the children did, too.

Without the tremendous direction of Sis. Bonnie Metzler and generous contributions of time and money, this Vacation Bible School would not have been possible. We sincerely thank all who contributed to its success, and hope and pray that this small effort might be the means of sharing the Gospel with our Navajo friends and the surrounding community.



Lessons, crafts, and singing are all part of the Vacation Bible School at the Tse Bonito, NM Branch.

Levittown, PA

By Kellie Speck

The brothers and sisters gathered Wednesday evening, July 2, for Bro. Samuel And Sis. Josephine Dell to say farewell as they would be journeying to Independence, Missouri, where they had planned to stay for approximately three months, continuing the efforts to spread the Gospel there.

Both Bro. Sam and Sis. Jo expressed excitement about the opportunity to go to this area, since the doors are finally opened there to present our Church.

Since Bro. Sam's healing last year, he believes his life was extended by the Lord to do more of His work. Sis. Jo's testimony was that she was enthusiastic about being able to tell the Gospel to others and that she would stand by her husband and go wherever the Lord would direct them.

Bro. Sam also mentioned that a spare room is available for anyone wishing to visit. Our prayers have been with them in their labors to tell of this wonderful Gospel.

The following Sunday, July 6, our blessings continued as Brother Joseph Benyola was taken into the waters of baptism by his father, Evangelist Paul Benyola, and later confirmed by Bro. Gerard Valenti. Bro. Joe has a beautiful testimony. Being a banker, he had been drawing checks all his ife and the Lord had been paying him with many blessings. He now felt that he was overdrawn, and that it was time to start making deposits to pay back the Lord.

We were surprised that morning to find brothers and sisters from all over the Atlantic Coast District, as well as visitors from California, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Virginia.

Bro. Paul Benyola spoke of how this life is a spiritual roller coaster, with joy and discouragement, and that we need the Holy Ghost to get through the valleys of life to stay on the straight and narrow path. Bro. Paul also read from III Nephi 12, concerning the bestowal of the Holy Ghost to the Lord's disciples.

As Bro. Joe was being confirmed, Sis. Rose Bonaduce from New Brunswick, NJ saw a vision. She saw a man dressed in a white robe place his hand over Bro. Paul's as they were confirming Bro. Joe. As the prayer ended, he let a white dove out over the congregation. There was also a shining light about the room.

Bro. Wally Cihomsky of Metuchen, NJ sang On the Wings of a Dove, which was very appropriate for the occasion. Bro. Jerry Giovannone of Warren, OH read from III Nephi 27:20, "Now this is a commandment: Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day." Bro. Jerry related how the immigrants were so happy that they were free when they reached America, and how Bro. Joe is likewise now free through Jesus Christ.

Bro. Leonard Benyola of Hopelawn, NJ related a dream he had. In the dream he was wondering who would take the place of our late Bro. Joe Milantoni. As he pondered, our Bro. Joe Benyola walked into the church with his work clothes on and said, "I'm ready to work."

We also heard from Bro. Joe Perri of Hopelawn, NJ and Bro. Lawrence King of Vanderbilt, PA.

Sis. Kellie Speck also related a dream about Bro. Joe's baptism, and two sisters saw a vision of our new brother's great grandmother, Sis. Mary Benyola. We know the Lord was here in our midst this day. It was so beautiful. We closed our meeting by singing Sweet, Sweet Spirit.

A lunch was served for all our visitors, and to celebrate the joy we felt in having a new member at our branch. We know that he will never forget this memorable day, and we pray that God will continue to guide him throughout his life.

OBITUARIES

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

DANIEL CASASANTA

Brother Dan Casasanta of McKees Rocks, PA passed away on March 12, 1986. He was born on May 23, 1909 and became a member of the Church on March 30, 1924. He became an elder of the Church in October of 1931 and was ordained an evangelist in July of 1941.

Brothers Paul Ciotti, William Colangelo, Richard Lawson, and John Manes all took part in the funeral.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sis. Fannie, two daughters, and five grandchildren. Brother Dan was an inspiration to many and will be greatly missed.

CHRISTINE STEWART

Sister Christine DeVito Stewart passed on to her eternal reward on April 5, 1986. She was born September 1, 1920 and had recently been baptized into the Church on January 19, 1986.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers William Colangelo, Paul Ciotti, and Richard Lawson.

Sis. Christine is survived by four daughters, four sisters, two brothers, eleven grandchildren, and two greatgrandchildren. Although our sister worshipped with us for only a short time, her enthusiasm had an impact on all of us at the McKees Rocks Branch.

MAE WILSON

Sister Mae Wilson died on May 22, 1986. A member of the Monongahela, PA Branch, she was born on December 5, 1909 and was baptized on October 14, 1931 by Bro. W. H. Cadman.

Funeral services were held by Bro. Richard Scaglione with the assistance of Bro. Idris Martin.

Sis. Mae is survived by one son and four grandchildren, and she will be missed by many.

OBITUARIES continued . . .

FREDA MAJOROS

Freda Majoros passed from this life on June 22, 1986. She was born July 14, 1912 and was the widow of the late Brother John Majoros of Monongahela, PA.

Her son, Brother David Majoros of Tucson, Arizona conducted the funeral service.

She is survived by a son and a daughter, and five grandchildren. Freda will be missed by all who knew her.

FILOMENA RULLO

Sister Filomena Rullo of Monongahela, PA passed on to her eternal reward on July 6, 1986. She was born on May 16, 1888 in Italy and was baptized on April 29, 1928 by Bro. Mike Falsetti.

Her funeral was conducted by Bro. Robert Nicklow.

Sis. Filomena is survived by her daughter, Sis. Rose Scaglione, three sons, ten grandchildren, 23 greatgrandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

In her later years our sister was confined to her bed due to illness, and we thank God that she has found an end to her suffering.

* WEDDINGS *

LITTLEJOHN-CRUDUP

Brother Harold Lee Littlejohn and Sister Geraldine Crudup were united in holy matrimony on June 5, 1986 at the Tampa, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brother Duane Lowe.

The newlyweds are residing in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Our prayer is that God would bless our brother and sister in their new life together.

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ROGERS-BYARS

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Robert Rogers and Melanie Byars were joined in marriage in a beautiful garden setting in Palmetto, Georgia on June 28, 1986.

The bride's grandfather, Bro. James Moore Sr. of Imperial, PA, officiated at the wedding.

Musical selections were performed by Karen Watford and Susan Byars.

We wish the newly married couple happiness and blessings throughout their life.

VALENTI-FRASCHILLA

Brother Jerry Valenti and Sister Patricia Fraschilla were united in holy matrimony on June 28, 1986 at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The groom's father, Bro. Gerard J. Valenti, officiated the ceremony with the assistance of Bro. James R. Link.

Musical selections were presented by Sis. Donna Fraschilla, Sis. Tammy Valenti, and Bro. James Suska, with Sis. Alice Suska at the piano.

The newlyweds are residing in Warminster, Pennsylvania. May God 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:

Adam James to James and Renee (Ciotti) Zeh of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Rachael Leah to Frank and Kathy Natoli of Rochester, New York.

Candice Nicole to Joe and Lori Capone of Anaheim, California.

Joseph Steve to John and Pam Capone of Anaheim, California.

Karen Lynn to Brad and Kim Mellor of Cleveland, Ohio.

Children Blessed

On Mother's Day, May 11, 1986, Sashua Shawna Alberts, baby daughter of Scott and Sis. Michelle (Sapko) Alberts, was blessed by Bro. Paul Gehly in The Church of Jesus Christ in Greensburg, PA.

It was a joy to see four generations witness this beautiful event as Sis. Michelle's mother, Sis. Charlotte Sapko, and her grandmother, Sis. Thelma Petrosky, were in attendance.


October, 1986

Volume 42, No. 10

Michigan-Ontario Area MBA Meeting

Seven locals of the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA met together on Sunday evening, August 31 at Detroit Branch 2 for a spiritual meeting. To encourage good attendance from each local, Area President Bro. Larry Champine assigned each local to interpret a particular episode from *The Book of Mormon*.

Many of us have seen the pageant presented each year in Palmyra, NY by the Latter Day Saints. This year, we decided to put on our own "pageant," and notified the local MBA's a couple of months in advance as to what episode they would be depicting.

After a season of community singing, we got on with our presentation. It was interesting to see how each local used their collective imagination and creativity to meet the challenge of bringing their story to us, and while the results were sometimes humorous, we felt a blessing throughout as we saw this most precious aspect of the Restoration, *The Book of Mormon*, unfolded before us.

Branch 3 started out with the Brother of Jared and the sixteen stones. Against a painted background of the eight barges on the seashore, we saw a basket of foil-covered "stones" light up, and heard the brothers and sisters sing *Let It Shine*, with tools in their hands (they had just finished building the barges).

Branch 2 showed us Nephi and his brothers as they took possession of the brass plates, which were kept by Laban. As two narrators spoke, we saw the whole scene acted out before us, from Lehi receiving the commandment to obtain the plates in a dream, to Zoram joining Nephi and his brethren as they took the plates to their father. The entire local then came up and sang *Lehi* By Faith Was Warned of God.

The Saline local depicted the prophet Abinadi in the court of the wicked King Noah. The players did a magnificent job of acting out their parts, while a narrator recounted the story and appropriate hymns were played as background music.

The Sterling Heights local gave us the story of Alma, the son of Alma, in the form of a testimony. One brother took the part of Alma, and told us all of his miraculous conversion, much as someone would give us the testimony of their conversion today. Once again, the rest of the local came up and sang a hymn after the scene was portrayed.

The Branch 1 local was assigned to reenact the account of General Moroni and the Standard of Liberty. As selected verses were read from Alma 46, we saw the dissensions develop among the Nephites and finally, Moroni's willingness to take a stand and lead the people of God to victory, waving his rent coat above him.

The story of Samuel the Lamanite was presented very convincingly by the Branch 4 local. As Samuel prophesied from the city wall, the Nephites, who at this point had turned away from the Lord, sought to destroy him, but could not. While a few of the people believed his prophecies, most did not, and although we were familiar with the account in *The Book of Mormon*, we were all very much surprised to see Samuel take a flying leap from the city wall (the rostrum) and escape from the Nephites!

Finally, the Windsor local recounted to us the story of Mormon, who at a young age felt himself burdened with both the natural and spiritual welfare of his people. As excerpts from his writings were read, we could feel his frustration at being unable to stir up the people to a remembrance of their God.

After the skits were presented, we sang some hymns and heard a few words from Bro. Peter Scolaro, the area chaplain, who stressed to us that there is no other place that we and our children will hear about *The Book of Mormon*, and learn of its importance, but in The Church of Jesus Christ. He explained how regular attendance and support of our MBA locals is important if we wish to be firmly grounded in these things, and encouraged everyone to become more involved.

After closing prayer, refreshments were served in the back room. It was an evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended, and we thank God for the opportunity to meet together and share His blessings.

GMBA Conference

The GMBA Conference will meet on Saturday, November 8, 1986 at the General Church Auditorium in Greensburg, PA. The Saturday and Sunday meetings begin at 10:00 a.m., with meals provided on Saturday on a pay-as-you-attend basis. Hope to see you there!

Announcement

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

The Florida Area MBA has discovered the cure for the "after the holidays, bored with the cold, and sick of the slush" blues. And we offer our cure as an invitation to all.

On January 9, 10 & 11, our area is holding our annual campout in sunny and warm (no, make that very warm) Florida. So, if you're planning to venture south, why not coordinate your vacation with our retreat and join us? If you're not planning to come south, start making plans now. The Florida Area MBA shouts from the highest sand dune to "Come on down to the Sonshine State!"

For more information and registration forms, please contact:

> Michael and Judy DiFede 560 Purdy Lane, B-304 Palm Springs, FL 33461 (305) 964-9403

Hope to see you soon!!

Peace in Jesus Christ,

Douglas S. Ob. adovich, President Florida Area MBA

An Experience

By Bro. Felix DeVincentis

About a year after she passed away, I had the following dream about my wife, Sister Rose (Damore) DeVincentis.

I was walking with my wife Rose down a straight road. She was walking on my left side. As we walked, I noticed that she looked very beautiful. She had on a white robe, and she wore sandals on her feet. I also noticed that she wasn't wearing her eyeglasses. Her face just glowed. As we walked halfway down the road, we came to a very dark tunnel, and I could hear people moaning and crying inside the tunnel.

I turned to my wife and said, "Is *that* where we are going?" She answered, "No, we're not going there," and she proceeded to lead me further down the road.

At the end of the road, we came to

very wide, beautiful steps. They were pure gold, and there were bright lights on both sides. At the bottom of the stair case, on my right, stood a man, dresseall in white, with the same kind of sandals on his feet. He had a long beard, and the most beautiful face I had ever seen. I knew it was Jesus. With my wife on one side of me and Jesus on the other side, we started to walk up the steps. As we got to the top, where it was so bright and beautiful, they started to leave me.

"Why are you leaving me here by myself?" I asked, "What am I supposed to do now?"

They turned to me and Jesus said, "You cannot come with us now, but when you come back this way again, we will meet you at the same place, and we will take you with us then."

After that, I awoke.

A Testimony

By Roy Sarver

My father, Bro. Basil Sarver of Monongahela, PA, lived his life knowing of the teachings of the Church, but was not baptized until the 69th year of his life. Three years after his baptism, he developed Alzheimer's Disease, an illness that drastically changes the personality and, slowly but surely, erases all memories of the past and awareness of the present. In the first half of 1985, he suffered a series of strokes, heart failures, and other afflictions. Through his illness, however, we have been given the opportunity to see God's presence in Basil.

One evening as his illness was progressing, two elders from the Church visited my father and gave him sacrament. During that time he became completely silent, though for the preceding hours he had been rambling and repeating meaningless phrases constantly. Among all the confusion in his mind, he still had respect and love for the Lord. When the sacrament was administered to him, the peace of the Lord came over his mind.

When Bro. Basil had his second stroke, the doctor gave him less than 48 hours to live. One time earlier, when he had suffered a ruptured intestine, appendicitis, and a heart attack all at the same time, a different doctor gave him only the night to live. The elders of the Church anointed him, however, and he lived to see the granddaughter and grandson he had always hoped for.

This time, when the family heard the loctor's prognosis, my brother, my nother and myself completely believed him, for my father was in a coma. Bro. Richard Scaglione of the Monongahela Branch came and anointed my father in the emergency room. After he offered the prayer, Bro. Rich told us my father would be all right. The tone of his voice and the expression on his face was not that of one who was merely trying to comfort the family. He appeared as if he knew and believed it. He had placed my father's life into the healing hands of Jesus, and for the second time, his faith kept him with us.

Alzheimer's Disease strips a person of every human aspect of his personality. Memories, intellect, and emotions all fade away. For two years, my father showed no reaction at all to things which he once found pleasing, whether it be a memory, a joke, or just being with a loved one. One Saturday morning, however, as we were playing hymns on the stereo, my father began to sing with the records. Singing a few phrases, he would pause and then continue. The hymn, How Great Thou Art began to play. My father sang the words, Then sings my soul, my Savior, God, to Thee, How great Thou art. . . Suddenly, my father's face became flushed, his eyes misty, and he shouted with a cracking voice, "Roy! Can you hear it? Can you hear it!"

It was the first time in months that I saw any feeling at all in my father. Even though all that we call human had been peeled away from him, my father's most human aspect remained: the ability to know and worship God. At that moment, my father was so filled with the Spirit that he had to share his praise and joy.

One time when my father was doing a little better, we began to talk. He had always wanted to be a florist, but for economic reasons he never pursued it. Certainly he had the talent to design floral arrangements and grow exceptional plants. On that warm summer day on the porch, I asked him, if he could relive his life, would he be a florist. Quickly he replied yes, then paused. After thinking a while, he said, "Yes, need a lot of money."

A History of the Printing of The Book of Mormon

By Robert A. Watson General Church Historian

Part two of two parts.

Referring back to the paper that was published by Mr. Cole, it was called the Dogberry Paper on Winter Hill. He promised his subscribers that he would publish one form of Joseph Smith's Golden Bible each week, thus giving them the principal part of the Book of Mormon without them having to purchase it from Joseph Smith. The Dogberry Paper was printed at Grandin's place, where the Book of Mormon was being printed. It appears that Cole did his printing during the night and on Sundays when the press wasn't being used by Grandin.

Mr. John Gilbert, typesetter for Grandin, in his memorandum states that Hyrum Smith brought the first installment of 24 pages and that the handwriting of the manuscript he used was the handwriting of Oliver Cowdery. He also stated that every chapter was one solid paragraph, without any punctuation marks from beginning to end. (This was refuted, however, by B. H. Roberts in his history of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, wherein he states that this was only partly true and that the printer's manuscript was well capitalized.) Mr. Gilbert claimed that he did much of the punctuating of the manuscript, and that the work commenced in August of 1829 and was finished in March of 1830, a period of seven months. He also said that Oliver Cowdery looked over the manuscript when most of the proofs were read, and that Martin Harris and Hyrum Smith also reviewed that manuscript. Mr. Grandin felt that these men were the best qualified to identify any discrepancies between the manuscript and the Palmyra edition, especially Oliver Cowdery, who wrote the manuscript. Mr. Gilbert also claimed that Joseph Smith only visited the printer on one occasion, and that was only for about fifteen or twenty minutes.

During the winter in which the Book of Mormon was being printed, some doubt manifested itself whether Martin Harris was going to be able to sell his farm to pay for the printing of the book. David Whitmer said that it was suggested to Hyrum Smith that the brothers should travel to Toronto,

Canada for the purpose of selling the copyright for a considerable sum of money-that is, to sell the rights to publish the book in Canada, not to dispose of the copyright altogether. Joseph Smith inquired of the Lord, and he received a revelation that some of the brothers should indeed go to Canada to sell the copyright. Oliver Cowdery and Hiram Page went, but they failed in their purpose. This caused doubts among the brothers, and they went to Joseph Smith for an answer. It was at this time that he received instruction of the Lord, that some revelations are from God, some are from men, and some come from the devil.

The first copies of the Palmyra edition of the Book of Mormon were taken to parts of the USA, Canada, England, and elsewhere.

As the book went through its first and second printings, Joseph Smith examined the pages for errors in spelling and grammar, and upon completion of the project, a third edition was printed. This was in the year 1840, and it is from this edition that the current printing of the Book of Mormon is taken.

The subdividing into chapters and verses was done by Orson Pratt in the year 1879 in England. The third edition originally carried the phrase, "Third edition, carefully revised by the translators." This phrase has been omitted from subsequent printings. Also, page format and chapter and verse adaptations have been made as recently as the year 1920.

B. H. Roberts also states that the Book of Mormon has gone through many editions: how many is impossible to say. It can be followed through ten to twelve editions in the United States and England, and some editions are not traceable because of the use of electrotyped (copied) plates and various missions using them.

The Book of Mormon has also been translated from English into many languages throughout the years. To name a few:

Danish	1851
Welsh,	
French,	
German,	
Italian	1852

Hawaiian	1855
Swedish	1878
Spanish	1886
Maori	1889
Dutch	1890
Samoan	1903
Japanese	1909

In reviewing the printing of the Book of Mormon by the Reorganized Church, we find the following:

The Plano edition was first printed by the Reorganized Church and the Lamoni edition was based on the Plano edition. The Plano edition was based on the 1840 edition.

The Reorganized Church appointed a committee in 1906 to print a new edition of the Book of Mormon for the purpose of dividing it into chapters and verses. They also wanted to eliminate the misprints and the grammatical errors of the 1830 Palmyra edition, together with any that appeared in the 1837 Kirtland edition. The new edition, published in 1906, was known as the authorized edition.

So you see, there were many editions for our Church's committee to draw from, and since we did not have access to the original manuscript or the 1830 Palmyra edition, it was difficult for our committee to arrive at which edition of The Book of Mormon was suited to our Church's particular needs.

I have also pointed out that there were grammatical and spelling errors made in the 1830 Palmyra edition which were corrected in later editions. Critics of the Book of Mormon have been quick to cite these changes, claiming fraud and misrepresentation on behalf of Joseph Smith.

Many who find fault with The Book of Mormon apply inflexible standards to Joseph Smith, standards that they are not willing to apply to other men in ecclesiastical and political history. For every apparent inconsistency these critics find in The Book of Mormon, there is a similar difference recorded in the Bible. For instance:

In Acts 9:7, it says, "And the men which journeyed with him (Paul) stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man." But in Acts 22:9, it is recorded, "And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid: but they heard not the voice of him that spoke to me."

An Experience

By Robin Rangel

On June 1, my husband Rey and I had our daughter Rose blessed in the Church. I had hopes of seeing some members of my family in church for the first time. As our meeting progressed and the blessing took place, I realized that none of my family were going to make it to church. I told myself that maybe I should have expected this, trying to ease the hurt. But I wasn't really aware of how hurt I felt until I stood up to give my testimony. It was then that my heart was laid bare before my God, myself, and my brothers and sisters. I told them how disappointed I was, because I knew that if my family had come here just once, they would have felt the Spirit of God, and known of His love for them.

At this point, Bro. Frank Palacios stood up and I heard him speak in tongues, finishing with "Thus saith the Lord." I continued my testimony, saying how blessed I felt by the presence of all my brothers and sisters in Christ. Because of their love and care for me, I truly felt that they are my family. After I sat down, the interpretation was made known, "This is your family, thus saith the Lord." What a marvelous and wonderful blessing this was to me. I love the Lord and praise His holy name. Through this very personal message to me, My Heavenly Father took away all the sorrow and left room only for joy and love.

A HISTORY continued . . .

Note the difference in these accounts relative to one saying those who were with Paul heard a voice and the other stating that they did not hear a voice. Likewise in Luke 24:4, we read that "Two men stood by them in shining garments," and in Mark 16:5, it is recorded, "And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted."

Again note the difference between one angel in one account and two angels in the other. These differences do not in any way take away from the validity or the inerrancy of the Bible. They merely reflect the differences in observations of the various authors. We must also keep in mind the many translations that the Bible has gone through. Why, then, cannot the critics of The Book of Mormon, especially those of many religious persuasions who firmly believe in the Bible, allow for changes in The Book of Mormon mostly due to typesetting, grammatical, and spelling mistakes?

Some of the historical material in the above article has been taken from the following sources:

History of the Prophet, by Lucy Smith.

History of Church Reorganization, The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Joseph Smith and the Restoration, by Ivan J. Barrett.

A memorandum of September 8, 1892 made by John H. Gilbert Esq. at Palmyra, NY.

History of the Church, by B. H. Roberts.

Mormonism Challenge and Defense, by Rodgers and Gunn.

A TESTIMONY continued . . .

When I looked at his aging body, I thought of the number of heart attacks, strokes, and other assorted illnesses that he had survived. The ability to use our talents to their fullest is within all of us. God has proportioned a limited amount of time to each of us. To delay using our talents is not to accept God's gift.

If he were able to write, I feel this would be Basil's testimony to all.

Our Women Today

PA District Ladies' Circle Retreat

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Circles and a few sisters from Ohio met at the McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Sandy Lake, PA on the weekend of August 23 and 24 for a weekend retreat. Fifty-six sisters attended, and we were blessed also with the company of our Brother Apostle Russell Cadman.

Area President Sis. Elsie Gehly greeted everyone after the registration procedure. The theme of our seminar was, "A Shelter in the Time of Storm." Sis. Karen Progar of the Aliquippa Circle was in charge of this topic, and she was able to break down and discuss various aspects of the subject matter with much participation from all the sisters present. Our seminar was summarized in saying that life runs in a cycle, and there are storms that come up in our lives from time to time, but thank God that we have Him as our refuge.

Saturday evening Sis. Darlene Large of Levittown, PA gave a presentation entitled, "Sailing with Christ on the 'Love Boat.' " Referring to scripture from the book of Deuteronomy, she explained that the boat is the Church, and that the pilot is Jesus Christ. It was very interesting the way she illustrated how we are all needed in the Church, as all the parts of a body are necessary, and each has a purpose.

Sunday morning we held a Sunrise Singspiration at 6:30 a.m., headed by the Imperial Circle. We sang from the Songs of Zion, and it was a beautiful way to start out the Sabbath. Elders from the Fredonia Branch took charge of the Sunday service. Bro. Arthur Gehly read from I John 5:1-5. In his discourse, he continued on the theme of storms in our lives, explaining how that's the time we have to ask ourselves, "How strong am I?"

Bro. Alvin Gehly followed, saying how nature praises God by its very beauty how much more, then, should we. Our beautiful natural surroundings throughout the weekend corresponded with this theme. A few testimonies were heard, and Bro. Russell Cadman closed with words of thanksgiving to God for His Church.

During our retreat, the Vanderbilt Circle took charge of cooking and serving our meals. Everyone who took part in planning and working this weekend did a fantastic job, and we thank them. May God bless you all.



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Editorial Viewpoint

In our Church history we read how God worked with men and women in order to establish the Gospel in different parts of America. A large portion of the early saints were people of limited means; certainly not an uncommon situation in the last hundred years. Notwithstanding their lack of material resources, however, these brothers and sisters were dedicated to serving the Lord with all their hearts, and many were greatly used of Him because of their faith and diligence in keeping His commandments.

Today, we can see that the Lord has blessed us over the years, even materially. As a nation and as a Church, God has prospered us, and has increased the means by which we might enjoy our lives here on earth. While this is truly something to be thankful for, the things of the world can easily fill up our lives, and leave us with less and less time for doing the work of the Lord. We must be more careful today than ever before that this does not happen.

The history recorded in *The Book of Mormon* weaves a pattern of God's people repeatedly drifting away from Him because of the very things He had blessed them with:

"Yea, and we may see at the very time when He doth prosper His people, yea, in the increase of their fields, their flocks and their herds, and in gold, and in silver, and in all manner of precious things of every kind and art; . . . yea, and in fine, doing all things for the welfare and the happiness of His people; yea, then is the time that they do harden their hearts, and do forget the Lord their God, and do trample under their feet the Holy One—yea, and this because of their ease, and their exceeding great prosperity" (Helaman 12:2).

As we read this ancient record, we see time and time again how the Lord had to humble the Nephites, often at the hands of their warlike brethren the Lamanites, in order to bring them back to Him.

If we do not constantly watch and pray, we can easily fall victim to the many things in life which demand our time, our efforts, and our concentration. In a world where more and more importance is placed upon the consumption of material goods and services, it is not difficult to become caught up in the tide of consumerism, losing sight of the things that are truly of lasting value—the things of God.

Our late Apostle Frank Calabrese was visiting our branch recently on an MBA night. As the class discussed a portion of scripture where dissenting factions were threatening the Nephites' liberty to serve God, the point was brought out that, unlike these Nephites, we have the liberty to come to church as we please.

"We may not have our freedom of religion threatened, as these saints of old did," Brother Frank observed, "but still, many of our brothers and sisters are not in our midst tonight." As we looked around at the small group gathered there, his message became clear. One of the battles that each of us must face is that constant fight to put the Lord above everything else in our lives.

We would do well to take note of our brother's observations, and be sure we are putting the Lord first today, even as the sun shines and we enjoy His blessings. As the Nephites remembered the Lord only after the Lamanites fell upon them, let us not wait for some tragedy to come into our lives before we fall upon our knees.

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

When Jesus was killed in Jerusalem, darkness fell upon that land. Across the ocean, in the Promised Land of the Americas, a great destruction took place. Huge sprawling cities fell into the ocean. Earthquakes ripped the earth apart. Evidently volcanoes erupted, because a vapor covered the earth so thick and moist that no flame or fire would light for three days.

Those left alive in the dark felt the earth moving and heard the screams and groaning of the dying, as many screamed, "Oh, if only we had repented before this great and terrible day! If only we hadn't killed the men of God!"

In the dark, in the midst of the moaning and screaming, a voice was heard saying, "Behold, I am Jesus Christ. . . I came unto my own, and my own received me not; . . . the scriptures about my coming are fulfilled. . . Whoever repents and comes unto me like a little child, I will receive."

Across the land, all of the people heard the voice pierce through the darkness. In their astonishment they stopped their howling and weeping, and for many hours there was silence in the land."



Again the voice of Jesus spoke. He reminded the people, "How many times I would have gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would not. If you will return to me, I will still gather you and care for you. If you will not, the places where you live will become desolate. . . ."

When the people heard these words, they began to howl and weep again, remembering the lost lives of their friends and loved ones. In this way the three days of darkness did pass away. Finally, in the morning, the darkness left the face of the land, gradually the cracking of the rocks and the rendings of the earth died away; the dreadful groanings stopped.

Those that were spared began rejoicing and thanking God for preserving their lives! They stood in the daylight and marvelled at the shocking scene of destruction that surrounded them, and they remembered how the prophets had told them Jesus would be crucified and a destruction would occur. As they gathered at the temple in the land Bountiful, a still voice was heard. It was not loud or harsh, but it pierced them to their very souls. They strained to hear what the voice was saying, and their hearts pounded and their bodies began to shake. Again the voice spoke. The third time the voice was clearer to them

and as it seemed to come from above, they looked heavenward.

The voice said, "Behold my Beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, in whom I have glorified My name—hear ye him!" As they gazed upward, they saw a man coming down and he was wearing a white robe. At first the people thought he was an angel, but he spoke and said, "I am Jesus Christ. I have taken the sins of the world upon me and have glorified God by doing his will."

Everyone fell to the earth because they remembered that the prophets had promised them Christ would show himself unto them after he'd been taken into heaven.

Jesus told them, "Get up, come to me. Put your hands in my side and feel the nailprints in my hands and feet. Then you will truly know I am the God of Israel and the whole earth, who has been killed for the sins of the world."

Each person did as he said, and each witnessed that what Jesus said was true. And when they each had seen for themselves, they fell at Jesus' feet and worshipped him. In one voice they cried, "Hosanna! Blessed be the name of the most High God!"

These survivors were Nephites and Lamanites, women and men, children and aged. Crippled and not crippled, baptized and unbaptized. These were the "more righteous" of all the people. Never again would anyone of this group doubt or lose their faith. Not one of them would fall away. For them, the powerful presence and love of Jesus Christ never grew dim. Each had a powerful testimony that never would be lost. They were the generation who spoke with and touched the risen Christ.

Sister Jan

Branch and Mission News

Anadarko, OK

SEND HUNTERS AND FISHERS

I would like to inform our Church of the passing of Cathleen Chanate, a Kiowa Indian from Carnegie, Oklahoma. Many of the brothers and sisters will remember Cathleen. Whenever we had a meeting in our home, Ernest and Cathleen Chanate were always present. When we had dinner after our meetings, Ernest would always bless the food in the Kiowa language.

I remember when our very young grandson passed away, and after the service everyone attending the funeral came to our home for dinner. Our Indian friends were sitting around the table, and I played a tape from the World Missionary Conference. I played the song, Send Hunters and Fishers on the tape. I had only one copy of the words, but all of our Indian friends sang it, and have been singing it every time we get together.

Cathleen and Ernest Chanate, Kiowa Indians; and Juanita Piper, a Caddo Indian; were all in our home on May 3, 1986 when we met with Bro. Eugene Amormino and Bro. Mike LaSala from Detroit, and Brother and Sister Buffington and Brother and Sister Moore from Imperial, PA. Our road was under construction at the time, and many of Cathleen will be greatly missed by us, as well as by the Woman's Organization of the Southwest Indian Methodist Church, to which she belonged.

Bro. Bill and myself, Sis. Evelyn, were contacted when she died. I was to play the piano for the prayer service the night before the funeral, and at the funeral service as well. We heard many Indian hymns in the Kiowa and Comanche languages. Bro. Bill sang, What a Day That Will Be for the family.

We are so thankful for all our Indian friends of many different tribes. At an Indian funeral service anyone may express himself if he wishes. So I spoke of our love for Cathleen, and how we will miss her, how she and all of our Indian friends include us as part of the family. It is such a blessing to know so many from various tribes.

May God bless all our brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ,

Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Crall Anadarko, Oklahoma

Cleveland, OH

On July 20, 1986, our Sister Roberta (Bobbie) Hufnagle was ordained a deaconess in the Church. She was baptized in 1961, and now the Lord has seen fit to use her in this office.

Bro. Bill Hufnagle opened our afternoon service that day with scripture from Romans 16. Bro. Vince Gibson followed, saying how the office of deaconess is a calling from God. Our sister's feet were washed by Sis. Sevilla Gibson, and Bro. Vince Gibson ordained her.

As our sister's feet were being washed, Sis. Nancy Mayher saw a vision of a pearl in a beautiful gold setting. It was not a perfectly round pearl, which might look artificial, but it was a little bit offset, as a natural pearl would be. During the ordination, this pearl burst into a bright light. This happened three times, and Sis. Nancy, also a deaconess, understood this pearl to belong to Sis. Roberta.

Bro. Albin Mayher also had a vision during the ordination, where he saw Sis. Roberta surrounded by a band of light, about four inches wide. The elders seemed to have disappeared in the bright rays coming from this band of light. After a couple of seconds, this vision ended. We thank God for confirming His blessing in this the calling of our sister. May He bless and guide her all the days of her life.

Greensburg, PA

By Darlene Markazene

It has been one year since the Lord opened the doors for us to our beautiful new church building in Greensburg. At the same time, he has also opened the doors to many wonderful blessings.

Throughout this past year, we have enjoyed visits from brothers, sisters, and friends from various parts of God's vineyard. We have felt the power of God's Spirit spoken through our elders, heard of answered prayers, and felt God's love and grace as told through such beautiful testimonies.

It was another such day on Sunday, April 13 as we were granted a visit from Bro. David Nolfi of Glassport. Before the service began, our Brother Bob Beam sang *He May Never Pass Your Way Again*. Hearing our brother's voice in song again, after some years away from our midst, was a blessing in itself. How much more must our Heavenly Father rejoice when one returns unto Him!

Bro. David then spoke on Colossians 3:1-4. He began by asking us, "Where are our affections today?" Are our works and first loves found in the things of God, or in the vain things of this life? "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above. . . . set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth." Our brother told of the Apostle Paul's ambition to destroy the Church, until he experienced his conversion that day with Ananias, and how his life changed completely with this conviction.

And how is it with us today? How strong has our own conversion been? We can have the word of God in our possession, but the scriptures will not be sacred to us until we read, digest, and fully accept their contents—until we accept God with full conversion, that we be purged and cleansed, so that we, too, might be found risen with Christ.

We once again experienced another

meeting which we did not want to see come to an end. But as we think back over our first year in the new building, and realize how God has allowed our spiritual cups to overflow, we look ahead to this coming year with much anticipation and desire.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

August 31, 1986 will be a day to remember for the saints at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch, especially for Bro. Joe Jenio and Bro. Phil and Sis. Josephine LaColla. They were all baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ, and their sins were washed away as far as the east is from the west. Praise God for this!

Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Staley from Clairton Mission, PA were visiting our branch on this special day. At the beginning of the service, Josephine proclaimed her desire to be baptized, saying she had come to that decision earlier in the week.

Bro. Ken Staley spoke to us from Matthew 19, where a young man came to Jesus and asked Him how he might inherit eternal life. Jesus told him to go and sell what he had, and to give it to the poor. But the young man could not follow through. During the course of the service, Bro. Ken also played and sang several hymns to the honor and glory of God.

As we prepared to dismiss our service and travel to the water's edge, our new sister's husband, Phil, proclaimed that this was his day of regeneration, too. Still later in the parking lot, as we went into our cars, Joe Jenio told Bro. Louis Vitto that he, too, wanted to be baptized. Everyone was overjoyed at this news, for our Bro. Joe had been coming to church with his wife, Sis. Ida, for over forty years!!

At the flowing waters of Lake St. Clair, Brothers Joe and Phil, and Sister Josephine were baptized by Brothers Sam DiFalco, Spencer Everett, and Louis Vitto. It was a blessing to see a husband and wife, Bro. Phil and Sis. Josie, entering now into a spiritual "marriage" with the family of Jesus Christ.

After we sang I Surrender All, Bro.

(Continued on Page 8)

STERLING continued . . .

George Benyola offered a closing prayer and we all went back to the branch for the confirmations.

Bro. Spencer Everett spoke just a few words at the confirmation service, how the Holy Ghost is our teacher, how it would lead our new members, guide them, and show them things to come. We ended our day by singing the hymn *Ready to Go*, but for our new brothers and sister this was only the beginning.

Youngstown, OH

The Youngstown Branch has had several blessed events that we wish to share with you.

On April 10, 1986 the Ladies' Circle held a Mother-Daughter Banquet where we enjoyed a delightful dinner and were able to socialize with one another. President Annabel Santilli expounded briefly on the history of our circle, and told of how the members not only work together to raise funds for our church, but also that we fast and pray together. She encouraged those present that did not attend church to come and hear the Restored Gospel. Sis. Annabel spoke directly to our young women, telling them of the importance of serving God, that if they placed Him first on their lists of the day, that He would bless them. Her words were very meaningful, and we thank God that He gave us the opportunity to join together in His name.

Sunday evening, April 20, we witnessed the baptism of young Richard Santilli, who had asked at the General

<u>Address Change</u>
me
one

Church Conference in Greensburg that very morning. Back at the Branch, we heard from Bro. Dom Bucci and Bro. Don Pandone before our new brother was confirmed by his uncle, Bro. Elmer Santilli. We all felt renewed and united in the Lord, and returned to our homes late that evening with a song in our hearts.

On May 10, the Ladies' Circle sponsored a Songfest. Sis. Arlene and Bro. Bob Buffington, along with Sis. Donna and Bro. Eugene Amormino were our special guests. Our sister's experiences with the Songs of Zion were a testimony of how the Lord can work with us. The confidence that our Brother and Sister Amormino possessed as they sang these songs was another testimony of the Spirit of God.

The following day, a Sunday, our Brother Bob's words were filled with God's Spirit. He shared many beautiful experiences with the congregation. Surely, our cups were not only filled, but they were overflowing this day! We thank God that these brothers and sisters were able to make these songs become even more meaningful, more alive, and more beautiful to us.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Shelby Chambers

On July 27, 1986, Detroit Branch 1 was truly filled with God's rich blessings. After some beautiful singing by the congregation, Bro. Nick Pietrangelo opened the meeting with the 25th Chapter of Matthew about the ten virgins, five wise ones with oil in their lamps, ready to meet the bridegroom,

and five foolish who were unprepared.

Bro. Peter Scolaro followed, keeping with the same subject but showing us how we can read these words and then translate them into our lives today. We all seem to procrastinate in our everyday lives. knowing we have things to do, but putting them off, never knowing what tomorrow will hold for us. Several experiences came forth that our brothers would address this subject today, and we were blessed.

We then enjoyed a wonderful season of testimony, hearing how God works with us daily and answers our prayers. The only way we can show God how much we love Him is to put Him first in our lives and serve Him to the best of our ability.

I pray that God will continue to open our eyes and pour out His blessings among all his people.

Herndon, VA

By Esther Andrews

On May 4, 1986 Sister Iva Bordeaux was ordained into the office of deaconess. Her mother, Sister Eleanor Martin, washed her feet.

She was ordained by Brother Paul Carr. We had a number of visitors from Ohio in our midst on this day, and God's wonderful Spirit was present throughout our meeting. May God bless you all.

New Arrivals

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

Rose Elena to Reymund and Robin Rangel of Cleveland, Ohio.

Angela Erin to Paul and Sandy Ford of Kinsman, Ohio.

OBITUARY

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

LOUIS CIMINO

Brother Louis L. Cimino passed away suddenly on August 13, 1986. He was baptized on October 26, 1969.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers James T. and James P. Moore of the Imperial, PA Branch.

Our brother was 56 years old and is survived by his mother, a brother and two sisters, three children, and one grandson, all of whom will miss him dearly.



November, 1986

Volume 42, No. 11

Apostle's 75th Birthday

By Marie Fera

August 6, 1986 was a special evening of celebration in honor of Brother Gorie Ciaravino's 75th birthday. Many brothers, sisters, friends, and relatives were present to observe this happy occasion. His daughter Carol and her husband Ken Heinz flew in from San Diego, California. And his son Gordon and daughter-in-law Cindy also attended with their two daughters.

Many beautiful hymns were sung to the glory of God. Visiting Bro. Nick Pietrangelo opened in prayer, and acted as emcee for the evening. He called Bro. Gorie up to the rostrum to stand next to him, and proceeded to relate how they met and had become close friends over the past 42 years. We listened and watched our two brother apostles recount many experiences and blessings received while doing the work of the Lord, whether spiritually or naturally. We were able to feel the happiness that they displayed this evening.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity" (Psalms 133:1).

We were treated to a nostalgic trip down memory lane as we heard about Bro. Gorie's life. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on August 5, 1911 to Rose and Anthony Ciaravino. He had two sisters, Julie (Cotellesse) and Jesta (Lombardo). His parents and sister Jesta have passed away, all three in San Diego, where they had moved in 1947.

While Gorie was growing up, his family moved to different cities until they finally settled in New York. He was baptized into the Church on January 17, 1932 in Brooklyn, NY. In October of the same year, he motorcycled to Youngstown, Ohio to attend General Conference. During his stay there he was in a tragic motorcycle accident. The doctors literally gave up hope for his life, but when the Church was informed of his plight, they all went into action and exercised their faith, fasting and praying on Bro. Gorie's behalf. After six months in a body cast, our brother miraculously recovered by the healing power of God. His doctors were amazed.

"Thy faith hath made thee whole" (Matthew 9:22).

Early in 1934 the family all moved back to Detroit. In the later part of that year, what is now Branch 4 was being established as a mission under Branch 1. Brother Gorie was ordained a teacher on April 21, 1935, and nine months later was ordained into the priesthood. He has been a member of Branch 4 ever since.

On March 12, 1938 he married Sis. Antoinette Acquilino from Lorain, Ohio. Through all these years she has been a very good partner and a help to him; especially supporting him in his involvement with the Church.

"Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the Lord" (Proverbs 18:22).

On July 14, 1940, Bro. Gorie was ordained an evangelist. His outstanding service to the Lord was a good example to everyone around him. He was president of the GMBA from 1942 to 1948. But the Lord had still more work in store for Bro. Gorie.

On April 15, 1956 he was ordained into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, and he held the office of President of The Church of Jesus Christ from April 1965 to 1974.

"Glory, honor, and peace to every man that worketh good" (Romans 2:10).

After this wonderful trip through our Brother Gorie's past, we dismissed by singing his favorite hymn, *Supper Time*, and Bro. Dominic Moraca closed in prayer.

Sister Antoinette and her family then invited us all to go downstairs and continue the celebration with a birthday cake and other goodies. We extended our congratulations to our brother, and wish him many more happy birthdays in good health.



Apostle Gorie Ciaravino and his wife, Sis. Antoinette.

Greetings in Christ

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By Mark Randy

The greatest gift is the *ability* to love, to *care* for and to *share* with the *lonely*, the *forsaken*, and the *needy*. This gives life the deepest value.

Do you feel left out due to some tragedy or misfortune? Here is one of many others who does not. John Michael Syptak, who felt like giving up, decided that giving up would have been admitting defeat.

Read the story of this brave young man, then decide for yourself whether you should feel left out.

"Amid the onwards, upwards; amid words of tragedy, courage."

John Michael Syptak approached the podium with a parched throat and tight lips.

The other graduating seniors at Victor Valley High School in this desert community had spoken of pride, dreams, and self-fulfillment—the traditional speeches of optimism that accompany a commencement exercise.

But amid the flags, bands, and pomp, John spoke of a different type of optimism, one born out of disappointment and grief.

In a shaking voice, the 17-year-old valedictorian announced to the 1,000 family members and friends that he was suffering from muscular myopathy, an incurable degenerative muscle disease.

"They told me I faced the real possibility of being a total cripple in less than a year," John told the sea of greenand white-clad classmates.

"I sat in the doctor's office and cried like a baby. I was ready to give up on life, give up hope, live in self-pity, and wait for the end."

But John told his graduating class he soon realized that he wasn't ready for the end.

"To give up means admitting defeat before we've begun the game," he said.

"All of us have great potential, and each of us has our own special gifts. It is up to us to take these gifts and use them to the fullest."

John said his lifelong ambition of following in his father's footsteps as an Air Force fighter pilot had been shattered by the news of his crippling disease.

But John said he found a new direction and had accepted an offer to attend Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore as a pre-medical student.

"There's more than one path," John said. "Some are easier, but some take more work and time."

John closed his speech at the ceremonies by telling his family and friends that he was grateful for their friendship. This brought them to their feet.

For five minutes they remained standing, clapping and embracing one another.

In an interview later, John said, "I wasn't sure how people would react—I was afraid they might think I was looking for pity. But I wasn't," John said.

"Maybe my words can help others. Too many kids give up when they begin to flounder. They should have a reason to go on. They shouldn't quit at the smallest setback."

The inward strength that each of us possesses enables us to be what we want to be, victoriously.

Do not feel left out; setbacks can be turned into opportunities.

We *must not* ever feel defeated; that is *never* the answer.

History is full of brave men, women, and children who dared to fight back and won. Those like John Michael Syptak are winning today, so why not you?

The Lord before whom we stand bless you victoriously.

An Evangelist Remembered

By Joseph Perri

For though you have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: To us he was not only a husband and a natural father, but a spiritual father as well. Many of the saints on the East Coast have stated that he was their spiritual father. What he taught, he lived. His life exemplified a true saint of God.

When Eugenio Perri left his native land of Italy to come to the United States of America, at the invitation of his sister Carmella and her husband Leonard Alessio, he had no concept of what God had for him to do. His testimony was that as a young boy and as a soldier in the front lines of combat in World War I, his life was preserved many times. While coming to America on the ship, crossing the Atlantic, it was the miraculous hand of God that spared his life, he later told us.

The Lord had a purpose in sparing my father's life and bringing him to America. Shortly after his arrival here in 1920, he was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ where he met many wonderful brothers and sisters; brothers like Ishmael D'Amico, Joseph Corrado, and others who had a profound influence in his life.

Originally a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, his desire was like that of his brothers, to preach the Gospel and to bring souls to Christ. He took the counsel of these brothers in seeking the direction of God, so when the call came to bring the Gospel to New Jersey, to the family of Bro. Bill Mazzeo, he accompanied Bro. Joseph Corrado on this missionary trip, which would eventually bring him to take up residence in New Jersey.

God blessed Brothers Joseph Corrado and Eugene Perri to the extent that under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, their preaching took effect in the lives of many who obeyed the Gospel. As God added souls to the Church, the New Brunswick Branch was eventually established. Brother Eugene baptized a large number of people, and was instrumental in the establishment of the Bronx and Brooklyn Branches in New York.

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

WHY THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST DOES NOT HAVE PRIESTS IN ITS STRUCTURE

I have written the following article to show why The Church of Jesus Christ, with headquarters in Monongahela, PA, does not have priests in its structure. I pray that this document will enlighten the reader and answer the questions posed to me (and others) by various factions of the Restoration movement.

Jesus Christ established His Church in Jerusalem by calling twelve as apostles (Matthew 10:1, Mark 3:13-19, Luke 6:12-16). He also called seventy other men, who became known as evangelists (Luke 10:1-12, Acts 21:8, Ephesians 4:11, II Timothy 4:5). These are the only two quorums that Christ called. The rest of the offices recorded in Ephesians 4:11 were set apart by the Church. There is no mention of ordaining teachers, pastors, or prophets. Apparently, however, the Church had authority to set apart various officers for special ministries. Some men had many ministries and gifts; Paul, as an example, was an apostle, a prophet, and a teacher. Nowhere in the New Testament are priests mentioned as part of the structure of the Church. Christ alone is referred to as an High Priest (Hebrews 3:1, 5:5, 7:17).

The order and function of those who were called (ordained) to minister in the various offices—apostles, evangelists, and elders—was collectively referred to as the Priesthood. Peter calls it a "Royal Priesthood" (I Peter 2:9). Alma 13, in *The Book of Mormon*, never mentions the word "Priesthood" alone, but rather "High Priesthood."

There is a considerable difference be-

tween "Priesthood" and "High Priesthood." A priesthood is a group of men set apart in a religious organization to perform the various ordinances of that particular church. A "High Priesthood" signifies a special calling, "after the order of the Son of God" (Alma 13). Jesus Christ was an High Priest, called and ordained by God from the foundation of the world. Therefore, every man who is called by the Holy Spirit to administer the holy ordinances that the Lord commanded His Church to observe, has taken upon himself the "High Priesthood," not the office of an High Priest. Jesus Christ, in my estimation, was the one and only High Priest, because He alone was a sacrifice and an intercessor for the whole world. No one else can atone for the sins of another person or the world.

After His ascension into heaven, Christ descended upon this land of America, where He also established His Church. He called twelve men, who were given the distinction of "disciples." If the twelve on this land had been called apostles, Christ would have had twenty-four apostles. In order to distinguish the twelve in Jerusalem from the twelve in America, he called the former apostles, and the latter disciples.

Incidentally, the twelve disciples in America were the only ones that Jesus Christ called upon this land (III Nephi 11:21 & 22, 15:12, 19:4). They were also referred to as elders (Moroni 3:1). The Book of Mormon records that there was a continuous ordination of other men to fill the vacancies left by the original twelve disciples (IV Nephi, 14th verse).

The disciples of Christ established churches and ordained priests and teachers (Moroni 3:1). The reason why they did this—as far as I can understand the scriptures—was due to the tradition among the Nephites in ordaining priests and teachers from the days of Nephi, the son of Lehi (II Nephi 5:26, Jacob 1:18, Mosiah 23:17). This tradition spanned a period of hundreds of years.

Likewise, the apostles in Jerusalem ordained elders, teachers, and had helps and administrative offices added thereto because of the long standing tradition among their forefathers prior to the advent of Jesus Christ.

I do not find anywhere in the Holy Scriptures—unless I have overlooked something—where a prophet was ordained by other men. I do, however, read where God called and ordained some men as prophets (Jeremiah 1:4 & 5, Isaiah 6:5-9, Ezekiel 2:3). The word "prophet" has several meanings. A prophet can predict the future, as prompted by the Holy Spirit, or he can preach the Word of God by inspiration, or he can give the Word of the Lord through the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Exodus 7:1, I Samuel 10:5-8, I Chronicles 14:1, 3 & 5, 25:1).

The crux of the whole matter is this: Christ established His Church first at Jerusalem, and secondly in America. He told the Nephites on this land that He had "other sheep" that were "neither of this fold, nor of the fold in Jerusalem" (III Nephi 16:1-3). He also told them that He was going to minister unto the other folds (tribes). It is only logical that He would establish His Church among the "other sheep" as well. Whether or not He gave different names to His disciples in the churches of these "other sheep," we do not know. The coming forth of other books (records) will reveal this truth.

The Church on this land of America enjoyed a "Peaceful Reign" for approximately 180 years before it began to apostatize, or fall away. On the other hand, the Church that Christ had established in Jerusalem, which had extended itself outside of Jerusalem, began to apostatize shortly after its inception. Paul, the apostle, noted emphatically that "the mystery of iniquity doth already work (II Thessalonians 2:7). John, another apostle, said that "The spirit of antichrist" was already in the world (I John 4:3). Peter argued that "there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies," etc. (II Peter 2:1).

History is replete with evidences relative to the falling away of the Church from its very infancy. Baptism was changed from immersion in the open waters to pool baptism approximately one hundred years from the birth of Christ. Sprinkling and pouring in lieu of immersion followed shortly thereafter. Substitution of bread and wine-when observing the Lord's Supper-for a simple wafer, and the changing of the Church's very structure also followed (See It Is Written: Truth Shall Spring Out of the Earth, by V. James Lovalvo). I am pointing all these things out to show that it was the Church in Jerusalem, established by Christ, that first "fell away," and not the Church established by Christ in America. It is reasonable, then, to

(Continued on Page 4)

November, 1986

Thank You

4

We wish to thank the many brothers and sisters for their sympathy and the condolences offered us in the recent loss of Brother Frank Calabrese.

Please continue to remember Sister Romy in prayer.

Bro. Joe Calabrese

EVANGELIST continued . . .

Other brothers were called and ordained. The work began to spread, and because of this original missionary effort, there are now nine branches, two established missions, and missionary work being conducted in three other locations in the Atlantic Coast. A number of the brothers who were baptized by Bro. Eugene moved to Florida, and a number of branches have since been established there.

Brother Perri labored for 44 years in the Atlantic Coast, serving as presiding elder of New Brunswick and first counselor of the district, before moving to Jupiter, Florida. He was a member of the Lake Worth Branch for the last 14 years of his life.

His span in the Church was two and a half months shy of 65 years, spending 63 of those years in the Quorum of Evangelists.

During his recent illness he impressed not only upon us, his family, but also all the brothers and sisters of the Church who came to see him, the importance of keeping close to God and obeying His commandments. This life, he said, is very short in comparison to the eternal reward that awaits us in the kingdom of God.

During the last days of his life, his testimony to the family was that he upheld the Faith and Doctrine of the Church, the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He never introduced anything that would bring reproach or would hinder the work of God, and he was ready to meet his Friend, who was Jesus Christ.

God called our husband and father home to his eternal reward on May 29, 1986, at the age of 88 years. His words of counsel and encouragement will be sadly missed, but because of the hope which Jesus Christ has given, we shall meet in heaven. On behalf of my mother, Sister Betty Perri, my brother Eugene Perri, Jr., and my sister Lydia Mazzeo, we would like to thank our brothers and sisters throughout the Church for your many prayers, cards, and phone calls during our loved one's illness and more recently his passing. Please remember our family in prayer as we face the days ahead that God will grant us courage and comfort.

God bless all.

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

assume that the Restored Church in these the latter days should be modeled after the Church in Jerusalem, as that was the original pattern of His Church.

Early in the Restoration era, Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery were called "apostles" by the revelation of God (according to their records). Smith, Cowdery, and David Whitmer were also given a commandment to call twelve men as special "witnesses." Please note: The above two revelations were accepted as such by the aforementioned men and the then-established church. The Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonite) has not accepted either the Book of Commandments or the Doctrine and *Covenants* as part of its faith or tenets. I merely mention these two revelations, which they accepted, to show how they did not adhere to the very direction which they believed came from the Lord.

If God had called Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery "apostles," logic would substantiate and favor the calling of twelve apostles. What better choice would there have been than the twelve men who bore testimony of having witnessed the angel of God, and also of having seen and touched the plates from which Joseph Smith translated *The Book of Mormon?* None of these witnesses were called. Instead, twelve High Priests were called and ordained. The first quorum of Twelve Apostles was called in 1835. This, in my estimation, was a grievous mistake.

If the original pattern of the Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ was set in Jerusalem—and it was the first to fall away—then the Restored Church of Jesus Christ must have the same structure, i.e., apostles, evangelists, elders, teachers, deacons, etc. as did the original Church in Jerusalem, rather than having elders, priests, and teachers as the Church in ancient America. Consistent with this structure, the Church must be founded on Christ's Gospel, not man's. To the disciples on this land He said, "And how be it my church save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses' name then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel" (III Nephi 27:8).

The Restored Gospel and the Restored Church was meant to be brought back to its former and original state. "Restoration" also means a representation of the original form (structure). Therefore, since The Church of Jesus Christ established by the Lord Himself in Jerusalem was the original one, reason dictates that His Church in the latter days must be patterned after the first (original) Church in Jerusalem.

SUMMARY:

1) The Church established by Jesus Christ in Jerusalem was the first and original one.

2) The Church established by Christ in America was the second one.

3) Jesus Christ was going to visit the other sheep (tribes) that were neither of the fold of Jerusalem nor of the fold in America.

4) The Church established by Christ in Jerusalem was the first to fall away (apostatize).

5) The Church among the Nephites in America did not begin to fall away until after approximately 180 yers had passed since the birth of Christ.

6) The Church restored in the latter days must be patterned after the Church in Jerusalem, with apostles, evangelists, elders, teachers, etc., and not after the second church in America, which had elders, priests, and teachers.

My prayer is that some day all those that seek after Truth will be joined together in the same brotherhood of faith, and be the "one fold" under the One and Only Shepherd, Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

And by the power of the Holy Ghost ye may know the truth of all things. (Moroni 10:5).



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Those of us who attended the October General Church Conference are excited and uplifted to see the tremendous work of The Church of Jesus Christ moving forward with greater momentum.

A noteworthy step was taken when the priesthood once again endorsed the Free Will Percentage Giving program as the primary means to fund all of the missionary endeavors and operating needs of the General Church. In response to many requests for a guideline, this year's endorsement included a suggestion that each of us donate the tenth part of our income toward the immense task of establishing God's kingdom here on earth. As the endeavors of the Church are limited to a large extent by a lack of material resources, it is hoped that this measure will allow the Gospel to go forth more freely to those who haven't yet heard.

This plan, however, will only work if we give with a united purpose. As individuals, we have an inclination to channel our contributions into areas where we can sense the results, whether it be toward our own branches or missions, or to another work that we're familiar with through contact with our brothers and sisters. While any donation is certainly pleasing in the sight of God, giving to the Church in this haphazard manner can result in an inappropriate distribution of funds, with an individual project's financial support depending upon its public exposure and popular appeal more than its priority as established by the Church.

Our missionaries, called by God to preach the Restored Gospel unto the dying souls of men, have a great work to do in their respective fields. They should not have to spend their time and energy in soliciting funds as well. In order to look after their temporal needs, the Lord has blessed our Church with competent, dedicated brothers on the General Board of Missions and the Finance Committee, who concentrate for several days each year on drawing up a spending plan for the missionary program of the Church.

These brothers, who propose this spending plan to the Conference, are the most qualified to allocate our funds. They have the whole picture of the Church in front of them, as it were, and they know best where the greatest needs are. If we as individuals are distributing and allocating our gifts to the Church solely as we see fit, we are in effect cancelling out these brothers' efforts to move the Church forward in the manner agreed upon by our priesthood. Only *after* we have contributed our part to the team effort of the Church through the Free Will Percentage Giving program should we consider making an additional donation to a favorite project.

As we all make a more concerted effort to move this Gospel forward, let us give with a common purpose: simply, to see the kingdom of God flourish on the face of the earth. Let us resist the temptation to 'earmark' our gift to the Lord for specific projects while withholding our substance from other needs that the Church has deemed important enough to include in the spending plan. As we all give more liberally through the established free will system, our branches will benefit, our districts will have more to work with, and the General Church will at last be able to provide generously for every established mission and project, with ample funds in reserve for all the new work which, according to the Word of God, is sure to spring up across the nation and throughout the world.

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock

The Children Who Never Forgot

Dear Girls and Boys,

Has something ever happened to you that was so special that you know you'll never forget it?

Well, that is what happened to the children in the Promised Land of North and South America when they met Jesus. Each and every girl and boy never forgot the real power and the true beauty of our Lord Jesus Christ. Every one of them loved Jesus with their whole heart and mind and soul.

When they grew up, they told their children about the love of Jesus and their children believed in Jesus too, and served Him with all of their hearts. The whole country—the whole continent was filled with people who loved Jesus and each other.

No one was afraid. No one stole, or killed, or hurt each other. The people shared every good thing they owned. If one had a beautiful possession, he gave it to another, and then someone gave the giver something, and on and on.

No little children were afraid to step outside or play wherever they wanted. No one was a dangerous stranger.

All this happened because every single person left alive after the great destruction was a good, loving person. Not everyone was baptized, and thousands were children who were baptized after they grew up, but each one was chosen by God to live through the destruction and live in the Promised Land.

This is what happened: In the Americas a special Indian prophet travelled in the cities, warning all the wicked people to stop their sins and ask God to forgive them. The Indian man was Samuel the Lamanite. Even when people tried to kill him for telling them the truth, he kept on talking. Other preachers did, too.

Samuel told them a new king was going to be born named Jesus Christ, a wonderful man who would teach us all how to live and how to trust each other. First everyone would see a great light, and a day without a night.

That would signal Christ's birth. Then thirty-odd years later, Jesus Christ would allow people to kill His body, so He could show people that there really was a heaven. He came back after they'd killed Him, and He showered His beautiful, powerful love on those that believed in His teachings and tried to do His will.

After many warnings in the Promised Land, the people were told that God would send a big destruction upon the land if people would not live cleanhearted, loving lives.

The children went to church meetings with their parents and heard the ministry beg the people to stop being evil. Finally the day that Samuel and all the others had preached about arrived! The earth shook, huge cities by the ocean slid into the water. Tornadoes destroyed thousands of buildings, and sinners were carried off in the whirlwinds. Other cities were buried by earthquakes.

Only the most righteous were saved. After three terrible days of moaning and darkness, the people who were left alive heard Jesus' voice. He called to His children, and finally He came from the sky into the middle of where they were and blessed them, and taught them. Angels were in their midst. Fire circled the little children, a holy fire that didn't burn or hurt them but just filled them with the Holy Spirit's wonderful strength. These children spoke beautiful prophecies and wisdom—so beautiful that the Lord wouldn't let anyone write it down. But the children knew what they felt. They loved God with all their hearts. They never forgot what had happened to them.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

WHIRLWIND	MAN
WICKED	WOMAN
PEOPLE	CHILD
DESTROYED	INDIAN
GOD	JESUS
HOLY	JEW
PROPHET	DIED
SAMUEL	FOR
SAMUEL	FOR
WARNED	OUR
EVERY	SINS

M	A	N	Р	D	D	I	Е	D	Е
W	H	I	R	L	W	Ι	N	D	L
I	0	N	0	I	E	R	E	D	P
С	L	Α	P	H	v	Y	0	F	0
K	Y	М	Н	C	0	K	0	F	E
Е	R	0	Е	R	L	J	U	J	Р
D	Е	W	Т	D	Е	N	R	A	W
G	V	s	N	I	S	U	S	E	J
0	Е	I	N	D	I	A	N	0	E
D	S	A	M	U	Е	L	A	D	W

New Publication

A Dissertation on the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ, by V. James Lovalvo, is now available from the Print House.

In this book, Apostle V. J. Lovalvo "has elaborated upon the articles of faith and doctrine which are the basic precepts of The Church of Jesus Christ."

You can purchase this new publication from your branch librarian or directly from the Print House at a cost of \$8.00. If you are ordering from the Print House, make your check payable to The Church of Jesus Christ and use the following address: Print House, 8423 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115



Branch 3 Observes Triple Anniversary

By Cathy Mulla

The saints from the Harrison, MI Mission joined the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 3 on Sunday March 16, 1986 to pay tribute to three sisters celebrating their golden anniversaries in the Church. The three sisters honored were Grace Furitano, Catherine Taormina, and Josephine Riina.

The church building was filled to capacity that morning, and Bro. Paul Whitton made some opening comments before proceeding with a brief synopsis of Sis. Grace's life. She was born to Bro. Joseph and Sis. Josephine Trupiano on March 30, 1915 in Detroit, MI. She was baptized on April 12, 1936 by Bro. Patsy DiBattista and confirmed by Bro. Silverio Criscuolo at Detroit Branch 3.

She was married in 1938 to the late Bro. John Furitano, and of their four children, three are in the Church: Rose Mary, Josephine, and Kathleen. Our Sister Grace was presented with a corsage, and she expressed her thankfulness to God for staying by her side and never leaving her, especially in times of need.

Bro. Jack Pontillo followed with a summary of Sis. Catherine's life. The natural sister of Sis. Grace Furitano, she was born on June 10, 1919 in Detroit. On March 1, 1936 she was baptized by Bro. Patsy DiBattista and confirmed by Bro. Silverio Criscuolo.

After she received her corsage, Sis. Catherine expressed her thankfulness



Sisters Catherine Taormina, Grace Furitano, and Josephine Riina of Detroit Branch 3 join the ranks of those with 50 years in the Church.

to God for His guidance throughout her life and His blessings through difficult childbirths. She was especially grateful today to see all eight of her grandchildren in church today and expressed her hope to see each one make a commitment to the Lord some day. She cherishes every moment she's in church, because she now lives quite a distance away and does not always have the opportunity to attend.

Presiding Elder Gary Coppa honored our Sister Josephine Riina. She was born on September 25, 1920 in Detroit, MI to Bro. Sam and Sis. Grace Taormina. She was baptized February 23, 1936 by Bro. Silverio Criscuolo and confirmed at Detroit Branch 1 by Bro. Anthony Ruzzi.

Sis. Josephine transferred to Branch 3 in 1950, and has remained here ever since except for five years, 1963-1968, when she lived in California and was a member of the Valley Branch. With her corsage pinned on, she expressed her heartfelt thankfulness to God. She mentioned that her baptism day is one day she will never forget. Upon meeting the Church, she was overwhelmed at the wonderful things spoken about God.

On the day she was baptized, it was cold, and the brothers had to chop through the ice to baptize her. The saints at the shore were waiting for her with blankets, but she was already warmed by the Spirit of God. She has endured many hardships over the years, including the loss of her brother, but she is thankful to God for His strength and comfort. She expressed her appreciation for her family and is especially thankful to have a daughter in the Church, Sis. Grace Bashaw of the Sterling Heights Branch.

At this point, all the brothers and sisters with fifty years or more in the Church came up and sang *Count Your Blessings*. There were twelve of them singing all together, and it is a blessing to have them in our midst.

Bro. Silverio Criscuolo, visiting from Harrison, MI, continued the service by praising God for His blessings. He elaborated on the greatness of the power of God, and warned those that have not yet rendered their obedience to Him that there is *no* chance beyond this life. All who are born into this life must recognize that God is God. His Son was sent down for each and every one of us. Christ gave His life for us. We are not just a group of people wasting time and playing games. God is real. Bro. Silver then directed our attention to Matthew 7:24, citing that the **Rock** is Jesus Christ Himself. He also exhorted us to build our treasures in heaven, so that our hearts will be there also. As one can identify a tree by the fruit it bears, we must remember that a saint can be identified by his or her works and faith. Bro. Silver concluded by noting that we are accountable for our actions, and it is our mission to be fruitful in spreading the Word of God.

Brother Peter H. Capone followed, stating how it is God's plan to have all mankind saved from sin, but it is up to us to put forth the effort. Jesus is our only salvation. He is our only life. To die in sin is eternal death, but through baptism, we are given life. We must first seek the Kingdom of God, and follow Him with full purpose of heart. Bro. Pete expressed his concern for all those ill and suffering throughout the Church, especially in the priesthood. He noted that God has everything at His command-even cures-but we are the ones that must reach out. The search concludes when we serve Him with full purpose of heart and real intent!

Bro. Gary Coppa summarized the day's events and commended our three sisters for enduring fifty years in the Gospel, overcoming the oppositions they all faced. He expressed our joy in our sisters, but felt a concern for those who have refused to take up the cross of glory and follow in the footsteps of our Savior. The meeting was dismissed with *Oh, Where Are My Children?* We then enjoyed the fellowship of our visitors over lunch.

This day, we give honor and glory to God for the strength He has given our three sisters in serving Him these fifty years. Their dedication will not be forgotten. Each one has uniquely set an example of faith, charity, longsuffering, hope, and endurance. We pray that God's Spirit will remain with them for the remainder of their days on earth, and overflow to the hearts of others close to them. Amen.

San Carlos 25th

There's still time to reserve your place at the San Carlos Mission's 25th Anniversary Celebration, to be held the weekend of November 22 and 23, 1986.

For further details and registration information, please write or call: Philip Damore, 8361 E. Earll Dr., Scottsdale, AZ 85251, (602) 946-7697 8

An Experience

On August 22, 1986 I had surgery on my foot. The doctor told me it would be a very painful surgery, and that I'd have to stay off my feet for two or three weeks. The Wednesday evening before my operation, we went to church and I asked to be anointed.

The surgery went well. There was no pain, as the doctor said there would be. When I went back for a checkup, the doctor found my foot healed. He marvelled at my speedy recovery.

Six months ago, my husband had the same operation. The doctor told me, "Of all the patients that I have, you and your husband are the only ones who didn't have to take pain pills to kill the pain." I said, "We believe in God, and God healed us and took the pain away!"

We are both recovered from our surgery. We'd like to praise God, for He's still on His throne and hears and answers prayers.

God bless you,

Sis. Carmella D'Amico Rochester, NY

My Testimony

By Nancy M. Micale

I became acquainted with The Church of Jesus Christ through my husband, Tony, and had been attending for a little over six years, or since we were married. From the beginning I saw the goodness of the Church and the very special love within the brothers and sisters, but the Spirit was not with me, and I was plagued with doubts.

I nevertheless prayed continuously that God would be patient with me and work to help strengthen me. He worked, for the most part, in touching me through my children. I can see this more clearly now as I look back.

The Lord knows our hearts, and I'm sure He knew how receptive I'd be. One time, when my daughter was two and a half years old, she was troubled with growing pains in her legs and had cried off and on for two nights straight. During that time, I got very little sleep. On the third night, while putting her to bed, I said to her in a tired and frustrated voice, "Please stay in bed tonight." "There is nothing I can do," she replied, "sometimes my legs just hurt." Again I pleaded strongly, "Stay in bed." Not knowing what to do, she looked up at me and said, "Let's talk about Jesus."

"How obvious," I thought to myself, "Ask the Lord for help." So I prayed aloud at her bedside, and she slept until 8:30 the next morning, something she never had done even without pain.

Also, a few weeks before my baptism, as I was leaving church, I lingered at the stairs with my son, watching the sisters get ready for feet washing. As I turned to leave, my son said to me, "Mommy, why don't you take the bread?" His question pierced my heart, and I wanted to cry. I thought to myself, "I don't know why."

Soon after that, my family and I went to the GMBA Campout at Epworth Forest, Indiana. I prayed the week before that I would receive a blessing, but as I prayed I was never expecting my baptism.

During the Monday night service at camp I became extremely uncomfortable, feeling as if the elders were preaching directly at me, and at first I was offended. I even felt that they were looking at me. "How unfair," I thought, "Who put them up to this?"

As this uncomfortable feeling continued, I asked the elders to lay hands on me for spiritual guidance and strength. Brent Smith went up after I did for the healing of his ankle, but before he went back to his seat, he had asked for his baptism. Tongues were spoken during this time and the interpretation came forth, "Don't wait until tomorrow."

We all proceeded to the water's edge. It was dark, but so very beautiful. A tremendous battle began to rage inside of me. What started it was that they began to sing *Amazing Grace*. This had always been the most touching hymn I knew, so I turned to Sandy Smith and asked, "Do they *always* sing this song?" I really thought they were singing for me. Sandy said, "Not always."

Next, my son said to me, "Look, Mommy. Lightning, but no rain." I saw nothing. Was this a sign? I looked over the water as Brent's father, Bro. Ike Smith, was baptizing him. The feeling came over me, "How symbolic—father and son. The Lord is showing me." I fought the impulse to step up to the water's edge. Then, a young girl, Rebekah Gerace, walked up to the water and her father, Bro. Tony Gerace, baptized her. I felt myself moving closer to the water. My son said to me, "Mommy, look how calm the water is." Again a strong urge came over me to go into the water. The Lord was beckoning to me.

The last sign I recall was when I looked into my daughter's eyes. My husband Tony was holding her, and she said to me, "Mommy, are you going into the water?" With that, I replied in a determined voice, "Yes, I am! I felt myself starting to take off my shoes, as Sis. Betty D'Orazio later told me she saw me do. But at that split second, the congregation turned to proceed back to the auditorium. One last time, I stopped short of making my commitment.

I said nothing more, but proceeded back to church with my family. We sat down and everyone started to sing. I tried, but all I could do was mouth the words. There was sickness in my stomach and a terrible depression, an emptiness, in my heart. I thought to myself, "That was my calling, and I rejected it."

The Lord had been so patient with me, maybe my calling would not come again for a long time; maybe never. A feeling of hopelessness came over me. How could I live with this depression?

The meeting came to a close and as we got up to leave, Sis. Mamie Funkhouser came over to me and said, "I thought for *sure* you were going into the water." I said, "Mamie, I was supposed to, but I didn't." She told me it wasn't too late. A flicker of hope came back. As others came around, I said that I wanted to go into the water. It was ten o'clock by then, and someone said, "You know you can always go tomorrow." I said, "I will," and was relieved to know that I would soon make my covenant with God.

The next day came, and what a beautiful day it was—crystal clear like I'd never seen it. We went down to the river and sang *Amazing Grace* again. It was an emotion that can be appreciated only by those who have experienced it.

That evening I was confirmed, and during this ordinance, tongues were spoken and immediately interpreted: "Thus saith the Lord, and this I will do also to all those who come unto me; I

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Harrison, MI

By Cathy Mulla

Sunday March 2, 1986 was a very special day at the Harrison Mission in Michigan. We rejoice to announce that on this day a new name was written down in glory as Pamela Lori Kay Bond asked for her baptism, and therefore, received Christ as her Savior and Redeemer.

Sis. Pamela was introduced to the Church by another new member, Sis. Michele Kruggel, who had been baptized just a few short weeks before. The two were friends in the world, but now they can be called sisters in Christ. Sister Michele is the granddaughter of Sister Mary Criscuolo.

Bro. Paul Whitton from Detroit Branch 3 was the visiting elder that day. He chose as his text III Nephi 27:10-22. He later baptized Sis. Pamela in the Cedar River. Our sister was then confirmed by Bro. Silver Criscuolo.

We are happy to receive Sis. Pamela into the fold of God and pray that as a young person (she is 18 years old), she may have courage to face any opposition with the knowledge that God will guide her as she nurtures that small seed now planted within her. May the Spirit of God abide with her always.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

July 20, 1986 was another special day for the saints of McKees Rocks. Visitors came from Lorain, Ohio, Aliquippa, Glassport, Monongahela, and Greensburg to witness the ordination of Bro. Ralph Ciotti as a teacher.

Our morning service began with a special event—the blessing of a child. Bro. Paul Ciotti asked God's blessing upon Jacob Tyler Mitchell, son of Randy and Monica Mitchell, and grandson of Bro. Ralph and Sis. Arlene Ciotti.

Bro. John Manes opened our morning service, reading from Proverbs 18:24. He spoke to us about friendship and how we develop friendships over the years. We have those that have been true friends, while others might not have been so true. Bro. John stated that of all the friends we have in this life, there is none greater than Jesus Christ. He will never fail, deceive, or leave us. Our brother said that if we want to maintain our friendship with the Lord, we must continually be submissive to His commandments: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you."

In our afternoon service, as we prepared for the ordination, Bro. Bill Colangelo read the duties of a teacher. He spoke of this office, of its purpose and function in the Church. Bro. Ralph's feet were washed by Bro. Paul Ciotti, Jr. Our brother was then ordained into the office of a teacher by Bro. Dick Lawson. Truly a humble spirit prevailed. A number of experiences were given relative to our brother's calling. We know that our brother, who has been a dedicated deacon over the years, will continue to be a diligent worker for the Lord. Bro. Ralph expressed his thankfulness to God for the multitude of blessings in his life, and for the opportunity to do something for the Lord.

We praise God for a beautiful day in the service of the King.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

On September 7, 1986, many saints witnessed a very special occasion. Brother John Straccia was ordained into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The service began with the singing of Wave the Flags of Zion. Many visiting brothers from throughout the Michigan-Ontario District were here this morning. We were especially privileged to have with us Brothers Paul Palmieri, Joseph Calabrese, and Dominic Thomas. District President Leonard A. Lovalvo opened our meeting in prayer, after which our Brother Dominic was inspired to talk about the many aspects of the priesthood of the Church. He used the Apostle Paul's letter to Titus to illustrate the ordination of a minister called of God. Bro. Thomas explained how any congregation has within it many different needs, and that it must

be fed in a way that will inspire, uplift, and edify it, that all its needs might be met. Many of the ordinances administered by the priesthood were enumerated, such as baptism, blessing of little children, administering sacrament, anointing the sick with oil, and visiting those that are in need.

Brother Thomas Everett of Branch 1 washed Bro. John's feet, and Bro. Alex Gentile from Branch 2, where our Brother John grew up, ordained him into the priesthood as the brothers gathered around him.

Bro. Paul Palmieri then exhorted us with words from on high, as he spoke from Helaman 10, where the Lord comforts faithful Nephi. This the Lord did because Nephi had with unwearyingness declared the word among the Nephites. As the saints of God are also faithful to the Gospel today, the Lord will comfort us as he did in Nephi's time. Bro. Paul touched on the day when Bro. John Straccia was baptized into the Church eighteen years ago in the Mississippi River.

Bro. Joseph Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio also spoke. He said that Bro. John was ordained through the foreknowledge of God, on account of his exceeding faith and good works. He was not ordained after the order of the priesthood of Melchizedek, but after the order of the Son of God.

When we met again at the branch that evening, our newly-ordained Bro. John expressed himself, saying that he had a feeling of inadequacy, not that he couldn't perform the Lord's work, but pointing to the fact that he needs the brothers and sisters' prayers and support, and most of all, God's help, for him to perform this work. He closed his remarks by saying that we must all grow together in Christ, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, and be perfected in Him.

Afterward, we all went downstairs for refreshment and more fellowship. We praise God for this blessed day.

Tampa, FL

On August 31, 1986, Linda Darlene Walton was taken down to the waters of baptism by Bro. Saverio Risola. Later that day, she was confirmed by Bro. Michael Radd.



Brothers Steve and Tony DeCaro, Bob Watson, David Majoros, and Eugene Amormino join their talents at Tse Bonito's Musical Learning Program.

Tse Bonito, NM

By Tony DeCaro

FOR BEAUTIFUL MUSIC, SAY "BONITO," OR IS THAT TSE BONITO?

It was nothing short of thrilling to work with Brothers Eugene Amormino, David Majoros, and Steve DeCaro during the week of August 6. This was the second Musical Learning Program hosted by the brothers and sisters of our Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch.

Was it a success? Considering the friendships that were launched or renewed, the spirit of cooperation, the beautiful singing, the fun, the food, the fellowship and the hospitality, the answer is very simply, **yes**.

I could not begin to name everyone who played such important roles in the week's activities. In addition to the spirit of harmony that we all felt, the Spirit of God was made evident in our Sunday meeting. Brother Eugene opened the service, preaching from the sixth chapter of Isaiah, and Brother David followed. There was a beautiful spirit in the preaching and in the singing, and several came forward for prayer. The gift of tongues was manifested, with the interpretation given as, "I am Jehovah," and "Speak, that I may speak."

As great as all this may sound, everything was *not* perfect. The trip was a long and tiring one, it rained every afternoon, there were a lot of hungry mosquitos, we stayed up late and rose early . . . and . . . I'll be there next year!

Note: Live performances of "Summer 1985" and "Summer 1986" are available on cassette tape, for \$7.00 each, through Bro. Bruce Gamache, 8615 Devon Circle, LaPalma, CA 90623. His telephone number is 714-735-6009.

Detroit Branch 4

By Marie Fera

We wish to express our love to all the saints and we have the same goal as you—we are striving for the crown of everlasting life. We have had many good meetings in the past year. We are few in number, as always, but the Spirit of our Lord is always in our midst. We thank Him for the blessings He bestows upon us. We have had many visitors from different branches, which is encouraging and uplifting to our spiritual morale.

We are happy to report that in the past year, two of our members have returned to the fold of God—Sis. Louise Bruno and Bro. Jonathan Marinetti. We were also happy to accept the transfers of Bro. Phil and Sis. Carmen Buffa from Saline Mission, and earlier in the year the transfer of Sis. Patty (Gioia) Pianko from Branch 1.

We sadly said good-bye to Bro. Nick and Sis. Yolanda Pietrangelo. He was acting as our presiding elder for the past two years, and as we grew closer we learned to love them both very much.

Our presiding elder, Bro. Anthony Lovalvo just returned with his wife Sis. Anne from spending a few days in Independence, MO. He brought us up to date on the work that is going on there. Please pray for the work there.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to all the saints who feel the loss of their loved ones; we still mourn our Sister Catherine Benedetto, who passed away on the first of the year. She was a great pillar of our branch, and of the Church in Detroit. We all loved her, and we miss her very much.

"The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).

Quincy, FL

By Meredieth Martin

'WATERS OF MORMON' AT QUINCY

In the visibility of thought or within the sacredness of the soul, a picture is formulated—a fountain of pure water. It is this picture, portraying the glory and the magnificence of God, which no mortal tongue nor earthly language can describe—the joy which rushes in to accompany and make the picture a reality, an experience, a blessing from God. This picture is that of a young girl who attended The Church of Jesus Christ since she was about five years old. This little one was always captured with love for the saints and for the Church.

On Sunday, July 20, 1986 this young lady stood at the beautiful 'waters of Mormon' at Quincy, nature ringing out and being displayed in every particular. "He speaks, and the sound of His voice is so sweet, the birds hush their singing." Nature became so wondrously silent, as if beholding, witnessing the glory of this spectacular sight.

A penitent soul who responded to that small sound tapping at the door. "Behold," the Lord said, "I stand at the door and knock, if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him, and he with Me."

Calling her by name, Abbie Gale Denese Barnes, Bro. John Gray asked, "Do you repent of your sins?" Humbly responding, the candidate replied, "Yes." "Do you promise to serve God to the best of your ability the remaining days of your life?" Again the response, "Yes."

After the Divine Authority was declared, she was planted into the liquid grave and arose, a new creature, leaving the body of sin behind. Immediately her countenance revealed the blessing of responding to the will of God. She was confirmed into the Church by Bro. Cleveland Baldwin. Heaven and earth rehearse with joy over Sister Abbie Gale Denese Barnes, a new name written down in glory.

Youngstown, OH

By Karen M. Pezzenti

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On Wednesday evening, June 4, 1986 the brothers and sisters of the Youngstown Branch, along with family and friends, bade our dear Bro. Dom and Sis. Mary Bucci a fond farewell as they move on to make a new home in Erie, PA. A special service was held as Evangelist Ralph Berardino spoke of the many happy and fulfilling memories of his travels with Bro. Dom to visit the saints. He spoke of the blessings that our Lord allowed the two of them to share together on many, many occasions. Bro. Dom spoke to us, giving a brief history of his life in the Church. He was baptized on October 9, 1938 by Bro. A. A. Corrado, and confirmed by Bro. Rocco Berardino. He was ordained an elder on January 17, 1943 and an evangelist on October 22, 1950. On March 18, 1945 he had the privilege of baptizing his wife, Sis. Mary, who was confirmed that day by Bro. Tony Corrado. She has been a support unto our brother as he carried out his many duties through his years in the Church. She has been a loving and helpful sister to all.

The Lord has gifted our Brother Dom with the ability to clearly deliver the message of The Book of Mormon. One of his last sermons in our branch was on "The Freedom in This Land of America" and how the Lord has blessed the people in this land. He had a special request that we sing God Bless America, and he read from Alma 46:11.

The spirit of love that our Bro. Dom carries within his heart as he speaks of and teaches about the Restoration is felt among all the brothers and sisters, and a beautiful blessing is always shared.

A covered-dish dinner followed, whereby all enjoyed both food and fellowship. Brother Dom and Sister Mary both expressed how deeply appreciative they were for this special evening, and how much they were sincerely going to miss us all. A group picture of everyone in the Youngstown Branch was presented to them. This brought so much joy to the two of them! We, too, will miss both of them and we hold a prayer in our hearts that God will bless them in their new home in Erie. We thank God that He has allowed them to fellowship with us all these years!

TESTIMONY continued . . .

will write their names in the Lamb's book of life." I received the gift of the Holy Ghost, and oh, what a blessing!

The next morning while in my seminar I listened to the brothers and sisters speak of miracles and great healings they had witnessed or experienced, and now there was no doubt or disbelief in my mind. I was free, thank God, of the plaguing doubt.

I am now reading with eagerness, to learn and understand the true Gospel of Jesus Christ, and I pray daily that He will direct me in all matters.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding; for the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. (Proverbs 3:13 & 14)

New Arrivals

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

Jacob Tyler to Randy and Monica (Ciotti) Mitchell of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Robert Owen to Robert and Mary Revercomb of Lorain, Ohio.

Ashley Cora to Bob and Renee Shaloo of Metuchen, New Jersey.

Jessica Corinne to William and Robin (Costarella) Speece of Youngstown, Ohio.

* WEDDINGS *

MARTORANA-ROSS

Bro. Brian Martorana and Sis. Rhonda Ross were united in holy matrimony on July 12, 1986 at a beautiful garden service in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA.

The ceremony was officiated by the fathers of the bride

and the groom, Bro. John Ross, Jr., and Bro. Russ Martorana.

Musical selections were presented by Bro. Tom Smith on the piano and Bro. Luis Pacheco, who sang and played the guitar.

The newlyweds are residing in Warren, Ohio. We wish God's abundant grace upon them both.

<u>LEWIS-CIOTTI</u>

Kevin Richard Lewis and Sister Debra Lynn Ciotti were joined in holy matrimony on August 30, 1986 at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The wedding ceremony was officiated by Bro. Paul Ciotti, uncle of the bride, with the assistance of Bro. Bill Colangelo, the bride's grandfather, and Bro. Frank Ciotti, her uncle.

Musical selections were presented by Sis. Nina DiCenzo and Bro. Paul Ciotti, Jr.

The newlyweds are residing in Canonsburg, PA. May God bestow His richest blessings upon them.

(Continued on Page 12)

WEDDINGS continued . . .

ALBERT-LARIMER

Mark Albert and Carole Diane Larimer were united in marriage on August 16, 1986 by Brother Arthur Gehly of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The bride is a granddaughter of Bro. Russell and Sis. Ethel Cadman.

Musical selections were presented by Michelle Moody. The newlyweds are making their home in West Germany. May God bless them in their new life together.

CRAEGER-ALABURDA

Bro. Daniel Craeger and Sis. Mary Alaburda were joined in marriage on September 27, 1986 in San Diego, California.

Brothers Paul Liberto and Bob Womack officiated at the ceremony. The bride's brother-in-law, Bro. Rey Rangel of Cleveland, Ohio provided musical selections on voice and guitar.

The couple are residing in San Diego, CA. May God richly bless them as they start out together.

OBITUARIES

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

MARK LOMBARDO

Brother Mark Lombardo of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch passed on to his eternal reward on August 7, 1986, after a prolonged illness. He was born December 28, 1959 and made his covenant with God at the water's edge on May 19, 1985.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Vincent Gib-

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son. A week before our brother died, he had an experience and requested the hymn *What a Day That Will Be* to be sung at his funeral. This was sung by Sisters Sevilla Gibson, Roberta Hufnagle, and Carmella Gray.

Our Brother Mark's father, Bro. Tony Lombardo, passed away nine months to the day before Bro. Mark. He leaves to mourn his passing his mother, Sister Lucy; a twin sister, Debra Kall; another sister, Diane; and three brothers, David, Michael, and Gary; as well as nieces, nephews, uncles, and aunts. God blessed Mark with a special blessing so that he was able to accept his lot in life while maintaining a hope of his calling. He inspired and uplifted all who knew him by his courage.

SILVERIO CRISCUOLO

Brother Silverio Criscuolo passed on to glory on June 3, 1986. He was born on June 1, 1909 in Ponza, Italy. Bro. Silver came to America in September of 1926 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 28 of the same year.

Soon after his baptism, Bro. Silver was ordained a deacon in the Church, and in 1934, he was ordained a teacher. In April of 1935, Bro. Silver was ordained an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ and exercised unyielding dedication to his calling for more than 51 years. He preached his last sermon on Sunday, May 25, 1986. During his nearly 60 years in the Church, Bro. Silver held membership in all four Detroit branches, as well as the three missions over which he presided: Farwell, Port Huron, and Harrison, Michigan.

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Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Peter H. Capone and Paul Whitton. Bro. Silver is survived by his wife Sis. Mary, three daughters, and one son, Bro. Lyle Criscuolo of Harrison, MI. He also left to mourn his passing one brother, two sisters, twelve grandchildren, several nieces and nephews, and a host of brothers, sisters and friends in the Church.

Our dear brother was a faithful member who devoted his life to bringing forth God's word to as many people as he could reach. His desire was to spread the Gospel and make others aware of God's goodness. He will long be remembered for his faithfulness and willingness to serve God above all else.

JOSEPH DAMORE

Brother Joseph C. Damore passed away on August 18, 1986. He was born September 19, 1906 and was a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, baptized on July 24, 1932 by Bro. A. A. Corrado. He was ordained a teacher in 1958.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Ralph Berardino.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Dorothy, a son, Joseph, and two daughters, Rita Fusco and Ruth Zemko. He will be dearly missed by his brothers, sisters and friends in Youngstown.



December, 1986

Volume 42, No. 12

General Church Conference

By Anthony J. Scolaro

The Saturday morning session of the October 1986 General Church Conference was opened with the familiar hymn, *A Crown for the Righteous*. Brother Tom Liberto from San Diego, California addressed the congregation of elders and members representing nearly every branch and mission of the General Church, and rehearsed to us once again the lyrics of that hymn, which read in part,

To be the people of God, To be the saints of the Lord, We must love and obey, And trust every day In Him and His holy word.

These are things, our brother explained, that we should think about frequently as we live our daily lives. The people of God should be a special people, a *different* people, as compared to those around us. Our brother quoted from the 95th and 100th Psalms, which state how we are God's people and the sheep of His pasture.

Bro. Tom reminded us that the Lord has great things in store for us beyond this life, but we have a work to do in order to gain them. It is the responsibility of *all* of us, as the people of God, to uphold the standard of The Church of Jesus Christ. We can't put the entire burden on the Apostles, or on the priesthood; there's a great deal of work to be done, and *we* are the ones that must do it.

Bro. Liberto concluded his inspired message by conveying a special bless-

ing to the priesthood of the Church, admonishing them to uphold the faith and lead this mighty flock to Zion.

The remainder of the day was devoted to finishing up the business that remained on the Conference Agenda. We heard the report from the Finance Committee, including Bro. Frank Ciotti's inspired address (see the adjacent article), as well as reports from the Mission Board, the Ladies' Circle, the Print House, the GMBA, and various others. We can truly say that we felt the Spirit of God, both in the business that was transacted, and in the reports from the many auxiliaries and administrative offices that have been set up to aid The Church of Jesus Christ in running smoothly, both naturally and spiritually.

The business portion of the Conference was concluded on Saturday evening with an impressive report and presentation by the National Education Committee. This committee, made up of teachers and educators from throughout the Church, was appointed to help us, in our branches and missions, to effectively teach, so that all of us may effectively learn, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, restored in its fulness.

In their presentation to us, the Education Committee showed how a topic from the scriptures can be developed into an individual teaching unit, using the basic educational methods that have proved successful in school systems. Each teaching unit consists of several lessons, and there is even a "teacher's manual" provided to help the teacher

Dream or Reality?

Brother Frank Ciotti of Santa Ana, CA was filled with enthusiasm and with the Spirit of God as he presented, on behalf of the General Church Finance Committee, the following concepts to the congregation gathered at the October 1986 General Church Conference.

"At the June 1984 Conference, Bro. Dominic Thomas presented an in-depth Development Plan for the future growth of the Church. The Plan was unanimously approved by the General Priesthood, with a mandate to implement it. Due to lack of time available, central organization, and facilities, the Plan has not been fully implemented to the initial scheduled outline. In summary, Bro. Dominic's proposal encompasses the following Church-wide goals and objectives.

1. Create, establish, and organize branches of the Church throughout the world.

2. Develop and implement a plan for a more unified and energetic approach to the missionary work of the General Church.

3. A plan for the wise use of human resources in the Church that are needed to meet the expanding Missionary, District, and General Church endeavors.

4. Assist in establishing the Kingdom of God on the earth while men are in the flesh.

5. Educate Israel in the knowledge of the fullness of the Gospel.

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 2)

2 December, 1986

CONFERENCE continued . . .

prepare for the class and do a more effective job in getting the message across to his or her students, be they adults or children.

This program, of which we only saw a sample, will be of great worth to every Sunday School, MBA, and Ladies' Circle teacher in the Church. While the Lord has always blessed the efforts of those who have endeavored to teach classes, often with little or no formal training in teaching, He has now blessed His Church even further, with dedicated brothers and sisters who are skilled and trained in the field of education, and who are willing to pass some of their techniques on to the many in the Church whose job it is to teach classes at the branches and missions. You'll want to keep your eyes open for these lessons as they become available.

SUNDAY

All of us came prepared for a special blessing as we met together for the Sunday service, as we all knew that this day we would see the ordination of our Brother Paul Palmieri into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Congregational singing started early, and our time together was seasoned, from start to finish, with the Spirit of God.

After Quorum of Twelve President Joseph Lovalvo opened the service in prayer, General Church President Dominic Thomas spoke to the congregation concerning that which we had all come to witness this day. "This event is critical to the Quorum of Twelve," he said, "as well as to the General Church." At one point in his sermon, our brother asked us to pause with him for a moment, in memory of the brothers of the priesthood who had passed away since the April, 1986 Conference. We sat in silence as we remembered our Brothers Eugenio Perri, Silverio Criscuolo, Delio (Del) Carneval, Joseph Milantoni, and Frank Calabrese.

The calling of an apostle, Bro. Thomas explained, is not an invention of man. He read scripture from both Bible and Book of Mormon, pertaining to the calling of the Twelve. Expanding on the subject, Bro. Dominic said, "When Jesus set up His Church, He called twelve leaders. We don't know why He did it that way, but that's the way the Lord works, and who can quarrel with the way God works?" The scriptures that were read apply to the Church today, as they did in Jerusalem and on this land two thousand years ago, because our Church, like the Church of old, was brought about not by the whim of a man, but by the hand of God.

Bro. Dominic then proceeded to read the duties of an apostle from the Minister's Manual, elaborating as he read. "There is much *responsibility*, and there is much *accountability*, in being a member of the Quorum of Twelve," he said, "but there is much *joy* as well." He asked us all to remember Brother Paul Palmieri in prayer, as he will have much work to do as he takes on the office of an apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

In preparation for his ordination, Bro. Palmieri's feet were washed by Bro. Nick Pietrangelo. Then, as the apostles formed a circle around him, Bro. Palmieri was ordained an apostle by Bro. V. James Lovalvo. Immediately following the ordination, several members of the congregation related experiences of seeing a glorious crown being given to our Bro. Paul Palmieri. The four points that were seen on the crown were interpreted by the apostles as representing the four corners of the earth, which this, the Restored Gospel, will one day reach.

One brother related that as he saw the crown in a vision, he heard the words, "Don't let anyone take your crown away." These same words were the title of a *Song of Zion* that Sis. Arlene Buffington had just received. The music hadn't been written down yet, but Bro. Dominic Thomas read the lyrics to the song, which contained a message of righteousness to all the saints, exhorting us to lead pure and spotless lives before God, that no one nor any thing might rob us of our eternal prize.

As these beautiful experiences and revelations came forth, the sweet Spirit of God increased in our midst, and we felt the Lord smiling down upon us today. It was a blessing to see our new Brother Apostle being welcomed in by the members of the Quorum of Twelve, and greeted by the many evangelists who were in attendance from various parts of the Church, from coast to coast.

The sureness of our Brother Palmieri's calling was confirmed even further when Bro. Joe Lovalvo related three of the experiences given to the apostles as they fasted and prayed, asking the Lord to choose one to fill the vacancy in the Quorum. Later, our Bro. Paul Palmieri expressed himself, and related a dream which he had had six years earlier, where he saw our late Bro. Anthony A. Corrado telling him, "You will take my place." Bro. Paul asked that we would remember him in prayer, that the Lord would be with him in this office.

We were all deeply touched when the brothers in charge of this morning's meeting felt directed to anoint and pray for our Brother Ryan Ross. Truly our hearts were one as we stood and joined hands during the mighty prayer that followed. We would ask that you continue to remember Bro. Ryan, as well as the many other afflicted of the Church, in your daily prayers, that the Lord might deliver them.

Like all good things here on earth, this Conference and this meeting came to a conclusion, and we all headed homeward filled to overflowing with the joy of the saints and the love of God, which sustains and strengthens us, and keeps us looking forward in anticipation of greater things yet to come.

DREAM OR REALITY continued ...

"For the benefit of the Church, and to provide the basis for the future needed growth, we must take the necessary steps today toward providing the means to accomplish this Plan. We are on the threshold of a great revival, wherein we are going to see a great influx of people coming into The Church of Jesus Christ. But we are not organizationally prepared. We must, without further delay, provide the structure to accomplish the Plan. One brother was given an inspiration-100,000 missionaries in 100 countries in 10 years-Dream or Reality? The Church has been given a "Divine Commission." We must fulfill the destiny of the mission of the Church as set forth in the word of God. We must be willing to sacrifice and to take some bold steps now to provide:

1. Human Resources—capable of planning and implementing the stated objectives.

2. Facilities—provide the physical plant necessary for an appropriate work environment.

3. Funding—establish a structure to provide the needed funds to accomplish the above.

In Memory of Del Carneval

By V. James Lovalvo

"I am the resurrection and the life: He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (John 11:25 & 26).

Brother Del Carneval passed away from this life on September 16, 1986. He left to mourn his passing his wife, Penny; a daughter Beth Kaylynn; a son, Scott James; his mother, Catherine; a sister, Theresa Biddle; a brother-in-law, Leonard J. Lovalvo M.D. and his family; a father-in-law, V. James Lovalvo; and his mother-in-law, Mary R. Lovalvo.

Del was an educator. He was an administrator and counselor for the past 27 years, having received a Bachelor's Degree from Bethany College in West Virginia, and a Master's Degree from CSU Fresno in School Administration and Counseling. Bro. Del set up a primary school for the Mono Indian tribe on their reservation, and he was instrumental in obtaining government grants for their schooling. He was baptized as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in 1959, and was ordained into the ministry in 1969.

Del will be greatly missed by all, as his main emphasis in life was love, guidance, and education for his children, his students, and his friends. He loved life and lived it to its fullest.

A chapel service was held in Fresno, California, and a graveside service was held the next day at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Los Angeles, with about 200 church members and a good number of friends in attendance.

At the service in Fresno, many brothers and sisters, relatives, and friends paid tribute to our Brother Del in testimony, in preaching, and in song.

It was said one day by Bro. Richard Christman that Del Carneval "has given new meaning and dimension to the word dignity." Bro. Dick was referring to the silent, uncomplaining manner in which Del bore the suffering of his affliction. Everyone who visited him (and there were many) went away amazed at the faith and courage displayed by this brother who, undaunted by the pain and agony which were his constant companions, continually blessed the name of the Lord. He told his wife (who took care of him night and day) that he was not afraid to die, as he knew where he was going. His only sorrow was in leaving her and his children, whom he loved very dearly. Del is gone, but will never be forgotten.

A TRIBUTE

By Mary Lovalvo

Del Carneval's life was so gentle, and the elements so mixed in him, that nature might stand up and say to all the world, "This was a man."

Yes, Del was a very special man who passed our way and touched our lives with a lasting impression.

As it was once said of President Abraham Lincoln, that "He made all men just a bit taller," so can I also say of my beloved son-in-law, Del Carneval.

My wife and I want to extend our deepest thanks to the many brothers and sisters who came to visit Del and Penny while he was sick. Many who came brought their own food and cooked for the family, and at times shared a meal with them. Particularly, the cheery telephone calls from throughout the entire Church made Del's days a little brighter; truly a gift of love. The kindness shown to them is unforgettable. The love and care that the brothers and sisters had for our children and grandchildren will always be etched in our memory.

To merely say thanks is not sufficient. May the Lord bless all of you for your tender loving care. You have fulfilled that which Jesus once said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). God bless every one of you.

DREAM OR REALITY continued...

"One day, I would envision a World Headquarters and World Missionary Training Center—ten to twenty acres located near the Greater Pittsburgh Airport, set on a hillside, with a sign to welcome all that enter: The Church of Jesus Christ, World Headquarters. Dream or Reality?

"Brother Dominic Thomas has now

retired from his natural work. The amount of time he can devote to Church affairs will increase. To start, we should lease a temporary office in Detroit with secretarial support to carry out the dayto-day operational responsibilities of the president. Since the General Church Spending Plan proposed for 1987 has a significant increase, I would recommend a special appeal to those Church members who have the insight to support such a Plan and are willing to commit funds over and above the Free Will Percentage Giving program to help the Church have the needed funds to implement this Plan. This special appeal will take several formats:

1. Letter writing

2. In-person appeals to districts, branches, and individuals.

"A Dream or a Reality—to raise one million dollars in the next year over and above the Freewill Percentage Giving program. I would volunteer my time for this project. We request your support. We would coordinate with the other committees to accomplish this objective. Thank you."

The above program was unanimously approved by the General Church priesthood, and authorization to solicit was granted.

We are requesting all members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ to join in this effort. Commit yourself to an *amount* that you will give to this project. Your pledge can be paid during the next three, six, nine, or twelve months. It's time to make a larger commitment than you've ever made before. Our goal is one million dollars. Shortly, we plan to send to every member of the Church an architectural rendering of our vision. What part will you play in helping the Church achieve "one giant step" to bring Peace on Earth? '. . . And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:7).

Send your pledges and contributions, made payable to The Church of Jesus Christ, to:

> Frank Ciotti 19052 Smiley Drive Orange, CA 92669

December, 1986

Evangelists Strive to Break New Ground

By Quorum Editor Carl J. Frammolino

4

The evangelists of The Church of Jesus Christ are striving to break new ground, as they also attempt to help existing locations in maintaining and furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The calling of an evangelist is to spread the good tidings that salvation has come through Our Savior. In this capacity, it is essential to reach mankind on every level and in all locations, to tell the good news about the plan of God. The assignment directed by Jesus was specified in Luke 10:1 & 2:

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two by two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

TWO BY TWO

Our late Quorum of Seventy Evangelists' President Joseph Milantoni, an outstanding and highly exemplary evangelist himself for about thirty years, discussed the evangelists' duties at the last April quorum meeting. He stated emphatically and stirringly, in his inimitable way, the necessity to step out on faith and obey the command of Our Lord and Savior. Though he stated that there are many obstacles in our path, he encouraged us to redouble our efforts in carrying the Gospel message. This was the last time that Brother Joe was able to speak to the quorum, but his words and example live on.

The newly-elected president of the seventies, Brother Paul Benyola, who was vice-president under Bro. Milantoni, continued with the same kind of exhortation at this October Conference's meetings of the evangelists. All who have been ordained into this office, of course, feel the importance of this responsibility as well.

Other evangelists who have passed on since the October 1985 Conference have been John Ross, Dan Casasanta, and Eugenio Perri, Sr. The quorum acknowledged their great loss, as they are sorely missed. Current quorum officers besides Brother Benyola are Isaac Smith, Vice-President; Elmer Santilli, Secretary; the writer, Assistant Secretary; and Vincent Gibson, Treasurer.

Foreign and domestic labors by evangelists have been reported many times in *The Gospel News* before, but it is interesting to reflect on more current developments.

DOMESTIC MISSIONS

While the foreign work has been moving along on various fronts, the nearer work in this hemisphere has also been progressing. A good illustration is the home missionary effort being expended in Independence, Missouri. Pioneered by Evangelists Joseph Calabrese and Anthony R. Lovalvo, a full-scale endeavor has been undertaken within the last year.

Services have been held there under the auspices of the seventies, and a home was renovated to be used by the missionaries. Evangelist Sam Dell and his wife, Sister Josephine, were the first to occupy the premises and hold regular meetings.

Through this effort, the Church has made many contacts in the community, and activity there has proved fascinating and far-reaching. We've made many friends, and to date there appears promise that a fruitful base will be established.

Independence, located in almost mid-America, has become a kind of landmark work for the evangelists. Efforts have been combined from many different parts of the nation. A door-todoor campaign was conducted, and has included the institution of follow-up procedures.

A stronghold of Restoration activity, Independence has been quite famous for the number of Restoration groups either headquartered or represented there. It is somewhat different from other communities where the Church has had missionary work because it allows much interaction with individuals who are familiar with both the Bible and the Book of Mormon.

Residents there refer to us as the "Bickertonites" (after Brother William Bickerton), as they identify different groups according to earlier Restoration days in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and their corresponding church leaders. Our many friends there are very well versed in Restoration history and thus can quickly identify our Church as well as others represented there.

BIG HOPES

We hold big hopes for this kind of missionary endeavor. This entire effort will no doubt prove educational and productive as a pilot for future fields.

Volunteers among the elders and lay members have also traveled to Independence, and have participated in many different activities to further the work there. A songspiration was held at a central meeting place on August 16, 1986, wherein many musically talented church members participated.

SURVEY OF MEMBERS PLANNED

The aid and support of the membership is, of course, essential for the growth of the Church. Along these lines, a jointly-prepared survey by the General Church Mission Board and the General Church Finance Committee will undoubtedly be of great value in helping to identify and utilize all the talents and skills available to us.

On this form, both members and friends of the Church can enumerate their abilities and their areas of interest in working for the Gospel. Cataloging of these capabilities will contribute to the overall teamwork and aid the Church in using the available resources to a greater advantage.

In future issues, it may be possible to discuss the evangelists' role in helping to maintain and encourage existing branches and missions. Basically and sincerely, however, we ask for your prayers, that all our efforts in the Church will be seasoned with the Lord's blessings, so that the spreading of the Gospel can be accomplished with God's direction.

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

5



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

At the time of year when everyone is thinking about gifts, it is good to take a moment and reflect upon the great variety of natural and spiritual gifts with which the Lord has blessed His people. Looking closely at the circle of brothers and sisters we worship with, we are amazed by the numerous abilities that are represented in our Church. Truly the Lord has given all of us different gifts, and each one of us can use our gift in some way to further the kingdom of God on earth.

We were witness to one example of how talent, education, and hard work can be combined for the benefit of the Church when we saw the National Education Committee's presentation at this past Conference. There are as many jobs to be done in the Church, both natural and spiritual, as there are people willing to do them. Each and every aspect of the great work of the Lord can benefit from the expertise and experience that are acquired through education and training.

One of the long-term goals set several years ago by General Church President Dominic Thomas was "a plan for the wise use of human resources in the Church that are needed to meet the expanding Missionary, District, and General Church endeavors."

Toward this end, a General Church survey will soon be conducted so that each of us can have, if we desire, our natural and spiritual 'resume' on file with the Church. As Solomon sought out men who excelled in their particular skills when he built the temple in Jerusalem, it is likewise in the best interests of the Church today to locate and utilize the most qualified men and women for the job, as we endeavor to establish Zion.

While this move toward professionalism, this "use of human resources," represents a forward step in bringing the Restored Gospel to the four corners of the earth, it is not our primary goal to run the Church like a corporation. Nor do we desire to create for the Church a professional image which will appeal to the natural eyes of the world. Our mission is to bring the souls of men unto Christ, and as we look for the best qualified people to carry out the various aspects of this work, the Spirit which they carry must be our laborers' most important job qualification, with education, training, skill, and talent all coming second.

As the Spirit of God increases within us, we will not so much desire to hold a particular office; we will simply desire to be used of God as He sees fit. If we are filled with that same Spirit, we will not seek to have things done the way we want them; we will only seek God's will and pray for His direction. As each of us prayerfully finds his or her place in the Church, which truly is the body of Christ, we will work together in harmony, each utilizing the gift that God has given us, without any of the fleshly ambition, competition, or jealousy that is so prevalent in worldly organizations.

While we apply the gifts God has given us to the work of the Lord, we must continuously strive to allow the Holy Ghost to grow daily within us. Without that Spirit, we could aspire to be the most talented, professional organization in the world, but our effect would be, in the words of the Apostle Paul, "as a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal."

The

Children's

Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Following Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Book of Mormon tells us that people waited for Jesus since the earliest days of man. After the Tower of Babel days, the Brother of Jared saw the Lord in a vision hundreds and hundreds of years before He was born.

Finally the time came when an angel told Mary she would have a baby who would be the long-awaited savior of the world. As a young boy, Jesus sat in the temple and spoke with the priests there until they were astonished by his understanding. That understanding of God's love and of people grew and grew until the time came when multitudes of people followed Jesus wherever He went. Often He healed many; always He taught them more about living a peaceful, loving life.

Jesus picked twelve men to go with Him—to learn from Him. He called them apostles. His plan was for these men to continue spreading the good news about God's love and power after the time of Jesus' death. Later on, some of these twelve wrote down their experiences of the days they walked with the Lord. These books in the *Bible* are called the New Testament. You can read what the Apostle Matthew remembered about a day with Jesus and then read in the other books what the Apostles Luke or John remembered.

In the Book of Mormon, we learn that Jesus picked another twelve special followers in the Americas. He called them His twelve disciples. They also wrote a record of the things Jesus had taught them.

One thing that Jesus Christ made plain to all from the very beginning was that following Him and being a true saint was not an easy job. Jesus taught people to think about doing things that would make their souls strong. For ex-



ample, He told them that they were to love their enemies! They (and we) were to forgive people who hurt them, even if they hurt them the same way over and over again. But best of all, we are to love everyone, all people, like we love ourselves.

Christ's own apostles had trouble controlling their feelings at times. When the night came that Jesus knew the soldiers would come to arrest Him, to be put to death, Jesus was praying for strength. The soldiers came with Judas and took Him, and the Apostle Peter leaped up and hit one of the enemy on the side of the head with his sword, cutting off his ear. You and I probably would have wanted to fight, too, but the Lord took the ear of this man, touched it, and healed him.

Jesus was our example to follow. When things get too tough for us and we don't think we can control ourselves, He will help us. He had all power—to heal, or to do anything—yet He allowed His body to be put to death, in order to prove to us that there is a heaven, a better way of life that strengthens our souls and leads us to peace. No matter who you are or how old you are, He is the one Lord, and He has a special job for you and a special love for you, too.

> Sincerely, Sister Jan

Season's Greetings

The editor and staff of *The Gospel News* would like to wish all of our readers the happiest of holiday seasons. As we reflect on the impact Christ's birth has upon all of us, let us continue to pray that we would grow daily to be more like Him.

> Anthony J. Scolaro Editor-in-Chief

Our Women Today

General Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Detroit, Michigan Branch 2 on October 4, 1986. There were sisters present from Arizona, California, Canada, Ohio, Michigan, West Virginia, and a busload from the Pennsylvania District.

The Michigan-Ontario Area Circles sang a few hymns and a reading was given from Galatians 5:22 & 23. President Mabel Bickerton felt to praise the Lord for His goodness. She was especially thankful to be able to make the trip.

The roll call of officers was given, with no vacancies to be filled. The minutes of the last conference, held in Aliquippa, PA, were read and accepted. Delegate's reports of the home circles and the Area Circle reports were given. Various circles sent layettes, greeting cards, food, yarn, and clothing to those in need. They also visited the shut-ins and those in nursing homes. They fasted and prayed, and sent used stockings to India. Most of the Area Circles held weekend retreats.

The treasurers gave their reports, which were accepted as well. Funds were donated to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund, Africa, India, Mexico, and the Church Development Fund.

The answer to the question, "When did this land become a choice land?" was found in The Book of Mormon, Ether 13:2.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Mary Armes, Milton H. Bernhart, Catherine Benedetto, Alma and Levine Cadman, Dan Casasanta, Anthony Corrado, Silverio Criscuolo, Marie DiDonato, Mary DiFabio, William Duckworth, Alma Finnick, Cora Fowler, Mervyn Heath, Burt McKay, Eugenio Perri, John Ross, Anthony and Filomena Rossi, and Louise Vester.

MBA Highlights

Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

On October 1, 1986, Brother Walter Jankowski of the Anaheim, California Branch was present at the Sterling Heights MBA.

We took care of business and turned the meeting over to our visitor. Brother Walter spoke to us that evening on how he met the Gospel in Cleveland, Ohio 23 years ago. It took a little while, though, for him to be baptized, as Bro. Walter received Christ only seven years ago. He also expressed how the Lord called him into the ministry four years ago.

As our Brother Walt continued to speak, he took an incident from the Bible and compared it to our daily lives. He pointed out how, when Moses came down from the mountain, he didn't know that the glory of the Lord shone upon him. Similarly, we sometimes are not aware of how the Lord shines on us, as we come in contact with people from day to day. Let us, therefore, let the light of Christ shine in a world that needs Jesus.

Brother Walter informed us how the Anaheim MBA Local is interacting with the Santa Ana Mission's MBA to bring more souls into the kingdom. Also, how in the California Area, brothers and sisters are working with the young people to enhance their spiritual lives.

We praise God for our visitor on this MBA night.

CA Area MBA

By Carl Huttenberger

On Saturday night, October 4, 1986, the California Area MBA crowded into the Anaheim Branch to hear the good news. The good news is that the GMBA Campout will officially be held in California next year. A camp was found, praise God!

With us that evening was the GMBA president and vice president, Brothers John Griffith and Chuck Jumper. After a dinner of pizza and salad, we started our meeting with some opening comments by Anaheim's presiding elder, Bro. Jim Huttenberger. Area MBA President Bro. Randy Ciccati then spoke to us about how much opposition was encountered in trying to find a camp. Everyone turned us down because of our belief in the Book of Mormon.

All we could think of is how God told us that in the last days we would be persecuted for the truth's sake. Finally, we presented our problem to the Lord in prayer. The San Diego Branch held a special fasting and prayer meeting one Friday evening. Soon afterward, two camps were willing to accommodate us.

Our visiting GMBA officers followed with beautiful words of encouragement and enthusiasm. We were all so thankful that God answered our prayers, and we're thrilled also to hear that the saints throughout the Church are just as excited about coming to California as we are to have them.

I cannot stress enough how happy and how important we feel this campout will be. It will give the brothers and sisters from coast to coast the opportunity to unite and show our deep love for one another.

Our evening continued with a beautiful song by a trio of talented sisters from Anaheim. A group from Santa Ana honored us with a song that was seasoned so typically with Spirit and love.

We pray that God will pave the way for many to come west next summer. Our arms will be open wide with love for everyone who attends. Have a prayer in your heart that God will bless our camp, and that His power would be made manifest to us during the glorious week we anticipate. And mark the week of June 20 to 26, 1987 to read "CAMP-OUT!" (Future issues of *The Gospel News* will supply further developments.)

The next day, Brother John Griffith visited the Santa Ana Mission and preached inspired words to our Mexican brothers and sisters there. Brother Chuck Jumper came to the Anaheim Branch, and his presence was truly a blessing to us. We thank God for their visit.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank everyone throughout the Church who has prayed and has been supportive of our efforts. Bro. Randy and Sis. Jill Ciccati have worked extremely hard to make this possible, and we are so thankful for them. What more can we say, except Thank You, God.

See you next summer!

A Letter of Thanks

My Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I would like to come and thank each one of you individually to let you know how grateful I am for your love and concern for me. That being impossible, I will do the next best thing through *The Gospel News*.

It has been a real trying year for me, but your sharing of flowers, phone calls, cassette tapes, and cards to brighten my days made it so much easier to bear. I am feeling so much better, but am still in need of your continued prayer. Thank you all once again.

> With Perfect Love, Sis. Esther Dyer

OUR WOMEN TODAY continued...

All of the officers were re-elected for another year. A standing vote of thanks was given to the Michigan-Ontario Area Circle for their hospitality.

At the conclusion of the conference, Bro. Joseph Calabrese spoke of the varied missionary work in the Church, work in which the contributions of the Ladies' Uplift Circle has helped immeasurably.

Note: The Ladies' Circle Conferences in 1987 will be held on the following dates:

April 4 at Vanderbilt, PA. October 3 at Warren, Ohio.

Campout 1987

The GMBA Campout will be held at Scripps College in Claremont, California from Saturday, June 20 to Friday, June 26. More information will appear on these pages as it becomes available.

> Bro. Randy Cicatti Camp Director

Branch and Mission News

Youngstown, OH

By Karen Pezzenti

On June 28, 1986 Bro. Michael and Sis. Linda Italiano opened up their home once again to the saints from Youngstown, Niles, Warren, and Kinsman Branches, and the Kent Mission, to partake in the second annual seminar sponsored by the Youngstown Sunday School classes.

It was a great success! The day's festivities began with a breakfast cookout, followed by volleyball, fishing, socializing, and singing. Bro. Elmer Santilli from the Perry, Ohio Branch was our guest speaker. He spoke on the Church History, and his talk proved to be very interesting and quite informative. We thank both him and his family for sharing the day with us. Bro. Michael Italiano taught a group of children about the Restoration. Sister Linda's class of younger children enjoyed making several different types of crafts together. It was a beautiful and fulfilling day, and we thank God for allowing this special event to take place.

On July 6, 1986 Bro. Nick and Sister Pauline Ritz from Miami, Florida celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with us in Youngstown. Their deepest desire was to have all their family attend church that day along with them to worship God. And so it was that Our Lord granted their desire. . . One by one, 35 members of their family filed into our church building. The tears flowed as God's Spirit was in our midst. We are so happy that God so richly blessed the Ritz's and gave them such a joyful day!

Sister Minnie DePiero celebrated her 80th birthday on June 25, 1986. She is an inspiration to all of us and we thank God for her enthusiasm and vigor!! We ask that you would remember her in prayer, as her body is much afflicted. She has been in the Church since December 14, 1919 and continues to remain faithful and do her part each day.

We have enjoyed our summer visitors and we invite all of them to come back. Some of our visitors were: The Gerace family from Detroit Inner City Branch, Bro. Stephen and Sis. Yvonne Saffron from Phoenix, AZ and Sis. Amy Cook from Arizona. Sister Linda Italiano and Sis. Sandy Cardillo put forth much effort along with several other sisters to teach our children at the Vacation Bible School the week of August 2. It was a great success—48 children attended! Sisters Linda and Sandy are also our IMA representatives and held a garage sale early in September to raise money for the clinic. We are thankful for these devoted and energetic sisters who are able to contribute in different ways to the work of the Lord.

Tse Bonito, NM

MISSIONARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

YES—Every District of the Church was represented, with a total of eighty participants, in the Second Annual Missionary Outreach Training Program that was held August 27-29 in Tse Bonito, New Mexico.

Bro. Ryan Ross' presence was nothing short of exhilarating, as he brought with him a world of encouragement and love, as well as a hope of a bright tomorrow. He filled our seminars with reality, and taught us how to speak from the deepest recesses of our heart. He told it like it really is, and we believed him. He also made us laugh 'til our sides ached with his incredibly good impersonations.

Everyone put forth a lot of work, in thorough preparation and in presentation of seminars designed especially for personal outreach ministries. Those that participated greatly benefited from the educational value, along with the sensitive and spiritual insights of our group leaders. Seminars offered this year were:

Tom Liberto-Presenting the Gospel: Content and Technique

Carl Frammolino-Personal Ministry to the Hurting

Paul Palmieri—Finding Your Niche in the Church

Joseph Calabrese-Strategies for an Effective Missionary Program

Dwayne Jordan-Canvassing Techniques Elaine Jordan-Crisis Intervention

Bonnie Smith-Unique Role of Women in Missionary Work

Also this year, panelists were given a forum to share their real life experiences, both good and bad. Panel topics were:

Realities of Missionary Work-Missionaries in the Field

A Fresh Perspective—Members Not Raised in the Church

Focus on Native Americans-Navajos Share Their Insights

Again, a highlight of the program was the nightly outreach activities where our Indian Brothers were blessed with the privilege of speaking to their people at the jail. Brother Norman James, from San Carlos, had an experience several weeks prior that he was speaking to men in a prison, and did not realize its meaning until he was actually doing it. Similar visits were made to the hospital and also door-to-door canvassing in the neighborhood.

As the weekend approached, many more saints from the California and Arizona Districts converged onto the Reservation for our joint district conference. The conference was filled with interaction between ministry and members, with our theme being "How Can We Help to Unify the Body of Christ?" Our congregation was divided into three groups, each taking one of three topics: "Utilizing Our Calling," "Helping Each Other (Members, Branches. Districts. and General Church)," and "Bringing Them In (Reaching New or Inactive, Programs, Follow-Up)." We were urged to get excited in our branches and try new ideas. At the end of the seminars, everyone was asked to write a letter of promise to God, stating what we would do for Him in the next six months.

Bro. Carl Frammolino, from Detroit Inner City, opened our meeting Sunday morning, speaking of not judging others but rather trying to lift them up. He encouraged us to fulfill our promises to God in reaching out to others, despite our weaknesses and faults. Bro. Ralph Frammolino followed, illustrating how we try hard to cover up what we really are. We are all weak vessels before God, and we are worried that people will see the real person. He urged us to go forth in the strength of the Lord. Bro. Frank Genaro was directed to use the saints

8

of God to reach out to one of his own family members. Bro. Jim Huttenberger challenged us to recognize our weaknesses and to be determined to fulfill our spiritual goals and realize that we cannot do it alone. Bro. Peter Genaro told us that fear holds us back, and that we need faith and action to overcome those fears. It was a day well spent in the service of God.

Just when we thought it was all over and many of the saints departed for home, the Lord continued to shower down His blessings upon us as two souls from Tse Bonito asked for their baptism Sunday evening. We caravanned to the lake Monday morning, where Bro. Dwayne Jordan baptized his daughter, Wendy, who was later confirmed by Larry Watson. Bro. Peter Genaro took Julie Ciccati into the waters of baptism, and she was confirmed by Bro. John Mancini. It was beautiful to witness these confirmations of the Holy Spirit at the water's edge, as the presence and power of God were felt. Both of our young sisters had had experiences of their callings into the Church. We spent the rest of the day at a nearby park for more fellowship.

Saline, MI

By Leona Buffa

"... And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mark 1:10 & 11).

And the same Spirit, that was with Christ those many years ago, was with our Bro. Ron Morle when he asked for his baptism.

On Sunday, August 24, 1986 we met together at our meeting place and awaited the arrival of all the saints, then we gathered together at the water's edge. We sang a few hymns, including *To See the Morning Light*, which was the song that came to Bro. Ron after he had asked for his baptism. Bro. Jim Cotellesse then took our new convert into the waters of regeneration and the Spirit of God was like a blanket that gently enveloped each of us there.

Afterwards we gathered back at our building for our service. There were many visitors at the mission from our district, as well as a few from Ohio.

Our young people were called up to sing We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord. Bro. Tullio LaCivita opened our service in prayer, and Bro. Dominic Thomas spoke. He reminisced about our late Bro. Frank Morle, how the young people of the Church had such a special place in his heart, how much it would mean to him to see his son make that covenant with the Lord today. He would always speak of the young people as the Church of Tomorrow, stressing that they would not only join the Church one day, but carry it to the four corners of the earth, as the Lord commissioned His disciples.

We should mingle with the saints of the Church. Jesus has promised many things to those who choose to be His followers. We must be sure that our young people love the Church enough, that wherever the road of life leads them, they will remain strong and faithful in the Church. The Lord rewards His people by blessing them when they choose to serve Him.

During testimony, Bro. Ron stated that he had been struggling within himself, trying to make a decision. He knew tht baptism was right, and that the time was right, but why wasn't he doing it? One day while at work he thought to himself that he didn't have enough faith, so he decided to work on building his faith before he made any decisions. The following Sunday (a week ago), Bro. Jim Cotellesse spoke on the subject of faith, and Bro. Reno Bologna followed in the same vein. All the brothers and sisters testified about faith that Sunday, and Bro. Ron knew that the Lord was speaking to him, that he had to make a decision. The following Tuesday he went to visit Bro. Jim Cotellesse, our presiding elder. After speaking with him, Bro. Ron asked to be baptized into the Church.

Sisters Mary and Tammy and Bro. Jerry Morle also testified, giving praise and thanksgiving to God for calling their brother and son into the Church. Bro. Ron was then called up to the front to be confirmed. Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo offered prayer as the priesthood knelt around our new brother. Bro. Reno Bologna then laid hands on him for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

We sang Since Jesus Came Into My Heart while our brothers passed sacrament. Our closing hymn was First Love. As the words of this song express, truly the Lord 'wrapped a circle of love' around our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ. May God bless our Brother Ron, that his desire would always be to serve God with all his heart and soul.

Monongahela, PA

September 14, 1986 marked another beautiful day for the saints of Monongahela, as we witnessed the baptism of Ruth Fitch. She is a cousin of Sisters Mabel Bickerton, Ruth Mountain, Sara Vancik, and Grace Landrey. Our sister was taken into the waters of baptism by Brother Richard Scaglione. Brother James Campbell confirmed Sis. Ruth a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The theme of the sermon that morning, preached by Bro. Scaglione, was "How are you?" His question did not apply to the physical or natural aspects of life, but rather to the spiritual state of the congregation. "Are you ready, *spiritually* ready, for whatever may come?" he asked. When we can answer "Yes" to this question, as Sis. Ruth is now able to, only then are we right with the Lord.

Our prayer is that God may bless our new sister with His guidance and care in her newly begun life with Him.

Rochester, NY

On September 21, 1986 our Sister Teresa Locci was ordained a deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Visiting with us in Rochester that day were Brothers Elmer Santilli and Mario Milano, as well as brothers and sisters from Niles, Ohio and Erie, Pennsylvania. Bro. Elmer opened the service with beautiful words of exhortation. Bro. Mario followed, telling us many uplifting experiences.

The afternoon service began with us relating the many dreams that were given from God to confirm the calling of our sister. Sis. Teresa's feet were washed by Sis. Kathy Natoli, and she was ordained by Bro. Frank Natoli. Our new deaconess was then asked to prepare the communion table for the first time, and what a blessing it was to see her set the table, and later listen to her testimony of how God has been so merciful to her in her life.

(Continued on Page 10)

ROCHESTER, NY continued . . .

Our sister met the Church over fifteen years ago, after coming to this land from Italy. She stated that now, more than ever, it was her desire to be a good example, that her family, as well as others, might come to this glorious Gospel.

Our prayer is that God might richly bless Sis. Theresa in her calling as a deaconess in the Church.

Cincinnati, OH

By Joe Furnari

On September 21, 1986 the brothers and sisters of the Cincinnati Mission gathered with family and friends to witness the ordination of Brother Charles Licata into the office of deacon.

Also in attendance were Bro. Vince and Sis. Sevilla Gibson from Cleveland.

Bro. Joe Furnari washed Bro. Charles' feet and Bro. Vince Gibson ordained him a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ.

This was a great day in our mission, as we witnessed another step taken to establish the Church in the Cincinnati area. We all felt the blessings and power of God in our meeting this day.

Our prayer is that the Lord would bless our brother as he begins his new work as a deacon.

Lakeside, AZ

By Dana Mead

September 6, 1986 marked a day filled with joy as our brothers, sisters, and friends from San Carlos, Phoenix, Tse Bonito, and Lakeside joined together in a day of fellowship at Brother Scott and Sister June Tenijieth's home in Whiteriver.

Brother Norman James started the day with a beautiful prayer, spoken in his native language. As we enjoyed a delicious meal prepared by our sisters, Brother James and Sister Rosemary Sanchez shared some of the wonderful experiences God has blessed them with recently.

As the day wore on, the young and the



Children in Lakeside, AZ join in missionary work. Helium balloons each bear an invitation to attend services.

young at heart enjoyed a variety of games, including three-legged races, sack races, and Indian straw game, and the children's favorite, breaking a Mexican *pinata*.

One of the final activities of the day was the "Children's Outreach." The children were given different colored helium balloons with notes attached that read "The Church of Jesus Christ Loves You," along with the Lakeside Branch address. The children simultaneously released about forty balloons as they stood in a nearby field. While we watched the balloons drifting upward, someone began singing *Wave the Flags* of Zion and everyone joined in. God's Spirit was felt by all, and we were reminded of the parable of the sower. We pray that some of these little seeds might fall upon good ground.

Brother Dennis Calabrese closed in prayer, and we were thankful for another day to share and feel God's love.

Riverbank, CA

By Oscar Lopez and Martha Picciuto

We have a new Spanish-speaking mission! It's in Riverbank, California. On June 8, 1986 at 9:15 a.m., our first morning Sunday School began.

It was a very special day, and the Spirit of God was with us. This was an answer to two years of constant prayer, during which we had been having afternoon meetings. We were blessed on this day with many visitors.

Since that first full Sunday, we've had a baptism, a young man by the name of Jesse Lopez. As we continue to have visitors, we hope to have more baptisms soon, according to the will of God.

The Riverbank Mission is an outgrowth of the Modesto Branch. There are many workers from that branch laboring in this mission. And recently, we've been blessed to have Brother Daniel Mora, a young Mexican elder, join us to help even more!

We thank God for this new opportunity He's given us to bring the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph. Please pray for this new work.

Anaheim, CA

By Carl Huttenberger

We would like to add our words of praise with everyone else this month. All the praise goes to our Lord, who has blessed our branch so much this past year.

We've had visitors from all over California, as well as from Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, and Florida. We were thankful that the Lord sent so many visitors to our branch before and after our Area MBA Campout in July. They have truly been a blessing to us and we welcome them back any time. The summer was kicked off by a wonderful Father's Day dinner for all the dads of our branch. The sisters put a great deal of hard work into preparing the delicious meal. On the Fourth of July we had our traditional barbeque and service at the branch. Our Sunday School sponsored its annual Labor Day picnic, which was well attended by brothers and sisters from all over the district.

We thank God for a miracle in our branch. Young Brandon Coppa, just one year old, was afflicted with a cancerous tumor in his eye. We offered his plight up to the Lord. Prayers were offered continually until finally the tests showed that the cancer was gone. Brandon was healed, praise God!

We have been praying that God would call young brothers and sisters into offices in our branch. Those prayers, too, are being answered. Brother Mark Coppa was ordained a teacher here on September 14. Many brothers and sisters from San Diego, Mark's original branch, were here on that day. It was a glorious time in the house of God.

It is hard for me to explain the outpouring of God's Spirit we felt that day. Brother Lou Ciccati opened the meeting with words of encouragement, pertaining to the work God has for us to do, in particular the work of an ordained teacher. Brothers Ken Surdock and Bob Womack followed with beautiful words along the same lines.

Earlier in the week, Sis. Jeannine

Gilbert of Anaheim was praying for our Church one morning and received the following vision: She saw Our Lord Jesus Christ in a field of young golden wheat. He wanted to reap the wheat, but it wasn't time yet. Then the voice of God spoke to our sister and said that there is much wheat to be harvested, but it is not ready yet. It needs to be ripened. Also, there is much chaff on the wheat that needs to fall off before the harvest can begin. God then told our sister, "You must labor."

We know that there is a great work for the Church to do, but we need to work for it, we need to earn that responsibility. We must also put aside the chaff that we don't need in our lives, in order for God to work with us.

Well, Sunday morning while Brother Mark was being ordained, Sis. Kay Gray had a marvelous vision. She saw others standing around Bro. Mark while his feet were being washed. There are more workers that God is waiting on to labor for Him. Our sister heard a voice saying that these two would go out and help spread the Gospel (meaning Bro. Mark Coppa and Bro. Paul Gray, who was washing his feet). Her experience was a confirmation to Bro. Mark's calling.

She then saw the front pews of the church building stacked with brand new Bibles and Books of Mormon. She saw many young men pick up a Bible and Book of Mormon and walk out two by two down the center aisle. There are many that will go out to tell the beautiful story of Jesus Christ. Our sister had recognized one of the brothers in her vision. Before she related it, this brother got up and had hands laid on him for forgiveness and spiritual strength. After that, Sister Gray told us the beautiful vision she had received.

It was like God had everything planned out for us that day and when it was over, He confirmed all that had happened. Thank God for His mercy and love for us. We love God so much, but we feel so insignificant in His hands. I pray He will bless you as He has blessed us.

A Dream

The following dream was had by nineyear-old Maggie Telles of the Riverside, CA Mission.

One day while walking down the street, I saw a lot of people starting to run. I asked what was happening, but all they said was, "Clouds! Clouds!" One woman said, "Look, the clouds are opening!" I looked up and when I turned around, everybody was gone.

Then, from nowhere, a bright light came through the clouds, which led me to a beautiful place of colorful flowers and trees alongside a lake. The light picked a flower and placed it in the water for a few seconds, then put it in my hair. A narrow path led from the lake to a beautiful church, where the light and I sat for about an hour. When the light went away, I awoke.

* WEDDINGS *

SAMBOL-WHITTAKER

Mr. William Sambol and Sister Naomi Whittaker were united in marriage in a beautiful outdoor setting at Brother Paul Carr's home in Stafford, Virginia.

The bride's uncle, Bro. Carr, officiated. Musical selections were performed by Bro. David Majoros, Sis. Jessie Scaglione, and Sis. Melissa Cherry. Sister Sherry Olexa and Valerie Marynchak accompanied the vocalists on piano and organ.

The newlyweds are residing in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

HAUDEK-DiPRONIO

Mr. Leo Haudek and Miss Sabrina DiPronio were joined in marriage on August 16, 1986 at Detroit Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Roseville, Michigan.

Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Kathie Perkins.

The couple is residing in St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

BENYOLA-BIAGINI

Joseph Benyola and Michelle Biagini were united in holy matrimony on October 4, 1986 at the Cathedral of the Woods in Medford Lakes, New Jersey.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Eugene Perri, Jr. of the Lakeworth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The newlyweds are residing in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, and are attending the Levittown, PA Branch of the Church. Our prayer is that God will bless them in their new life together. 12 December, 1986

WEDDINGS continued . . .

MANCINELLI-SMITH

Bro. Mark J. Mancinelli and Sis. Karen S. Smith were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, October 25, 1986 at the Detroit Inner City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Gary Champine officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Bro. Eugene Amormino. Brothers Carl Frammolino and Anthony Gerace also participated in the ceremony.

Musical selections were provided by Bro. Eugene Amormino, Sis. Tracey Francione, Bro. Steve Champine, and Bro. and Sis. Larry and Rosanne Champine.

The couple is residing in Detroit, Michigan. Our prayer is that God would be with them always.

New Arrivals

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

Justin Alexander to Frank and Patty Machnik of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 1.

Robin Bernadette to Robert and Michelle Joswiak of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Anna Nicole to Ralph and Jeanne Frammolino of San Diego, California.

Jerrica Nicole to David and Lori Picciuto of Modesto, California.

Karina to Saul and Eva Betancourt of Modesto, California.

Desiree Monique to Gordie and Monica Morris of Kinsman, Ohio.

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Children Blessed

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On June 13, 1986, Bryant Tobin Kendell was blessed by his grandfather, Bro. Leonard J. Lovalvo of Modesto, CA.

Amanda Leigh Songer, daughter of Jimmy and Patricia Songer, was blessed by Brother Richard Scaglione in Monongahela, PA on Sunday, September 14, 1986. Mr. and Mrs. Songer reside in Texas. Amanda is the greatgranddaughter of Sister Jane and Tom Whittaker.

On September 21, 1986, Bobbi Jo Marie Morse was blessed into the Church by Bro. Jim Huttenberger at the Anaheim, CA Branch.

Sara Anita Hufnagle, daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Sally Hufnagle, was blessed on October 26, 1986 by Bro. William Hufnagle of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

On the same day, Danielle Paulette Palacios was blessed by Bro. Fred Olexa in Lorain, Ohio.

Robert Allen Nash, son of Becky and William Nash, was blessed on November 2, 1986 by Bro. Bill Hufnagle of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

ANNETTE LABANAUSKAS

Sister Annette Labanauskas of Anaheim, California passed on to her eternal reward on August 13, 1986. She was born on January 15, 1899 in Lithuania and has been a dedicated pillar in the Church for many years.

Bro. George Heaps conducted the funeral service, which was held on August 18, 1986.

Our Sister Annette is survived only by her brothers and sisters in Christ. We at the Anaheim Branch will dearly miss her fine example and encouraging words.

LOUIS COLVER

Louis Colver passed from this life suddenly on October 7, 1986 at the age of 63.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Dan Parravano and John Straccia.

Louis is survived by his wife, Jeanette, two daughters, Judy and Madeline, five grandchildren, and three sisters. He will be missed dearly by the brothers and sisters of Detroit, Branch 2 and everyone that knew him in this life. He loved to sing praises to God, *How Great Thou Art* being his favorite hymn. Louis always had a smile on his face and a testimony on his lips thanking God for all He had done for him.