

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

January, 1986

Volume 42, No. 1

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

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.

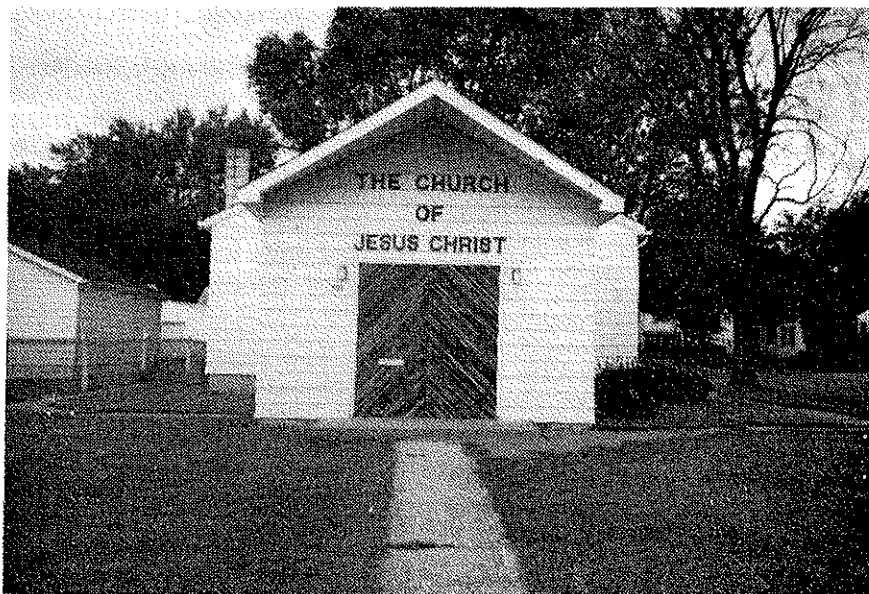
Saints from Omaha, NB, Clairton, PA, and Ohio, as well as the children and saints from South Bend all presented songs as part of the program. As the evening progressed, Brothers Joseph Calabrese, English Webb, and Mitchell Edwards spoke to the congregation.

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.

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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.

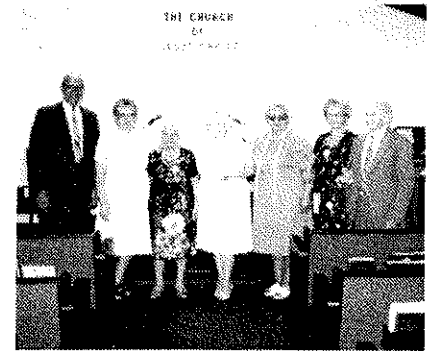
David wrote many times of his hope in the Psalms. He says in one, "And now, Lord, what wait I for? My hope is in Thee." (Psalms 39:7) The Apostle Paul also wrote often of hope. This is what he wrote one young brother: "I Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and the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

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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

(Continued on Page 10)

Missionary Visit to Africa

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-of-war 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

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

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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

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 Erie 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

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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