

# The Gospel News

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

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## Building Dedicated in India

*By Baer David Livingston*

*In this article, Dr. Livingston recounts the events leading up to the dedication of the first Church of Jesus Christ Building in Andhra Pradesh, India, on December 6, 1984.*

I was invited to speak for several years during the Christmas season by the Hindus at Singarajapalem, twenty kilometers from Tadepalligudem. My endeavors to introduce them to Christianity was very well received, and they continued to invite me year after year.

After I was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on December 6, 1981, I went on my own, through divine guidance, to Singarajapalem. After continuously visiting and speaking to the group there about the Restored Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ, sixteen people asked for their baptism on January 17, 1983. After they were baptized I laid my hands on them individually and prayed for the gift of the Holy Spirit to descend upon them. As I continued to work there, regularly preaching to them the Gospel Restored, twelve more were convinced, and took baptism on February 5, 1983. I regularly prayed, laying my hands on the sick and anointing them with blessed olive oil; many were healed of their sicknesses, and others improved.

We were conducting the services in the open air, mainly at night since most of the members, who depend on daily wages without which they cannot eat, went out even on Sundays for their wages. We also had more visitors at night, and we did not have the intense

heat of the sun upon us at night as we met in the open air.

As the Church was planted in this Gentile country of ours, our country also began to be blessed. The Parent Church in the United States donated money for the purchase of a plot of ground, and gradually money was sent for the construction of the first church building of The Church of Jesus Christ in India, at Singarajapalem, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh—in answer to my own and others' prayers, with a great burden on our hearts for a church building.

After it was built, we prayerfully arranged to get it dedicated by the mis-

sionaries who came over to India in 1984. We fixed the dedication service to be held on December 6, the same day that the Church had been established in Andhra Pradesh, and just as we had planned, Bro. Joe Calabrese and Bro. Paul Palmieri came and dedicated our church building for us.

Bro. Livingston read from II Chronicles 6th and 7th chapters, where Solomon dedicated the Temple at Jerusalem. Then Bro. Joe Calabrese cut the ribbon, and we entered into the church building, where Bro. Paul Palmieri spoke to us. Bro. Joe Calabrese offered the dedicatory prayer.

Our missionaries made it possible for us to conduct an all-Andhra Conference

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**Dedicated December 6, 1984, the Church's first building in India provides welcome relief from the tropical sun.**

## Greetings in Christ



By Evangelist Mark Randy

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord. He delights in his way. Though he may fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholds him with His hand.

In response to a plea from the Quorum of Seventy, Brother Dominic Moraca and I spent seventeen days in Oak Grove and nearby Independence, Missouri. Brothers Frank DiDonato and Dr. Adam Costarella also offered to help us spread the Gospel there and were of invaluable assistance to us. We were able to devote ourselves more to the ministry, while our two lay brothers assisted us with their inspiring testimonies.

Upon our arrival we were cordially greeted by Dr. David Clark and his wife, Gweyn. They have shown us great kindness and hospitality.

When I arrived, on October 17, I dreamed of walking about the landscape of what appeared to be Oak Grove, and to my surprise, I saw a fig tree and an almond tree. The almonds were much larger than I had ever seen. In the dream I plucked one and upon breaking the shell, there were two nuts in it. "Almonds in Missouri? How strange," I thought. As I walked further, I saw the manufacturing of pre-fabricated partitions and sections of new homes. The man in charge said there is a need for more new construction. This new idea of pre-fabrication has made it possible for easy rebuilding as well as adding to existing foundations.

I awoke thinking the dream a rather strange one, but its memory seems to persist.

The Clarks shared with us their per-

sonal testimonies, which we enjoyed. In turn, they allowed us to relate our testimonies and many experiences. It was a fruitful visit, as we engaged in a scriptural lesson and a season of prayer.

In the city of Independence we visited the 'temple lot' site, and had an interesting visit with Apostle Sheldon of that organization, after which we offered prayer, and invited him to visit us at any time. He asked for the addresses of some of the General Church officers.

We visited with a Mrs. Catherine Bowers, an elderly woman who received us gladly, and it proved to be a very good visit as we sang her a hymn and had prayer. Our visit at a local nursing home was most rewarding. Brothers Frank and Adam sang a number of hymns.

We are continuing to meet people who ask many questions about our Church, which we always try to answer by using the scriptures as our basis. We also had the pleasure of bearing our testimonies at the Reorganized Church in Oak Grove. Brother Frank sang *Wave the Flags of Zion*, which many said they enjoyed. There were several other individuals we visited, planting seeds and enjoying each one.

Our visit to the Independence area was made easier by the brothers and sisters who preceded us. On October 26, the night before my departure, three visitors came to see us, and we spent some time earlier that day with the Clarks.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the Clarks for their kindness, and to Brothers Frank DiDonato and Adam Costarella for their temporal and spiritual assistance. In concluding this visit, we left with a desire to return again. It is our prayer that God will bless this work, that it may bear the fruit which I saw in the dream related above.

Finally, we pray for unity among God's children, to form that one and only Church of the Lamb of God, where every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Every true believer is longing for that day, laying everything at the feet of Christ, as He shall one day lay everything at the feet of God, that God may be all in all (I Corinthians 15:28).

Grace be unto all readers,  
Mark Randy

## Two Experiences

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was visiting with my daughter and son-in-law one evening. While I was there with my husband, there was a disagreement between my daughter and her husband. Harsh words were exchanged between them, and although I was not involved in the situation, the things that I heard made me feel very bad. When we left, I was still feeling bad.

All the next day, I was wondering if I should telephone my daughter and see if she was all right. But I didn't call her, not wanting to stir up trouble and make matters worse.

That night, my husband and I went into town, and as we were on our way home we were listening to a tape of the *Songs of Zion*. I began to feel better as each song came, and I eventually started to sing along. The Lord was coming to my rescue through these songs, because He saw how broken-hearted I was to see my family arguing.

One song really touched me in particular. It was *He'll Take Care of Me*. As I listened to the song, I felt an arm around my shoulder, and I began to weep openly. I was saying, "Yes, He'll take care of us!" I was able to pray to the Lord in my heart to bless each and every member of my family, saying, "I know, Lord, You'll take care of us!"

Suddenly, I felt so good. The Lord had lifted me out of despair. I prayed, "Lord, give my daughter an experience. Show her that You care. She has gone through so much."

I didn't know that the Lord was going to answer my prayers as quickly as He did, but you can read below what happened.

I thank God for the *Songs of Zion*. They are the words of life. Through them, the Lord lifted me from despair and put His comforting arm around me. He said, "I'll take care of you and your family."

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I awoke the other night from a short rest, after putting our little boy to sleep. It was 11:50 p.m.

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## In Memory of Apostle A. A. Corrado

*By Robert A. Watson  
Secretary of the Quorum of Twelve*

Brother Tony Corrado was born in Bugnara, in the province of L'Aquila, Italy on July 26, 1903. He was the son of Apostle Joseph Corrado, who first met the Church in 1918 through the testimony of Brother John Molinatto, with whom he worked in Charleroi, PA.

After Joseph Corrado's baptism in 1920, he sent word to his wife in Italy, requesting that she come with their son to the United States and experience the joy that he had felt in meeting the Church. That same year, his son Tony arrived in America without his mother for the purpose of convincing his father to return to Italy. Bro. Joseph Corrado stated that he would never leave The Church of Jesus Christ in America unless he was sent to preach the Gospel abroad. This caused tremendous friction between Bro. Joseph Corrado and his son, Tony, until January 7, 1923, when Bro. Tony was moved upon to be baptized into the Church in Glassport, PA. Bro. Caesar Talamonte immersed him that day in the Monongahela River.

On July 15, 1923 Brother Tony was ordained an elder, and on July 17, 1927 he was ordained an evangelist. On November 21, 1923, he married Sister Angeline Damore, and from that union they had two daughters, Sis. Irene Williams and Sis. Amelia (Amy) Cook. On July 20, 1941, Bro. Tony was ordained an apostle by Bro. William H. Cadman. Bro. Tony had had a dream in 1934 where his father, who had just died, passed the mantle of his office (apostle) on to his son. This ordination fulfilled that dream.

Sis. Angeline passed away on November 3, 1948. On April 26, 1952 Bro. Tony married Sis. Mary Guerriere and together they had a daughter, Annette.

Brother Tony had a great desire to return to Italy to see his mother, for the purpose of bringing his testimony to her as well as others who would listen. He went to Italy in June of 1955 and was reunited with his mother, whom he hadn't seen in 35 years. While in Italy, he was informed by his mother that there were two groups of people that

wanted to kill him. He told his mother, "I am serving a true and living God, and He is able to protect me. I know that my work is not yet finished, and they cannot do me any harm." His mother was comforted by these words.

Bro. Tony had an experience in October 1972 that was a message to the Church. He was carried away in the Spirit one night while he was awake and this is what he saw in his own words:

"I saw a glorious but terrifying movement in the sky. It seemed like the clouds were rushing to a restricted place (like a funnel). I heard the voice of God like thunder say, 'I sent Moses.' The earth shook as He spoke. I then looked to the left of where the voice was coming from, and I saw Moses. He was a well-built man dressed in ancient apparel, and as Moses passed by me, he disappeared from my sight. When the Lord said 'I sent Moses,' I had the understanding that God is the same. The Lord then spoke again, saying, 'Oh ye, My people, tarry around Me. I will lead you and guide you. I will also protect you and will tell you what to do.' This same vision was repeated again during the night."

Brother Tony stated in his testimony that the Lord blessed him many times in preaching the Gospel both in English and in Italian. He also devoted much time to prayer. He was never too busy to pray for the sick and the needy, especially those who were confined to a hospital bed. It can well be said of him that he was a man of mighty prayer. Bro. Tony will be sorely missed in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. His presence and influence covered many years of faithful service. He truly has left an indelible mark.

Our sympathy and prayers go out to his family, who can be very proud of the rich heritage their father has left them.

## In Memory of Apostle Frank Calabrese

*By Robert A. Watson,  
Secretary of the Quorum of Twelve*

Brother Frank Calabrese was born on September 30, 1921, and was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on October 29, 1922. He was baptized into the Church on October 13, 1946 by Brother

Patsy Fyre. He leaves behind him many years of faithful service and was ordained into the following offices: A teacher on April 17, 1955 by Bro. Gorie Ciaravino; an elder on October 16, 1955 by Bro. Rocco Biscotti; an evangelist on April 19, 1959 by Bro. Dominic Moraca, and an apostle on April 19, 1964 by Bro. Sam Kirshner.

At the time of his death, he was the secretary of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and was the resident apostle of the Ohio District. He also was very active in assisting the Pennsylvania and Atlantic Coast Districts, as well as traveling extensively throughout the United States and making trips to Mexico as well, serving as a member of the American Indian Committee.

He married Rosamond Brackett, whom he met while serving in the Army Air Corps, on August 17, 1944. While in the service, he was promoted to first lieutenant and received a decoration and citation for flying fifty missions over the Brenner Pass. He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, affectionately called Romy, and his two children, Frank Anthony and Sherry Maria, as well as four grandchildren.

Bro. Frank was very active in the Lorain, Ohio Branch, serving on numerous occasions there as presiding elder and as teacher of both Sunday School and MBA classes.

As the assistant secretary of the Quorum, I enjoyed working with Bro. Frank very much. He worked in many instances under great stress, never complaining about his own physical ailments. I will never forget a recent General Church Conference, when I was privileged to wash Bro. Frank's feet during a footwashing service. As I knelt there I sensed that he was going through great physical trials. I poured out my heart to God on his behalf, as well as for his family.

I also remember my ordination as an apostle, when Bro. Frank humbled himself in washing my feet, because his prayer was very touching. As I reflect upon these two occasions, I am reminded of the goodness of God in how He allows us to share our love for each other in so many different ways.

One could not help but admire the many times Bro. Frank attended Quorum meetings, as well as other meetings, and after a full day's session,

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## Ventures Started by Seventy

By Carl J. Frammolino  
Quorum Editor

New ventures are being implemented by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, as reported in the last issue. Among them has been the cooperative undertaking at Independence, Missouri described last month, which is being continued with various evangelists and lay members working in tandem, volunteering their time and efforts. This modern-day pioneer endeavor is directed toward establishing a congregation in this long-time stronghold of Restoration activity.

Currently, the seventies are embarking on what is hoped to be a far-reaching radio and television ministry. Through quorum action at the last October General Church Conference, the first phase of this mass media approach is in place at Tse Bonito, New Mexico, where the local congregation is scheduled to present a half-hour radio broadcast every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. beginning January 4.

The priesthood of the Tse Bonito Branch is, of course, in charge of programming, with required assistance and direction from the Radio and Television Broadcast Committee of the Quorum of Seventy. A theme song, which can be used for the entire Church, has been readied, and guidelines, which will be made available to all branches, are being established to permit uniformity and quick listener and/or viewer familiarity and identification anywhere the Church is on radio or television.

Programs will be adapted for the locality involved, but basically uniformity, as much as is practical, will offer more of our resources, experience, and capabilities to be utilized by all parts of the Church. Previously, broadcasts were aired by individual branches, but now a united approach is being taken to help us use modern methods of communication to a greater advantage.

The Tse Bonito broadcasts will be carried over a 50,000 watt station, KTNN, out of Window Rock, Arizona. It covers Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, Colorado, and parts of California and Mexico, where there are also branches of the Church. The station is 660 on the AM dial, and it reaches most of the United States in the evening hours; hence, a nighttime segment is being considered as well.

The Navajo Nation was awarded this station recently from among a reported 200 applicants, and its transmission is the most powerful permitted by the FCC. This presents a tremendous opportunity for us to evangelize the Gospel of Christ over the southwest United States, as there are very few stations of this size west of the Mississippi.

The seventy and the Tse Bonito Branch are requesting prayers that their sermons, prayers, musical selections, and any additional content of their programs will be blessed, so as to touch the hearts of all individuals who are seeking salvation. Many people are searching for the Truth and the Love of God through the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we hope that they might feel the Spirit of God through these and any future broadcasts which may be aired in other areas of the Church.

There is unlimited potential through the use of such media in today's world. It is one method by which many can be reached who might otherwise never hear about the Restored Gospel. Those interested in supporting this effort are urged to contribute their prayers and fastings to God on its behalf.

### VAST TALENT

There is a vast amount of musical talent throughout the Church, and we hope that this great resource will be efficiently used in this outreach effort. On a radio format, singing will undoubtedly be valuable in complementing the actual presentation of the Gospel message by the elders who will be speaking.

The Tse Bonito Branch has many gifted singers, and there are others relatively nearby who can aid in this aspect of the work. As reported in the November 1986 issue of *The Gospel News*, a musical workshop was sponsored by the Tse Bonito Branch in August of last year.

Other skills and talents from around the Church may also be utilized in the overall broadcast program. The General Church Survey pointed out here last month, which was jointly prepared by the Board of Missions and the Finance Committee, may be useful in determining what help may be available in the total organization of the Church.

Incidentally, the "Missionary Outreach Training Workshop," which

was also held by the Tse Bonito Branch in August is worthy of special mention. At this workshop, many relevant topics and seminars were presented in areas that greatly affect mankind today and which must be addressed by those desiring to bring souls to Christ. It was inspiring and uplifting to see the spirit of cooperation among the priesthood and the laity at this workshop, everyone working together and teaching what he or she excelled at, for the benefit of the Church.

### NEED MISSIONARY VOLUNTEERS

Returning to the Independence project, we plan to maintain a base there for the Church. A permanent missionary from among the priesthood is being sought, along with one for the Dallas, Texas Mission. Any elder who, along with his family, is desirous of serving for a time at either Independence or Dallas should contact one of the following two brothers:

Elmer Santilli, Chairman  
Gen. Church Development Committee  
8817 Farbar Drive  
Kirtland, Ohio 44094  
(216) 256-1258

Eugene Perri, Secretary  
Gen. Church Development Committee  
570 North Dover Road  
Tequesta, Florida 33469  
(305) 746-3616

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your prayers in my behalf during my recent hospital stay. I entered the hospital on October 27 for a routine operation, which was supposed to keep me there for only three or four days. However, after a bizarre chain of very painful events, I finally was able to go home on the 15th day.

I, along with my dear wife and family, want you to know that we deeply appreciate your prayers, cards, and even gifts which did bring me in particular much comfort and support. May God bless each and every one of you, and keep up the good work. Charity is the gift that never goes out of style.

Bro. Reno Bologna



# The Gospel News

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

## CONSULTANTS

Nephí DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovaivo

## OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

## GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

## GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

## DISTRICT EDITORS

### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
4682 El Rancho Verde Drive  
LaPalma, CA 90620

### FLORIDA

Eugene J. "Buddy" Perri  
c/o 570 N. Dover Road  
Tequesta, FL 33469

### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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## BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By W. H. Cadman

Reprinted from the September, 1955 Gospel News

Shall he that is born of God grow, or shall he not grow? Let us have a few scriptural quotations on the matter of Growth, and then by our own experiences and along with the law and testimony of God's word, let us abide.

Jesus says to Nicodemus in John 3:7, "Ye must be born again." May I ask, are we born merely to die? The results of our physical birth are, that we grow in stature and in knowledge and understanding of our surroundings. If then we are born again, born of the Spirit, and we keep healthy in spirit, we also shall grow and abound in the knowledge of the things pertaining to our spiritual birth, and then as Jesus says in John 14:12, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father." He that is born again, surely has grown, if he does greater things than the Master did.

Daniel says: "And the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:35). We speak of the little stone, so much, but it grows and becomes a great Kingdom, the Kingdom of Christ.

The Psalmist says: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall **grow** like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. And shall bring forth fruit in his old age, they shall be fat and flourishing" (Psalm 92). In other words, the righteous will grow and abound in the things of God, even as they of old.

In Malachi 4:2, it says, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings: and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked, etc." May I say that the righteous have grown, and wicked have become ashes under their feet? Peter exhorts us to **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul, in speaking to the saints of God, says: "In whom all the building fitly framed together **groweth** unto an holy temple in the Lord" (Ephesians 2:21).

May I ask, how can these things be unless the saints of God live righteously, so that they may grow (not stand still) into the wonderful things of God, and I will add, they are born again to that end. In 2nd Thessalonians 1:3, Paul was very thankful because, he says, "the faith of his brethren **groweth** exceedingly, and the charity of everyone toward each other aboundeth." May I add that they were not standing still, they had been born again; consequently they were growing and abounding in the wonderful things of God; and such will be thoughtful of those who may have not yet been born of God, for our Savior has said: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God." May God bless the soul that has been born again, that he or she may exert themselves to help some other poor soul to be born into the kingdom of God.

My brethren and sisters, allow no man, great or small, to deceive you with his vain philosophy, lest the thistles grow instead of wheat, and cockle instead of barley (Job 31:40). I will conclude with the exhortation, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." And I will add, that such will grow in the knowledge of the purposes of God.

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## The Garden of God

Dear Girls and Boys,

"When you've given up what I've given up for the Lord, then He will bless you in the same way he has blessed me."

A well-known apostle in our Church who had beautiful gifts from God once told this to a person who wanted the same kind of power from God. This apostle was Brother Ismael D'Amico, who was led by God's Holy Spirit to travel to a faraway city, Detroit, to preach the Gospel.

When he reached the city, with no idea where to go, an angel appeared on the trolley at the stop where he was to get off. Then a soon-to-be sister in the



Church, who had felt God's Spirit prompting her to go to the trolley line, introduced herself and brought Bro. Ismael home to her family. There he preached the Gospel, and soon many believed and were baptized. Today, hundreds and hundreds of believers still grow from the spiritual garden that Bro. Ismael tended there for the Lord.

In a garden, certain plants grow better when they are planted side by side. Like people, some have shallow roots but showy tops, and fall over when the first storm comes. Some can be staked up and will flourish again. Some have firm roots, and others know how to twine themselves around a taller, stronger plant, like beans do amidst the corn, so they can reach upward to feel the growing power of God.

That's *our* job—to be the fruitful plants who depend on each other and help each other grow.

Did you know that some plants, like marigolds, have pretty flowers, but underneath their roots are powerful and give off a potion that even scares away certain insects? These plants aren't just pretty—they are warrior plants. Many gardeners plant marigolds to protect their delicate young vegetable plants from bugs that would devour them.

We are like those plants—some of us are delicate and small, just starting to learn how to grow. We need warrior plants of beauty to surround us and tall high-reaching plants to lean upon and twine ourselves around. Sometimes we are plants who look good on the outside, but whose roots need strengthening. All of us need to be pruned by the Master Gardener, God, when we start to grow weak branches. All of us need to be watered with faith, sustained by hope, and fed by love; and those of us who are willing, as Bro. Ismael D'Amico was, to give up our weak branches, bad habits, and unclean thoughts, will grow to be strong plants of beauty—plants that thrive today and whose fruits last for generations.

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

## Branch and Mission News

### Herndon, VA

By Esther Andrews

We were blessed to have visiting with us in August of 1986 Brother Mike and Sister Pat Hildenbrand and their family from Florida.

Bro. Mike began our service by reading from Mark 8:1-9, concerning Christ's feeding the four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few fishes. He asked us today if we would be willing to follow Christ without food for three days—dedicated only to Him. Our brother commented that we as saints cannot comprehend the blessings of God. Even the blessings that were bestowed upon the prophets of old are ours today to enjoy; all we have to do is live worthy of them.

There is absolutely nothing to compare to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We

cannot comprehend the blessings to come, or the work that we will accomplish as we grow both naturally and spiritually. We are being tried and tested, but before God can say that we're worthy to go to the four corners of the earth, before He can say that we are able to withstand the trials and troubles that will come upon us, we must be tested.

The harder we work in these the latter days, the harder Satan will work. Either we will not fit in with the world, or we will be a part of it. As we endeavor to serve God, the things of the world will no longer appeal to us. There is a dividing line between us and the world which must grow wider as we draw closer to God. We cannot have one foot in the world and one in the Church. If we can't serve God seven days a week, we are wasting our time in Church.

What would we as saints do if we

didn't have God, and our brothers and sisters, to help us through the difficult times that are to come? When we are in the proper spirit, God is right there with us. We must be sincere, however, in our desire to serve Him.

Brother Chat Young followed, also reflecting on the words of St. Mark. He reflected on the things we must do to serve God. He talked about Naaman in II Kings 5, how God used a handmaiden, a slave, and a prophet of God to cure the plague of leprosy that was upon Naaman. God used these 'small' people to perform a great miracle.

We all rejoiced to learn that Bro. Mike Hildenbrand and his family will be relocating back to the Herndon Branch. Bro. Mike has already found a job up here, and they'll be bringing their belongings on their next trip.

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We had a wonderful meeting on September 28, 1986. Bro. Mike read from I Samuel 3, concerning the calling of young Samuel by the Lord. God was

displeased with Eli, because he did not try to direct his own children to serve God. Bro. Mike reminded us that it is our duty to look after the children of the saints, and to try to persuade them to serve God, to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our brother cautioned us that the enemy of our souls can fill up our lives, and give us things to make us happy, but he cannot give us peace. If the Lord, however, is happy with us, we will be happy with ourselves. He will give us inner peace and joy.

As humans we tend to be lazy, like 'contented cows.' But we should remember that tomorrow we can always do a little better than today in our service to God. We are most blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ because we have the Spirit of God. The Lord gives us peace, joy, and contentment. We should not feel the need to seek after 'outside' interests. Our number one priority should be furthering the work of this Church. We should be saying, "Here am I, Lord, what would you have me do?" God does not turn from us, we turn from Him. We must better ourselves. We must dedicate ourselves more fully to Christ.

## Warren, OH

*By Nancy Cartino*

On September 14, 1986 we arrived at the church building for our services and immediately felt the Spirit of God as we entered the building. There was much joy in seeing all our brothers and sisters home from a busy summer. The Spirit of God prevailed on through our preaching service, at which time we observed a white round-shaped form appearing behind the pulpit on the wall. This faded away and an arm appeared in its place.

We began our testimony meeting, and many brothers and sisters testified that they had seen these things today. Some saw the arm, and some said it looked like a river. During this season of fellowship, Kim Surrena requested prayer for strength. God's Spirit was working, for she then asked for her baptism!

Now we all understood the visions. The round shape was interpreted to be the Glory of God. The arm, signifying "Come unto Me," was the Lord's, and

the river was the means by which we come into the fold of God—baptism. We were overjoyed by the working of God's Spirit, wherein He allowed both members and non-members to see these visions today.

We went to the water's edge, where Sis. Kim was baptized by Bro. Jerry Giovannone. Back at church, our sister was later confirmed by Bro. Bob Ciarrochi. Communion was then served and we all left the building with our cups overflowing.

## Imperial, PA

*By Eva Moore*

It is written, "Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine."

After our General Conference on October 12, we had a mini-conference in our branch. We must mention the brothers who were with us, so that others would know that our ministry is untiring in its efforts to strengthen the Church and all those who come to hear the Gospel on Sunday evenings.

We had brothers from every part of the vineyard, including Bro. Cleveland Baldwin of Quincy, FL; Ron Genaro of Niles, OH; Paul Ciotti of McKees Rocks, PA; Alma Nolfi of Glassport, PA; Wilburt McNeil of New Brunswick, NJ; Harold Burge of Erie, PA; Norman James of San Carlos, AZ; Dick Christman of Phoenix, AZ; Frank Natoli of Rochester, NY; Malcolm Paxon of Vanderbilt, PA; and Paul Gehly of Greensburg, PA.

We are thankful for all the others who have also helped us through 1986. We had a quiet, peaceful year, which reminds us of the Lord Jesus when He said, "Peace I give unto you."

## Rochester, NY

On Saturday, October 25, the brothers and sisters of the Rochester Mission held a very special meal and gathering. It was a time of memories, of joy, of sadness, of remembering the bonds of many years, both long past and recent. It was an evening set aside for Sister Florence Catena, who would be moving shortly to Port St. Lucie,

Florida after being part of Rochester for over 52 years. Many of our Sister Florence's family came to share this time with her, and many friends and brothers and sisters from near and far made it a point not to miss this occasion.

In our eyes, Sis. Florence has led a quiet life, as compared with many, but there are few individuals like her. Her kindness and the love which she has shown towards others is just as alive in her today as it ever was. Her desire to help and serve others has grown stronger with the years.

We've painted a picture with words, of a saint, and is this not the standard by which we should all be measured?

We of the Rochester Mission realize that it's hard to let our Sister Florence leave, but we will never forget her outstretched hand of love, which she extended to many, and with the help of God, will continue to do as she 'comes to the aid of her country' in another part of God's vineyard.

## Detroit, Branch 3

*By Cathy Mulla*

On Sunday, November 9, 1986, Brother Scott Anderson was ordained into the office of a deacon. Brother Rick Elzby and his family, from the Meaford Ontario Mission, joined us this day to witness the event.

Our Brother Rick introduced the service with a text from the book of Hebrews, concerning faith. He stressed that God will do what He must in order for His work to be done, and none can deny it.

Brother Rick then read from Matthew 9:37, and indicated that each one of us in the Gospel has been called to labor for the Lord. In reference to the Song of Zion, *One Last Pruning*, Bro. Rick mentioned that we must be a true people and raise the Standard of Liberty. The Church continually needs replacements who will love and serve God with all their hearts.

Bro. Rick compared the natural instincts of the eagle to the spiritual goal of one who serves God. An eagle has a tendency to fly toward the eye of a storm in order to soar higher above it and away from danger. A servant of

(Continued on Page 8)

## DETROIT, BRANCH 3 continued . . .

God must be able to surpass the immediate obstacles of life to convey God's message to the world.

Though the harvest is plenteous and the laborers are few, each laborer has a specific role. There are some, for example who plant the seeds, and others who water them, some who nurture and fertilize them, some to watch over them, and others who gather the fruit. Likewise, each of the members in The Church of Jesus Christ has an important role to play.

Bro. Rick then related to us the dream of Bro. Tony Lovalvo, where he saw the flag of the United States surpassed by a white flag with gold letters which spelled out, "The Church of Jesus Christ." Bro. Rick pointed out that there are many who try to satisfy their needs with worldly possessions, but they fail to fill the emptiness inside them. They realize that *something* is missing in their lives, and that something is the *truth* of the Gospel.

Our brother reminded us that we are in possession of this great treasure. He then posed the question, What are we going to do with it? We must labor for righteousness and raise the Standard of Liberty higher.

Presiding Elder Gary Coppa then related an experience that his grandfather, Bro. Michael Coppa of San Diego, CA, had concerning harvest time. He concluded with a message to the congregation that *now* is the time of harvest in the Church.

Bro. Gary then read the duties of a deacon. He acknowledged the deacons of the branch and the service they have performed.

Then Bro. Jack Pontillo related his dream pertaining to Scott's calling as a deacon. While the work of the branch was great and help was sorely needed, Brother Scott showed an earnest and sincere desire to do something for the Lord. After the Lord's Supper, Bro. Vic Pastorelli washed Bro. Scott's feet and Bro. Jack Pontillo ordained him a deacon.

Our Brother Scott later expressed himself with thankfulness to God, and spoke about his need and desire to do something for the Lord. Many times he was frustrated with himself because of his lack of understanding. But he later realized that God wants to see our faith

in Him before He leads us on.

The brothers and sisters of Branch 3 truly felt the Spirit of God in our midst this day. We ask an interest in your prayers to bless our branch as we seek to relocate. We are now meeting in a college auditorium. We thank God for allowing us the presence of His Spirit no matter where we are, and His goodness in providing help for our branch.

## Muncey, Ontario

By Barb Racx

On Sunday August 31, 1986, Neila Kechego, of the Muncey Indian Reservation, asked for her baptism in the Sunday service.

God's Holy Spirit was admonishing us on this day, as Brother Rodney Dyer spoke about love. There is natural love, and most importantly there is spiritual love, wherein we love God, and obey His commandments. God asks us to be faithful and to keep our commitment to the end of our days.

Jesus promised us that He would fill our hearts with hope and blessings. If we have faith, and obey His word, we will drink of the living waters. We must be full of His Holy Spirit, so that we can send out invitations to the Marriage Feast, and be used to bring our fellow man to the fountains of joy, peace, and love.

Neila, our dear young sister, asked for her baptism during the season of testimony that followed the preaching.

Brother John Buffa, led by the Spirit of God, asked us all to kneel down and offer prayer unto God, that He would be in our midst as the elders anointed five of our brothers and sisters in Christ today.

We felt love, joy, and all the fruits of God's Holy Spirit as we diligently prayed with our brethren. Moroni 6 was fulfilled in our midst this day, Amen.

Sister Neila Kechego was baptized by Bro. Rodney Dyer. The gift of the Holy Ghost was later bestowed upon her by Bro. John Buffa.

After sacrament was administered, we joined hands in a circle as Brother Clayton Lunham offered the closing prayer.

## Detroit Branch 1

By Shelby Chambers

On Sunday morning, November 23, 1986, we at Detroit Branch 1 were doing some singing before our service got under way. At about five minutes before eleven, as our Bro. Joe Ignagni was leading the congregation in singing *I Asked the Lord*, Samuel Impastato stood on his feet and told Bro. Peter Scolaro, our presiding elder, that he wanted to be baptized. Sam was born and raised in the Church, and has been attending for 41 years.

Needless to say, when you start out your Sunday morning meeting with that kind of spirit, it's going to be a good day.

Bro. Nick Pietrangelo opened our meeting, speaking of the promises of God, and how He has a place set up for those of us who prove faithful. He also exhorted us, at this Thanksgiving season, to be truly thankful for all the Lord has blessed us with.

It was decided that we would close our meeting early so that we could all meet at the river for the baptism. As we all ventured to Belle Isle, Satan decided to put one last obstacle in Sam's way: The car he was riding in, one of the last to leave the church, had a flat tire on the way to the river! But as we all know, when we have God on our side, nothing can stop us from doing His will. Sam's brother, Bro. John Impastato, was coming to the baptism from farther away and saw the stranded car at the side of the road. Thank God, there was room in his car for all seven passengers, and they finally drove up to the group waiting on the beach.

Brother Richard Thomas led Sam into the waters of baptism as we sang *I Surrender All*, and we now have a new member at Branch 1.

Back at the church building, Bro. Gerald Benyola petitioned the Lord to send His Spirit down, and Bro. Peter Scolaro confirmed our Brother Samuel Impastato into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our new brother testified how for the past few months he had been praying diligently for the Lord to call him into the Church. He knew what he had to do, but wanted the Lord to confirm it. One night he had a couple of dreams, one where he saw himself asking for his bap-

tism, and one where he was relating this dream to an elder, who pointed out that the Lord was showing him what he must do. But Bro. Sam didn't act on it right away.

During a vacation some weeks later, as he was having second thoughts on the decision he was going to make, he had a third dream, in which his wife appeared to be upset about something. She told him that she had gone to visit their son's grave, and how poorly the landscaping was being kept there. Now Sam's son did not die, but right after he was born, he was very ill, and the doctors did not give him much hope. But after the baby was anointed, he miraculously recovered. This third dream served to remind our new brother that the Lord had indeed done great things for him in his life, and today, thank God, Sam decided to give his life to Jesus.

We ask that you would pray for this, our new brother, as well as all the children of the saints who come from time to time, but have not yet made that decision to join the army of God.

## Niles, OH

*By Ron Genaro*

### A TIME OF REVIVAL

The Niles Branch reserved the weekend of October 24-26 for a series of revival services. On Friday evening, Brother Jim Moore, Jr. of Imperial, PA was our guest speaker. Using the life of Moses as the content of his sermon, Bro. Jim recounted the calling of Moses and how God utilized him to deliver the Israelites from the captivity of Egypt. Bro. Jim paralleled this with the Choice Seer being a latter day deliverer, leading his people into Zion.

Bro. Mitchell Edwards furthered the theme of Zion, accentuating that the dream of Zion will one day become a reality. Bro. Joe Genaro was anointed for an affliction. He was experiencing severe chest pains for the past couple of weeks and had the following experience:

Several people had advised Bro. Joe to ask Bro. Adam Costarella, a medical doctor, to recommend a good heart specialist. At a previous district meeting, Bro. Adam approached Bro. Joe, stating that he had had a dream about him. In the dream, Bro. Joe was

asking him to recommend a heart doctor. Bro. Adam replied that the best doctor that he could recommend was Jesus Christ. Since Bro. Joe was anointed, he has not received any more pain, praise God!

Many wonderful testimonies ensued, and the meeting was closed with a social following it.

On Saturday evening, Bro. Fred Olexa was our guest speaker. He read from the first chapter of Daniel, and stressed how Daniel refused to defile himself with the king's meat or wine, requesting pulse for himself along with the three Hebrew children. At the end of the ten-day trial period, their countenances were better than those that ate the king's meat. Bro. Fred recounted how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow down to the god of Nebuchadnezzar. Today people are more likely to follow pomp and ceremony rather than the simplicity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Brian Martorana amply furthered the theme, speaking about the blessings in Daniel's life and how we could be blessed in like fashion through our dedication to God's service.

On Sunday Bro. Paul Palmieri was our guest speaker. Bro. Paul's discourse revolved around Jesus' encounter with the woman at the well. Bro. Paul portrayed the loving and caring approach that Christ used in dealing with this adulterous woman. Jesus related that He possessed the living water that nourishes and sustains our souls. Jesus did not condemn the woman for her past life, but pointed out to her the error of her ways and encouraged her to live a spiritually productive life. We too must be spiritually productive, and as Jesus has forgiven our sins, we have to be equally forgiving toward one another.

Bro. Phil Jackson asked the question, are we willing to bring this living water to the Seed of Joseph? Do we feel enough of a burden for the plight of Joseph?

Bro. Jerry Giovannone related several experiences in his life, which illustrated God's goodness toward him.

A good spirit of testimony followed, attesting to the goodness of God. Bro. Ryan Ross was anointed, along with several others, with a good spirit of prayer prevailing.

The end of this meeting brought to a

close a glorious weekend. We wish to thank our brothers and sisters who attended from Warren, Youngstown, Kinsman, Kent, Imperial, and Aliquippa. We also wish to thank our sisters for the delicious food, recognizing the time and energy that went into its preparation. All present could truthfully say that we were spiritually revived, and will look forward with anticipation to the next series of revival services.

## Now Bring Me a Minstrel

In the third chapter of II Kings we read an interesting account where three kings sought the aid of a prophet of God, Elisha, in dealing with their enemy, the king of Moab. The fifteenth verse of this chapter contains a wonderful revelation. When Elisha inquired of the Lord, he called for a minstrel. The verse reads, "But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the Lord came upon him."

Evidently the minstrel played a hymn, which touched the heart of Elisha; in this brokenhearted condition Elisha sought a favor of the Lord to help the kings, and God granted His direction and help.

We see that music has an influence upon the spirit within a human. If that spirit is the Spirit of God, the songs and hymns given from God unto man will soothe, strengthen, and cause great joy within the soul. Young David was able to play the harp in such a godly way that King Saul was comforted from the evil spirit that tormented him.

Many times in our own lives a hymn may be given; it may only be a few words, or the chords, or the entire song. It seems to roll over and over in our heart and mind, giving us comfort and strength. When we meet with the saints, we share it in testimony for the joy of all—it becomes one of our favorites because Almighty God has seen fit to communicate with us through that hymn.

Some souls have even been blessed to be the instrument whereby the Lord brings forth a heavenly song. Many times these hymns are inspired of God through great joy within the author; sometimes they are inspired through

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**MINSTREL continued . . .**

deep grief. We think of Fanny J. Crosby, W. W. Phelps, P. P. Bliss, the Gaithers, Sister Arlene Buffington, Bro. Jim Curry, Sister Esther Dyer, and on and on. These are people whom God has chosen in this life as instruments to bring forth songs of praise, songs of comfort, songs to strengthen the soul; anthems to draw us nearer to God, that His Spirit might fill our hearts. Truly there is a virtuous quality in the hymns that enhance the Spirit of God within us.

On the other hand, there is a multitude of styles and types of music which succeed in stirring up evil within us. Much of the music which is popular with people today have both lyrics and rhythms which seem to glorify all that is contrary to the righteousness of God. Although the composers may hide the theme of their songs behind 'love,' or 'fun,' their music and lyrics often combine to communicate sinful desires and acts.

Many musicians, in the pursuit of fame and fortune, have given themselves to playing and recording music which wakes up the old man in us. One young listener stated, "I like my music wild, loud, and crazy." The performers of this type of music claim that they're just having fun, yet their songs extol the vilest of sins, such as rebellion, sexual promiscuity, murder, suicide, and the worship of the power of evil. Some of these artists claim that their songs are "Christian Rock," but the music they play appeals only to the flesh, and gives no edification to the soul.

During the course of our day at work, or in our spare time, we may find ourselves exposed to the music of the world. This is a situation over which we have no control. We must be careful,

however, that when we *do* have the ability to choose the music we listen to, we should choose that which strengthens the Spirit of God dwelling within us. The kind of music we listen to just to pass the time does indeed have a subliminal effect upon us. In a tempting situation, the added ingredient of music to enhance the surroundings can influence us enough to let down our guard and yield to the temptation. This mortal flesh of which we're made so often causes us to stumble; we hardly need the world's music to encourage us along.

Nor are we strengthened by the sensual and carnal magnetism that is broadcast both visually and audibly on the television in music videos. Just as

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**BUILDING continued . . .**

of The Church of Jesus Christ for three days, December 6, 7, and 8, 1984. Funds were provided from the Parent Church for us to arrange for travel and meals for all those that had to come from three different places (Bokkinala, Nallamadu, and Koya Rajah-Mundry). Throughout the conference, both of our visiting missionaries spoke while Bro. Livingston translated.

During this conference, we had a total of thirty-two baptisms, including that of a leper. We were very happy to have Bro. Dev's presence at our conference on the 7th and 8th. The last day of our conference being a Sunday, we had a glorious time and the Spirit of Our Lord was with us. What a grand, spirit-filled time we had sharing the Lord's Supper, which was served by all four brothers of the priesthood (Brothers Calabrese, Palmieri, Dev, and Livingston).

All through the days of this conference there was rejoicing, with hearts full of heavenly bliss and praises to Our Lord for all that He has done for us since The Church of Jesus Christ was planted in this Gentile country of ours.

Now the people all around are attending in large numbers, and they are preached the Gospel Restored.

We were greatly privileged in enjoying the presence of our Brother Joe Calabrese and Brother Paul Palmieri from the Home Church. We are thankful to all the saints who made it possible for them to attend the first dedica-

tion of a Church of Jesus Christ building in India. All praise, laud, and honor be only to Him who is the only Wise God, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**EXPERIENCES continued . . .**

My heart was burdened throughout the day because of family problems. I felt as though Satan had brought turmoil into our home, and he was plaguing me to make a decision to leave my family because of the deep hurt and scars that had marred our marriage.

After I had tea and a doughnut, I returned to bed. I laid myself down, and immediately felt God's Spirit come upon me so strongly that it pierced me through to my backbone. A voice said to me out loud, "**Forgive, and remember no more.**" It was so strong that my back ached, and its force almost took my breath away.

I cried, "Thank you, Jesus, Thank you, Jesus, for You and your wonderful love."

Praise God. He will be with me, and my husband, and He will heal us, to remember one another. Praise God, we can forgive and forget. Satan has lost again. God's love and forgiveness are stronger.

Remember, brothers and sisters, it is in God's simplest ways that He does His perfect work to remold us and refine us. May God bless all who read this experience. "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and love thy neighbor as thyself."

Praise God, He is coming to gather Israel! Pray for us, and we will remember you in our prayers.

**IN MEMORY OF continued . . .**

he would hasten to his room to telephone his wife Romy, who was at home fighting a sickness, a battle she has been valiantly fighting for the past six years. He tried to balance his responsibilities to God and family with a full commitment to both.

Brother Frank will be greatly missed in the Quorum, and we extend our sympathy to his family, especially to his wife Romy, who has stood faithfully beside him for many years.

**Correction**

In the December, 1986 issue of *The Gospel News*, it was erroneously reported that Bro. Paul Palmieri was ordained an apostle by Bro. V. James Lovalvo. The article should have stated that the office of apostle was conferred upon Bro. Paul by Bro. Robert A. Watson. My apologies for any misunderstanding that may have resulted from this error in reporting.

Anthony J. Scolaro, Editor

\* **WEDDING** \*ZICKEFOOSE—MILLER

Timothy R. Zickefoose and Mary Jane Miller were united in holy matrimony on June 24, 1986 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Warren, Ohio.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Frank Giovannone.

The couple are residing in Warren, Ohio. We wish them happiness and blessings throughout their life.

**New Arrivals**

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

Sarah Marie to Jeffrey and Kimberly Buffington of Imperial, Pennsylvania.

James John Albert to James and Terri Bardo of Rochester, New York.

Joshua Cadman to Joel and Ruth Gehly of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Leah Vienna to James and Celia (Carrabia) LaPinta of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Shannon Marie to Scott and Joann (Coppa) Anderson of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Micah Ryan to Dexter and LuAnn (Scaglione) Carson of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Nathan Thomas to Thomas and Sharon (Kovacic) Heise of Erie, Pennsylvania.

**OBITUARIES**

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

CARLO SARAGOSA

Brother Carlo Saragosa passed on to glory on June 12, 1986. He was born in Caira, Frosinone, Italy on December 13, 1888 and was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 7, 1943 in Detroit, Michigan. At the age of 97, Bro. Carlo served as a soldier in God's army for nearly 43 years. He was an ordained deacon in the Church.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul P. Whitton, who read from Psalm 116:1-8 & 15.

Our brother is survived by two daughters and one son, along with thirteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren, his many brothers and sisters in Christ, and a host of friends.

Our dear brother was a faithful member who served God in Spirit and in truth until he was called from this life.

Bro. Carlo never complained. He will always be remembered by the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branches 3 and 4 for his wonderful testimonies professing his happiness and love for God. With a smile on his face, he was a brother who brought encouragement to all.

DOMENICA TAMBURRINO

Sister Domenica Concetta Tamburrino passed on to her eternal reward on September 5, 1986. She was born on June 7, 1898, and was baptized into the Church on November 6, 1921 by Brother Phillip Mileco at the West Aliquippa Mission in Pennsylvania. Bro. Mileco also confirmed our sister on that day.

Sister Domenica was soon to celebrate her 65th anniversary in the Church at Detroit Branch 3, where she has attended for many years. A charter member of the Ladies' Uplift Circle, she was one of the senior members of the Church.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Nephi DeMercurio and Peter H. Capone. Our sister is survived by a son, Bro. Daniel of Aliquippa, PA, a daughter, Sis. Mary Brown of Detroit Branch 3, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and her many brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our dear sister loved everyone. She was considered a pillar of the Church, and was an active member of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Her faith served as an example to all. She endured many hardships, yet gave all praise and glory to God. She will long be remembered by all who knew her, both in Detroit and in Aliquippa.

ANNA MAE WASELCHELK

Sister Anna Waselchek of the Warren, Ohio Branch passed from this life on October 19, 1986. She was born on May 25, 1919 in Nicholas County, West Virginia, and was baptized into the Church on May 6, 1951.

Her funeral was conducted by Brothers Frank and Jerry Giovannone.

Our sister is survived by her husband Brother John, two sons and five grandchildren, as well as two sisters. Another son preceded her in death.

Sister Anna Mae will be missed by all who knew her.

BERTHA LAKTASH

Sister Bertha Branch Laktash of the Roscoe, PA Branch passed on to her eternal reward on November 23, 1986. She was born on July 29, 1913 and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on March 25, 1937.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. John W. Kendall.

Sis. Bertha is survived by her husband Brother Matthew, three daughters, a stepson, a brother, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**MINSTREL continued . . .**

Herod was sufficiently influenced by the dance of Herodias' daughter Salome to give up half of his kingdom, we can, by choosing to view and listen to programs of a carnal nature, allow the evil spirit to find place in our hearts to the point where we've been blinded and led down the path of iniquity by our own fleshly lust.

Brothers and sisters, parents and children, conscientious individuals, let us be censors in our own lives and in the lives of those we love. The Apostle Paul says, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient" (I Corinthians 6:12). We live in an evil day in which we must take a stand for righteousness, however unpopular we may be. We must screen and censor what we hear and see, for ourselves and for our loved ones.

Be careful of what you listen to on the radio, and what you watch on television, whether it be a network channel, cable television, HBO, or a rented videotape. Likewise we must be careful of the magazines we read and the records and tapes we purchase. We must actively fight to keep Satan and his temptations out of our homes and our lives.

The words of King Benjamin speak firmly to us today: "And finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin; for there are divers ways and means, even so many that I cannot number them. But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not" (Mosiah 4:29 & 30).

May God deliver us from evil.

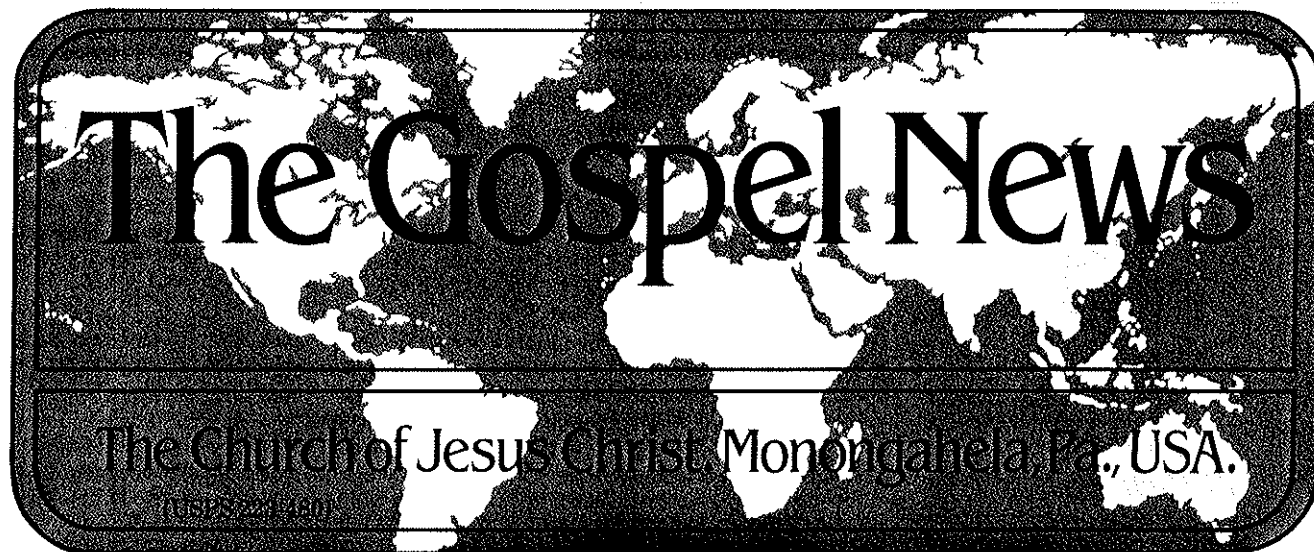
Bro. David Nolfi  
Glassport, PA

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



February, 1987

Volume 43, No. 2

## November 1986 GMBA Conference We're Going West

*By Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA Editor*

On the weekend of November 8 & 9, the GMBA Conference was held at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA. Brothers, sisters, and friends from the Atlantic Coast, California, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania districts were present and enjoyed a weekend filled with the blessings of God. Once again we can attest to the thrill felt each time the saints of God are gathered.

Our day began on Saturday morning with a welcome from the GMBA officers and a look ahead to the day's events. We then went on to the business of the day. In addition to the officers' and delegates' reports, we heard reports on a number of issues, including The Religious Awareness Pamphlet, Pen Pal Program, The MBA By-Laws, Welcome Packet, The Book of Mormon Concordance (which is now complete and available through the General Church Print House), The Missionary Visitation Program, and a report on last year's Campout. Details of each of these reports and the officers' reports will be found in the GMBA minutes, available from your local MBA.

Throughout the morning service, questionnaires were distributed to current college students in an effort to further the work of the GMBA Student Morale Booster Program. It is hoped that more of the Church's college students would take advantage of this program, which is designed to provide visitation and uplift to church members and friends attending college.

It should be noted here that the first visit under this program took place in early December, 1986, when a group from the Pennsylvania and Atlantic Coast districts visited the Penn State campus. Thirteen members, students, and friends were present for a Sunday morning service that was uplifting for all in attendance. If the Spirit of God felt during this meeting is any indication, this program will be a great benefit to the Church's college students.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform the Church's young people and parents that the Aliquippa MBA Local will be conducting a weekend seminar for prospective and current college students during the weekend of March 13-15, 1987. The seminar will deal with the many changes, both academically and socially, that students and parents must deal with when entering college life. This seminar should prove helpful to students and parents alike, in dealing with the problems these changes can cause. Further details regarding this event will be available through your local MBA. We hope to see you there!

During the afternoon session, as is customary at the November Conference, the election of officers was held. A major change took place as Brother Brian Martorana replaced Brother Charles Jumper in the office of vice president. Brother Chuck served admirably as GMBA vice president for the past four years, and has been a tireless supporter of the GMBA since joining the Church. We would like to thank Bro. Chuck for his unceasing ef-

forts on behalf of the GMBA and we trust that the Lord will richly reward him for his unending devotion to this auxiliary of The Church of Jesus Christ. A complete listing of election results is available in the GMBA minutes.

Later in the afternoon, those present enjoyed three very enlightening and rewarding seminars conducted by Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Jim Huttenberger, and Tom Everett. In Seminar #1, conducted by Joe Calabrese, we viewed a chart which compared our Church to other Restoration groups. It was extremely enlightening to see the many differences existing between the different factions, differences which pointed to and proved the divine origin and authenticity of this, The Church of Jesus Christ.

In Seminar #2, conducted by Bro. Jim Huttenberger, we explored the establishment of the Church in Jerusalem and the ensuing apostasy that occurred. We also discussed reasons for the apostasy and its continuance until the time that the Gospel was restored.

Slides of archaeological remains and corresponding scriptures were viewed in Seminar #3, conducted by Bro. Tom Everett. Each of the slides and the scriptures that accompanied them further proved, both historically and scripturally, the divinity and authenticity of the Book of Mormon.

Each of these seminars was educational and beneficial to all who attended. We thank our brothers for their contributions to this conference. May God richly bless and reward your efforts.

(Continued on Page 3)

## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

### Material Creation Seems Real

Creation is material, visible, and therefore seems real. The system of modern education has become entirely materialistic. The modern scientific concept denies the existence of the invisible and the spiritual. Yet all of our seemingly unsolvable problems and the evils in this world are of a spiritual nature.

I paraphrase the above from the first chapter of the book of Romans. In the 29th verse, it says that they did not like to retain God in their knowledge; God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to those things which are not convenient. Today little or nothing is taught about God; instead even in the elementary grades the basic concept taught is evolution, even though it is presented as a 'theory.'

Is it any wonder, then, that the scholar do not know who or what God is? They believe the things they have been taught.

Why this willing ignorance? The answer was given above in the first chapter of Romans: They were willingly ignorant of the things of the True God. But why?

In Romans 8:7 it is stated plainly that the natural mind of humans is enmity (hostile) against God. This does not necessarily mean that all unconverted human minds are actively, intentionally, maliciously hostile. Most humans are passively hostile against God, in that they simply do not normally think about God. If God is mentioned, they become embarrassed and often try to change

the subject. They probably do not realize, in their own minds, that they have a hostile attitude towards God. Yet that is the very reason, psychologically, why they want to avoid the subject.

In other words, the average person has an unrealized passive hostility against God. Without realizing it actively, they want to "keep God out of their business"—except at a time when they are in deep trouble and they cry out for God's help, and then wonder why no God comes to their aid. Spiritual and invisible things are a mystery to these people. They do not understand those things which are real; instead they prefer their modern education as a universal acceptance to the fable of evolution.

Evolution is the agnostic's or the atheist's attempt to explain the existence of a creation without the pre-existence of a Creator. This removes God from the picture entirely.

But not all educators are agnostic or unbelieving. Although few, there are those who attest to the creation and to a Creator. We are thankful for such that do. Great men are not always wise; neither do the aged understand judgment.

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty gives them understanding (Job 32:8 & 9). Therefore it seems understandable that God's children have more understanding than some unbelieving teachers. It is entirely possible, then, for students who have the inspiration of the Almighty to be wiser than their teachers (Psalm 49:99).

Wisdom at times is taken from the wise and prudent and given to babes (Matthew 11:25).

Inspired believers have been known to challenge kings, educators, and rulers who were willingly ignorant. These great men were proven wrong by a True Living God.

The three Hebrew friends were willing to risk their lives in a hot burning furnace, rather than blindly submit to the will of a haughty monarch. Daniel likewise proved that a Creator existed by allowing himself to be thrown in the lions' den. What seems greatest in this story is the fact that Darius lost a night's sleep over this episode, because Daniel was far more dedicated and loyal to the king than his adversaries (Daniel 6:20).

Peter and John stood before the clergy and rulers of Jerusalem, answering in their own defense. When the rulers saw their boldness, and yet perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marveled, and took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Today, believers of a creation with a Creator can also defend their faith with boldness.

In a philosophy class, the teacher (a Ph.D.) ridiculed Jesus, accusing Him of promoting slavery when He taught us to walk two miles when asked to walk one, and to turn the other cheek when slapped. The teacher laughed scornfully, not thinking any would answer. But the majority of the class opposed his ridicule boldly.

Yes, the students were wiser than their unbelieving teacher, whose laughter was stopped.

There was a law among the Romans that compelled a subject to carry their burden for one mile, but some Roman soldiers compelled a Jew to carry the burden for two miles. If the Jew failed to carry the Romans' burden, he would be punished or even killed.

In this lesson Jesus displayed love:

(Continued on Page 3)

## A Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope this note finds you all well and in good spirits. I should have written long ago, but haven't taken the time. It is truly a blessing to receive *The Gospel News* and letters from the brothers and sisters. Being far away from the Church, we feel still involved, cared for, and strengthened by news of and from the saints.

I thank you for all your efforts and time in providing us with *The Gospel News*. With love and hellos to all the Brothers and Sisters, I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you again sometime. God bless.

Lori Wright-Gosselin  
6827 Bilberry Dr.  
Orleans, Ontario  
CANADA K1C 2E8



**GMBA continued . . .**

Each year at the November GMBA Conference, one of the most anticipated events is the determination of where next year's Campout will be held. This year all of that anticipation was met with something to be truly excited about. As the title of this article states, we are going west! After an informative presentation given by Bro. Randy Ciccati, next year's camp director, it was decided that California would be the location for Campout 1987.

Camp will be held at Scripps College in Claremont, California from Saturday, June 20 to Friday, June 26. Judging from the slides viewed at conference, the camp is very beautiful and will perfectly accommodate the needs of the saints in attendance. This camp location affords us a tremendous opportunity to meet brothers and sisters we have never before seen, as well as to enjoy a week seasoned and directed by the Spirit of God. Begin making your plans now to attend the GMBA Campout in California (the first one since 1969). Information regarding cost and travel arrangements will appear in these pages as it becomes available. See you at Camp!!

It seems as though Saturday was a pretty full day. Well, it wasn't over yet. On Saturday evening, we were treated to an inspiring program presented by the Atlantic Coast District. Through a combination of song and speaking, we were taken on a trip down memory lane, reviewing many of our past campouts. The blessings received and the lessons learned were recounted to us and all in attendance enjoyed a wonderful program.

We concluded the Saturday session with a motion for adjournment, and looked forward to a blessed Sabbath day.

We began our Sunday morning service by again hearing from and enjoying the Atlantic Coast choir. Following their singing, Bro. Jim Huttenberger of Anaheim, CA opened our meeting. Bro. Jim used for his text the tenth chapter of John, where the Lord speaks of his sheep (followers) knowing His voice and following Him. Our brother encouraged us, as followers of Christ, to become familiar with His voice and to know it. We must have our ears tuned to the voice of God in order to hear His call. Bro. Jim also instructed us not only to hear the voice of the Lord, but to also be submissive and obedient to the things

we hear, that God might use us in furthering His kingdom on earth. Our brother's words were indeed seasoned by God's Holy Spirit, and a valuable and inspiring lesson was enjoyed by all.

Brothers Jim Sgro, Anthony Ensana, Peter Scolaro, and Bob Ciarrochi were equally inspired as they followed the opening speaker. The words brought forth on this day were a joy to listen to as each speaker's message was seasoned by the Holy Spirit of God.

To conclude the service, the young people were called up to the front of the auditorium and a great blessing was enjoyed as they sang praises to the Lord. As they concluded, young Michael Pandone of Youngstown, Ohio asked for his baptism, making the weekend complete.

In conclusion, we must thank the Lord for again supplying us with a weekend filled with His blessings from beginning to end. As always, a weekend, or anytime, spent together with the saints is a time to be enjoyed and cherished by all. May God bless and keep us until we meet again.

**GREETINGS continued . . .**

Walk two miles rather than be punished or die. In this case, the students displayed more understanding than the teacher.

A true believer can give an answer to everyone that asks a reason of the hope that is in the believer's heart.

Having a good conscience: that whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

There seems to be a need for true believers to stand. How about it? Don't you think it's time? If not, why not?

Grace be unto you,  
Mark Randy

## Building or Wrecking Crew?

Ten faithful members came to worship all the time.  
One soon became offended, and then there were nine.

Nine faithful members stayed up late. One overslept, and then there were eight.

Eight faithful church members on their way to heaven, but One felt left out, and then there were seven.

Seven faithful church members all chirruping like chicks. One didn't like music, then there were six.

Six faithful members seemed very much alive, but One loved to travel, and then there were five.

Five church members sure of reaching heaven's shore. One tired and disgruntled, and then this made four.

Four faithful members busy as can be, but One got his feelings hurt, and then there were three.

Three faithful members and the story's almost done, as Two of them got weary, and this left just one.

Now everybody knows that one can't do much, but One brought a friend, and then there were two.

Two faithful members each brought one more. Now, don't you see, two plus two made four.

Four faithful members worked early and late. Each one brought one and then there were eight.

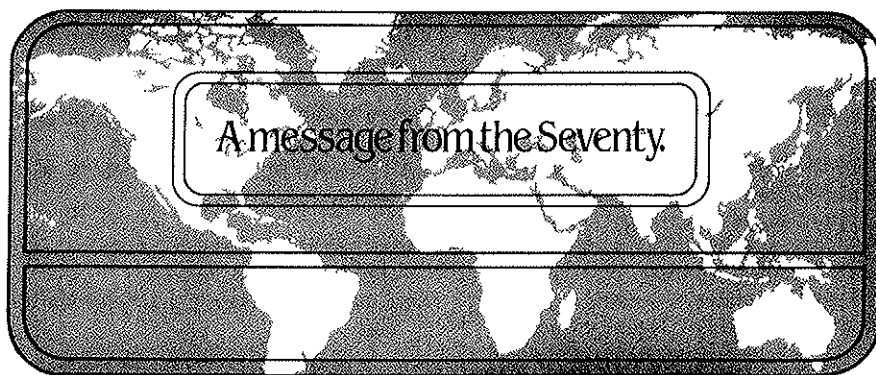
Have you got the message, pointed and true?  
Come on, folks, we've got a job to do.

For you see, eight faithful members, if they double as before, In just seven weeks would be 1024.

In this jingle there is a lesson true. You belong to one of the two. You are either the building or the wrecking crew.

Contributed by Mark Randy

*"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him" (1 John 2:15).*



## 27 Missionary Years Commemorated

By Carl J. Frammolino

OCTOBER SIGNIFICANT

One of the most noteworthy and outstanding modern-day missionary achievements was recently observed when Evangelist Edward Perdue and his wife, Sis. Evelyn, were presented with a plaque commemorating the 27th year since they held the first meeting in Tijuana, Mexico. Evangelist John Griffith, Chairman of the General Church Board of Missions, along with his father, Evangelist and past Board Chairman Meredith R. Griffith, presented the award to the Perdues in Tijuana last October 20.

The plaque, signed by General Church President Dominic R. Thomas, and by Bro. John, hailed the actual beginning of the Church's vast Mexican Indian work which has developed during the intervening years. It also acknowledged the efforts of a beautifully devoted couple that felt the calling for this work, resigned from substantial wage-earning positions, and have labored untiringly for the Gospel throughout the years. Even today, the two, who reside in nearby San Diego, California and still commute regularly to Tijuana, are as staunch and determined as they were from the very start.

The inscription on the golden plaque, prepared as of October 11, 1986, is as follows:

To Brother Edward and  
Sister Evelyn Perdue  
In heartfelt appreciation for continued  
outstanding service in the mission field  
of The Church of Jesus Christ

"How beautiful upon the mountains  
are the feet of him that bringeth  
good tidings...that publisheth peace..."

Isaiah 52:7

For Brother Perdue, a Mexican orphan, significant events in his life have occurred in the month of October. He was born October 30, 1913 in LaPuente, California; baptized on October 21, 1947 in Bell, California; and conducted the first meeting in Tijuana on October 17, 1959. He was ordained an elder on November 20, 1955, having been called into the ministry the previous month. He was ordained an evangelist fourteen years later.

Sister Perdue, of Jewish extraction, was born in the European nation of Hungary on February 6, 1909 and was baptized in Bell on December 9, 1946. She is an ordained deaconess.

The same year he was ordained an elder, Brother Perdue started a mission in Los Nietos, California, covering five widely scattered Mexican areas. The couple worked there for five years, after which they received the Lord's direction to go to Tijuana. Carmen Luna, a sister from Los Nietos, now deceased, received several letters from a man in Tijuana requesting that a Spanish-speaking minister come to preach the Gospel. Bro. Perdue felt that this was something that should be pursued, so the couple went to Tijuana. Sis. Perdue also received an experience verifying that they should pick up stakes and go.

### REMOTE AREA

After a brief period, the Perdues were directed by God in 1960 to move to a mountainous area in Tijuana. They knew no one there, but they felt compelled to spread the Gospel in that locale.

There were only about ten homes in the area. As a matter of fact, the Per-

dues lived in a shack there for about two years. In recalling those days, Brother Perdue said there were no roads over which to travel and there were no facilities available. Today, he said, there are thousands of homes in the area and the entire region is densely populated.

The Church now has three missions in Tijuana, and there are numerous Church locations throughout Mexico. Word has also spread among the Mexican communities in California, and now there are various Mexican Church congregations in that state. We hope that in future issues we will be able to report how the Lord used not only the Perdues but also many others in bringing about these works.

The testimonies of the highly-respected Perdues are most inspiring, and point out the wonderful way in which God will direct our lives if we want Him to. They have received many rewarding experiences in their labors for the Lord. They have witnessed many miracles, and their enthusiasm has never seemed to waver. Even though recently they have been afflicted at different times, they still want to work for the Gospel of Christ. In a recent visit with them, Brother Perdue told me, "We look forward to continue working for the Lord until our last day on earth."

In living for Christ, they have sacrificed in many ways to work in the mission field, but they feel it was and is well worth it. Sister Perdue emphasized this when she exclaimed, "(Our days of) working for the Lord have been the hap-

(Continued on Page 11)



Brother Edward and Sis. Evelyn Perdue on the day of the presentation.

# The Gospel News

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

## CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovale

## OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

## GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

## GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

## DISTRICT EDITORS

### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
4682 El Rancho Verde Drive.  
LaPalma, CA 90620

### FLORIDA

Eugene J. "Buddy" Perri  
c/o 570 N. Dover Road  
Tequesta, FL 33469

### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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## BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By David Majoros,

Tucson, Arizona

We of The Church of Jesus Christ stand at the portals of a new year and the realization that we are one step closer to the real establishment of Zion.

It is true that mountainous obstacles confront us. It is easy to hesitate as we contemplate our situation—holding on to our many fears and doubts. Joshua of old, I'm sure, heard the rumors circulating among the Israelites as many remembered what their parents and grandparents had said of the new land, Canaan: "There are giants there. We're like grasshoppers in their sight. We can never take possession of that land!"

But Joshua and his colleague, Caleb, had put their trust in God's Word. Jehovah had promised the people that if they would serve Him, if they would be faithful to Him, He would *give* them the Land of Promise. God Himself guaranteed their success—if they would only trust Him. The land would be as bread for them.

Brothers and Sisters, The Church of Jesus Christ is going forward. Not because any man says so, but because our God has promised His Church that *He* would preserve us and establish us in His Chosen Land.

As we approach this new year, let us rejoice that the battle is the Lord's. He will fight for us. We don't have to be afraid or without hope. He just wants us to be faithful and available for His call.

May we set our goals this year on encouraging our own people—and on reaching out to our lost neighborhood, our lost community, and our lost world. Let us be resolved, with God's help, to bring some lost soul to Christ. Alma, the son of Alma, wrote, ". . . Yea, and this is my glory, that perhaps I may be an instrument in the hands of God to bring some soul to repentance; and this is my joy" (Alma 29:9).

Let us with God's help give more of our time, energy, and substance than we ever have before to His work and His honor and glory.

The Commander in Chief of our Army is the greatest and the best. He is none other than the God of this land, Jesus Christ. Let us praise and honor Him in everything we do and say. He Himself warned us against that leaven of the Sadducees, rationalism, which is the disbelieving and ignoring of the supernatural hand of God. Rationalism is the great enemy of faith. We must see through the problems of a natural world to fix our eyes on a Supernatural Being—Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith.

*"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths"* (Proverbs 3:5 & 6).

God will bless us, The Church of Jesus Christ, as we march forward with Him—faithfully, sacrificially, and confidently.

*Editor's note: I thought it notable that I received two articles about Joshua and Caleb (above and on page 6) in one day's mail. Although the above was written for a New Year's service, it's early enough in the year for us to consider its message today.—AJS*

# The Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

### Joshua, the Good Spy

Dear Girls and Boys,

It wasn't easy to be Joshua. He stood up for the truth in front of thousands of people. This happened in the days after Moses led the twelve tribes, or families, of a man named Israel out of Egypt. They had been slaves in Egypt for 400 years. Now God promised them they would go to live in their own country, a land where everything grew beautifully and there was food for all.

Joshua was a grown-up. He came from the tribe of Ephraim, the son of Joseph. His friend Caleb, from the tribe of Judah, joined him and ten other men to be spies for God's people. God told Moses to send these twelve spies across the land into the new country that God wanted them to live in.

Moses told these twelve spies, "Go see the land, what it is like. See what the people are like, and whether they live in tents or strong cities. See what the land is like, whether it is good or not, and bring us back fruit from the land."

For forty days these spies searched the land. They cut figs and pomegranates and brought back a bunch of grapes so huge that it took two men to carry it on a pole between them.

When they returned after forty days, they came to Moses in front of the whole crowd of people. One by one each of the men gave his report. Ten of those spies said, "Yes, the land is beautiful, and the ground is rich! Yes, food grows wonderfully and there is plenty of water there, but the people that own it are giants! There are tall, tall strong men and the cities have walls around them!"

The crowd began to scream and moan. They cried, "We wish we had died in the wilderness! Why did the Lord bring us here just to be killed? Let's forget Moses! We'll get ourselves

a captain and go back to Egypt!"

But two of the spies with strong spirits spoke up. They told all of the angry people, "The land is good! If the Lord is pleased with us, He'll bring us there and give us the land! Don't be afraid of the people. God is stronger!"

The crowd was furious. They screamed at Joshua that they would throw stones at him if he didn't stop talking.

The Lord said to Moses, "I will destroy these people. They've seen so many miracles and they still don't believe!"

But Moses begged God, saying, "Don't kill these people, or everyone will say that You killed them because You couldn't bring them into the land You've promised them. Forgive, like You have in the past."

God replied, "Because they have seen all of My miracles and not believed, I will do as they have asked. They said that it would have been better to have died in the wilderness, so all of those unbelievers who were above the age of twenty when we left Egypt *will* die in the wilderness! For forty years they will wander; only Joshua and the other faithful spy, Caleb, will live to inherit the land with the younger ones."

The other ten spies who returned and made the people murmur and complain all contracted a sickness and died. Only Joshua and Caleb, the true spies who had the faith and the courage to tell the people that God could win over giants, warriors, and walled cities, were spared.

Joshua lived to be a great leader of the new generation of young believers God trained in the wilderness. He led armies with faith. They marched around

walled cities, like Jericho, until the walls fell down. They rejoiced in the Lord, and believed in God's holy power. They were raised in the wilderness and inherited God's beautiful land.

See Numbers, chapters 13 & 14.

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan  
200 Russell  
Saline, MI 48176

### WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

JOSHUA	FEAR
CALEB	DOES
SPY	CAMP
LAND	PRAY
GOD	FAIL
MOSES	GIANTS
TRIBE	

T	R	I	B	E	A
P	R	A	Y	S	U
L	C	A	M	P	H
G	I	A	N	T	S
D	O	A	L	A	O
N	O	D	F	E	J
A	F	E	A	R	B
L	S	E	S	O	M

### Note of Thanks

We wish to acknowledge and thank all of you for your kind expressions of sympathy. Many cards are still coming in, and we wish not to overlook anyone, but hope that all of you know that your love, concern, and prayers are deeply appreciated.

With Our Gratitude,  
The Peterkin Family

*"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his son, Jesus Christ; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen"* (Moroni 7:48).

## MBA Highlights

### Notice

The Aliquippa Local MBA will hold a seminar/retreat the weekend of March 13-15, 1987. All high school students and college freshmen and sophomores are invited to attend.

Forms will be available from your local MBA.

## California MBA Jogathon

*By Carl Huttenberger*

Greetings from sunny Southern California! Recently our Area MBA, in an attempt to raise money for the purchase of land to build a camp on, held an Area-wide jogathon in Anaheim, on November 1st.

It was a Saturday morning, the sun was bright and warm, and brothers and sisters from everywhere between San Diego and the San Fernando Valley were there.

The dewy earthen track was glistening in the sun and everyone was stretch-

ing their muscles in order to prepare for the several laps they intended to jog. Refreshments awaited them under shady trees nearby. Everyone had their sponsor sheets filled to capacity with people donating one, two, and even five dollars per lap.

The poster at the information desk, quoting from II Samuel, read: And he said unto them, run. . ." (for your MBA jogathon).

After an opening prayer by Brother Jim Scalise of the Bell Branch, and after several photos were taken, the starting gun was fired and they were off. For one straight hour, brothers, sisters, and friends from very young to very old

jogged, ran, or walked at a casual pace.

As the noonday sun began to take its toll on the weary participants, the finishing gun was fired, signalling the completion of the long and tiring ordeal.

Praise God, we raised a good deal of money for a deposit on a piece of land in Big Bear Lake, California, where we intend to build the Church's first permanent campsite.

I'd like to thank all those who did their part to make our 1986 jogathon a success, and for proving that with God's help, regardless of the sacrifice involved, there isn't anything that we can't do. God bless you all.



**Participants in California's Jogathon line up at the start of the race. Proceeds went toward purchase of land for a campground.**

## Our Women Today

### PA Area Circle Meeting

*By Mary Tamburrino*

The Pennsylvania Area Circle met on Saturday, November 1, 1986 at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch. Sisters were present from all nine Pennsylvania Circles.

The Imperial Circle sang a few songs and read the scripture. Sis. Elsie Gehly, the chairperson, welcomed everyone and turned the meeting over to Sister Mabel Bickerton, who took charge of the seminar on "The Restoration."

One hundred dollars was donated to

the Mexican missionary work from the treasury. We plan to hold our next Area Circle meeting in Aliquippa, sometime this spring.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Circle Trip to Six Nations Mission

*By Ilene Coppa*

The Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle made a trip to the Six Nations Reserve Mission on October 26, 1986. This trip to this Indian reservation in Ontario, Canada is scheduled every other year. There were four cars that left from the home of Sis. Arline Whitton.

At the church building, Brother Tom Everett greeted everyone. He opened

the meeting by giving us spiritual encouragement. "Thy kingdom come," and "Give us this day our daily bread" were his themes today. After Bro. Tom spoke, those present from the Meaford, Ontario Mission sang *The Standard of Liberty*.

Bro. Norman Campitelle then followed by speaking of our service to God and the training we receive from the time of our baptism to the battles we encounter in the field. He continued on the same subject by speaking about our final discharge and the reward we will eventually receive while standing before the throne of God. He emphasized that we have a *positive* Gospel.

After a song by the Circle sisters, the meeting was turned over to testimony. The sisters' beautiful expressions conveyed their gratitude to God.

(Continued on Page 11)



## Branch and Mission News

### Detroit, Branch 3

*By Cathy Mulla*

Sunday November 16, 1986 was truly a special day at Detroit Branch 3. The brothers and sisters rejoiced in seeing Brother Theodore Carrabia surrender his life to Christ and go down to the waters of regeneration. He was baptized by Brother Paul Whitton, and had hands laid upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Jack Pontillo.

Brother Silver Coppa presented the sermon this day. He commented first upon the lovely sight that we had witnessed that morning at the river's shore. Nearly two hundred Canada geese perched around the shore where the water and air remained calm. It was a lovely beginning to a beautiful day. Brother Silver read from the second chapter of Acts, and drew our attention to the importance of the Holy Comforter. Once they received it, the disciples of Christ gained understanding. Thus, when we receive the Holy Ghost, we are able to understand the ways of the Lord through its guidance and direction.

Our Brother Theodore has waited 86 years to make his commitment to God. Though he had been contemplating this decision for quite some time, he felt the power of God's Holy Spirit, which prompted his calling, at our last Sunday service.

As the meeting continued, Brother Gary Coppa reminisced back to the Dunkirk Campout, where a brother who was 69 years old asked for his baptism. This brother at first showed some disappointment in God for not calling him into the Gospel sooner. As he dwelt upon this thought, God spoke to him in a dream and said, "I called you 'just in time.'" Brother Gary cited that although Brother Theodore is considerably up in age, God saw fit to call him at the right time. Who knows what can happen the next day, or even the next hour.

The brothers and sisters then participated in the ordinance of feet washing. Our hearts were filled with the Spirit of God and gladness in knowing another name was written down in glory.

### Ft. Pierce, FL

Over the Thanksgiving holidays the Ft. Pierce Branch was blessed by the visit of saints from Miami Mission: the Katsaras family and Bro. Miguel Bicelis.

Sunday November 30 we fellowshiped after the service with a special Thanksgiving dinner. Special thanks go out to Kenah Steel who prepared a meal we will long remember. It was also special because our visitors from Miami were still with us.

Saturday December 6 the brothers and sisters from Ft. Pierce gathered at the Ft. Pierce Care Center and sang Christmas Carols to about fifty patients. After the caroling we had a social at Bro. Sam and Sis. Anne Costarella's house.

Sunday December 7 was the highlight of events in Ft. Pierce. Bro. Gene Perri and his family, Sis. Flo, Bro. Buddy, and Sis. Betty, were visiting from Lake Worth. Bro. Sam Sgro and his wife Sis. Anne were visiting from New Brunswick, New Jersey, and Sister Anne Fair and her grandson Steve Checchi were visiting us from Greensburg, PA.

Bro. Sgro led the preaching and was inspired by the Spirit of God to speak about baptism, and what a change has come into his life since he surrendered it to God. Bro. Gene Perri followed, and also felt to speak about baptism.

When the service was opened up for testimony, a young man, David Checchi, stood on his feet to thank God and finished his testimony by asking for his baptism. How the tears of joy flowed in Ft. Pierce on this day! Bro. Frank Rogolino took David into the water, and Bro. Chuck Smith confirmed our new brother into the Church.

Our branch would like to thank all of you who have been remembering our presiding elder Bro. Tony Ensana and his wife, Sis. Elsie, in your prayers. On Sunday December 14, our branch called Bro. Tony at the hospital and sang *First Love* to him over the phone. Sister Elsie later said he felt a tremendous blessing from this.

Ft. Pierce would also like to welcome Sister Florence Catena from Rochester, New York, into our congregation.

### Greensburg, PA

*By Darlene Markazene*

Thanksgiving Day is celebrated in the United States on the fourth Thursday of November. For the Greensburg Branch, it arrived early as we experienced God's great spiritual bounty on the Sundays of November 16th and 23rd.

On November 16, we were honored to have Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Griffith and their family from Monongahela, and Brother Larry, Sister JoAnn, and Linda Ali from Glassport with us. The service began with the blessing of Michael Frank Kuzin, son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Anita Kuzin. Brother Paul Gehly offered a beautiful prayer over Michael, entrusting him to the Lord's care and keeping. Michael is a special blessing to his family, as Bro. Frank and Sis. Anita were told by doctors that they would never be able to have children. Can we ever deny the power and love of this wonderful Father whom we serve?

Our meeting continued with Bro. John Griffith speaking to us on the preciousness of this life—how few the moments actually are—but through faith and belief in God, we hold the hope that one day we will have eternal life in that mansion on high. As Bro. John looked upon the perfection of baby Michael, he said that life does not provide a guarantee for perfection. During his recent trip to Mexico, he found many problems, imperfections, and sufferings. But even though our Mexican brothers and sisters may not have much naturally, they have such a happiness and peace about them. They truly have found Jesus as their friend and savior, and walk daily in His light and love.

Following our lunch, Bro. John shared many slides and experiences of his trip to Mexico. What a closeness, love, bond, and thankfulness we felt for our Mexican brothers and sisters as their joyous, happy faces were flashed before us that day!

On Sunday November 23, all Sunday School classes joined together for a Thanksgiving Day program—to devote our thoughts and efforts in praising our Heavenly Father, from whom all blessings flow. An added blessing was granted to us; Bro. David and Sis. Eileen Nolfi and family from Glassport were present and participated in our program. A wonderful Spirit quickly

filled our building, as well as our hearts, as the many praises and thanks were given to God.

Our morning service continued on the theme of Thanksgiving. Bro. Paul Gehly reflected back twenty-three years ago when he and Sis. Carolyn came to the Greensburg Branch. He reiterated the outstanding events since that time, and read many scriptures pertaining to Thanksgiving found in the Holy Bible.

Bro. David Nolfi then continued by emphasizing that we should not only give thanks on Thanksgiving, but every day, for if we follow the history of this nation, and that of other nations, we can surely see that this is the Promised Land—the land of plenty, choice above all other lands. He likened our land to a tomato on the vine—one that is now fully ripened—but ripened in iniquity. How thankful we should be that God has restored His Church and has called for us with outstretched arms, that we may come from the world of sin and iniquity and find all food, shelter, and comfort with Him.

Following this wonderful spiritual nourishment, we then feasted on the natural foods as our sisters prepared a "Thanksgiving Day" luncheon.

We in the Greensburg Branch have much thanksgiving in our hearts for the numerous blessings bestowed upon us by our Heavenly Father!

## Miami, FL

By Mark Kovacic

On Sunday, November 23, 1986, saints from five branches and missions throughout Florida gathered in Miami for an enjoyable day of fellowship.

The day before was the Area MBA's annual nursing home sing and pot luck dinner, hosted by the Miami Local. Many of the saints who came stayed for the Sunday services. Sunday morning began with singing and a special presentation by the Miami Mission of two songs: *Can You Stand as Tall as a Tree?*, written by Bro. Lou Ross and Sis. Esther Dyer, and *Have You Given Your All?*, also written by Sis. Dyer.

The preaching service was opened by Bro. Ken Staley, a new resident of Florida, from the Hollywood Branch, who used John 14:16 & 17. He ex-

pressed the importance of the "Comforter," the Holy Ghost, and how it works in our lives. He used examples from his own life, and those of others, showing what it can do for us. He also noted that it was called the "Spirit of Truth" by Jesus and how it should direct our lives, keeping us in the paths of righteousness.

Brother John D'Orazio from the Lake Worth Branch followed, emphasizing how encouraged we should be to have the gift of God, the Holy Ghost, in our lives. Brother Dennis Moraco, from Hollywood, spoke on how we must not only feed, clothe, and comfort the poor and needy temporally, but how we must do the same spiritually for those without the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A beautiful spirit of liberty was felt as these brothers instructed and inspired us.

A season of testimony followed, with many expressing themselves on how God has blessed them when they have tried to help others and how good the Gospel has been to them.

After communion, the service was dismissed and a light lunch was served. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful time of fellowship.

## Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

IT WAS A STAR

*"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it"* (Proverbs 22:6).

Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Twenty-four Greenoak Christian Preschoolers treated their parents and grandparents with Christmas songs. The teachers are Diana Stafford and Rose Arredondo, and the director is Sister Lydia Dulisse. The children put on a well-planned program. Their parents must have helped them in rehearsing and memorizing the songs.

The joy and expressions of the grandparents especially were great, as grandparents are wont to do.

I personally thought it was the best yet. Twenty-four strong voices shouted praises to Christ the King.

No wonder the priests of Jerusalem

were troubled at the shout of praises to a Nazarene whom they had already judged to be a problem.

But Jesus loved that shout (it was His hour), Jesus loved the shout of those three to five-year-old babes.

When they sang, *"I am so glad that Jesus loves me,"* it sounded like the voice of the hearts of pure and innocent children who felt loved in three ways: By parents, by grandparents, and most of all by Jesus.

I can write about it, but I cannot convey the feeling of joy I felt in my heart at that moment.

After the joyful program, refreshments were provided in the kitchen, which gave us an opportunity for a time of socializing and more picture-taking.

Brother Louis Parravano offered the prayer and benediction for the happy occasion.

Sister Nancy Camarda provided two large cakes, and Sis. Lena Bologna and others provided many cookies.

This picture only gives you a little view of this beautiful group of children. What seemed so unique was that Bro. Parravano unknowingly selected a scripture that harmonized with the songs.

Congratulations to the director and staff of the school for a job well done.

From the mouths of babes comes perfect praise.



Parents and grandparents watch as preschoolers perform in Modesto, CA.

*"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God (Mark 10:14).*

## Valley Branch, CA

By Joyce Azzinaro

The Valley Branch had a weekend of events that were a blessing to all who attended. They started on Saturday, May 3, 1986 with a Mission Board Meeting. Visiting us for this meeting were Bro. Joe Ciarolla and his wife Sis. Jean, from Modesto, and Bro. Frank Ciotti and his wife Shari, from Santa Ana.

The message brought forth that evening was about the blessings in bringing the Gospel to the seed of Joseph, and how the Lord will take care of those who take care of His people.

On Sunday we were all anticipating the ordinations that would be taking place, of Bro. John V. Azzinaro as a teacher and Bro. Robby Duncan as a deacon. The meeting was opened with the powerful Spirit of God. Bro. Bob Womack of San Diego read the eighth chapter of Deuteronomy. The message was clear, we must keep the commandments of God to receive His blessings. Bro. Frank Ciotti also spoke with God's spiritual direction and inspiration, that we must not cast off our confidence in the Lord.

We proceeded with the ordinations. Bro. Robby's feet were washed by Bro. Ray Saczko of San Diego, and he was ordained by Bro. Bob Womack. Bro. John's feet were washed by Bro. Luis Pacheco of Mexicali, and Bro. Edmund Buccellato ordained him. What a beautiful spirit was in our midst that day!

Our testimony meeting was truly blessed. Sis. Virginia Suprenant told a dream she had had about Brothers John and Robby. The priesthood felt a strong desire to lay hands on and pray for the wives of the two brothers who were ordained, Sisters Joy Azzinaro and Mary Duncan. Oh how we felt the beautiful Spirit of God.

Another strong desire of the ministry was to lay hands on Bro. Emmett Hood, that God would give him the direction and answers he is seeking. You could feel the love of God so much, it was as if you could reach out and touch it.

After the service, the ladies of the branch had prepared a lovely luncheon, which is something we hadn't done in years since we haven't had a building of our own. It was wonderful, and all

who attended really enjoyed the good food and the fellowship of the saints. Other visitors that day came from San Diego, Lindsay, Modesto, Anaheim, Bell, and Mexicali.

That evening, there was a church social at Bro. John and Sis. Joy Azzinaro's home. We all realized the importance and the blessings you can receive by meeting with and enjoying the company of the saints of God!

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The Valley Branch was very happy and pleased to have the choir reorganized. With the inspiration of our wonderful Brother Ralph Frammolino, we got the choir back together with a few new people and Bro. Ralph as director.

We prepared two beautiful songs, *I'd Rather Have Jesus*, and *Stand Up for the Restoration*, by Sis. Rosanne Champagne. We sang them at the California Area MBA Conference in Anaheim on July 19. What a blessing we received in singing praises to God as a choir again. It's been about six years since we formed our choir. Thank you, Bro. Ralph!

\*\*\*\*\*

We witnessed the baptism of another convert into The Church of Jesus Christ in the Valley Branch on August 10, 1986. She is Sister Robin Hickey, age 18. She asked for her baptism at the California MBA Campout on July 24, after having just moved to California and knowing the Church for only three weeks. She is living with her uncle, Bro. Robby Duncan, and his family.

Sis. Robin was baptized in the Pacific Ocean in Ventura by Bro. Frank Verardo, and was confirmed by Bro. Ralph Frammolino. When asked how she feels now, she said, "I feel terrific, just terrific." Praise God!

## Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

December 17 and 18, 1986 were two special evenings for the saints at Sterling Heights.

On the 17th of December, two of our older brothers in the Church gave their testimonies on how they came to the Lord and met the Church.

Brother Antonio Molisani of Branch 1, who is a youthful 101 years old, looks forward to turning 102 in March. He came to the United States in 1901 and was baptized in 1921. He attributes his longevity to his service to God. After his testimony, Bro. Carl Frammolino expressed how Bro. Molisani has epitomized the virtues of a soldier of the cross.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino of Branch 4 spoke on how he was baptized in the Atlantic Ocean on January 17, 1932 at Brooklyn, NY. The Lord also spared Bro. Gorie's life when he was in a motorcycle accident and the doctors gave him up for dead. The Lord was merciful to our brother, and knew of his future calling as an apostle.

On the 18th of December the Lord inspired the Sterling Hts. MBA to assemble a total of 80 food baskets, containing canned and boxed foods, as well as fruit. The baskets were distributed to needy people in the inner city and other parts of Detroit.

We thank all those that took part in this work for the Lord. Also, if we continue to do God's will, it will be a means of bringing lost souls into God's kingdom.

We thank God from whom all good things come.

## Hopelawn, NJ

By Michele Davella

The brothers and sisters of the Hopelawn Branch received a wonderful Christmas gift in 1986. A beautiful family from Mexico.

Sister Nina Traina from our branch first presented the Church to Lucia, Juan Jr., and Janette Murillo. They have excitedly and anxiously attended our Sunday School, Sunday, and Wednesday services for two months. Then Lucia, after making much effort to learn, presented the Church to her husband Juan, and after making it a matter of prayer in our branch, he too has joined our services.

Several weeks ago, the Atlantic Coast had an Area Singspiration. Lucia taught the Hopelawn Branch to sing *Silent Night* in Spanish. Lucia, Juan Jr., and Janette also sang a song in Spanish for the congregation.

Our branch feels very blessed with our new family in Hopelawn. The family is so eager and willing to learn of our wonderful Gospel. We could surely say that this beautiful family from Mexico has uplifted the saints of the Hopelawn Branch.

We of the Hopelawn Branch ask that you would remember this family in prayer, so that they also would have the privilege of being a part of the family of God.

#### A MESSAGE continued . . .

piest days of our lives. We wouldn't exchange them for all that the world holds."

Their sincerity, and the depth of their love for God and the Gospel quickly shine through as they speak about the Lord's blessings that they have received over the years. Their warmth and their concern for others have been demonstrated consistently, and have also helped to draw many souls to God.

#### TOURED MEXICO

The day after the Tijuana plaque presentation, Brothers John and Meredith Griffith were accompanied by

Brothers Perdue and Ysidro Gonzales, an young elder from Tijuana, on a tour of some of the Church's Mexican locations. They visited the two missions in the Sinaloa area at Ahome and San Ysidro; Pedernales in Michoacan; Mexico City; and San Geronimo in Oaxaca, which is in a mountainous area. The trip covered several thousand miles over a ten-day span.

Brother John took over 400 slides of this aspect of the Church's missionary work and, as of this writing, has shown them in three districts of the Church.

This was the first such trip taken to some of these installations by General Church mission board officers, and it has proven to be both informative and inspiring. The tour showed, dramatically, how the efforts put forth by the Perdues enabled the Gospel to be spread to even the most secluded places and thus can now continue to grow in scope.

In the years to come, many other devoted servants will have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the Perdues and move out on faith to perform the work of the Lord. They, like Brother Eddie and Sister Evelyn, will be able to feel the power and direction of God as they become missionaries and even, as the Apostle Paul characterized, become "ambassadors for Christ."

#### OUR WOMEN TODAY continued . . .

We each enjoyed seeing the mission and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our visit also gave us the opportunity to meet face to face with those whom we have prayed for but never met.

The members of the mission sang us a hymn, and the meeting was brought to a close. The ladies of the mission had prepared a delightful lunch for us. After lunch, we said our good-byes and took to the road once more.

Thank you to all at the Six Nations Mission for receiving us so warmly. We will be able to reflect on the joy of the saints felt there for years to come.

#### *Gethsemane*

All those who journey, soon or late,  
Must pass within the garden's gate;  
Must kneel alone in darkness there,  
And battle with some fierce despair.  
God pity those who cannot say:  
"Not mine but thine"; who only  
pray:  
"Let this cup pass," and cannot see  
The purpose of Gethsemane.

Ella W. Wilcox

### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### MORACO—COPPA

Brother Dennis A. Moraco and Sister Susan C. Coppa were united in holy matrimony on June 28, 1986 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hollywood, Florida.

Brother Gary Coppa, the bride's brother, officiated at the ceremony with Bro. Dominic Moraca, the groom's father.

We wish this couple God's blessings in their life together.

#### LEE—SCHROEDER

Brother Randy Lee and Sister Irene Schroeder were married on August 23, 1986 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Yucaipa, California.

Brother Frank Genaro officiated at the ceremony. Sister Diane Surdock and her son Daren of San Diego, CA provided musical selections on voice and piano.

May God fill Randy and Irene's marriage with blessings as precious as their love.

#### BENYOLA—FRENCHU

On Saturday October 18, 1986, Kathy Ann Frenchu and Anthony James Benyola were joined in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Brother James Benyola, father of the groom, performed the wedding ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Richard Benyola.

The newlyweds are residing at Piscataway, New Jersey. May God bless them both in this new chapter in their lives.

#### ZACCAGNINI—KECHEGO

Brother Rudolph Zaccagnini and Sister Emma Neila Kechego were married on December 20, 1986 at Detroit Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Roseville, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Alex Gentile. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Tracey Francione.

The couple will reside in Warren, Michigan. May the Lord 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:

John Samuel to John and Terri (Santilli) Stanley of Youngstown, Ohio.

Tyler Ray to Philip and Fran (Ciccati) Jackson of Kinsman, Ohio.

Daniel Phillip to Keith and Angie Stone of Hollywood, Florida.

Aubrie Covington to Peter and Vicky DeBear of the Valley Branch, California.

William to Joe and Angelino Soto of the Valley Branch, California.

Cody Aaron to Aaron and Wendy Verardo of the Valley Branch, California.

Michael Frank to Frank and Anita Kuzin of Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

## OBITUARIES

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

### CLARENCE GILLILAND

Brother Clarence Gilliland passed from this life on September 17, 1986. A member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, he was born on March 12, 1898, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 3, 1975.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Ralph Berardino, Don Pandone, and Mitchell Edwards.

Bro. Clarence is survived by his son, Bill, and will be missed by all the brothers and sisters of the Youngstown Branch.

### Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### HELEN CARLYLE

Sister Helen (Petrucci) Carlyle passed on to her heavenly reward on November 22, 1986. She was a member of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born on October 8, 1920 and was baptized March 23, 1986.

The funeral service was officiated by Bro. Gerard Valenti, with the assistance of Brothers Samuel Dell and Jerry Valenti.

Sis. Helen leaves to mourn her passing two sons, Bruce and Walter, three grandchildren, a brother, and three sisters, one of whom is Sis. Jennie Sikorski of the Levittown Branch.

Our sister will be missed by all who knew her.

### NATHAN PETERKIN, JR.

Nathan Peterkin, Jr. passed from this life on December 3, 1986 at the age of 31.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Arthur Searcy and Harold Littlejohn in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Nathan Jr. is survived by his parents, Bro. Nathan and Sis. Carmela Peterkin, five sisters, six nieces and five nephews, among many other relatives. He attended the Brooklyn, NY Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, and was a great help to Bro. Matthew Rogolino in the work of spreading the Gospel in the Bowery of New York.

### JOSEPHINE BUFFA

Sister Josephine Buffa of Detroit Branch 1 passed on to glory on December 4, 1986. She was born September 7, 1910 and was baptized into the Church on November 3, 1935.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Louis Pietrangelo and Louis Vitto.

Our sister is survived by two daughters, Sis. Frances Palposi of Branch 1 and Sis. Rose Altomare of Lorain, Ohio; three sons, Bro. John of Sterling Hts. Branch, Bro. Pete of the Saline, MI Mission, and Bill of Phoenix, AZ. She also leaves twelve grandchildren, 22 great-grandchildren, five sisters, and one brother.

Sis. Josephine served the Lord for 51 years and will be remembered for the missionary work that she, along with her late husband, elder Vito Buffa, started in California; and by all those who knew her in Detroit.



# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 229-480)

March, 1987

Volume 43, No. 3

## San Carlos 25th Anniversary

*By Paul Francione*

The 25th Anniversary of the starting of the San Carlos, AZ Mission drew many brothers, sisters, and friends from throughout the Church. Everyone gathered at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Globe, AZ on November 22, 1986 to observe this historical occasion and pay tribute to those who have served the mission these past years.

The committee appointed to organize this event were Chairman Phil Damore, Steve Saffron, and Norman James. They worked hard to coordinate this celebration and make it the success that it was.

Bro. Dwayne Jordan, Arizona District President, welcomed everyone. Prayer was offered by Bro. Ether Furnier. Throughout the day, all the branches and missions of the Arizona District presented songs. There were also solos by Bro. Barry Mazzeo, Sis. Melissa Christman, and Bro. David Majoros.

Over the years, the San Carlos Mission has been a very special place. God has blessed them many times with His Spirit in preaching, testimonies, singing, healings, baptisms, etc. His power has also been made evident by prayers being answered, miracles, ordinations, and experiences. We thank and praise His name.

Sis. Sara Vancik read a history of the San Carlos Mission, compiled by Sis. Paulette Griffith. To start the work, God directed Bro. Dan and Sis. Dolores Picciuto, along with others, to this spot. Since then, Bro. Anthony and Sis. Grace

Brutz, Brother Joe and Sis. Rose Milan-toni, Bro. David Majoros, Bro. Emmett and Sis. Evelyn Dale, and Bro. Clarence and Sis. Ann Kirkpatrick have all served there at the mission. Members of their families were there to help as well. At the present time, Bro. Ether and Sis. Ella Furnier are there.

Sis. Yvonne Saffron related how God blessed her in writing the foreword to the 25th Anniversary Pamphlet. As she was struggling to write something, God put in her mind that He knew all those who have labored in San Carlos and what they had done for His people.

Apostle Robert Watson spoke on what history is and how important it is to keep records. He gave examples of pivotal points in history and their great significance to us today.

Bro. Dwayne Jordan then paid tribute to all who have served and those who have helped at San Carlos. As their names were called, they all came forward. Sadly, Brothers Paul Vancik and Joseph Milantoni were greatly missed, as God had already called them to their eternal reward. Bro. Dwayne then presented a plaque with the names of those who have been in charge there to Bro. Norman James, to be put up at the mission. Bro. James accepted the plaque on behalf of the mission.

Dinner was then served to the 175 people present this day.

The evening service was introduced by Bro. Walter Cihomsky of the Atlan-

(Continued on Page 6)

## Conference Notice

The General Church's Annual Spiritual Conference will convene in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on April 24, 1987 at 9:30 a.m. The Friday morning and afternoon sessions will be open to priesthood members and ordained teachers of the Church. Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday's meetings are open to all, and meals will be provided on a pay-as-you-attend basis throughout the weekend.

The activities and presentations planned for this conference promise to make it an uplifting experience for those who attend.

A complete listing of scheduled meetings and activities will appear in next month's *Gospel News*.

## 1987 GMBA CAMPOUT



**SCRIPPS COLLEGE**  
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Registration forms available  
from your local MBA

## General Church Summer Programs

*Hosted by the Tse Bonito Branch  
July 6-12, 1987*

This summer, three programs open to anyone in the Church will be held at the Tse Bonito Branch. The Educator's Workshop is a program of the General Church's National Education Committee. A brief description of the programs is included below.

### EDUCATOR'S TRAINING WORKSHOP

It is the intent of the General Church Education Committee to provide a forum for upgrading our Church's educational programs and the training of those who would staff these programs. This workshop provides an excellent opportunity to begin that process. Direct benefits will be felt by those organizations of the Church involved in providing instruction, be they teachers in Sunday School, MBA, Vacation Bible School, Ladies' Circle, or whatever. This program will present innovative and exciting teaching methods, various quality instructional materials, and will provide assistance in developing creative and meaningful curriculum. This program will be coordinated with the Tse Bonito Vacation Bible School to provide on-the-job training for Workshop participants at levels ranging from pre-school to adult students.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Due to a substantial increase in enrollment in the past few years, teachers, recreational leaders, and artistically talented people are urgently needed to help staff our Vacation Bible School. All materials will be provided and professional assistance will be available for the less experienced participants.

### MUSIC LEARNING EXPERIENCE

For those who are musically talented or desirous of expanding their abilities, this program offers a unique opportunity within the Church and under the leadership of professionally qualified musicians. It is our goal to establish a music ministry of the highest quality together with the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit. This has been a very effective outreach tool, one which has already touched many lives in a very deep and meaningful way. Since its inception two years ago, this program has evolved to where it now includes in-

strumentation, live recordings of the community concert, children, young people, and adult choirs.

### PROGRAM INFORMATION

No registration fees.

Provide your own transportation.

Meals will be provided.

Lodging will be provided if requested and if available.

For all three programs, contact:

Larry Watson  
Route 5, Box 34  
Gallup, NM 87301  
(505) 371-5500

Additional information and registration forms will be forthcoming in the near future. Please contact us as soon as possible if you intend to participate, especially if you would like to help with the Vacation Bible School. These programs will all run during the same week, and will offer you an excellent opportunity to become directly involved in a mission of the Church. We look forward to seeing you this summer.

## A Thank You

*From the Family of  
Bro. Rocco Biscotti*

With special thanks to all the saints for their prayers during the long illness of Bro. Rocco. For the visits, telephone calls, and the letters of encouragement. Our local saints of Cleveland made his 81st and 82nd birthdays memorable ones. They filled our home with their presence and love. Because of his illness, Bro. Rocco was unable to attend services. They gathered here one evening to have a service with him, and he enjoyed this very much.

For the funeral, the family thanks all those who sent flowers; they were very beautiful and very much appreciated. Also, to those who sent cards, which are so meaningful.

We thank all who came out in such bitter cold weather for the service. The children and I appreciated the service conducted by Brothers Cadman and Palmieri. Sisters Roberta Hufnagle and Carmella Gray sang Bro. Rocco's favorite hymn, *In the Garden*. The

children were very pleased, as they were very attached to their father. They always encouraged and helped him, never hindering him in any way.

We shall miss him deeply. But we know he is in paradise with all the saints who have gone on before.

Please keep praying for us, asking God to ease the ache in our hearts.

Sister Angeline Biscotti

## A Tribute to Rocco Biscotti

### MORE THAN A BROTHER-IN-LAW TO ME

I was only four years old when I met him. When I was seven, he married my oldest sister. At the age of 20, he was ordained into the priesthood, and at age 23 he was ordained an evangelist. When he was 36 he was ordained an apostle.

I am glad that on numerous occasions, when he was alive and well, I was able to let him know how much I thought of him. I am writing this to be of some comfort to his wife of more than 61 years, and to her children.

He was our presiding elder for many years, and he never missed a conference. He would close his barber shop on the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of conference weekends to attend conference when we had conference four times a year.

He gave liberally to the Church, and received his recompense from the Lord. By the grace of God, he was able to send his three children through college, paying all of their expenses.

He was my second father, and my Sunday School teacher. He baptized my husband and me in 1932, and four years later he married us.

With my own eyes, I saw him being used of God to cast out an evil spirit from a man. He was used one time to anoint Brother August Perloni, and by the power of God, Brother August, who had come to church with crutches, walked out on just his two feet. On another occasion, he anointed Sister Chester, who was almost blind, and after the prayer she declared that she could see everyone.

(Continued on Page 11)

## It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Loyalvo

### BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD

*"Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all; why are they then baptized for the dead?" (I Corinthians 15:29)*

As one peruses this entire chapter, a very outstanding principle comes forth, i.e., the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection of the human family from death. Paul, the apostle, exhorts the Corinthians to remember what he had preached to them (v. 2) and then chides them "... unless ye have believed in vain" (v. 2). He then reminds them that the knowledge concerning the death and resurrection of Christ which he had preached to them, he himself had received first (vv. 3-8). As you read, keep this in mind, that the subject of Paul's letter is this: the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. In the latter part of his letter, he dwells upon the glory of the resurrection from the dead of the entire human family.

In verses 9-28 the Apostle explicitly argues against the unbelief of some concerning the resurrection per se. But keep in mind that the overall subject that he wanted to impress upon the Corinthians was the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He makes a strong point in verses 12-14 against their weak faith, and rebukes them by attesting, "... if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?" He continues arguing his point by telling them that if there was no resurrection of the dead, then Christ never rose either. Paul uses the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ as an example of the truth of the resurrection from the grave (death). "Christ," he

said, "is risen from the dead and become the firstfruits of them that slept." In other words, Christ is the first to rise from the dead, and after Him shall the rest of the human family arise, some to everlasting life and some to everlasting damnation (John 5:29).

In verses 24-28, Paul extols the glory that is awaiting Jesus Christ, and His ultimate victory. Paul bridges his argument concerning the Corinthians' lack of belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection per se (vv. 3-23) by showing the glory that shall be Christ's (in verses 24-28). Then he continues his denunciation of their unbelief by saying, "Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?" (v. 29).

If the bridge (vv. 24-28) was not there, the epistle would read something like this: "How can some of you say that there is no resurrection after we have preached to you that Christ rose from the dead; that He is no longer dead but is risen! He was the first to rise from the dead, and after Him shall the rest of the world (humanity) also rise. If Christ is not dead, but resurrected from the dead, why are you baptized for someone (Christ) who is dead? What will it benefit you to be baptized for a dead Christ?"

I firmly believe that Paul was rebuking the Corinthians for believing that Christ had not risen from the dead, and yet they were still being baptized with a belief in a dead Christ. In exasperation, Paul tells them in effect, "What will it gain you to be baptized for a 'dead Christ' if He is not risen?" And then he ends this particular tirade by declaring, "And why do we stand in jeopardy every hour?" What Paul is trying to convey to them is (I believe), "If Christ is not risen, and there is no resurrection of the dead, why do we put our lives in danger every day? For a dead Christ who is not risen?" Paul then goes on to explain the resurrection in detail. I believe that the above is the correct interpretation of I Corinthians 15:29. I shall, however, write some opinions of various writers throughout the past centuries (especially some early writers).

It is said by a few writers that the practice of vicarious baptism (one being baptized in place of another) was administered by the Marcionites circa A.D. 130-150 (Arthur Penrhyn Stanley: *Epistles of St. Paul*, pp. 317-319). Stanley quotes a certain Epiphinius, who in his chapter on the Corinthians

said, "There was an uncertain tradition handed down that it (vicarious baptism) was also to be found amongst some heretics in Asia, especially in Galatia, in the times of the apostles" (ibid., pp. 317-319). Another instance that Stanley quotes is taken from a certain Chrysostom, who wrote, "After a catechumen (one who is being instructed in baptism) was dead, they hid a living person under the bed of the deceased; then coming to the dead man they spoke to him, and asked him whether he would receive baptism; and he making no answer, the other (the live one under the bed) replied in his stead, and so they baptized the living for the dead."

In giving the reasons for this practice, Stanley quotes two writers: 1. Epiphinius, who said that the object of vicarious baptism was "lest in the resurrection the dead should be punished for want of baptism." 2. Hilary (Ambrosiaster) says that "it was done in the case of unexpected death; in the fear lest the dead should either not rise at all, or rise to evil."

Bernard M. Foschini, in his book *Those Who Are Baptized for the Dead*, cites many writers who gave their opinions on I Corinthians 15:29. The following are some opinions.

Nicholas of Lyra, Maier, and others taught that those who had already received baptism were re-baptized, "and thus allowed themselves to be baptized many times, once for themselves, and the rest for their deceased friends." It is said that some even baptized the dead! In the year A.D. 397, canon six of the Third Council of Carthage condemned the practice of baptizing the dead (Foschini, p. 41). Some heretics, the Cerinthians (not Corinthians) Montanists, and Marcionites baptized for the dead, and also fell into the error of baptizing even the dead (ibid., p. 41).

In my judgment, it is the height of folly that some would be baptized for the dead in the hope that the dead also would rise again. Just as no one (naturally) can be born as proxy for another, neither can one be baptized for another, living or dead. Among all people, any vicarious action (acting for another) is considered valid *only* when it is in accordance with the desires of the one for whom the proxy is acting.

Foschini writes, "It is impossible to judge that baptism for the dead was

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## A message from the Seventy.

# Developments Reported on Missionary Project

*By Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor*

Further developments of the missionary project in the Independence, Missouri area have been reported by some evangelists who have served there. The efforts to spread the Gospel in that community have been centered around Oak Grove, where our meeting place is located, and they have been continued on a tandem basis.

As previously mentioned, the community is a stronghold of Restoration activity, and many groups are present which believe in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. Many of their members have become friendly with our Church and have exchanged visits and participated in pleasant discussions about our beliefs and our faith and doctrines. Being steeped in the beginning, growth, and development of the Restoration movement, they have come to refer to us as the "Bickertonites," because of Brother William Bickerton's early leadership.

### INTERESTING REPORT

An interesting report was submitted by Evangelist Anthony R. Lovalvo, who along with Evangelist Joseph Calabrese was the first to go there. The two served another tour in November of 1986, accompanied by Brother Lovalvo's wife, Sister Anne, and Brother Frank DiDonato, a deacon who has labored there for several periods. Parts of Brother Lovalvo's report are as follows.

The contingent was very active during the almost three-week stay. They were in many services, some under our direction and some in other groups'

locations. The concentrated efforts were highlighted with two weekend evening services at the Grain Valley Civic Center in Grain Valley, MO on Saturday, November 29 and Sunday, November 30. Making the trip there for that weekend also were Apostle V. James Lovalvo and his wife, Sis. Mary, and Brother Mike LaSala.

On Saturday night, Apostle Lovalvo spoke about God's performing the impossible, exemplified by Jonah in the whale, the sacrifice presented to Abraham, who was ready to sacrifice his own son Isaac, and the birth of Christ. He also testified about how beautifully the Lord had called him into the Gospel.

Evangelist Lovalvo then followed, discussing the Church's missionary endeavors and about the many years he spent in this work. He also talked about the coming of the Choice Seer.

### SUNDAY NIGHT

In the Sunday night service, Apostle Lovalvo preached on the temptation of Christ. He also elaborated about our duty to worship and love the Lord, and he specified how in the latter days there will be only two churches: the church of the Lord and the church of the devil. He additionally discussed the falling away of the Gospel and the peaceful reign.

The meeting was then left open for questions and answers. Some visitors wanted to hear about experiences received in our Church, such as angelic visitations, so Apostle Lovalvo related a few of them. Church literature was distributed and some visitors said they would like to correspond with us.

Articles about these two services were carried in the local press. An advertisement was also placed in the newspaper, and a local radio station was included in our coverage.

Incidentally, Evangelist Calabrese had to depart just prior to this eventful weekend to officiate at the funeral of Sister Edna Bittinger, so he was unavailable for these meetings.

There was a high level of enthusiasm at Grain Valley, with highly inspired singing. Dr. David Clark, who along with his wife Gweyn has been very helpful and encouraging to our work in Missouri, played the piano at these meetings.

### GRATIFYING PRIVILEGE

A rather gratifying privilege was extended to us when on the November 30 Sunday morning, Apostle Lovalvo was asked to introduce the service of The Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Independence. He spoke on the characteristics of Jesus Christ, and he extended an invitation to "Come unto Christ and be perfected in Him." He presented references from the 5th, 6th, and 7th chapters of St. Matthew. He also emphasized that God's purpose was not to have different divisions, but to have only one fold, one shepherd, one church, and one baptism.

The successful weekend was a fulfillment of various experiences received at the beginning of the period. They had pointed to the efforts being made and what would be unfolding. One of the most noteworthy was related by a woman visitor who has become enlightened about our beliefs and the truth of the Gospel. Also, experiences were received by our workers which gave them great determination and zeal.

Many prayers were offered to God, and some friends were anointed for various illnesses. The hard-working group was in constant contact and discussion with people from all the various Restoration churches. They met with many of their ministers as well. On several occasions, they were invited into homes for visits and dinner. They were particularly encouraged by this, as it revealed much interest in our beliefs. One of the ones offering hospitality was a very sincere woman who is planning to have the Book of Mormon translated into the Hebrew language.

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# The Gospel News

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

## CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

## OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

## GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

## GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburriso  
100 Oak Drive  
Alliquippa, PA 15001

## DISTRICT EDITORS

### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
119 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
4682 El Rancho Verde Drive  
LaPalma, CA 90620

### FLORIDA

Eugene J. "Buddy" Perri  
c/o 570 N. Dover Road  
Tequesta, FL 33469

### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Oleza  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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## BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

### America the Beautiful

By Ether Furnier, San Carlos Apache Mission

*"Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed His grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea."*

*"Behold, this a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ, who hath been manifested by the things which we have written" (Ether 2:12).*

*"And God hath sworn in his wrath unto the brother of Jared, that whosoever should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fulness of his wrath should come upon them. . . . And the fulness of his wrath cometh upon them when they are ripened in iniquity. . . . And this cometh to you, O ye Gentiles, that you may know the decrees of God" (Ether 2:8-11).*

Hellfire preachers and prophets of doom are not very well accepted today. Because of most people's displeasure in this kind of preaching, it isn't very often heard anymore.

It is true that God is love, and He tries to draw all men unto Himself through love, and not through fear. God loved us so much that He permitted his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to die a violent death, to atone for our sins. That God's salvation plan is based upon love there is no doubt. Nevertheless, Jesus taught us that our rejection of this love would bring us to endless torment, that we would be cast into outer darkness.

Freedom was given to man to choose his own way in life, but he was repeatedly reminded that obedience to God's word would lead to an eternal life of bliss, and that disobedience to His word would lead to eternal damnation. Let it be clearly understood that God is not double-tongued or double-minded. What He says, He means without any shadow of variableness. There are no loopholes in His promises.

The decree that God decreed upon the land of America is as much in force today as it was in the days of the Jaredites, or later in the days of the Israelites. The United States of America was founded upon the principles of freedom. Every person is permitted to believe as he sees fit, without any fear of being persecuted by his neighbor or his government.

What many people seem to have forgotten is that this nation was founded on christian principles, and that those principles are the basis of this country's success. We are not saying that all Americans must be christians; that would be infringing upon their freedoms. But we are saying that God has decreed that this nation be based upon His commandments, as He is the only true God.

In Alma's day, the government was set up on the same principles of freedom of choice (Alma 30:9). When the Antichrist Korihor began to preach against Christ and His Church, he was brought before the judgment seat and accused of disturbing the people's peace. He was found guilty, and God's judgments fell upon him.

In our day and time, a very small minority of people have pressured us into dropping prayer from our schools, and the very mention of Christ's name in prayers offered at public functions. Now, they want us to drop God's name from our constitution.

What is happening to America? Why do we fear offending a small minority of agnostics and atheists, while not considering the dangers of offending Almighty God?

(Continued on Page 11)

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## Obedience Is Better Than Sacrifice

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever struggled in your own mind whether or not to pray in front of friends, or tell someone to come to church who needed prayer? Have you ever felt strongly directed by the Spirit of God within you to tell someone they were doing wrong, but felt afraid to do it? A leader for God must be willing to follow that inner voice no matter *what* others will say about them.

When Saul was the first king of Israel, the prophet Samuel tried to teach him to listen to the Spirit of God. Saul was an ordinary citizen, a tall humble man from the tribe of Benjamin. After Samuel anointed him to be king, the Bible tells us that the Lord gave Saul a new heart.

Saul's country, Israel, was constantly being attacked by powerful nations surrounding them. Saul's people were forced to pay them money; they were often taken as slaves and they weren't allowed to be in jobs like blacksmithing where they could make tools or swords.

Under the leadership of the new king, the Israelite nation went to war. King Saul would ask the prophet Samuel to pray for direction from God. They captured a fort full of weapons, and they fought when and where God told them to. They won when they listened to God's directions.

Battle after battle they won. Saul started to feel important. After one battle, he offered sacrifices himself instead of waiting for the holy prophet Samuel. Another time he told all of his soldiers to fast on a day that they needed strength to fight. Saul was not listening to God's directions.

The Lord told the prophet Samuel, "Many years ago, when Moses first led the Israelites out of Egypt, the

Amalakite nation attacked and tried to kill them. Now go and fight them; utterly destroy all that they have and every one of them off the face of the earth."

Saul took two hundred ten thousand soldiers and left to attack the Amalakites. Days passed while the prophet Samuel waited. Then, in the night, the Lord spoke to Samuel. He said, "I am sorry that I have set up Saul to be king because he has turned away from serving Me and has not done as I commanded him."

That morning Saul and his army returned. The mooing of cattle and bleating of sheep were heard along with the tramping of feet. King Saul told Samuel, "We decided to bring back just the best sheep and oxen to sacrifice. We also brought back the king of the Amalakites as a prisoner."

But Samuel replied, "... To obey is better than to sacrifice ... because you have rejected the word of the God, He has also rejected you as king."

Saul was full of excuses. He admitted, "I have sinned. I went against the commandments of God because I feared the people; I obeyed their voice." Saul had made his choice, the Spirit of the Lord departed from him and an evil spirit troubled him from that time on.

The Lord chose a new king for Israel, a shepherd boy named David, who deeply loved God and who was not afraid to stand up for the Lord, even when others opposed him.

Sincerely,

Sister Jan Steinrock  
200 Russell  
Saline, MI 48176

## WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

AMALAKITES	PROPHET
ARMY	RAID
BOY	SAMUEL
DAVID	SHEPHERD
GOD	SIGN
ISRAELITE	SPIRIT
KING	WAR
LED	WEAPONS
NATIONS	WORD
OF	

I	K	F	S	N	O	P	A	E	W
S	D	O	G	N	B	O	Y	A	V
R	W	O	R	D	O	A	R	M	Y
A	M	A	L	A	K	I	T	E	S
E	D	S	P	I	R	I	T	A	I
L	E	U	M	A	S	A	U	A	G
I	D	I	V	A	D	L	I	N	N
T	E	H	P	O	R	P	E	D	I
E	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	K

## ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

tic Coast District. Mr. Clarence Wesley, former Apache Tribal Chairman, then gave a brief history of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. We were then privileged to hear Cheryl James, Bro. Vernon James's daughter, who was dressed in native Apache Indian dress, sing a beautiful song, *Lonely Indian Man*.

Bro. Steve Saffron then asked for cooperation and input from the congregation as we continued this celebration. What followed were some incidents of a humorous nature, along with others that testified of God's goodness and His blessings.

The Tse Bonito Choir sang some special selections with Sis. Loretta Brutz also speaking in the Navajo language. Later, the Phoenix Choir, directed by Sis. Amy Cook, sang some special songs.

Bro. Phil Damore then showed a slide presentation of the past years at the mission. The pictures brought back many happy memories of brothers and sisters and friends. He also had compiled many pictures and photographs in-



to a display that everyone enjoyed seeing. While viewing a slide of Brother Joe Milantoni, some said they could hear his voice singing in the background. We thank God that we were allowed to share this beautiful time together.

Bro. Dan Picciuto then spoke to us. He is still excited and anxious for the work amongst the Seed of Joseph. God has a plan and wants to use us. Great things are in store for His people. Bro. Dan spoke of Abraham and Lot, and how some believed God while others did not. He related a couple of dreams which were a great encouragement to him, showing the Seed of Joseph accepting the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the record of their people.

On Sunday morning, a sunny but breezy and cool day, the saints gathered outside on the basketball court for the service. In attendance were a number of General Church Trustees, Brothers Joseph Ross, Dick Lawson, and Sam Randy. Also, Brothers John and Meredith Griffith, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the General Church Mission Board, and Bro. Walter Cihomsky of the American Indian Mission Committee.

Apostle Joseph Loyalvo introduced the service by reading Isaiah 43:8-13. He showed by many examples in the scriptures that the House of Israel should have been His witnesses, and showed proof of the great things that God had done for them. At Joseph Smith's time, and even in our time, God is still saying, "Ye are my witnesses," and we must tell others of the great things He has done for us. Bro. Joe spoke of the Gentiles being adopted Israelites, and how we will help the Seed of Joseph realize that God is God. We have the responsibility of being Christ's witnesses today and letting others know of His goodness.

Brothers Steve Saffron and Norman James then passed sacrament. Inside the church building, we heard a number of experiences from Bro. Dan Picciuto. Bro. John Griffith spoke on behalf of the General Church Mission Board and expressed his joy at seeing the Church grow, and the expectations we have for the future. Bro. Dick Lawson, a General Church Trustee, also spoke on how we complement each other in the work of the Lord. He also was glad to see the dramatic physical changes that have taken place on the San Carlos compound since his last visit. Bro. Dick then re-dedicated the building, asking God to always abide therein.

The meeting was then dismissed. All committees were thanked for their efforts, and we all left thanking God for being with us during this historic celebration. We look forward to the future with great hope and anticipation.

#### IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

practiced in Paul's day or that he was referring to it in his epistle, for none of the ancient writers up to the time of Ambrosiaster (circa three centuries after Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians) ever seriously taught that Paul was alluding to such a practice."

"Baptism for the dead" as practiced by some heretics long ago can never be substantiated by the Scriptures. The Word of God teaches that persons "who believe and are baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Baptism is not only an outward sign of accepting Jesus Christ, but also of admitting one into the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Bible is replete with references that as soon as anyone believed and wished to join the Church he was baptized (Acts 2:38, 8:12-38; 22:16). If Paul had known that there were some who were baptizing for the dead, he would have condemned it.

The analogy that "as Christ died for others, so can one be baptized for another" is absolutely too absurd to give it much space. Baptism deals with individual choice and is for individual salvation. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary's cross was for the redemption of all mankind!

I will now deal with the belief of the Latter Day Saints (Mormon) church on "Baptism for the Dead."

In the 128th section of their *Book of Doctrine and Covenants*, Joseph Smith interprets 'to bind' as meaning 'to write a record'. But this is a very arbitrary interpretation. He (Joseph Smith) also says in the same section that the material book of these records corresponds to the heavenly book of life. This is nothing but the fruit of alleged "revelations," and is not according to Scripture. Revelations 20:12 does not speak of "baptism for the dead," but speaks of "books" in which the works of every man shall be written (v. 20). In fact, it distinctly says, "according to their works." Please note that it uses works in the plural, not the singular term. Baptism, per se, is one work, not works. If we, apart from the dead, con-

sent to being baptized for the dead, then the decision to alter their eternal status—whether salvation or damnation—rests upon us. The dead would have no decision to make; the living would make the decision for them. The responsibility of their (the dead's) salvation or damnation would be ours, no longer theirs.

The big question that arises on the doctrine of baptism for the dead is simply this: How does anyone know that the dead would want to accept the Gospel? The Bible and Book of Mormon agree that the Gospel must be preached to the living. Example: "And they went out and preached that men should repent" (Mark 6:12). Another scripture says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost . . ." (Matthew 28:19). ". . . for the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water. . ." (Book of Mormon, II Nephi 31:17). This preaching and baptizing was for the living, not the dead. If the Mormons suppose that the dead would want to accept the Gospel and be baptized by their proxies, they contradict the Scriptures.

Allow me to cite some more Scripture. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance" (II Corinthians 7:10). "And the days of the children of men were prolonged, according to the will of God, that they might repent while in the flesh (not after they are dead), wherefore their state became a state of probation (Book of Mormon, II Nephi 2:21). If the state (condition) of mankind was a state of probation while in the flesh, to give them an opportunity to repent, how can anyone suppose that the living could "repent" for the dead, let alone be baptized for them? No proxy can answer for a dead person. A dead person cannot authorize a live one to be baptized for him by proxy.

The Mormons simply resurrected a practice that the Marcionites of old were engaging in. There is no concrete evidence that baptism for the dead was practiced in Paul's day. Any assertions that it was is pure conjecture. If the Marcionites did indeed practice baptizing for the dead, the reader must remember that this man and his followers were considered heretics and apostates. While the Mormons may be well-meaning in their doctrine of baptism for the dead, there is no Scripture, neither in Bible nor Book of Mormon, to

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## Large in Stature and Strength

*"And now I, Nephi, being a man large in stature, and also having received much strength of the Lord, therefore I did seize upon the servant of Laban, and held him that he should not flee" (1 Nephi 4:31).* By the description in this verse we can visualize Nephi to be a powerful man, able to defend himself. With the current trends of society on the development of the physique and defensive skills, Nephi would probably have set a standard for body-building and conditioning.

Today many hours are devoted to body-building, that the physical appearance of men and women might be more attractive. Great sacrifices are made in time, money, and effort to build the 'body beautiful'. The final result of all this labor is ultimately directed toward two eventual goals: First, to satisfy one's own personal vanity for the best physical appearance; Second, to develop a strong body, thereby attaining good health and long life. While this process sounds logical and many pursue this path, there is no guarantee that dedication to physical fitness will result in a long and healthy life.

King David in Psalm 147:10 describes the Lord in this manner: *"He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man."* We see the Lord finds no pleasure with those whose confidence is in their own strength. The Apostle Paul writes to Timothy in 1 Timothy 4:8, *"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."* Likewise, Paul admonishes those of the Corinthians that would boast in this flesh, stating in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29, *"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And the base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence."* Thus because of the carnal, sensual, and devilish nature of this flesh, the Lord takes no pleasure in this physical body, much less in one who dedicates himself or herself to satisfy the vanity of the fleshly appearance through commitment to the development of the physique.

Nephi was a man mighty in the stature of Jesus Christ not because of his size or stature but because of the strength of his faith, his patience, his obedience, and his love: These are the qualities which give us the spiritual stature of mature men and women in Christ.

Our concern for health should be directed to the health of our soul, that we would be spiritually sound in mind and heart. As we are careful in choosing the food of our natural diet, so likewise should we be even more careful of our spiritual diet—what we listen to, what we watch, what we say, and what we touch. If we are careful to ingest those things that nourish the Spirit within us, that same Spirit will be strengthened within us day by day. While we may give some of our time to be active physically, the main thrust of our free time and efforts should be directed towards spiritual labors.

It is vitally important that each of us gain spiritual strength. Why? Because each of us must bear our own cross, just as Jesus bore a cross to Calvary. If we bear our cross in obedience, without murmuring, with joyfulness of heart, we will walk the path that Christ trod; thereby we will glorify our Heavenly Father just as Jesus did. How wonderful it is to be pleasing in the sight of God. Let us give of our best to the Master.

Yours in Christ,  
Bro. David Nolfi  
Glassport, PA

## God's Miraculous Touch

By Teresa Pandone,  
Youngstown, OH

My experience regarding my son, Michael, is a message I must share with my Church family.

Don and I nurtured and trained our children in the ways of God. They accompanied us to all the services. Karen (Ciccatti) was baptized at age 13 and is currently serving His Church as a deaconess. Michael attended church until he was 18. At that time he decided that he wanted his own apartment, and for the next eight years, Michael did not attend Church.

He had knowledge of God, but allowed Satan's temptations to lure him into sin. My heart ached. I had always prayed diligently for my children to respond to the love of God and willingly serve Him. My prayers were diligent for Michael for six years, but there was no change in his life. My burden was heavy and I was inspired as I read Alma 6:6 one day, regarding fasting and prayer. I decided that I would fast and pray, which I did over a period of 18 months, for the souls of those who had not covenanted with God, but most diligently for Michael.

I would not see Michael for three or four months at a time, even though he lived one mile away. I saw no change in him. My hurt was great, but my love was greater. The realization came that Michael was seeing my hurt and abhorrence of his sin, but not the deep love I had for him. I prayed diligently to the Lord that He would fill my heart with more love for Michael, to enable me to convey this love to him.

One day Michael visited. I was home alone and we talked. I was able to orally confess my deep love for him. God touched us and we were so blessed. God answered my prayer.

Some time transpired, and I poured out my heart to God in prayer asking what more I could do for Him, that He would trouble Michael's soul and draw Michael to Him. I had been fasting and praying for approximately one and a half years, and I was ready to do whatever the Lord requested of me.

One Sunday Brother Joe Genaro came to Youngstown and in his sermon, he spoke of one who fasted and prayed for three days. I felt such a conviction. Was this my answer? That evening I knelt in prayer and told the Lord that I didn't think I could fast and pray for three days, but I wanted to do His will.

That week as I was reading the Book of Mormon, I was directed to the story of the sons of Mosiah and their persecution of the saints. After Alma was struck, the people fasted and prayed for two days and nights and moved the hand of God. I felt a conviction that I am unable to put into words. I *knew* that was the answer to my prayer. My prayers were diligent and I fasted two days for Michael. I begged the Lord to move upon my son and trouble his soul, but I did not want the Lord to chastise him. I loved my son too much. I had complete confidence that God would move upon him in His perfect wisdom. I did not know the method He would

use, but I knew without a doubt, He would do His work. I also knew it would be Michael's decision whether to respond to the Lord or reject His drawing power. I felt I had to do everything in my power to move the hand of God for the welfare of my son's soul. I continued to fast every week.

Shortly after this, Michael began to visit more often. One day he said, "Mom, I quit drinking beer." In September 1986 he helped Don and I paint the house (something which was *not* the norm). My younger son, David, invited Michael to visit the Warren Branch with him on September 21, 1986, and the following weekend Michael and David attended the Ohio Area MBA Campout. Michael was attending church every Sunday now. My heart was filled with gratitude to God. I knew without a doubt that God brought this about because of my diligence in fasting and prayer for Michael. Nobody could convince me otherwise.

I had been sharing my concerns and desires for Michael with Sis. Connie Smith. As each event would transpire, I would relate it to her. One day when I was telling Sis. Connie of my conviction that God had responded to my fasting and prayer, she answered with, "I know, Sis. Teresa, because God revealed it to me in a dream." Words cannot express what I felt. This was the confirmation of what God caused me to feel.

We were seeing a lot of Michael now and sharing many wonderful blessings, relating how God has worked in our lives and in the lives of His saints.

One evening as we sat in our living room sharing experiences with our two sons, God touched each of us and we were filled with His Spirit and love. We were so blessed. I knew that one day I would be able to share my experience regarding Michael with him, and that evening God caused me to feel that this was the proper time. I related to him how I had been fasting and praying for two years. He cried. Michael told us God had begun working with him in the last six months. God had given him dreams of the sins he had committed, and they troubled him greatly because of his knowledge of God. The dreams occurred repeatedly, each one of a different sin. He was truly miserable. He knew that God was working with him.

One evening he said, "Mon and Dad, I quit smoking." He went through

withdrawal because he had smoked heavily, but through prayer, God helped him and he has not smoked again.

On the morning of October 26 (Don was scheduled to visit the Erie, PA Branch), I dreamed I was sitting in church and a quiet voice from the rear of the building said, "I want to be baptized." It was Michael's voice. I awoke filled with hope. Michael and David planned to attend the Niles Branch that day. Before Don and I left for Erie, I gave David two phone numbers and made sure he placed them in his wallet. I told him if he had to reach us for *any* reason, to call those numbers. (I did not tell anyone of my dream.) We received no news that day.

The following Sunday Don, Michael, and I attended the GMBA Conference at Greensburg, PA. At the close of the service, the young people were requested to go forward to sing. While they were singing *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*, Michael was touched by God's Holy Spirit and requested baptism.

Michael is a different person today. God has touched him and changed him. He has been converted. God has brought another child back home. My heart is filled with gratitude and thanksgiving to God for His Perfect Love! To God be the Glory!

## Poem

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to dedicate this poem to all the young people in the Church. I myself have been having some personal problems and many times this has caused me to wonder if God is really working in my life. I have tried to stand up for the 'right' things in life, and at times I have felt like a fool because of it. And it seems like the more I would try, the harder it was to take a stand for what I believed in.

Well, tonight a friend of my sister's committed suicide. He was just seventeen years old. And it finally dawned on me that all of life is a battle; each one of us has his own battle to fight every day!

I have also come to understand that I don't have to be perfect, I just have

to let Jesus handle everything. Please remember me in your prayers.

This poem is for that young man who took his life. I composed it in less than ten minutes after hearing about his death. I wish I had had the chance to tell him about Jesus.

## The Battle Cry

Someone lost the battle today,  
Someone lost the fight.  
No one to show a better way,  
A way from wrong to right.

Someone needed a little love,  
Some kindness and some help.  
No one cared enough to say,  
"Be easy on yourself."

Someone needed to hear the truth:  
That God is real and cares!  
To hope in Jesus Christ and *know*  
He every burden bears!

Someone needed to come to know  
A purpose for his life,  
To know that "All things work for good,"  
To Trust in God and fight!

FIGHT for life, good or bad,  
FIGHT for right, not wrong!  
FIGHT till all your strength is gone,  
FIGHT the whole night long!

Fight until the moring comes  
And Jesus we shall see,  
A better world and way of life,  
A crown of VICTORY!

Sister Patti Gianfermi  
Sterling Heights, MI

## To All Readers

Presiding elders will soon be distributing the membership survey forms that have been prepared by the General Church.

In order for this survey to be a success, we need everyone's cooperation and support. All church members and friends are encouraged to participate in this project. Please be sure that your questionnaire is included in this information-gathering endeavor.

## Branch and Mission News

### Spartanburg, SC

SHALL WE GATHER AT THE RIVER?

The first Sunday in January marks the second anniversary of the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. The mission began on January 6, 1985.

The new year had been in for just a few days, and we experienced the blessing of having another baptism, bringing our membership up to twelve. We have a new brother, Cletis Schwell Hill, the fiance of Sis. Ruth (Peterkin) Spruill. He was baptized on January 7, 1987 by Brother Harold Littlejohn, who had the blessing of performing his first baptism, and was confirmed by Brother Nathan Peterkin, who despite his condition has been a great leader and a source of strength to our mission.

Truly many prayers were answered concerning this young man, because he could have gone another way, but when the Gospel was given to him, he accepted it and became a member of the family and fold of God. Truly, "we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28).

We hope that the prayers for all the branches and missions will continue, for we are experiencing the results of them. And we pray that God, through and by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, will bless us all, that we may prosper in righteousness in this new year of 1987.

### Valley Branch, CA

By Joyce Azzinaro

On Sunday January 11, 1987, the Valley Branch had a service and fellowship meeting that was filled with the presence of God's Spirit. We had blessings, healings, the gift of tongues with the interpretation thereof, and complete evidence of God's existence.

Bro. Ralph Frammolino opened in prayer and welcomed our visitors Bro. Ray Sazeko and Scott Carneval. Just their mere presence gave us a blessing from the moment we walked into the building.

Bro. Frank Verardo preached to us concerning the creation. He read from Genesis and gave Abinadi's account from The Book of Mormon. He explained how there are many different opinions when man tries to explain the creation, but we know the truth.

Bro. Ralph followed, sharing a conversation he had had with his boss, who doesn't believe in God, claiming there is no evidence of His existence. Ralph pointed out that when God finished the creation of heaven and earth, God's first bit of evidence was entered. We must acknowledge His existence in the creation around us. The second piece of evidence is the human creation. Our brother left the meeting open so we could all testify to the evidence of the presence of God.

As different brothers and sisters began to testify, we could all feel the presence of God in our midst. His Spirit was flowing from vessel to vessel that day. Even the younger ones, twelve and thirteen years old, were testifying of God's goodness in their lives.

Some of our brothers, sisters, and friends were suffering from various afflictions that day, both great and small. As they mentioned them in their testimonies, some asked to be anointed.

While the elders were anointing those that had requested it, we could feel that God was with us. Bro. Ralph petitioned others, if any had a need, to come forward as well, for God's presence was in our midst. The brothers were directed to anoint one more sister, and after they did, Sis. Joyce Azzinaro said that earlier she wanted to ask that these three sisters be anointed, and now God's Spirit had confirmed that it was His will.

Two others confirmed that Pete Krasnasky should be anointed. He has suffered for a long time with a very bad arm, with much pain and numbness, even after surgery. Our brother offered a powerful prayer for Pete, and as he later embraced him, he called out, "God is with us, God is with us," and spoke in the gift of tongues.

Several additional anointings took place, and with each one the congregation was more and more filled with the Spirit of God. After communion, Sis.

Cindy Hood related a dream she had received early that morning. In the dream, she saw the bottle of blessed oil in someone's hand. The person in the dream was asking, "Whose is this?" After a short pause, Cindy answered, "It's mine!" Today she understood the meaning of that dream. Every one of us was running out of tissue as the tears flowed today.

As we prepared to bring the meeting to a close, Bro. Sal Molisani remarked that tongues were spoken and asked if anyone had the interpretation. Sis. Virginia Suprenant said she had heard God speaking through our Brother Ralph saying, "I am God Almighty," and Sis. Robin Hickey heard the same thing. It was as if God was speaking to us, saying that He is the Almighty I Am.

We truly experienced His presence that day. Our meeting lasted for more than three and a half hours, and we didn't want to leave, but we finally did so, singing *God's Still on His Throne*.

### Phoenix, AZ

By Frances J. Capone

VISITOR INTERPRETS TONGUES

Visiting the church on January 18, 1987 was a young lady by the name of Lisa Rogers. There is nothing unusual about that, because we have visitors of all ages coming to church from time to time. What was unusual and out-of-the-ordinary is that Lisa was used by God to interpret the tongues spoken by Bro. Peter Genaro, an elder from the Tse Bonito Branch, who was visiting the Phoenix Branch on this particular Sunday.

Bro. Genaro preached an inspiring sermon, and was followed by Bro. George Johnson, who further pursued the subject matter brought forth by Bro. Genaro.

When the service was turned over for testimony, Bro. Robert Kaye arose and, in his testimony, dwelled upon the recent problems and trials plaguing his life. While he was speaking, Brother Genaro spoke in the gift of tongues.

At the time, no interpretation was given. However, after the service, Lisa announced that she understood all the words that Bro. Genaro had spoken. In effect, she said that the Lord would help

Brother Robert with his problems, but *first* he must do all in his own power to help himself. She repeated this message several times. She was quite moved by this experience, as was the congregation.

The brothers and sisters registered amazement that a young lady with virtually no knowledge of the Church or of the church people understood the tongues and was used to convey the interpretation to the congregation.

Trials and temptations and problems of varied shapes and sizes come to all of us sooner or later. This is the stuff of which life is made. However, each one of us must strive to the best of our ability to solve our own problems. All the prayers in the world will not help us if we are not doing our part to help ourselves.

LET US DO OUR BEST;  
AND GOD WILL DO THE REST.

## Dedham, MA

By Belle Rose

On October 26, 1986, Brother Donald Francis Valenti was ordained an elder of The Church of Jesus Christ. Baptized on July 31, 1932, our brother had held the office of teacher since January, 1985.

Brother Sam Dell, president of the Atlantic Coast District, petitioned God's blessing as all the elders present knelt in a circle around our Brother Valenti. Bro. Richard Onorato then ordained Brother Donald into the priesthood.

Bro. Donald Valenti is the first elder to be ordained in the Dedham, Massachusetts area. He will lead the brothers and sisters in this area in the ways of the Lord and the ordinances of the Church.

There were visitors present today from Maine Mission, the various New Jersey branches, as well as the Levittown PA, Brooklyn NY, and Bronx NY Branches. We also had the members and visitors from Dedham there, and God's blessing was upon all.

### TRIBUTE continued . . .

During his last years on earth, my constant prayer was that the Good Lord would show mercy toward him and receive him in paradise. I know now that my prayer has been answered.

Sis. Rose DeFranco  
San Diego, CA

### PROJECT continued . . .

Among the many visitors was a Sioux Indian man, who was accompanied by a minister of another faith. They attended a Tuesday night service in our building. The meeting ended in a discussion of the House of Israel and the Seed of Joseph. After Evangelist Lovalvo offered the closing prayer, our Indian friend was asked to pray in the Sioux language, which he did.

On all three Sundays, the group held an afternoon service at our meeting place in Oak Grove. The Spirit of God was present, and the Holy Communion was administered to our members. Also attending one mid-week service were Brother Joseph and Sister Helen Tisler of Lake Worth, and Sis. Tisler's sister Edith, and her husband Charles.

Another edifying meeting was held on Thanksgiving Day, as our brothers and sisters offered thanks for all things and more recently, for God's accompaniment in the work in that locale. As usual, it was obvious that God was working like He does whenever a new endeavor is started. Experiences abounded, and the love of God was present and reflected in all the efforts. As the group left, they stated that they were very pleased with their stay and, as Evangelist Lovalvo summarized, "We were very satisfied."

### EDITORIAL continued . . .

America! Awaken your senses, and reverence God, not man! This land will always be a promised land, but we may not be permitted to live here if we ignore the decrees of Almighty God. The Lord will turn and overturn, until He finds a people who will serve Him in Spirit and in Truth. Amen.

Bro. Ether M. Furnier  
P. O. Box 65  
San Carlos, AZ 85550  
(602) 475-2871

### IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

substantiate this practice.

I believe that when an individual or collective group of people introduce doctrines that are foreign to the Scriptures, it soon becomes very easy to adopt other forms of religious practices not founded on the Word of God. In conclusion, I exhort all men and women everywhere". . . that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude v. 3).

## Fulfillment

Apple blossoms bursting wide  
now beautify the tree

And make a Springtime picture  
that is beautiful to see . . .

Oh, fragrant lovely blossoms,  
you'll make a bright bouquet

If I but break your branches  
from the apple tree today . . .

But if I break your branches  
and make your beauty mine,

You'll bear no fruit in season  
when severed from the vine . . .

And when we cut ourselves away  
from guidance that's divine,

Our lives will be as fruitless  
as the branch without the vine . . .

For as the flowering branches  
depend upon the tree

To nourish and fulfill them  
till they ready futurity,

We too must be dependent  
on our Father up above,

For we are but the branches  
and He's the tree of love.

Helen Steiner Rice

Submitted by Cathy Mulla  
Detroit, MI

## New Arrivals

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

Robert Allen to Becky and William Nash of Cleveland, Ohio.

Brittany Danae to Paul and Kay Gray of Anaheim, California.

Andrew Doyle to Mark and Judy Landrey of Phoenix, Arizona.

## OBITUARIES

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

### ROCCO BISCOTTI

Apostle Rocco V. Biscotti of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to his eternal reward on January 21, 1987. He was born in Italy on February 11, 1903 and became a member of the Church on August 27, 1922. In April of 1923 he was ordained an

elder in the Church. He was later ordained an evangelist in October of 1926, and an apostle in July of 1938.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Paul Palmieri and Russell Cadman. Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Angeline, two sons, one daughter, nine grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. He will also be missed by the brothers and sisters in the Cleveland Branch and a host of brothers, sisters, and friends from coast to coast and around the world.

Brother Biscotti emigrated from Italy in 1921. In 1922, he was planning to return to Italy because of a lack of work. At the time, he was living with his brother Louis, who was working for Bro. Emilio Gerome. This brother introduced the Gospel to them, and they were baptized in Cleveland, Ohio in 1922.

Bro. Rocco was missionary-minded; he returned to Italy three times on missionary trips, twice accompanied by his wife Angeline. He was also involved in the establishment of the Church on the Atlantic Coast, always teaching the saints to love one another and dedicate themselves to the Lord's work.

Brother Rocco truly walked with the Lord in all of his workings, doing the Lord's work and testifying to the mercy and goodness of Christ in His life.

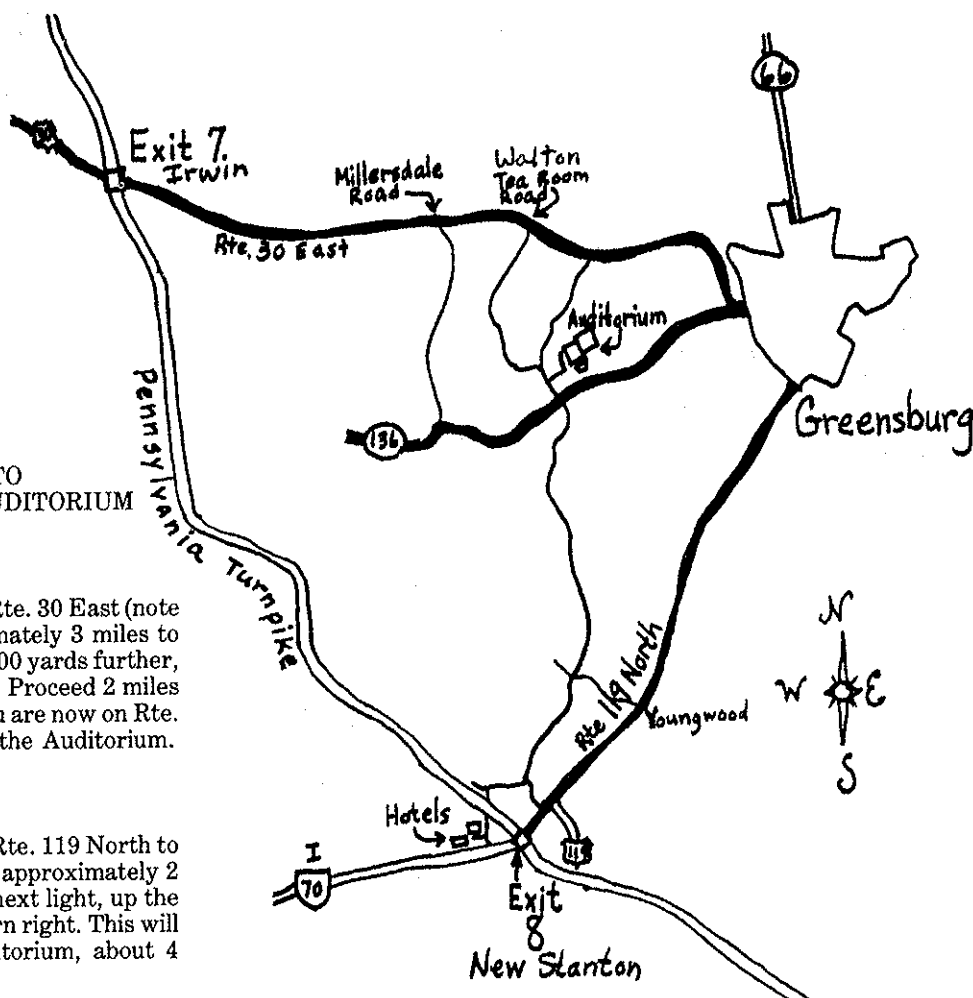
### DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL CHURCH AUDITORIUM

#### TRAVELING FROM WEST

Exit Turnpike at Exit 7. Take Rte. 30 East (note first traffic light). Go approximately 3 miles to the 2nd and 3rd lights. About 100 yards further, turn right on Millersdale Road. Proceed 2 miles to a Stop sign and turn left. You are now on Rte. 136 East, about 2 miles from the Auditorium.

#### TRAVELING FROM EAST

Exit Turnpike at Exit 8. Take Rte. 119 North to Youngwood (2nd traffic light), approximately 2 miles. Turn left and cross the next light, up the hill. Going down a steep hill, turn right. This will take you directly to the Auditorium, about 4 miles.





# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

April, 1987

Volume 43, No. 4

## Ordinations in Monongahela, PA

*By LuAnn Scaglione Carson*

Although we've heard it said many times that the highest calling in The Church of Jesus Christ is the calling of a member, we still find ourselves in need of the help provided by specific offices. In the Monongahela Branch, God has recently chosen two sisters to take upon them the office of deaconess.

On November 23, 1986 Sister Terri Nath had her feet washed by her great aunt, Sister Mabel Bickerton, and she was ordained by Bro. James Campbell. Sister Lucetta Scaglione had her feet washed by her mother-in-law, Sister Rose Scaglione, and Bro. Idris Martin ordained her. Experiences were given which confirmed the callings of both sisters. We pray that God will bless them in their service to Him.

"... And I would that ye should remember that the Lord God ordained priests after His holy order, which was after the order of His Son, ... being called and prepared from the foundation of the world according to the foreknowledge of God, on account of their exceeding great faith and good works ... being called with a holy calling, and ordained with a holy ordinance, and taking upon them the high priesthood of the holy order which calling, and ordinance, and high priesthood, is without beginning or end." These words, from Alma 13, were used by Apostle Russell Cadman to open our morning meeting on Sunday, December 28, 1986.

Many visitors from Ohio, New Jersey, Florida, Arizona, Michigan, and most of the Pennsylvania branches gathered to

witness the ordination of brothers Brian Smith and Robert Nicklow, Jr. into the priesthood. The Spirit of God prevailed throughout the entire day—in the speaking, the prayers, and also the many special selections that were sung.

Bro. Joseph Calabrese from Lorain, Ohio followed Bro. Cadman, stating that this calling was not of man, but was of God. We as a Church follow the order which Christ used to set up His Church many years ago. Throughout the ages of time, man has changed God's commandments, but The Church of Jesus Christ upholds Christ's way.

Bro. Isaac Smith of Pinetop, Arizona then related how he was called into the priesthood, admonishing all to be faithful to their calling.

After the morning service, we gathered downstairs for a season of refreshments and fellowship, after which we reconvened upstairs, beginning the afternoon service by singing praises unto the Lord. Bro. Joseph Ross opened the service with words of exhortation directed towards Brothers Bobby and Brian. The words of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians concerning Paul's own calling were read. Paul preached not with the wisdom of the world, but depended entirely upon God. As members of the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ, we must be prompted and guided by the Holy Spirit in all our actions and speaking.

Bro. Joseph Bittinger followed, stating that the greatest satisfaction in life is to be used by the Lord. We must

(Continued on Page 10)

## Conference Notice

The April Spiritual General Church Conference will convene on Friday, April 24, 1987 at 9:30 a.m. in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

The Friday morning and afternoon sessions will be open for the priesthood and teachers only. The Friday evening session, in addition to the Saturday sessions and the Sunday meeting, will be open to all members.

Following is the schedule of events for this Conference:

### Friday, April 24

- 9:30 a.m. Address by Quorum of Twelve members. Sis. Mabel Bickerton will conduct seminars for the sisters in attendance.
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. A series of four seminars will be presented to the elders and teachers of the Church.
- 3:30 p.m. Summary
- 5:00 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Program to be presented by the Pennsylvania District.

### Saturday, April 25

- 9:30 a.m. Morning service. The Lord's Supper will be observed.
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 2:00 p.m. Program to be presented by the California District.
- 4:30 p.m. Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Singspiration and Fellowship Service.

### Sunday, April 26

- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship Service.

## Greetings in Christ



By Bro. Mark Randy

### AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL BUCCELLATO

*"They took away what should have been my tongue,  
But I had talked to God when I was young.  
They took away what should have been my eyes,  
But I had read of Milton's Paradise.  
They took away what should have been my ears,  
Beethoven came and wiped away my tears."*

Helen Keller

What would we do without these uncommon persons who dare to endure all things that they may win a greater place in this life and in eternal glory?

Michael Buccellato fits well among the greats. By the time you read this article, Michael will be 14 years old, having been born April 19, 1973. Michael has thalassemia, also called Mediterranean anemia, a hereditary blood disease in which the blood cells break down rapidly and are unable to replenish themselves. As a result of this disease, Michael has had to undergo frequent blood transfusions throughout his life, in addition to other treatments.

"I was two or three years old the first time I became aware of being sick," Michael said. "Most of the time I can put up with it; I keep praying about it, but sometimes I get discouraged, and lose hope. But I always have family and friends to help me, and that helps. Also, when the ministers pray for me, I feel kind of peaceful, I feel sure that once they pray God listens and comforts me.

"When I pray or when the ministers pray for me I feel relieved. I feel bad

about others, especially children who suffer with cancer. I wish that nobody would have to suffer so much."

Michael keeps good grades in school in spite of his affliction, getting A's and B's most of the time. He manages to participate in sports such as ice skating, football, and baseball, and is active in school plays.

Michael is a celebrity, having appeared in several television programs and commercials. "It's like a hobby for me; I find it fun. It gives me something to look forward to doing.

"As for the future, I would like to be a writer of comedy, to make people laugh, because I do not want people to be sad."

Michael played a role in the network program *Highway to Heaven* showing people about children with cancer. "I like to do stuff like that, showing people the truth about things so that they may know about the real tragedies. I am really sorry for people that have any kind of disease. I think they should know that people who have diseases can also live, have fun, and that they can do things. This is what I show to people. This is what I did on *Highway to Heaven*. I kind of like that; it builds hope in those who suffer.

"People who suffer like I have know that it is bad sometimes, but God is always there to watch over you and He is always with you as He has been with me. At times it doesn't seem that way, I mean He doesn't seem near, but I know He is, otherwise I couldn't stand it.

"When you ask God for something and He doesn't answer you right away, it doesn't mean that He is not listening to you. It's just—I don't know, He has a reason for everything, and it may not seem fair, and a lot of times it doesn't, but we don't know why people have to have things like kids sick with terrible diseases, but you have to remember that if you keep on serving the Lord, you feel better inside.

"If you feel depressed and you are sad, talk with your family or someone who cares, because they can help you sometimes to cheer you up, and it's also a very good idea to pray about it, for God to give you more hope and to help you through whatever you're going through."

Michael has high hopes of going to col-

lege. "It's good to learn. I want to be a writer."

Michael has suffered much. "It hurts to go through so much suffering, but doctors are doing something new now to numb the pain. It doesn't hurt as much, and new things are being tried to perhaps discover a medicine to cure this disease."

Michael continued, saying, "When I pray, I don't just pray for myself; I ask that God watch everyone else, and especially the people and the children who are sick. There are many who need God's help. Also, I pray not only for those I know, but for those I don't know. There are others who suffer like I do," Michael said.

Michael's father, Bro. Edmund Buccellato, concluded the interview, saying, "Leana (his wife and Michael's mother) and I have matured a great deal as individuals and as a family, as a result of Michael's illness. We have been drawn closer together; we have become stronger, and the bond of love between us is very strong. Leana and I, over the years, have felt all of the frustrations, and all of the anger and pains that are felt by all the other parents who find themselves surrounded by circumstances like ours, especially when Michael was very small and he didn't understand what was happening."

Michael still has to go to the hospital for a blood transfusion every two weeks. I am asking the readers of this article to pray for Michael, to support

(Continued on Page 11)

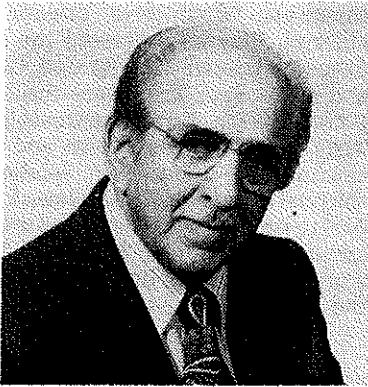
## 1987 GMBA CAMPOUT



**SCRIPPS COLLEGE**  
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Registration forms available  
from your local MBA

## It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

### LEADERSHIP AND SERVANTHOOD

This article is an attempt to show the results of Christian Leadership and Servanthood, as well as to show the dire consequences when these two very important characteristics become marred with avarice, arrogance, and self-righteousness. It is hoped that the reader will see that when men forget the teachings of Our Savior, and indulge in their own selfishness and pride, the chastisement of God comes upon them and the loss of His Spirit and His gifts are the subsequent wages received.

This article is not intended for ministers only, but for every person who may aspire to leadership in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Contrary to the old cliché, "He's a born leader," I submit that no one is born with a total gift or attribute of leadership and servanthood, except where God has willed it so. He has decreed, however, that some men, in certain instances, should carry out His purposes, as Jeremiah, of whom the Lord said that He had ordained him a prophet while he was still in his mother's womb (Jeremiah 1:5); or John the Baptist, who was to be the forerunner of Christ (Luke 1:13-17). And, of course, the greatest of all, Jesus Christ, who was ordained before the world was, to be the Savior of all mankind (John 3:16, Isaiah 53). Other than the above instances, I believe that leadership and servanthood are learning processes. For example, no one is born an accomplished singer or musician. It takes years of hard, diligent study to develop a beautiful voice or master an instrument. One does not become a great opera singer or a concert pianist overnight. It involves dedication, perseverance, and much

sacrifice to reach such a goal. Similarly, leadership and servanthood are not achieved without years of humble obedience to the Lord.

One cannot develop into a great leader unless one has learned to be a good follower; nor can one learn complete service to God until one has learned to serve others. Only by learning the ways of the Master first and applying them in his own life can a person achieve that goal of leadership and servanthood. A simple analogy is this: One has to serve an apprenticeship before becoming a journeyman. Jesus told His disciples that if they would aspire to greatness, they should learn to be servants (Matthew 20:26 & 27).

Moses, though he was raised in luxury and glory in the house of Pharaoh, had to learn humility by tending sheep for forty years (Acts 7:29 & 30). The apostles had to learn by being followers of Jesus in every respect. He gave them examples of love, compassion, forgiveness, and obedience. Peter wrote that Christ not only suffered for us, but left us an example that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21). The Apostle Paul exhorted Timothy to "let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Timothy 4:12). To Titus he wrote a wonderful letter, saying:

"In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. . . . These things speak and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee" (Titus 2:7 & 8).

Peter and Paul, two great leaders of the church, were teaching the two younger men the essentials of leadership and servanthood.

Leadership is a combination of humility with firmness, and strength with resilience. It is written that Moses was the meekest man in Israel (Numbers 12:3), yet he was immovable in keeping the commands of God in their entirety. Likewise, a church leader must be humble, yet allow no one to wrest the Word of God; nor can he allow himself to be inveigled into compromising the teachings of Jesus Christ.

Humility and meekness do not

necessarily indicate weakness; nor a resignation to adversities: but rather a resilient strength to face criticism and opposition and be able to "bounce back," as it were, and "turn the other cheek." Humility and meekness also indicate a willingness to submit to the will of God; to reconcile yourself to whatever is imposed upon you by the Lord. Paul's answer to the brethren who pleaded with him not to go to Jerusalem is a case in point: ". . . What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 21:13). The same Paul, writing to the Corinthian community, said:

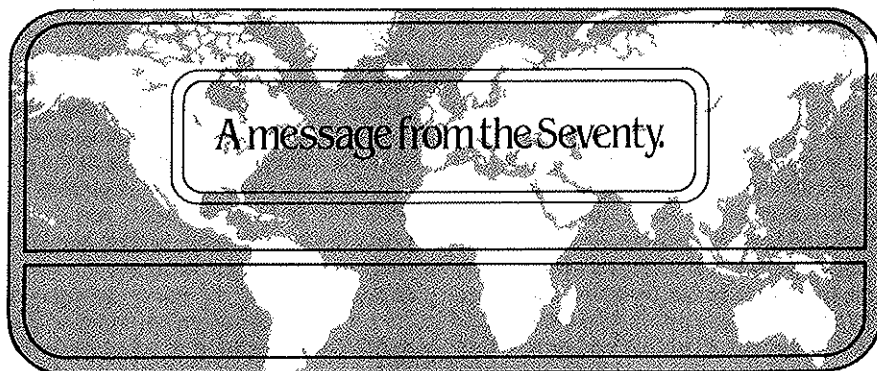
"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body" (II Cor. 4:8-11).

The eleventh chapter of Hebrews is filled with examples of persons endowed with that resilient strength gained through faith, "of whom," Paul says, "the world was not worthy."

Leadership involves a love for God and for the Church, a love for humanity, and a burden for the souls of men and women. A leader must feel somewhat like Jeremiah, who in the anguish of his soul cried out, "Oh, that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people" (Jer. 9:1). A good leader should feel the burden for the sins of the people as Jeremiah did. He must have that inward yearning to gather souls for Christ and lead them closer to the Lord. He must feel the burden of the flock over which God has made him a shepherd. Job once said in his grief, "Did I not weep for him that was in trouble? Was not my soul grieved for the poor?" (Job 30:25). A good leader must possess a deep concern and love for humankind as was expressed by Christ when He wept over Jerusalem (Matthew 23:37).

A good leader has the ability to bring a church closer to Christ. He can do so by his Christian life and behavior. Paul instructs Timothy what to look for in a

(Continued on Page 6)



## Very Much Missed

*By Carl J. Frammolino  
Quorum of Seventy Editor*

"It just won't be the same anymore. He was always around bringing encouragement to everyone. He'd be bubbling with enthusiasm, and you couldn't help but love him."

This was how a young brother described the seemingly sudden passing of Evangelist Dominic Moraca, which took place on February 22. Although he had been very ill, he appeared to be the kind of person who would always be among us here. This certainly would have been true at this coming April Conference, had he been able to make it there.

His absence will also remind us of the many other brothers of the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ who have been called home within the last eighteen months. They all will be missed, as they each left us wonderful memories. By not seeing Brother Moraca taking notes in the front with the General Church's secretarial staff, we shall feel the absence of all those who have gone on.

### THE MANY

Right after Brother Moraca departed, Brother John Romano passed away on March 4. He had suffered a stroke the previous Sunday while he was preaching at Detroit Branch 2, relating how a sister had been called into the Church in Lima, Ohio almost 30 years earlier. How fitting it was for this highly-respected 87-year-old elder and Soldier of the Cross to complete his glorious mortal life for Christ while he was preaching about salvation!

Just preceding these in death were Apostle Rocco V. Biscotti and Elder

August Perlioni. They were steadfast and faithful workers until affliction finally overcame them. Before them, warm and deeply beloved Elder Del Carneval left us after fighting a valiant battle with a fatal disease.

Shortly before Brother Carneval, Evangelists Joseph Milantoni, John Ross, Eugenio Perri Sr., and Dan Casasanta and Apostles Frank Calabrese and Anthony A. Corrado were taken home. Some time earlier, Evangelist Dan Corrado went to his reward. Just picturing this group of brothers on the rostrum fills us with joy, hope, and inspiration, even as our hearts are filled with nostalgia. Their enthusiastic and dynamic sermons are unforgettable because they lifted us high with the expectations of salvation.

All of us who have known and have had the privilege of laboring with any or all of the above-mentioned brothers recognized and appreciated them as pillars. We learned thoroughly from them and have been influenced by their determination and zeal. No one who ever met them or sat down with them at any crucial time could ever forget their love and concern. This applied to all ages, and their patience and loyalty could be counted on. The comfort is that we shall soon be with them and all the other saints who have gone on to their eternal reward.

### WILL GO ON

In a positive vein, the Gospel's message will go on with greater force because of their examples. Taken more casually while they were here with us, our recalling of their utterances and prayers will offer further incentives to continue to promulgate the Gospel. Who can forget their living testimonies and the way they followed the direction of the Spirit of God? Their deeds are indelible in our minds as we reflect on how essential it is to carry on.

These brothers earned our respect. Though they were individuals and had their own distinctive talents and abilities, they all possessed the same deep love that we have for God, Christ, and the Gospel. They were thrilled to preach salvation to all who would listen. They spoke with conviction and were spiritually in tune. Their relating of spiritual experiences also allowed them to supplement the written word with examples of God's manifestations. Their words reflected deep meditation, thought, and inspiration.

The service they rendered in other capacities is also outstanding. They held many offices at the Branch/Mission, District, and General Church levels. They have served on Indian reservations and have travelled extensively in this hemisphere and abroad on missionary work. The total of their years in the Gospel is staggering, and their combined spiritual knowledge was invaluable. This group of men may well constitute the highest number of the ministry that has passed on in such a short span.

No, it will not seem the same at this Conference, Brother Moraca will not be seated up front, as he has been for several decades. A fixture at all auxiliary functions, he will not be mingling with the saints and being a true friend to all. He, like the others, stood out just by being himself.

In thinking of his and the others' passing, the writer feels a deep personal gratitude for having had them as our leaders, examples, friends, and fellow-workers for Christ. As Brother Biscotti, who served as President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, had exhorted us many times to be: **THEY WERE TRULY NOBLE MEN OF THE ROYAL PRIESTHOOD.**

"You never know how much you really believe anything until its truth or falsehood becomes a matter of life and death. It is easy to say you believe a rope to be strong as long as you are merely using it to cord a box. But suppose you had to hang by that rope over a precipice. Wouldn't you then first discover how much you really trusted it?"

C. S. Lewis

## The Gospel News

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

### CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovatolo

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

#### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

#### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

#### FLORIDA

Eugene J. "Buddy" Perri  
c/o 570 N. Dover Road  
Tequesta, FL 33469

#### OHIO

James P. Huinagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

#### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Oleza  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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### BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

### Fellowship

Did you ever spend some time with a brother or sister you didn't know too well, and find when you parted company that a tie had been established between you that only grew stronger through the years? The love of God is a wonderful aspect of The Church of Jesus Christ, if we only take the time to enjoy it.

In a day and age when it's sometimes all we can do to spend a couple of hours each week in the house of God, the opportunity to enjoy one another's fellowship has become more and more scarce. Yet the fellowship of the saints is one of the unique things that sets our Church apart from others. How many people have remarked, on their first visit to one of our meetings, on the way we all seem to know each other by name and care about one another?

As Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another," we must realize that in order for us to *really* love one another, we must get to know one another. When one of our number is afflicted, it is because we have come to know and love them in the Gospel over the years that our prayers on their behalf are offered so sincerely and fervently.

This degree of fellowship and love cannot be attained by us simply sitting together in the same building on a Sunday morning. We must interact with one another and share part of our lives with one another in order to experience this beautiful blessing. After we get to know first-hand of each other's desires to serve God, when we learn of one another's joys and sorrows, only *then* can we call the saints our brothers and sisters in Christ, and really mean it.

The world we live in today seems to provide us with more than enough to occupy our time, leaving us with no time to enjoy the blessings of God. But if we make an effort to put the things of God *first* in our lives, which naturally involves our *making* time for Him, we'll be amazed at how generously the Lord will pour out His blessings upon us.

Brothers and sisters, let's make a greater effort to know one another. Make time to visit with the brothers and sisters, and see what a joy it is just to share in the wonderful things of God. If we do, we'll find ourselves bound closer together in the love of Christ, and as we establish that bond with more and more of the saints, greater unity will prevail in the Church on all levels.

As we endeavor to spend more time in fellowship with one another, let us not concern ourselves so much with being perfect hosts or perfect guests; let us rather do all that we can, as we always should, to carry within us the Spirit and the Love of God, so that our brothers and sisters and all mankind would receive a blessing from knowing us. It is by God working in and through each of us, binding us together with His love, that we bless one another and are so very blessed in return.

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

## He Is Risen

Dear Girls and Boys,

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

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

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

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

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



the One who had all power, allowed the soldiers to tie His arms and nail His body horribly to the cross.

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

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

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

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

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

Joyfully the loved ones of the Lord rose to their feet and rushed to tell the wonderful news to the apostles. Peter ran back to the tomb to see for himself that the body of Jesus was gone.

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

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

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

### IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

leader. He enumerates the qualifications of bishops and deacons in no uncertain terms (I Timothy 3:1-7). A good leader must share leadership responsibilities with others, not as a "lord," but in the spirit of the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ. He cannot assume that others are his servants, but must know that he is the servant of all. In his book, *Leading the Family of God*, Paul M. Miller writes, ". . . too much power assigned to one 'boss' will weaken the people and corrupt the leader" (p. 89). I submit that a leader should not take too much responsibility upon himself, as it has a tendency to open the door for Satan to step in and begin to fill him with self-importance, eventually bringing disaster on himself and his flock.

As good leaders are able to bring a church closer to Christ, evil leaders can bring the displeasure of God upon themselves and the church. A dire woe is pronounced upon the pastors of Israel by the Lord, through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah, for their carelessness and evil doings (Jer. 23:1 & 2; 2:8; 10:21). When church leaders lose sight of the responsibility laid upon them, they become "blind leaders of the blind," with the consequences of both "falling into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14).

History is replete with what happened to mankind by reason of wicked leadership. War and destruction has come upon the earth because of men who, in order to fulfill their own evil designs, brought desolation, misery, and death



upon the human family. I am referring to such men as Attila the Hun, and Nero, the emperor of Rome, who rejoiced while Rome burned, and then placed the blame on the Christians. I include Alexander the Great, who at the age of fifteen years wept because he thought that his father, Philip of Macedonia, had left nothing more for him to conquer. Although he subdued many nations, it was only through the shedding of innocent blood. In modern times there have arisen other evil leaders like Adolph Hitler, who would have gladly put half the world to death in order to feed his own ego.

In the religious world, the pages of history are filled with the deeds of leaders in the Catholic church who, with the consent of some of the popes put millions of people to death. All this was done in the name of the Lord, as exemplified in the Crusades, the persecutions against the Waldenses and the Huguenots, the Spanish Inquisition, and other incidents too numerous to mention (See *Fox's Book of Martyrs*, Gibbons' *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, et al.). Nor were the actions of some members of Protestant groups much of an example of Christian behavior (Talmadge's *The Great Apostasy*, quoting from Myer's *General History*, p. 527).

As the years after Christ's death rolled on into the second century AD and thereafter, there arose leaders in the Church who, instead of displaying Christian attributes, began to lift themselves up in the pride of their hearts and, unlike true shepherds of the flock, became egotistic, vain, self-centered, and uncaring. Paul referred to them as "... wolves in sheep's clothing." He also predicted that "... some would depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils ... having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Timothy 4:1 & 2).

Concerning the decline of Christian leadership and servanthood, a notable historian, Von Mosheim, in his *Ecclesiastical History*, wrote:

"Of the vices of the whole clerical order, their luxury, their arrogance, their avarice, their voluptuous lives, we have as many witnesses. . . the bishops, especially such as were distinguished for their rank and honors, employed various administrators to manage their affairs, and formed around themselves a kind of

sacred court. . . The deacons were taxed with their pride and their vices. . ."

This departure from righteousness among the leaders of the church was not an immediate happening, but a gradual degeneration, getting worse as the years rolled on. The historian Eusebius wrote:

"... But when the sacred band of apostles had ended their lives in various ways, and the generation of those who had been privileged to listen to the divine wisdom with their own ears had passed away, then godless error began to take its rise, and form itself through the deceit of those who taught another doctrine. . ."

Joseph Milner, in his *Ecclesiastical History*, says:

"Ecclesiastical discipline, which had been too strict, was now relaxed exceedingly; bishops and people were in a state of malice. . . ambition and covetousness had, in general, gained the ascendancy in the Christian church . . . and here terminated, or nearly so, as far as appears, that great first effusion of the Spirit of God which began at the day of Pentecost."

Writing on the decline of Pastoral leadership, Milner continues:

"The pastors and the deacons each forgot their duties; works of mercy were neglected; and discipline was at the lowest ebb. Luxury and effeminacy prevailed; meretricious arts in dress were cultivated; frauds were practiced, and deceits also among brethren. . ."

Leadership in the church became clothed in self-righteousness, pride, and self-glory. It was no longer the community which counted, but their own advancement in position and personal glory. John Gibbons, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, says:

"Fraud, envy, and malice prevailed in every congregation. The presbyters (elders) aspired to the episcopal (bishop's) office, which every day became an object more worthy of their ambition. The bishops, who contended with each other for ecclesiastical preeminence, appeared by their

conduct to claim a secular and tyrannical power in the church. . ."

In describing the opulence of some of the leaders of the church, Von Mosheim says that the bishops assumed princely authority, sitting on thrones surrounded by their ministers. The presbyters ambitiously imitated the bishops, and the deacons, seeing the presbyters neglecting their functions, usurped their rights and privileges.

Eusebius writes that some who appeared to be pastors deserted the law of piety and engaged in strifes with each other with violent hatred and hostility, seeking in their avarice to gain ascension over one another.

It is recorded in history that bishops—in the third century—began to claim much higher authority and power, advancing new doctrines concerning the church and the episcopal office. Von Mosheim writes about the corrupt state of the clergy, who began to indulge in dissipation, voluptuousness, contention, and other vices. The bishops created a minor order of clergy which consisted of sub-deacons, acolythi, ostiarii (or doorkeepers), lectors (readers), exorcists, and copiatæ. As one can readily see, leaders became 'title-conscious.' The bishops exalted themselves to the heavens in their pride and arrogance; they began to call themselves princes and metropolitans, demanding respect of all, at the risk of punishment for those who dared to think otherwise.

When the Spirit of the greatest of Leader-Servants, Jesus Christ, departed from the pastors of the church, the community was relegated to a position of 'second-class' citizenship. Forgotten were the words of the Lord to Peter, "Feed My sheep; feed My lambs." Instead, a gradual absorption of self-centered imagery and pride became the focal point of their lives, whereby they lost the virtues of love, compassion, and care for the church, which virtues are the ingredients for true Christian leadership and servanthood. Therefore, one can readily see how leaders who have lost the vision of the True Shepherd, the Son of God, can reduce the Church to a spiritless, lifeless existence, and eventual dispersion.

*Concluded in next month's issue.*

"And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

## Letters

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you and your branches, missions, and auxiliaries that sent encouraging letters and cards to me during my recent illness. Likewise your many prayers helped see me through surgery and during these weeks of recovery.

Also I am grateful to all of the General Church Officers, committees, boards, and quorums for their support and assistance in keeping the Church operating effectively over the past several months.

My prayer is that God will bless each of you for your faith in Him and your determination to always remember the afflicted and their families throughout the Church. Please continue to do so because they need your love, support, and attention during these periods of prolonged suffering.

Again my deepest appreciation for your support of the Church. As always I will pray for your spiritual welfare and success in the Great Work of the Lord.

Dominic Thomas  
General Church President

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I thank my God through Jesus, my Savior, for all my brothers and sisters in Christ whose prayers for my beloved husband and companion, Brother Mervyn Heath, continued as petitions of gold to the throne of God.

He also appreciated all your many cards of encouragement. One card which gave him so much comfort was sent by Sis. Judy Salerno. She was inspired to write the following poem in the card:

### *The Lilies of the Valley*

The lilies of the valley,  
They bloom so white and fair  
And lift their faces to their God  
In grateful thanks for all His care.

He promised to take care of them  
Through sunshine, rain, or gloom,  
And keep them safe within His hand  
So they would always bloom.

He took great care to clothe them well  
So they would always be  
Dressed up so pretty, gay, and free,  
And with no thoughts of worry.

He only wants their praise to Him  
That comes from deep within.  
For as their God takes care of them  
Their minds are stayed on Him.

This poem made a lasting impression on my husband. I placed it up on the wall in his hospital room, open so all who came in could read it. While he was yet able to speak, Bro. Mervyn would ask the nurses and other health care people, "Would you like to read a beautiful poem?" When they took it down to read, he would tell them that the lilies are people. He also witnessed to many of all the blessings and miracles God had done in his life.

I praise God and thank all the saints as well as my family for the strength I and my husband's family received during the days following our great loss. Please remember me in your prayers, and I will pray for all the brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Marguerite Heath  
Detroit Inner City Branch

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*This communication was received from our friends at the "Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center" in Pittsburgh. As a Church we are grateful to have had the opportunity to develop a relationship with them.*

To Whom It May Concern:

We, the Board of Directors of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc., do hereby resolve to reaffirm our support of the Native American Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ; and we do herein extend our sincere thanks to that Committee for its consistent commitment to the furtherance of Native American interests, and its dedication to the general welfare of Native Americans, both in this local area and also nationwide.

We wish to express our recognition that, over the twelve years that a relationship has existed between the Native American Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ and the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc., members of that committee have rendered assistance to this Center on numerous occasions and we do hereby extend our warmest gratitude to those

individuals and to the committee as a whole.

We, the Board of Directors of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc., do hereby resolve to reaffirm our commitment to assist the Native American Committee of The Church of Jesus Christ in any way that we can, whenever that committee shall be engaged in establishing a relationship in another Native American entity.

The above Resolutions adopted by the Board of Directors of the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center, Inc., meeting in official session on October 13, 1986.

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I feel very inspired to write about the importance of members participating in the ordinances of the Church, one of which is harder to perform than the others.

I'm speaking of feet washing. I felt very inadequate, not knowing whether or not I had to pray aloud, or how long to pray, even worrying that I didn't repeat anything in my prayer. My problem had nothing to do with humbling myself to kneel and wash my sisters' feet. I had no problem with that, but the idea of praying out loud terrified me. I knew that I would be thinking more about everyone listening than focusing on the Lord.

Needless to say, I did not participate in feet washing for the total duration of my membership in the Church. I would plan ahead to visit other branches on that particular Sunday, not realizing the importance of this ordinance until one particular Sunday about two weeks before a feet washing service.

On February 8, 1987 Bro. Peter Scolaro was closing the meeting and mentioned something that I had heard many times before, but I guess I was never listening. He talked about the Apostle Peter not wanting the Lord to wash his feet, and the Lord saying, "Then you will have no part with Me."

When I heard that statement my heart just broke. To think I would have no part with the Lord because of this fear. Finally, after four years in the Church, I started asking questions, which were gladly answered by

(Continued on Page 11)

## Branch and Mission News

### Anaheim, CA

By Carl Huttenberger

This past winter, we here at Anaheim were privileged to have many visitors from throughout the Church in our midst nearly every Sunday. There are too many to name, but we thank them for bringing with them the love of God that seems to be found everywhere you go throughout the Church.

The weather has been warm, sunny, and dry as usual, but God's blessings have left our souls anything but dry these past few months.

Our branch is very involved with the Orange County Indian Center. Each month our branch takes money out of our Indian Welfare Fund to buy food for the Indian Center (and also for our Indian Missions in Mexico). Each Thanksgiving we distribute food baskets which contain a turkey, stuffing, vegetables, and fruits to various needy Indian families in Orange County. Since Los Angeles and Orange Counties have the largest population of Native Americans in the nation, we feel we have a tremendous responsibility to provide naturally, and plant spiritually, so that some day, these people will remember The Church of Jesus Christ.

This year we were blessed immensely in giving out the baskets. Bro. Floyd and Sis. Lucy Hemp have spear-headed this project for many years and their efforts have not been in vain. Each year at the Indians' nationwide pow-wow, our Church is recognized for our hospitality.

Over the past few years, Anaheim has spawned three missions, all of which are primarily Mexican in membership. One is Santa Ana, then Riverside, as well as Mexicali, Mexico. Each year around Christmastime we meet at the branch several times and pack away boxes upon boxes of clothes and toys for Mexicali. Each of us, as well, are assigned four or five children or adults for whom we fill a shoe box with new gifts and necessities. Then, on the Saturday before Christmas we bring a van full of gifts to the brothers, sisters, and children there. You can just imagine the excitement and the expressions of thanks through tear-filled eyes that sur-

round us. God has truly blessed us for our efforts. We come away feeling even more blessed than we had anticipated. This year, not one person was left out. Several hundred people received a gift; not one was turned away. Praise God.

About two weeks before Christmas, Anaheim hosted a Christmas Eve-ning. The church building was filled to capacity with friends and visitors. Our children performed two delightful programs organized by Sisters Rita Gamache and Teri Duvall. The adults then performed a program entitled "Broke at Christmas," in which a good christian family who is very poor is repaid for their love shortly before Christmas, making it their best Christmas ever.

During our New Year's Eve watch meeting, the Spirit of God filled the building. It seemed that the Spirit was moving us to model ourselves this coming year after the Nephites in the Book of Mormon, who had continual peace among themselves for 166 years, because they were so busy in the work of the Lord. This concept is what Zion is all about. We are, in a sense, one year closer to Zion. Could God be trying to tell us something?

We thank God for a miracle in our branch. Sister Kay Gray gave birth to her second child, Brittany Danae. She was born nine weeks early, weighing only 2 pounds 11 ounces. Many prayers were offered, and thank God she is making tremendous progress. The doctors are amazed by her growth, and say they feel a special love and Godly spirit around little Brittany. Praise God, he has delivered us again. Truly, there's not anything that Jesus cannot do.

### San Diego, CA

By Carolyn Light

On January 25, the San Diego Branch was a place for the Spirit of God to reside as we witnessed the ordinations of two brothers into the office of deacon in the Church.

Saints, family, and friends gathered from Anaheim, Pinetop/Lakeside, Tucson, Mexicali, and Tijuana to witness

Bro. Samuel Hemmings and Bro. Lorenzo Aguilar further dedicate their lives to God and His Church.

Bro. Lou Ciccati welcomed all to the house of God, and added that along with the ordinations, this day had also been set aside for the ordinance of feet washing. Bro. Jim Huttenberger offered the invocation, and the song *Jesus Use Me* was dedicated to our brothers.

Bro. Lou used the sixth chapter of Acts as his text in relating the calling of deacons in the days of the early apostles. These appointed men were "full of faith and the Holy Spirit." Bro. Lou described this "office of help" as one to care for the things of God in a spiritual and temporal manner, using Stephen's mighty works as an example.

Our brothers have both shown spiritual growth and qualities befitting their office. Bro. Lorenzo has been baptized for less than a year. He, along with his wife Sis. Maria and their daughters were offered the message of the Gospel during a challenge that the members of the San Diego Monday night Mexican work took up: To canvass the area of the Church building and re-introduce the message of the Gospel to the neighborhood.

Bro. Sam, along with Bro. Stacey Light, were two of the brothers that knocked on Bro. Lorenzo's door. As a result of that visit, Sis. Maria, gravely ill at the time, was healed and later was baptized. Her husband followed shortly thereafter. It was therefore a special blessing to witness these two brothers being ordained simultaneously.

Bro. Luis Pacheco related experiences that were had concerning Bro. Lorenzo assisting the ministry and performing the duties of a deacon even before he was baptized (Bro. Lorenzo is the first member from our Branch's Spanish work to be called into an ordained office.).

Bro. Sam has continued to be a humble and willing worker in the San Diego Branch. Bro. Joel Christman washed his feet, and he was ordained by his father, Bro. Herb Hemmings of Pinetop. Bro. Lornezo's feet were washed by Bro. Pilar Cordoba and Bro. Luis Pacheco ordained him, both brothers praying in their native Spanish.

Bro. Herb then admonished our new deacons to be strong and take their

(Continued on Page 10)

# SAN DIEGO continued . . .

responsibilities seriously. He then sang *I'll Follow Thee* as a tribute to his son. Bro. John Ross, Jr., closed our morning service in prayer.

We met that afternoon to enjoy the ordinance of feet washing. A spirit of humility enveloped the saints as prayers ascended in various languages. Testimony, song, and sacrament completed a wonderful day in the House of God.

## Tucson, AZ

By Connie Ross

The brothers and sisters of Tucson, Arizona send their greetings to each of you along with their prayers that you are enjoying God's blessings. We are grateful to our Lord and Savior for His love and blessings to each of us, and especially thank Him for the newest "member" of our congregation, Rebekah Grace Majoros. Rebekah is the daughter of Brother David and Sister Grace Majoros. She was born on Saturday, February 14, 1987.

We have also been blessed with the visit and fellowship of Guido and Sister Antoinette Marinetti of Rochester, New York, who will be spending a couple of months with us.

We invite you to visit and enjoy God's blessings with us.

## North Carolina

By Margaret Iorio

In August of 1986 we had some changes in our mission in North Carolina. Bro. Rodney and Sis. Judy Dyer moved back to Muncey, Canada with their family. At about the same time Bro. Jon David and Sis. Pam Molinatto and their twin sons moved from California to Durham, NC because of Bro. Jon's employment. We also have Bro. Sam Jackman and his wife Vera, formerly of Aliquippa, PA. They are now living in Hendersonville, NC and have come to our meetings.

Our September meeting was held in Bro. Bill LaRosa's home in Gastonia. We had visitors there from throughout the entire Church, including Arizona, Canada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. A very

good spirit was felt in the preaching, as the topic spoken on was faith and love. Many testimonies were given, telling how God has blessed each one of us.

The next meeting was held at Bro. Bob Dyer's home. We had Ohio District President Ron Genaro with us from Niles, OH along with his father, Bro. Joe. Bro. Ron exhorted us to love God above all, and not the things of the world, as they will fade away. The Love of God, however, will never fade as we strive to make heaven our home. We heard many testimonies, and Sis. Esther Dyer was anointed. Please continue to remember her in your prayers.

From month to month, we alternate between Bryson City and Gastonia, NC. We are now meeting the second Sunday of each month. For further information on our meeting schedule, contact our presiding elder, Bro. Jon Molinatto:

Jon Molinatto  
100 Cooper Creek Rd.  
Bryson City, NC 28713  
Phone (704) 488-2661

## Levittown, PA

By Kellie Speck

On January 4, 1987 another soul answered the call of Jesus Christ. Brother Brian McCreary was baptized by Bro. Jerry Valenti, the first baptism he had performed since he was recently ordained into the priesthood.

In our testimony meeting that day, Sis. Cindy Bright testified that when she had awoke that morning she felt that someone was contemplating baptism. The feeling remained with her throughout the service.

As Bro. Brian gave his testimony, we were all on the edge of our seats with anticipation. He expressed a desire to start off the new year right and thought it only appropriate to be baptized the first Sunday of 1987. Bro. Brian had been attending church with Bro. Bruce and Sis. Darlene Large and their family for some time, but had never witnessed a baptism. What better way to witness one than for it to be your own!

With Sis. Darlene scheduled to leave for India that week, and her being close to Brian, the elders felt a good spirit in having the baptism that afternoon. Bro. Samuel Dell later confirmed Bro. Brian into the Church.

We welcome Bro. Brian into the family of God, and pray that he will grow in the Gospel and be a strong soldier for the Lord.



Bro. Jerry Valenti (right) administers baptism to Brian McCreary. Both are members of the Levittown, PA Branch.

# ORDINATION continued . . .

submit ourselves to God's will, and He will richly bless us.

Bro. Richard Scaglione then reminded us of the method of ordaining—the washing of feet to set the brothers apart, followed by anointing with oil. After a special prayer by Bro. Idris Martin, Bro. William Chepanoske was directed to wash Bro. Nicklow's feet, and Bro. Brian had his feet washed by his grandfather, Bro. Joseph Calabrese.

Brian's father, Bro. Isaac Smith, ordained him, and Bro. Bobby was ordained by his father, Bro. Robert Nicklow, Sr.

Our two new elders acknowledged the members of their families in the congregation, after which they each expressed their feelings concerning the events of the day.

Closing remarks were made by Bro. Russell Cadman, who related the highlights of his life in the priesthood. Our brother admonished us to always rely upon God for our strength. The service was then closed in prayer, and we all left with our cups overflowing. We thank God for His outpouring of blessings, and we pray that He will guide and direct our two brothers and two sisters in their service to Him.

#### GREETINGS continued . . .

this brave boy who, though so young, is so mature, so strong, so believing in God who watches over him and listens to his prayers and ours.

To Michael, God is not just a story that is being told. He is a true, living God. "God listens even when I think He doesn't," he said.

Michael has made a great impression on me and upon many whose life he has touched. To Michael, there is no giving up. It is a fight and a challenge, medical and prayerfully, to a God we know lives within the hearts of believers.

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15).

"Our God, whom we serve, is able to deliver us from the burning fiery fur-

nace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king" (Daniel 3:17).

"**But if not**, be it known unto thee, O king . . ." Little Michael impresses me as one who has this kind of uncommon faith in a living God.

No matter what happens, Michael believes and prays not only for himself, but also for others like him. Send him a card or a letter.

Our God is a living God, therefore we do not fear, nor shall we be moved.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that we do not perish.

"We love Christ evermore."

#### LETTERS continued . . .

everyone. Finding out that I could pray silently gave me a sense of freedom, yet at the same time I felt sorrowful, knowing that if I had been more eager to mature in the Gospel, I would have asked four years earlier.

I didn't go visiting on February 22, and the support and blessings I received were indescribable. I'm writing this to let members with similar problems

know that you're not alone. What you feel is normal and by all means start asking questions and praying about it.

I thank the Lord for stirring up my spirit to hurdle this stumbling block. Brothers and sisters, let's keep striving for that higher spiritual ground! Amen.

Your Sister in Christ,  
Johnna Lesperance  
Detroit Branch 1

## Please Note

The Florida District Mission Board has designated a sub-committee to oversee the work of reclaiming those who at one time knew of the Church, but now are no longer part of it. We need your help!

If you know of anyone that has recently moved to Florida, or anyone already living here who might have an interest in the Church, or might want to learn about the Church, please contact:

Michael Radd  
345 Swain Blvd.  
Greenacres City, FL 33463  
Phone (305) 965-4820

Thank you for your help and concern.

## New Arrivals

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

Rebekah Grace to David and Grace Majoros of Tucson, Arizona.

Jennifer Shannon to Joseph and Sharon Smith of San Diego, California.

Aaron Jon to Jonathan and Sherry (D'Orazio) Olexa of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Jennifer Marie to Dean and Sue Crosier of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

## Children Blessed

On December 12, 1986, Bro. Matthew Laktash blessed Tony Allen Devore at the Roscoe, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

## OBITUARIES

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

### MERVYN HEATH

Brother Mervyn Glenn Heath was called home to be with the Lord on June 18, 1986. A member of Detroit's Inner City Branch, he was born January 1, 1920 in McKeesport, PA. He was baptized in Detroit on May 18, 1952 and was ordained a teacher in the Church on October 31, 1955.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Anthony Gerace and Gary Champine, with musical selections by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

Bro. Mervyn is survived by his wife, Sister Marguerite, two sisters, Sis. Gertrude Grover of McKeesport, PA and Sis. Charlene Metzler of Ft. Defiance, AZ, as well as many nephews and nieces, and an aunt and uncle. He will also be missed by a host of brothers and sisters in the Church.

Bro. Mervyn was a hard worker in the Church, and labored steadfastly in the face of many trials. In 1975 the Lord healed him of cancer, and extended his life so he could serve Him eleven years more.

(Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES continued . . .

ANGELA INTRIERI

Sister Angela (Perri) Intrieri of the Glassport, PA Branch passed from this life on September 10, 1986 after an extended illness. She was born on August 6, 1905 and was baptized on March 10, 1935 by Bro. Peter DePiero and confirmed by Dominic Dintino.

Funeral services were performed by Bro. David Nolfi, assisted by Bro. Edward Donkin.

Our sister is survived by her husband Frank, three daughters, Rosemarie Ali of Glassport, Viola Catone and Frances DiNardo, both of Hollywood, Florida; also a son, Raymond Intrieri of Glassport.

Sister Angela was active in the Church and in the Ladies' Circle prior to her illness, and she will be missed by the brothers and sisters of Glassport.

MARY BRIGGS

Sister Mary Elizabeth Briggs of the Clairton, PA Branch passed from this life on November 18, 1986. She was born on August 5, 1899 in Elrama, PA and was a member of the Church for many years. We will miss our sister dearly.

JAMES CARRABIA

James Anthony Carrabia, Jr. passed on to his heavenly home on December 8, 1986, having come into the world only a few days earlier.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Paul Whitton and Gary Coppa of Detroit Branch 3.

May the Lord comfort his parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Janis Carrabia, in their hour of need and bless them continually.

ALFRED NOLFI

Brother Alfred Nolfi of the Glassport, PA Branch went to his reward on January 5, 1987. He was born on September 1, 1915 and was baptized on May 24, 1964 by Brother Peter DePiero and confirmed by Brother Alma Nolfi. Bro. Alfred was ordained a deacon in 1970 and a teacher in 1974, and was active in the Glassport Branch.

Funeral services were conducted by the ministry of the Glassport Branch and included many musical selections. Our late brother was known for his musical talents and for his tape recordings of many of the conferences. We will miss his testimony and words of encouragement, but we will strive to follow his good example.

## SUMMER ENRICHMENT CHURCH PROGRAMS

### WORKSHOPS AND PERFORMANCE IN MUSIC AND EDUCATION

**Tse Bonito Branch: July 5-12, 1987**

Education Programs sponsored by National Education Committee

Music Programs sponsored by the American Indian Committee

#### PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ BRANCH/MISSION \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ street address \_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_ phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check one or more: Educators Training Wksp ☐ Music Prog ☐ Vacation Bible Sch Teaching ☐  
I am definitely planning to attend above-checked programs ☐ Need more information: ☐

Please notify contact person if accommodations are needed. Make own arrangements for transportation.  
No fee required for Workshop. Meals will be provided.

COMPLETE FORM AND SEND TO:

RON BRUTZ  
PO BOX 1923  
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515  
(602) 755-3473



# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

May, 1987

Volume 43, No. 5

## New Building for Maine Mission

*By Cindy Onorato*

Hello, and God bless you from the Maine Mission. We are happy to announce that the Lord has blessed us with a church building.

After much fasting and praying, God has enabled us to purchase a building in Brunswick, Maine. There were many dreams and experiences pertaining to this building.

We have thirteen members here, along with many children. All of us are eager to work, and plenty of work there is!

Our "new" church building was built

in the nineteenth century, and has not been occupied for 30 years. The building needs total renovation. The saints and their families gathered together for a working picnic in January of this year. Even though the temperature outside was only 15 degrees Fahrenheit, the cold did not bother us as we were all working so hard and enjoying ourselves.

We just wish to express the joy we feel and give praise to the Lord for what He has given us. Please remember to keep us in your prayers, brothers and sisters. There is a work to be done here. We are all passing on the upward way, striving to reach our goal—eternal salvation. May God bless everyone!



Members and friends of the Maine Mission gather outside their newly-acquired building. The structure was originally erected in 1800.

1987

## GMBA CAMPOUT



**SCRIPPS COLLEGE**  
CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

Registration forms available  
from your local MBA

## Inner City Observes 10 Years

June 5, 1987 marks ten years that The Church of Jesus Christ has been working amongst the Seed of Joseph in Detroit's Inner City.

We will be having an anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 7. For all those wishing to attend, Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m. and the service begins at 11:00. A brief history and slide presentation will be given afterward.

We hope to see many of our brothers and sisters visiting with us on this day.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is our desire in this communication to convey our thankfulness to all of our brothers, sisters, and friends for their prayers, flowers, cards, and letters in response to the passing away of my beloved mother, Birdie M. Furnier.

I certainly will miss her presence, but I feel blessed in the fact that God allowed me to enjoy her company for such a long time. I am comforted by the knowledge that she has joined my father and the rest of the saints in paradise, as they all await the morning of the first resurrection.

We wish to especially thank the Quorum of Twelve for the beautiful bouquet of silk roses, which are being enjoyed by all at the San Carlos Apache Mission.

We are also very grateful to Brothers Joseph Calabrese, James Moore, Jr., Russell Cadman, and Robert Buffington for the beautiful, sacred funeral service that they conducted. We are enjoying the blessings of God in our new venture as resident missionaries at the San Carlos Apache Indian Mission, and we ask sincerely for your prayers pertaining to our future endeavors here.

Ether and Ella Furnier  
P.O. Box 65  
San Carlos, AZ 85550  
(602) 475-2871

\*\*\*\*\*

We wish to acknowledge and thank all of you throughout the Church for the many prayers, calls, and expressions of concern during August's illness; and, finally, at his passing, the many expressions of sympathy.

Your concern, your thoughtfulness, and your generosity are deeply appreciated. May God bless and keep you always.

In Gratitude,  
Sister Lena Perlioni  
and Family

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank all of you for the cards, letters, and telephone calls we received at the passing of our son

John. We thank you especially for all the prayers in John's behalf for the last nine and one half years. Your prayers and the mercy of God allowed John to face his illness day by day.

John had a great desire to attend the October 1986 General Church Conference. He attended and was well rewarded by the Lord for his effort.

When we returned home, John became very sick. After a series of operations his condition grew worse. He showed great courage and determination in dealing with his illness.

On December 15, 1986 John asked me to anoint him. After I anointed him he asked for his baptism. He said, "Dad, I want to be baptized, but I can't go to the river." I told him, "John, the Lord knows your desire and hears your request."

The next day, December 16, we had to take John back to the hospital because he was so ill. That evening was the last time he was able to speak to us. He passed away on December 23.

Although we will miss John, we are thankful for the understanding of God's love that he had. Again, dear brothers and sisters, thank you for all that you have done for us.

God bless you,  
Bro. Joe and Sis. Mary Furnari

## In Memory of Dominic Moraca

By Marie Fera

Bro. Dominic Moraca was truly a soldier of the cross. At his funeral, Apostle Nicholas Pietrangelo expressed his sadness in the untimely departure of our brother. The two of them had worked together on church business for many years. Bro. Dominic was elected as Assistant Secretary of the General Church for 27 years and in that time never missed a Conference. He had a flair for writing and worded the minutes in his own unique style.

Bro. Pietrangelo also stated that Bro. Dominic was a very diligent worker for the Gospel, always helping somewhere to bring the message of the Restoration to the souls of men. Bro. Nick concluded by saying that we should prepare

ourselves and be ready when our day comes.

Bro. Dominic Thomas added his sentiments, saying how difficult it is to lose a loved one, especially a good worker in the Church. He continued by saying that he and Bro. Moraca were very close, both in the Church and naturally as well. Together with their families, they shared many vacations and traveled together often. He would miss Brother Moraca as a brother and as a friend immensely.

The saints at Detroit Branch 4 would like to extend their heartfelt sympathy to the family of our dear Bro. Dominic Moraca. May the Lord be their Comfort forever.

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints"* (Psalm 116:15).

## An Experience

By Virginia Suprenant  
Valley Branch, CA

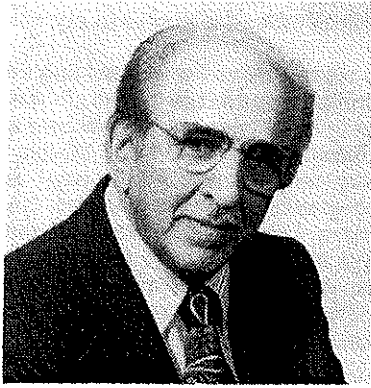
As far back as I can remember, my Uncle John Romano was a strong influence in my life. He made sure that I went to MBA and Wednesday night meetings. Aunt Alice saw to it that I went to Ladies' Circle. It was convenient for us because we lived downstairs from them, and since both my parents worked, it was Uncle John and Aunt Alice that were always there to guide me and give me the spiritual nourishment that rooted me in this Gospel.

One of the most important lessons my uncle taught me was how to communicate with God. When I was a teenager, I had a nightmare that sent me into a deep depression. Uncle John came to me with concern and suggested that we go for a ride in his car. I had been seeing a counselor, and the fears and problems I was experiencing seemed to be spiritually based. I felt that I could not reach God. I was not communicating.

Uncle John asked me a simple question. "Do you really talk to God? *Really* talk to Him? Does He answer you?" I said, "No, He does not answer me." He replied, "Then you are not talking to Him. If you can't talk to Him while you are here on earth, how do you ex-

(Continued on Page 6)

## It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Loyalvo

### LEADERSHIP AND SERVANTHOOD

*Continued from last month's issue.*

Christian leadership includes servanthood. A person cannot have one without the other. While holding Jesus Christ up as a model, a leader must be able to feed the flock with the word of God; to motivate the flock by loving and caring for them. He must set the standards for the church, and set the pace in honesty, integrity, and in good works. He should also be capable of supervision, delegating (sharing) responsibilities with others, not as 'lording' over them, but as a servant of God.

Paul, the apostle, tells Titus to set in order (oversee) some of the things that were wanting in the churches, and describes the attributes of bishops and elders. Leadership involves discernment; the capability to see and feel in others the qualities of their potentials.

Lawrence O. Richards and Clyde Hoeldke, in their book *A Theology of Church Leadership*, say that the responsibility of leaders is not the voice of authority in the body, but the care and nurturing of believers.

Price H. Gwynn, Jr., in the book *Leadership Education in the Local Church*, says that a leader must be able to supervise; "he should strive to generate a spirit of friendly understanding and co-operation in all educational activities of the church. People like to work in groups where they have a hand in shaping policies, and where those in charge make requests rather than give orders."

Leadership and Servanthood are sacred callings of God. A person must

understand that these special characteristics are gifts of the Almighty. What one does with these gifts is very important, not only for himself but to the community that he serves. To be called a servant of God is a blessed honor. Moses was always referred to as the 'servant of God.' It would be a wonderful epitaph for any christian leader to be remembered as a 'servant of God.' Jesus is referred to as "a servant," "My servant," and "My righteous servant" (Isaiah 42:1; 53:11). A christian leader must not only desire the name of servant for himself, but must continuously strive to manifest this characteristic so that others may see the spirit of the True Servant Jesus Christ in his life.

All the qualities of leadership and servanthood can be summed up in two words: Pastoral Care. Walter Brueggemann says that pastoral care involves bringing persons to such a knowledge of self in the presence of God (*Covenanting as a Human Vocation*). John H. Yoder writes, "Jesus gave His Church a new way to deal with leadership by drawing upon the gift of every member" (*The Original Revolution*).

Leadership and servanthood involve a healing spirit. I am not referring to the healing of bodily ailments per se, but to feeling and seeing the needs of the poor and relieving them; to ease the mental anguish and anxieties of them, i.e., to help them find rest and surcease from the burdens that may beset them; to help them find comfort in the Word of God, and show them by example how to get closer to Jesus Christ. The Lord always invited the people to come to Him; the poor, the heavy-laden, the sick and the lonely. He offered them rest and peace, and invited them to take upon them His yoke and His burden, for they were 'easy and light' (Matthew 11:28).

Leaders can never forsake the role of servants if they wish to emulate Christ. Being a servant of God is an exalted position. It means that one has understood that being a servant to the church is a position of trust and confidence in which God has placed him. When one is in the service of the church community, he is really in the service of the Lord. Jesus told His disciples that He was sent to minister (serve), not to be ministered to (Mark 10:45). It was the intention of Christ to imbue them with the spirit of servanthood by being their model.

The Lord expects—no—rather, demands that leader-servants know

who they are, and know, too, the source of their calling, whether it be of God or of man. The leader-servant then becomes accountable, first to God and then to the community over which he presides. He not only has to be an example modeled after Jesus Christ, but, as the Master gave His life for the world, so must the leader-servant be willing to give up his life, if necessary, for the Church.

Richards and Hoeldke make a very good observation, saying, "... leadership is not so much to be public in its activity as in its character. It is the character, values, attitudes, behavior, and commitment of the leaders as these reflect the Christ-likeness that provides the compelling model" (*A Theology of Church Leadership*, p. 117).

The combination of leadership and servanthood exemplifies the very life that Christ modeled. There must be an inward sensitivity that reflects an outer characteristic of a 'shepherd' image, even the Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

Leadership is really a function; it is taking initiative and responsibility. Servanthood is the style of leadership, being a model to those we lead. The best type of leader is a 'servant-leader,' one who is a doer, not merely a passive listener. If I may coin a phrase, a leader is an "Actioneer;" one who acts in Christlike examples of love, compassion, forgiveness, and mercy, and displays the true spirit of a servant of God. A servant-leader is not a domineering person, but one who is persuasive by the Word of God and the excellency of his gentleness and humility. Leadership has nothing to do with how much schooling or training a person has, but rather how well he demonstrates by his life the very things that he teaches. I suggest that the christian leader must have the courage of a lion and the heart of a lamb. He must be strong in the faith and still have the heart of a servant. In this he will be emulating Christ, who in the face of opposition and malice showed strength and courage beyond human endurance. On the other hand, He displayed to His apostles the insight to His servanthood when He knelt before them in the upper room and washed their feet. Although the disciples were shocked and probably embarrassed to see the Master stoop before them, He told them later on that they would someday fully understand what He had done. This exemplary act was, in my opinion, a lesson that leaders must be

(Continued on Page 7)

## His Word Made Clear

I would like to share this experience with my brothers and sisters, trusting that these words might give you the strength that they have given me.

On the very early morning of March 20, 1987, my husband Peter had to leave early to catch a plane for a business trip. After he left, I felt very uneasy about him flying that day and prayed to God to protect him. After praying, I said to myself, "Now just have faith," and went back to sleep. While I was sleeping, I dreamt or saw the word FAITH spelled out in a vertical position, like so:

F  
A  
I  
T  
H

When I saw this, my mind said, "I wonder what words could fit next to each letter that would best describe FAITH." As I said this the letter F became large, and these words followed:

F does not Fail or Falter

I responded, "Oh, this is so true." Then my mind wondered what could follow the A, and these words came:

A Always Abiding

At this point I knew that the Lord was revealing to me, for I know the words were not coming from my own thoughts. I was getting excited, wanting to see what the other letters would mean. The letter I filled with:

I Immeasurable Joy

Then it seemed quickly the Lord filled in T and H:

T Trusting

H Hope

The whole word then appeared as follows:

F does not Fail or Falter  
A Always Abiding  
I Immeasurable Joy  
T Trusting  
H Hope

I woke up knowing that the Lord had given me something, and immediately

wrote it down. After looking at the paper I became overjoyed that the Lord had blessed me this way. At the time, the thought came to me, "Put this in *The Gospel News* for the brothers and sisters," but I felt that perhaps this was just for me.

The following Wednesday at our midweek service, our meeting was altered since the branch was without heat that evening. The brothers decided to have a class discussion around a circle of tables in our fellowship room, where it was warmer. Not coming prepared with a topic, the brothers felt to open a discussion on Faith. Throughout the evening this dream kept coming to me; finally at the end of the service, after much lively discussion on this topic, I related my dream. It seemed to relate so well to our discussion, and the Lord blessed all of us. Later Bro. Anthony Scolaro said to me, "I'd like you to submit that to *The Gospel News*."

I must express that since the Lord has made this very important word clear to me, it has helped to make me stronger in my own faith. I pray that my experience may prove helpful to each of you in comprehending Faith and in keeping faithful to the Lord.

Sis. Marilyn Scolaro  
Detroit Branch 1

## My Testimony

By Carmela Mazzeo

Once again I want to let everyone know how good God is.

Friday, March 20, 1987 I was told by the doctor to enter the hospital because of the back problem I have. On the third day of my stay, I was feeling quite well. It was a Sunday morning, and as I looked at my watch I saw that it was 10:45. I thought, Dear Lord, my brothers and sisters are getting ready to go to church, and here I am unable to attend. I felt sad. A few minutes later I became very ill. My heart ached badly, and there was much pain in my left arm. I called for the nurse.

All at once five attendants came in with a heart monitor, an EKG machine, an I.V., morphine, etc. The supervisor came to me and said, "We would like to have someone from your family here." I told her that they were in church. She asked what church, and I

told her. After she telephoned, two of my granddaughters came to the hospital. Meanwhile, at church, the saints offered a prayer in my behalf.

At this point I was trembling uncontrollably, and felt as though life was slipping away from me. I could hear a cardiologist being paged, and it being Sunday, no one answered the page. Again they called for a cardiologist. No one came. I knew the request was for me, but my mind went to the Lord. I said to myself, there's no doctor in the house, but my best cardiologist is right here.

Bro. John D'Orazio came to anoint me. As he was praying, the tremors ceased. I was fully relaxed. A nurse watching the monitor by my bedside said, "You must be doing something right—your heart is back to its regular rhythm."

I felt better right away, and I praise God for His goodness. I remember telling my grandson Chuck, "Who said that God doesn't answer prayer?" A male nurse later asked me what church I attended. I told him, with thanks to God. I was also able to talk to other nurses and to my doctor about the goodness of God.

## A Mothers' Day Tribute

On behalf of the entire *Gospel News* staff, I wish to salute all the mothers who have labored diligently to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.

The many things you might have done throughout the years may seem insignificant today, but if you encouraged your children daily to look to the Lord and trust in Him, if you reinforced in them every day the things that they learned from week to week in Sunday School and MBA, you may very well have had a greater influence on them spiritually, in their tender years, than anyone else they've known.

May God reward you, mothers, for your efforts, and may you live to see that blessed day in which your children would render their lives to Christ.

Our prayer for all mothers is that their years on earth would be blessed in seeing not only the fruit of their own labors, but also in seeing their sons and daughters grow into productive, fruitful servants of the most high God.

Anthony J. Scolaro, Editor

## The Gospel News

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

### CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovaivo

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

#### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

#### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

#### FLORIDA

Joseph Graziosi  
819 Sunrise Blvd., Apt. 2  
Ft. Pierce, FL 33450

#### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

#### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Oleza  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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### BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In recent months we have lost several from our number who were looked upon as spiritual "giants," hard-working, dedicated brothers and sisters who truly denied their own wills for the cause of Christ. They and their generation were not strangers to self-sacrifice and hard work, and their service to God reflected it.

Working hard for the benefit of others played a much greater part in the lives of past generations than it does today. Years ago, many more young people were compelled to work in order to help their parents with the family chores and expenses, often giving their entire paychecks over to mom and dad. With these lessons of pitching in and helping out instilled in them from an early age, these same men and women later worked hard to provide their own children with the things they had lacked themselves, not hesitating to make many sacrifices along the way for their family's sake.

These attributes of self-denial and a willingness to work are very pleasing in the sight of God. His ability to use us and work with us depends entirely upon our own willingness to be used of Him and to work for Him.

Over the years, the self-sacrifice and hard work of individuals has resulted in a prosperous nation. Today, some children are blessed to have their college educations, their weddings, etc. paid for them by their parents. A few may even have the down payment on their homes furnished by their parents as well. Although these fortunate youngsters benefit from such treatment, our society may unwittingly be raising a generation of people who, for the most part, are accustomed to having everything in life provided for them by someone else. Individuals nurtured in an environment of "receiving" all their lives could have a difficult time later on adjusting to the idea of "giving." Working to support themselves, or giving of themselves for the benefit of others might appear entirely foreign to them.

At the same time, The Church of Jesus Christ needs dedicated workers today more than ever before. Just to replace the laborers we've lost requires a remarkable force of hard-working men and women, and the broadening scope of the Work of the Lord will demand increasing numbers of people who are willing to put God's will before their own.

When we went to the water's edge, we each promised to **serve** the Lord, to the best of our ability, all the remaining days of our life. Service, by the very nature of the word, involves work. We made a covenant to **work** out our soul's salvation, to **work** for God's kingdom here below, to place our own desires after that of the Lord and our fellow man.

Our Heavenly Father expects us to use what He's given us toward the betterment of His kingdom. We read in the parable how the master was not satisfied to receive back only the talents that he gave out to his servants; they had to "bear fruit" in order for the master to be pleased. So it is with our service to God. We must not be satisfied in just saving our own souls, but we must use the gift of His Spirit to draw others to Christ.

If we've only sat back and received all our lives, it might be difficult for us to learn these things. In bringing up our young ones, then, and in schooling newcomers to the Gospel, we should instill in all a concept of *service* to God, to His Church, and to mankind as one of the requirements of fulfilling our promise at the water's edge. It will be that which we *have* done, not so much what we *didn't* do, that will give cause for the Lord to open His arms and say to us, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



## Solomon the Wise King

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes it is hard to make up our own minds about what choices we should make and what we should do. Can you imagine how you would feel if you were told you were going to be the highest ruler of the land and make decisions that would affect everyone?

Solomon was the new king of Israel; he was filled with concern to do his job the right way. He prayed to God for help. In a dream God asked him what he wanted most. Solomon could have asked for riches, or a long life, or fame; instead he asked for wisdom from God to rule his people. God was so pleased that He also gave Solomon riches, and fame and a long life in addition to wisdom. The wisdom God gave Solomon was so great that people from all over the world heard of him.

As he sat on his throne in judgment one day, two women from his own country came to him. They carried a baby with them and each one cried, "Oh King! This is my child! This is my son! Make this woman give me my child!"

One of the women explained, "Oh King, this woman and I live in a house together. I had a child and three days later, she had a child. Both were sons. We were together and no one else was in the house.

"Now in the night this woman's child died because she rolled over in her sleep and killed him accidentally. So she rose up at midnight and took my baby from me while I slept and put her dead child by me! When I awoke in the morning, I saw the dead baby and I knew it was not the baby that I gave birth to!"

The other woman disagreed and said, "No! This living child is my son; the dead one is truly yours!" The two women argued before King Solomon.

Then Solomon said, "You both want this baby and say it is yours. So we will fix it. Guard! Bring me a sword!" And they brought a sword before the king.

King Solomon declared, "Cut the living child in two parts and give half to one woman and half to the other woman."

One of the women quickly begged, "Oh, no, King—please—no! Give the baby to her alive."

While the other woman said, "No, that's fine. We will split the child."

Then the wise king stopped and said, "Give the baby to the woman who did not want it cut up. She is the real mother. She would rather give the baby away than have it killed. This other woman has lied."

It was true that she was the real mother. The joyful woman took her baby and went her way. All of the country heard how Solomon had found out the truth; everyone marvelled at the wisdom that God had given Solomon. The wise king used the gifts God had given him in a way that was a blessing unto his people, and brought glory to God.

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

BABY	LIED
DEAD	MOTHER
DIE	REAL
DO	RULER
GOD	SOLOMON
KEEP	TRUE
KING	WISDOM
LEAD	

S	G	N	I	K	M	L
O	T	R	U	E	A	E
L	R	U	L	E	R	A
O	E	Y	R	P	K	D
M	H	B	L	E	I	D
O	T	A	I	D	A	O
N	O	B	E	E	O	G
P	M	O	D	S	I	W

### EXPERIENCE continued . . .

pect to talk to Him when you die? When God answers you, then you know you are talking to Him and communicating with Him."

He told me how I had to pour my heart out to Him and tell Him all about myself. This was awkward for me, because I felt that since God created me, He already knew all about me, but I decided to give it a try. I began to talk to God as a friend, and soon He became my very best friend. He began to answer me.

If that sounds simple, it was not so; it took a great deal of praying and talking and crying and searching for Him before I began to feel so close that I could almost reach out and touch Him.

Then came the storm. My mother suffered a stroke in Michigan. I was in California and there was nothing I could do to help her. She was placed in a nursing home and my father, who was not well, came back to live with me. I cared for him for ten years, and the lesson of communicating with God that Uncle John taught me helped to sustain me. It allowed me to pray when my brother Frank (Morle) was terminally ill with cancer and I did not want to live to see him suffer. God gave me the comfort that I needed to get over Frank's death, and He has provided me with wonderful dreams and continues to sustain me from day to day.

Uncle John was very stern in the Gospel, seemingly too stern at times, but it was that unshaken deep-rooted commitment that was such an example to me. He was a self-taught man, a sower of seeds both naturally and spiritually. God gave him the gift of interpreting dreams and foreseeing the future. We always looked to him for ad-



vice. He always said that he lived for the Church and that he wanted to die in this Church.

I will miss him along with all of the brothers and sisters who knew him and loved him. My desire is to be the example to others that he was to me. I look forward to the day when I shall see him again.

### IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

servants who will bow to a lowly position of serving in order to bring The Church of Jesus Christ closer to the Kingdom of God.

A servant-leader must serve without dissimulation; there can be no pretense in his service to God or the Church. He cannot dominate instead of lead. "There must be a servant's attitude and a servant's leadership style if spiritual leadership in the church is to be effective," according to Richard and Hoeldke.

The awesome responsibility of a servant-leader is reflected in the words of Jesus to His disciples:

Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is henceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill, cannot be hid. . . . Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your father which is in heaven (Matthew 5:13-16).

In his *Bible Commentary*, J. R. Dummelow expands on the above scripture, saying: "Jesus encourages His disciples by speaking of the greatness of their mission in the world. They are to be the salt of society. Salt preserves food from corruption, and seasons it, making it wholesome and acceptable. So the disciples are to purify the society in which they move, setting a good example and counteracting every corrupt tendency. For this purpose their christianity must be genuine. Men must feel that they are different from the world, and have a savor of their own. The salt which has 'lost its savor' is the christianity which is only worldliness under

another name. Again, the disciples are to be the light of the world, being the representatives of Him who is the world's true Light. They are to enlighten it as its teachers, and also by the examples of their lives.

They are also to be as a 'city set on a hill,' which cannot be hid. In this figure they are contemplated not as individuals but as a visible society, or church" (p. 641).

The words of Jesus Christ are applicable today as they were when He spoke to His disciples. By the life of Christ within him, a leader demonstrates from whence his calling and authority come. Speaking of authority, Richards and Hoeldke say:

While christian leaders have authority, it is very different from secular authority. First, by it the leaders never seek to bend others to their will, but to bring them to responsiveness to Jesus. Second, the christian leader rejects power and position as a basis for authority. The sole claim to any authority the spiritual leader has is that Jesus speaks to the community through his lifestyle (incarnating the Word) and his teaching (communicating the Word).

One of the most outstanding examples of leadership and servanthood in the Old Testament era was Joseph of Egypt. He never complained because of the adversities heaped upon him; in the pit where his brothers threw him nor while he was in prison. The Lord raised him up to become the ruler of Egypt under Pharaoh. He served the king and the land with wisdom and understanding, and subsequently forgave and served his brothers (Genesis, Chapters 37-50).

Another great example of leadership and servanthood in the christian era was Polycarp, who was martyred in AD 167. It is said that he was probably ordained by John and presided over the Church at Smyrna for about seventy-four years. History lavishes upon him a multiplicity of laurels for his christian life and teachings. When he was asked to recant his faith, he replied, "Eighty and six years have I served Him, and He hath never wronged me, and how can I blaspheme my King who hath saved me?" (Milner's *Church History*).

The most admirable feature about Polycarp, however, is his answer to the procounsel when he was urged to

"swear by the fortunes of Caesar." Polycarp replied, "If you still vainly contend to make me swear by the fortunes of Caesar as you speak, affecting an ignorance of my real character, hear me frankly declaring what I am. I am a Christian." In these four words he revealed everything about himself. He meant, "I am a servant of Christ." Of his leadership, there was no question.

In conclusion, I wish to bring out one more important point. The Lord not only called and chose His disciples to be leaders and servants, but He also called them His friends and brethren. Little by little, He merged His relationship with His disciples. He said to them, "Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth: but I have called you friends. . ." (John 15:15). After His resurrection, He said to Mary, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God and your God" (John 20:17). In light of the above, I submit that a servant-leader must possess three characteristics, i.e. the spirit of a servant, friend, and brother of Jesus Christ in order to be a model for the community over which he has been placed as a pastor.

In summary, I wish to say that church leadership and servanthood has an invested responsibility for what happens to the Church. How does a branch or mission benefit from true christian servant-leaders?

First, there is a spiritual growth in the church; it becomes "Spirit-minded," more gifted by the effusion of the Holy Spirit. This because of the lifestyle of its servant-leaders, who have modeled themselves after Christ. Numerical growth is not nearly as important as spiritual growth; for when a church grows spiritually, it will automatically grow in numbers. The reason is that because of its spirituality there will be creations and interrelationships of sub-communities within the branch, i.e., Sunday Schools, Ladies' Uplift Circles, music ministries, scripture reading and prayer ministries—small groups preferably—and evangelism will flourish. The winning of souls will dominate the hearts of the Church; this comprises the helps and governments. These are the fringe benefits of the Church, per se.

The Church will benefit from good

(Continued on Page 10)

## Our Women Today

### Meaford, Ontario Circle Meeting

By Olive Elzby

The Meaford, Ontario Ladies' Circle met on August 2, 1986 on a secluded hilltop just outside the town. In preparation for this meeting, we had fasted and prayed all the previous week. The purpose was that we would have more unity and love one for another.

Words cannot describe the beauty of God's creation as we watched the sun rise over the Georgian Bay. We could see for miles across the calm, clear water. We felt we would not be disappointed in our expectations of God's Spirit being in our midst. We soon found just the right spot to put our blankets down.

There were six sisters and two visitors. An opening prayer was offered and scripture was read. Then each of the sisters poured out their hearts to the Lord in prayer. God's Spirit flowed from vessel to vessel. After the last prayer was offered, we began to sing *Good Morning God*. One of the sisters was especially filled with the love of

God. She embraced each of our group and expressed how much she loved them.

The spirit of testimony came upon us and each one testified of the great love they had for God and for each other. So abundant was the Spirit in our midst that our visitors took part as well.

As we looked back at the clearing where we met, we felt it was a special place. The brothers from our mission had also met there a few weeks before, and they were truly blessed as well.

Please pray for us. Our goal is to be vessels fitted for God's use. We know there are many souls to reap.

## MBA Highlights

### Michigan-Ontario Area MBA Visits Meaford, Ontario

On Saturday, September 20, 1986 a group from the Detroit area set out to visit the saints in Meaford, Ontario. Upon arriving, we went to the various homes of the brothers and sisters, where we would stay for the weekend. A group of brothers, sisters, and friends from Meaford and the Windsor Branch went to the Cape Croker Indian Reservation to attend a peace assembly being held there. Indian Chiefs from all over Canada were in attendance at this assembly. Those from the Church who were able to attend shared with us the many experiences and prophecies held by the Indian people.

For dinner, we all went to Bro. Matt and Sis. Pat Collison's home for a barbecue. We were joined by three residents of the Saugeen Indian Reserve, where the saints from Meaford have visited on occasion. We also were joined by some Jamaican workers from the nearby orchards.

After dinner we enjoyed a season of singing the *Songs of Zion*. All in attendance felt a wonderful blessing while singing these songs. Before we dismissed to go home for the evening, our Indian friends graced us with a hymn sung in their native language.

On Sunday, we gathered at the Georgian Bay Secondary School for our

Sunday service. The meeting was filled with the Spirit of God in preaching and in testimonies. Those of us who went to Meaford felt as though we were going not only to fellowship, but also to encourage and uplift the brothers and sisters there. I can say that we all were encouraged and uplifted that weekend.

### Sterling Hts. MBA

By Larry Sourvelis

In our recent MBA classes at the Sterling Heights, MI local, we have been studying the state of the soul after death, and the resurrection. This subject has sparked great interest among the saints. The scriptures we have been using are found in the 40th chapter of Alma and the 20th chapter of the Book of Revelation in the New Testament. Brother David DiBattista has been the teacher of the class.

It has been concluded in our class, and backed up by the scriptures, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise, a state of rest, a state of peace. On the other hand, the spirits of the wicked shall be cast into outer darkness, a state which we the saints want no part of.

Our class has also delved into the topic of the resurrection. This has brought about much class participation. In our studies, we have seen how Jesus Christ rose from the dead and became the firstfruits of the resurrection. For without Christ's resurrection, we would have no hope of the resurrection. Thank God He arose. We have also seen how the resurrection of the righteous from Adam to Christ came forth. Our hope,

then, is to be among the righteous in the resurrection to come, so that we may partake of the waters of life freely.

The area we all agreed upon at Sterling Hts. local is that if we want to make it to paradise and be part of the first resurrection, we must strive to do good. This includes doing the will of God, praying for others in need, visiting the sick, telling others of Jesus, reading His word, meditating upon the things of God, and going to the mission fields when we are directed to.

### Michigan-Ontario Singspiration

On February 1, 1987 the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA met at Branch 2 for a singspiration meeting.

Area President Larry Champine made some opening remarks, reading from Ephesians 5:19 & 20, "*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" He encouraged us all to do just that, to give thanksgiving unto the Lord.

Bro. Tom Everett, our area chaplain, continued by letting us know that nothing special was planned for the evening, but we would follow the Spirit of God. Bro. Tom read from the sixth chapter of Ether, where the Brother of Jared and his family were in barges and they were encompassed about by many waters. He read that they sang praises

(Continued on Page 10)

## Branch and Mission News

### Clairton, PA

*By Tirann Udosen*

The Clairton, PA Branch hosted an Evangelist Meeting on October 19, 1986. There were many saints and friends present to hear the wonderful words spoken by our brothers.

Our meeting began with inspirational singing by some of our visiting brothers and sisters. Bro. Paul Ciotti then opened in prayer. Bro. Charles Jumper spoke on women who have done their part in the Gospel and being a support to our Brothers who are in the fields laboring. Our brother told us if we want to make it, we have to administer ourselves and extend ourselves to others, to do for them no matter when or where we are called. Bro. Jumper then told us to put ourselves in that position of servitude—to be faithful and take the lesser part, to help someone when it's not convenient, to encourage our brothers and sisters. Our brother then encouraged us to be that servant of God and to go among all men. Let us allow ourselves to be used.

Bro. Idris Martin spoke on preparing ourselves for the work of the Lord. Bro. Jim Moore followed, speaking on missionary work, and asked us the question, "Why do we preach?" The answer, of course, is to bring souls to Christ. Thank God for the Gospel, for it can stir up the souls of men. Happiness is The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. James King spoke of spreading the Gospel, how before we do the work, we must qualify for the work. He told us to be willing soldiers for God. After we sang *Too Small for Great Things*, Bro. Bob Buffington spoke on our homes and young people. He encouraged us to set our sights on higher spiritual planes. Bro. English Webb offered the closing prayer. Refreshments were served after the meeting by the brothers and sisters of the Clairton Branch. It was a blessing to once again fellowship with our many brothers and sisters from the various branches.

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The saints at the Clairton Branch bid farewell to our dear Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Staley and sons, who have moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida due

to a job transfer. Our brother and sister have truly been a blessing to us, and our hearts just ache to see them go, but we know that God has a plan for them down there and we pray that God will bless them in whatever they are called to do.

### Quincy, FL

On January 18, 1987 the saints witnessed the excellency of the Spirit of God as we stood silently at the water's edge, beholding nature expressing its magnificent quality of love, interweaving silently with the blessings of God that surrounded us as we beheld a birth, a death, a burial, a resurrection, a divorce and a marriage take place. How can these things be, some might ask. The spirit expresses itself well and is understood clearly by those born of the spirit, our brothers explained.

P. C. McCloud and his wife Barbra McCloud were the souls who were buried in the liquid grave by Brother Cleveland Baldwin. They resurrected into a newness of life, were divorced from the world, and took upon themselves a union with Christ.

They had hands laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Cleveland, which sealed this union, and we pray that it be sealed until the end of their lives.

### Miami, FL

*By Mark Kovacic*

He is 81 years old and has been serving the Miami Mission as the only ordained deacon. But on February 8, 1987 Bro. Nicholas Ritz received help when Brothers Skip Swanson and George Katsaras were ordained deacons of the Miami Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The two brothers were set apart by the ordinance of feet washing, Brother Katsaras having his feet washed by his father-in-law, Bro. Ritz, and Brother Swanson having his feet washed by Bro. Ron Carradi. A special prayer was then offered by Bro. Joe Catone, Jr., after which Bro. Swanson was ordained a deacon by Bro. George A. Kovacic and Bro. Katsaras was ordained a deacon by Bro. Mark Kovacic.

Our two new deacons then testified to the saints about the goodness of God and how they desired to serve Him and His Church to the best of their abilities.

The meeting was then opened for all to testify and many expressed their joy at witnessing the ordinations and how good God has been in their lives. A beautiful spirit was felt by all and a special thanks goes out to the visitors from Hollywood and Lake Worth who came to show their support to our two brothers.

We also want to note that several experiences were had, including a dream in which a sister saw the ordinations but saw the two brothers in dirty work clothes, as if they had been laboring. A vision was also experienced during the ordinations. We praise God that He continually confirms His work.

After the meeting, the saints gathered at the Swanson home for a pot luck lunch and a time of fellowship.

Our prayer is that God will truly bless Brothers Skip and George in the office into which they have been called.

### Lake Worth, FL

*By Josie Jasmin*

On February 15, 1987, we were blessed with three ordinations at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch. Preceding the ordinations of our three brethren, we sang *To the Work*. This was followed by the reading of the duties of teachers and deacons by our presiding elder, Bro. Mike Radd.

Bro. Salvatore Moccio had his feet washed by Bro. John D'Orazio, and he was ordained a teacher by Bro. Eugene Perri. Bro. Rocco Benyola washed the feet of Brothers Michael DiFede and Charles Maddox. Bro. Mike was ordained a deacon by his uncle, Bro. Walter Cihomsky, of the Metuchen, NJ Branch. Bro. Chuck was ordained a deacon by Bro. August D'Orazio.

After the ordinations took place, we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Bro. Mike Radd spoke to us from the teachings of Jacob to the Nephites, and the necessity of diligence in serving the Lord and His Church.

Please remember these brothers in your prayers, as they take on additional labors in the service of God.

## Edison, NJ

By Katie Sgro

The Edison Branch held a sing along on January 31, 1987. We praised the Lord in song, and enjoyed one another's fellowship.

Bro. Joe Arcuri spoke of the importance of hymns in our daily lives. He told of how the hymn *In the Garden* was instrumental in him calling for his baptism.

Bro. Arthur Searcy followed with a testimony of how the hymn *Amazing Grace* has been a comfort to him.

The weather was very snowy and icy outside, but those who attended received a wonderful blessing.

A donation was taken up for IMA, and refreshments were later served. We thank all those who participated in making this event a success.

### IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

servant-leaders because it will have a tendency to expand and divide into new, smaller branches. It is my opinion that there is more communion and fellowship in a smaller branch—in which the gifts of the Holy Spirit are made manifest more frequently—than in a large church which numbers into the many hundreds.

The church also benefits from good leadership in that it becomes a healing church, one where all can share their anxieties, fears, and mental and physical anguish, and revive their sometimes crestfallen spirits. Above all, where they can share the joy of Christ living within them as individuals and as the collective body of the Lord.

### SINGSPIRATION continued . . .

unto the Lord all the day long, "and when the night came they did not cease to praise the Lord." He went on to say that even through our trials and troubles we should do the same; give

praise unto the Lord. He said there are many songs *about* God, but tonight we should sing *to* God, in thanksgiving to Him.

A group came forward and sang *We Are So Blessed*, and followed with testimonies. The evening continued with many beautiful songs and testimonies. Sister Beatrice Parker from the Inner City Branch sang *In the Garden*. Shortly after this, a young visitor got up to say how that song had touched her heart. She went on to tell us that at one point in her life she was in the hospital in a deep state of depression. Her parents told her that God would take care of her and walk with her. But, because of her feelings of depression, she despised God. She now realizes how God was with her all through it, and how He "walked with her and talked with her."

The time went by quickly, and before we knew it the time had come to close the meeting. It was truly an evening well spent in the fellowship of the saints and in praise to the Lord.

## \* WEDDING \*

### FRASER—VALENTINO

Mr. Robert Blakely Fraser and Sister Donna Marie Valentino were married on November 8, 1986 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Edison, New Jersey.

Brother Don Ross officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Brother Arthur Searcy.

Daniel Valentino, the bride's brother, offered a musical selection.

The couple will be residing in Middletown, NJ. We hope that God will bless them in their marriage.

## New Arrivals

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

Nicholas John to Robert and Linda Pizaaia of Edison, New Jersey.

Jared Benjamin to Charles and Rebecca Charlton of Detroit, Michigan, Branch 2.

## Children Blessed

On March 30, 1986 Bro. Ralph Berardino blessed Gino Vincent Scarsella in the Church at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

On the same day, Bro. James L. King Sr. blessed James Edward and Kristen Marie King in the Church at Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania.

Amanda Sue White was blessed on November 16, 1986 in the Vanderbilt Branch by Bro. James L. King, Sr.

## OBITUARIES

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

### HILDA CRUSE

Sister Hilda Cruse passed on to glory on August 11, 1986. A member of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch, she was born on June 22, 1897 in Fayette County, PA. She was baptized by Bro. Joseph Shazer on September 21, 1947.

Bro. James L. King, Sr. conducted the funeral service.

Sister Hilda is survived by her daughter, Sis. Mary Margaret Ober.

### EDNA BITTINGER

Sis. Edna Timms (Barnhart) Bittinger passed away on November 23, 1986. She was born August 17, 1904 in Masontown, PA and obeyed the Gospel on May 18, 1918, being baptized by Bro. Martin King. She was a member of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch.

The funeral service was conducted at Vanderbilt by Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Russell Cadman, and Frank Rogolino.

Sis. Edna is survived by her husband, Apostle Joseph Bittering, three brothers and a sister, a son, as well as stepchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. A quiet and soft-spoken sister, she was a member of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. She will be missed by all who knew her well and loved her.

#### ADELINE SHERMAN

Mrs. Adeline Sherman passed away on December 11, 1986. A very kind woman who attended the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, she was born November 24, 1916.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Ralph Berardino.

Adeline is survived by three brothers, Glen, Albert, and Alex Marchando, and three sisters, Florence Pezzenti, Pauline Ritz, and Pearl Pento.

#### JOHN FURNARI

John D. Furnari of Cincinnati, Ohio passed away on December 23, 1986. He was born February 6, 1961.

John had an illness that lasted almost ten years. His courage and cheerfulness were an inspiration to all who knew him.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Nephi DeMercurio at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch. Musical selections were played by Bro. Eugene Amormino. Sister Diane Hawkins sang *Higher Ground*.

John is survived by his father, Brother Joe, his mother, Sister Mary, and his sister, Kathy Peshl.

#### PATSY GUERRIERI

Patsy J. Guerrieri passed from this life on January 4, 1987. He was born on June 23, 1918.

Funeral services were conducted at Youngstown, Ohio by Brothers Ralph Berardino and Sam Dell.

Patsy is survived by a brother, Philip, and two sisters, Teresa Zaleski and Josephine Dell. Another sister, Mary Corrado, preceded him in death.

#### CANDIDO NOLFI

Brother Candido Nolfi of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch passed away on January 13, 1987. He was born on December 20, 1920 and was baptized into the Church on May 5, 1957.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Paul Ciotti and John Manes.

Bro. Candido is survived by his wife Margaret; a daughter, Melody Adkins; and five sons, Anthony, Candido, David, Douglas, and Brian. Also two sisters, Velia

DiCenzo of McKees Rocks and Vienna Carrabia of Detroit Branch 3. Our brother will be missed by these and others who knew and loved him.

#### PHILLIP SGATTONE

Phillip Sgattone passed from this life on January 13, 1987. He was born on January 27, 1916.

Phillip is survived by his wife, Sis. Hilda (DePiero) Sgattone, of the Fredonia, PA Branch, a daughter, two grandchildren, and one great grandson.

#### LORETTA JEAN LAREW

Sister Jeanne Larew passed on to her reward on January 20, 1987. A member of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch, she was born July 1, 1935 and her spiritual rebirth took place on March 14, 1965. She was baptized by Bro. Anthony DiBattista.

Brothers Lawrence and James King conducted the services.

Sis. Jeanne is survived by her father, Bro. Elmer Larew, as well as her daughter Melissa, brothers, nieces, and nephews. Sister Jeanne had been ill for quite some time, but her faith in God never faltered. She will be missed by all who knew her.

#### J. FLOYD DANIELS

Bro. Floyd Daniels was born March 28, 1909 at East Huntingdon Twp., PA. He was called to his reward on January 25, 1987 after a bout of illness. He was baptized into the Church in 1951 by Bro. John Strokes.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. James L. King, Sr.

Even though he was incapacitated for many years, Bro. Floyd was a giant of a man with a deep spiritual understanding of the Gospel.

#### BIRDIE FURNIER

On February 3, 1987, the Lord called Sister Birdie Furnier home to be with Him and all the departed saints. Born on July 27, 1889 in Moyer, PA, Sister Birdie was one of seven children. On August 23, 1914 she and her husband (Apostle Thurman S. Furnier) were baptized by Bro. Nephi Federer. Imagine being baptized nearly 73 years!

Until her health failed to the point that she had to be confined to a nursing home, she came to church in Phoenix, Arizona faithfully. Sister Birdie had a beautiful testimony from which everyone who heard gained inspiration and encouragement. She had a vibrancy that was unmatched. Her steadfastness in the Gospel, her sage advice, her rare wit and humor—these were all a part of Sister Birdie. A dear saint has gone home, one who supported her husband in his duties as an apostle and as presi-

(Continued on Page 12)

**OBITUARIES continued . . .**

dent of The Church of Jesus Christ. She will be greatly missed.

A viewing was held in Phoenix, AZ. Brothers Peter Capone and George Neill gave a few words in memory of our dear sister. Funeral services were held at Perryopolis, PA on February 7 by Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Jim Moore, Jr.

Sister Birdie is survived by three sons, Vincent of East Detroit, Michigan; Evangelist Ether M. Furnier, missionary at San Carlos, Arizona; and Clarence of Tennessee; 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, 16 great-great-grandchildren, and a brother, Wynn Riggen of Fullerton, California.

**AUGUST PERLIONI**

After fighting a valiant battle with illness, Brother August Perlioni passed away to eternal life on February 15, 1987. He was born in Macedon, NY on April 28, 1912 and returned to Italy while yet in his infancy. At the age of 18 he came back to the USA.

He spent the greater part of his life in the Cleveland, Ohio area. There he was baptized into the Church in October of 1931. He married Sis. Lena DiTomaso on September 6, 1933, and was ordained an elder in April of 1938. At one time Bro. August was presiding elder of the Cleveland Branch.

Our brother and his wife moved to Mesa, Arizona about ten years ago, transferring to the Phoenix Branch. Bro. August was a kind man who was endowed with a delightful sense of humor.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Richard Christman and Barry Mazzeo.

Bro. August is survived by his wife Sis. Lena, two daughters, a son, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Respected and loved by everyone, it must be said of him that he was a true follower of Jesus Christ.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**DOMINIC MORACA**

Evangelist Joseph Dominic Moraca passed away from this life to his eternal reward on February 22, 1987. He was born on September 1, 1919 in Michigan and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on April 18, 1937. He was ordained a deacon in 1943, a teacher in 1946, and an elder in 1948 before he was called into the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists in August of 1950.

Apostles Nicholas Pietrangelo and Dominic Thomas officiated at the funeral service.

Bro. Dominic is survived by his wife Sis. Connie, two sons, a daughter, and two grandchildren. He will be deeply missed by all the saints in the Michigan-Ontario and Florida Districts, where he spent most of his time, as well as by all the saints of God. Our brother was a tireless worker for the Gospel, and we take comfort in knowing that He rests in a better place.

**JOHN ROMANO**

Brother John Romano of Detroit Branch 2 passed away on March 7, 1987 at the age of 87. We at Branch 2 will miss the smiling, friendly spirit that Bro. John carried as an elder, brother in Christ, and friend. Our love and support are extended to Sis. Alice, his wife, who worked so tirelessly with Bro. John in the mission fields of the Church and in our branch.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Alex Gentile, assisted by Bro. Joe Calabrese and Bro. V. J. Lovalvo. Musical selections were presented by Bro. John's grandson Jeff Thomas and Sister Karen Milantoni.

We will remember our brother as someone who walked and talked with the Lord, someone who looked for an opportunity to tell others about the Lord, and someone who reminded us as a people to rely on the Lord.

Sis. Alice, along with her daughter and son-in-law, Sister Dolores and Bro. Dominic Thomas, her grandchildren, Jared and his wife Carol, Jeff, and Becky, and her great-grandchildren Craig and Megan, are left to mourn Bro. John along with his sister, Sis. Virgilia and his brother, Bro. Giuseppe.

**MARTHA KELLY**

Sister Martha M. Kelly of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch passed from this life on March 9, 1987. She was baptized on April 13, 1947.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul and Arthur Gehly, with a graveside prayer by Bro. Paul Palmieri.

Our sister is survived by her natural brothers and sisters, William, Alma, and Brother Russell Cadman, Sis. Edith Terrill, Sis. Eleanor Sproul, and Jean Cattaneo, as well as many nieces and nephews.



# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

June, 1987

Volume 43, No. 6

## General Church Conference

The annual spiritual conference of The Church of Jesus Christ convened during the week of April 13-19, 1987 at our conference facility near Greensburg, PA. Quorum and committee meetings were held on Wednesday and Thursday, and general assemblies took place on Friday and Saturday. A worship service was held on Sunday morning. The entire conference was enhanced by the remarkable representation of saints from all districts of the Church.

After the elders and teachers were addressed by various apostles on Friday morning, they were divided into four equal groups for the afternoon session, each of which participated in one of four different seminars. The seminars covered the following topics:

- A. Unity, with Robert A. Watson and Paul Palmieri as group leaders.
- B. The Kingdom of God, led by Tom Liberto and Russell Cadman.
- C. The Church's Role in a Sinful World and How We Relate to It. Group leaders were Paul Benyola and Nick Pietrangelo.
- D. The Church's Role with Regard to the Seed of Joseph, led by Fred Olexa and V. James Lovalvo.

Each seminar provided information and training to the elders and teachers in attendance, as well as affording them an opportunity to share views and ideas pertaining to the various subjects. After about two hours the brothers regrouped in the main auditorium and individuals

from each seminar summarized the ideas that came forth in his group.

Although the subject areas covered by the seminars varied greatly and many different things were discussed, a common thread ran through the summaries that were given by the participants of each group: If we are filled with the love of God, we as a Church will attain greater heights of unity. We will more readily establish the Kingdom of God, in our hearts and literally, if we are filled with righteousness and charity. If our lives are pure and our hearts are unspotted, we will be able to bring this sinful world to Christ more effectively, and when we are filled with the love and the Spirit of God, we will fully understand and be able to carry out our commission to restore Joseph and the house of Israel to their inheritance.

While the brothers' seminars were taking place, the Greensburg Branch next door was filled to capacity with sisters attending a Ladies' Circle seminar on the role of today's women in the Church. Sister Mabel Bickerton, General Circle President, led the discussion on this topic.

If the success of a conference were measured by its attendance, this year's Spiritual Conference would have to be considered very successful indeed. On Friday evening, cars were parked down both sides of the driveway, something that doesn't usually happen until the Sunday morning services. This evening meeting, open to all, centered around a presentation given by the Pennsylvania District. Using the slide projector as well as speakers and singers from

all the branches, a brief history was given of the ten branches in the Pennsylvania District.

From Aliquippa to Vanderbilt, this presentation took each branch in alphabetical order and told how each one had its beginnings. Many beautiful

(Continued on Page 2)

## Six Nations Mission 50th Anniversary

The Church of Jesus Christ has been involved with missionary work at the Six Nations Indian Reservation in Oshweken, Ontario, Canada since 1937. In observance of the mission's 50th anniversary, a special weekend is planned for July 25-26, 1987. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

Saturday, July 25

7:00 p.m. Evangelistic Meeting, featuring Brothers Luis Pacheco and Norman James. Meetings will be held in the community building at Six Nations.

Sunday, July 26

10:00 a.m. Anniversary Service, location to be announced. A lunch will be served following this service.

All are welcome to come and make this celebration one to remember. For further details contact Bro. Tom Everett, (313) 777-6637.

## CONFERENCE continued . . .

experiences pertaining to the establishment of the branches and missions were related, some had by the saints of old, and some experienced more recently.

One of the recurring themes in the Pennsylvania District's history was the missionary spirit that seemed to be upon the brothers and sisters of the Glassport Branch (also known as Rock Run). Time and time again, other branches and missions, both in Pennsylvania and in other parts of the country, were started by brothers and sisters from Glassport giving their testimonies to friends and relatives living in outlying areas. The success had by this one branch in spreading the Gospel throughout the years was a remarkable example to all who saw and heard that evening.

## SATURDAY

Saturday morning's service was presided over by the president of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles, Bro. Joe Lovalvo. We also heard from Bro. Nick Pietrangelo, concerning the remembrance of the broken body and spilled blood of our Savior, as we went into our communion service. A sacred, peaceful spirit prevailed in our midst that morning as the large congregation of saints gathered there observed the Lord's Supper in one accord.

On Saturday afternoon, we enjoyed a presentation similar to that of Friday evening, only this time the featured district was California. This was a history of the district as a whole, as the establishment of the branches and missions was given chronologically. Those in attendance could see and hear how, beginning with only a handful of members who moved to Bell, California from the east, branches and missions sprang up all along the west coast, including the recently established Spanish-speaking mission in Riverbank, the northernmost Church in California. We were not surprised to hear, once again, that the Glassport, PA Branch had a hand in establishing parts of the Church as far away as California.

It was truly exciting to see the marvelous way in which the Lord has prospered the Church in the west, and since all history reaches beyond the present and into the future, we can only dream of the great things the Lord has in store for His Church, not only in California, but all across this continent and throughout the entire world.

Bro. V. James Lovalvo recounted to us the period in the 1950's when the Church grew in size to the point where districts became necessary. At that time, the establishment of district officers seemed like a revolutionary measure, but in retrospect we can see how difficult it would be for our General Church president and his counselors to manage every single branch and mission of the Church single-handedly.

As an integral part of the California District's history, an account of the beginning of the work in Tijuana, Mexico was given by Bro. Joe Lovalvo. He was followed by Bro. Frank Ciotti, who told of the dynamic growth of the Church in Mexico and points south, as well as in the Spanish-speaking areas of California, where many of the Seed of Joseph have moved from Mexico.

Bro. Walt Jankowski explained how the California District's intense involvement in the Indian work is partly a function of the Indian population that the saints in the west find around them. It's a matter of their being in the right place at the right time, and our brother explained that we are *all* commissioned to take advantage of the chances we're given to spread the Gospel and establish the kingdom of God, wherever we are.

The Saturday evening meeting was devoted to songs of praise unto the Lord. Bro. Lou Vitto was placed in charge of gathering the Church's musical talents and presenting them to us in solos, duets, and ensembles. Brothers and sisters from the east coast to the west presented various hymns and special selections, in English and in Spanish. Although there was a great variety in both the voices we heard and the songs that were sung, each selection was dedicated to the honor and glory of God, and the same Spirit prevailed throughout the evening.

The culmination of this musical evening, however (and for many, the fruition of many months of preparation and anticipation), was the first-ever assembly of a General Church choir, accompanied and directed by Brother Eugene Amormino. Bro. Lou Vitto had thought of the idea some time ago, and at this April conference, we had the chance to try it out.

Beginning in early February, songs were arranged and tapes were made and distributed to all the districts to teach the three selections to all those who desired to participate. Many had expressed that they felt a blessing just

in practicing in their districts, but the real blessing was to be experienced, both by those who participated and those who heard, on that Saturday evening as over two hundred brothers, sisters, and young people from every part of the Lord's vineyard came forward, district by district, to stand together and raise their voices in praise of the God of Israel.

As Bro. Eugene played the piano and led the choir in *Keeping Step and Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*, both from the *Songs of Zion*, and finally a stirring arrangement of *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, a tremendous spirit filled the hearts of the choir members and flowed, through their voices, to the hearts of all those who heard.

Each of the three choir selections had a different flavor, the first one being quick and light, filled with the kind of joy that we as the people of God should carry with us from day to day. The second song portrayed the great hope we have that one day, despite her sufferings, Israel will be gathered together and made ready to meet her bridegroom. The finale, by its sheer complexity and force, gave all of us a small taste of the unparalleled majesty of the Lord of Hosts. The congregation joined us in bringing this beautiful day to a close with the words, "*Glory, glory hallelujah, His truth is marching on!*"

## SUNDAY

A record crowd filled the building on Sunday morning as each of us came anticipating the blessings of God in our midst. Brother Tom Liberto of San Diego, CA opened the preaching service, exhorting each of us to carry with us the Spirit that we felt at this conference. We must each come to the point where we *know* for a surety that we are God's people, that this is His Church. We must live our lives so that we can always *know* that the Lord is satisfied with us. In order for God to bestow His power and authority to His priesthood, we must meet the requirements of being His people. Rather than becoming discouraged at seeing the sick and dying among us, we must work harder to take up the work that is left for us to do.

Our Bro. Tom exhorted the young people gathered here today, comparing them to the 2,000 young warriors of Ammon. We are engaged in the building

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## Our Miracle Baby

*By Cindy (Perri) Wolff,  
Hopelawn, NJ Branch*

On April 25, 1985 God blessed us with a beautiful baby girl. A day or so after we brought Melissa home from the hospital my mother and father were giving her a bath and my dad noticed that Melissa was not moving her right arm. When we would try to move her arm, she would cry. I called Melissa's pediatrician and told him the problem she was having. He asked us to bring her in. Upon completing his examination, the doctor stated to my dad and me that Melissa had Erbs Palsy: nerve damage to her shoulder, probably caused during delivery. He was surprised to see that there was an injury to Melissa's shoulder because he had examined Melissa at the hospital on the morning she was discharged, and had not noticed anything when he saw her then.

An orthopedic specialist took several X-Rays and said that, along with the injury to the shoulder, Melissa also had a broken rib. He noticed that her shoulder was swollen and asked us to watch it for one week and return to him then. During that week the doctor telephoned to see how Melissa was doing. He told me that he was very concerned about her arm, and asked me if she still had an appetite and whether she was cranky or running a fever. Thank God she was eating well, and the doctor said that he was amazed that she did not have any of these symptoms along with the infection.

We kept her arm in a sling and brought her back to the doctor the following week. Because there was no improvement, he admitted her to the hospital the next day to perform surgery on her shoulder. He stated that she needed an operation because of the infection in her shoulder. After the surgery, a test showed that streptococcus had set in and, if not properly treated immediately, could result in something serious or could even be fatal. Having been born and raised in the Church, and knowing the power of prayer, we requested that the brothers and sisters pray for her.

Brother Eugene Amormino was in town with his wife, Sis. Donna, along with Sis. Arlene Buffington, and he came with my dad to the hospital one night and anointed Melissa. He left us with some comforting words that God

would take care of her and that he would continue to pray that God would heal her. Bro. Ford Boadu from Ghana and Bro. V. James Lovalvo also came to see Melissa and anointed her. My grandmother (Sis. Betty Perri) from Florida called and said that my grandfather was on his knees morning, noon, and night praying for Melissa.

Because of the nature of her infection, Melissa had to stay in the hospital for five weeks and she was placed on an intravenous machine from which she received two kinds of medication: one medication to fight the infection and the other was to protect other organs from being infected. She had to have several blood tests taken to make sure that the medication was not harming her liver or kidneys. I stayed all day and night, and it was very depressing to see her lying there with this affliction upon her body.

During the five weeks that Melissa was in the hospital I never doubted for a minute that God would heal her. My husband stood by me to give me courage to go on each day, and my mom and dad were there to help out and occasionally relieve me on weekends. The doctor's diagnosis was gloomy, but our trust was in God. Melissa's doctor said it was possible that Melissa would not have the use of her arm, or that there was a chance that her right arm would be shorter than the left arm. All of the X-Rays that were taken show that the growing plate in her shoulder is partially destroyed, but thank God that today both of her arms are growing at the same rate.

My mother told me after Melissa was discharged from the hospital that a woman with whom she works had a newborn nephew who contracted the same infection and died three days after birth. God has really blessed our daughter and at the last visit to the orthopedic doctor we were told that there is good movement in her arm and that her arms are the same length. Praise God! We pray that with each visit the doctor will continue to have encouraging news for us.

We will never forget this experience and how God spared Melissa's life. As she grows, we hope that one day she can relate her experience to others. **God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Praise His name!**

## An Experience

*By Bonnie Smith*

Bro. Scott Tenijieth, of the White Mountain Apache tribe, has been a member of The Church of Jesus Christ since April 28, 1974. On February 26, 1974 he and Sis. June Jones were married at the Church by Bro. Isaac Smith.

On September 17, 1986 while at his logging job in the forest, Bro. Scott met with a potentially disabling or fatal accident. While he was felling a tree, the tree took an unpredicted twist and fell against Bro. Scott, pinning his leg against a rock. After several hours, with the journey through the woods, and a delay at the Whiteriver Indian hospital, our brother was finally taken to Navopache Hospital in Lakeside, AZ.

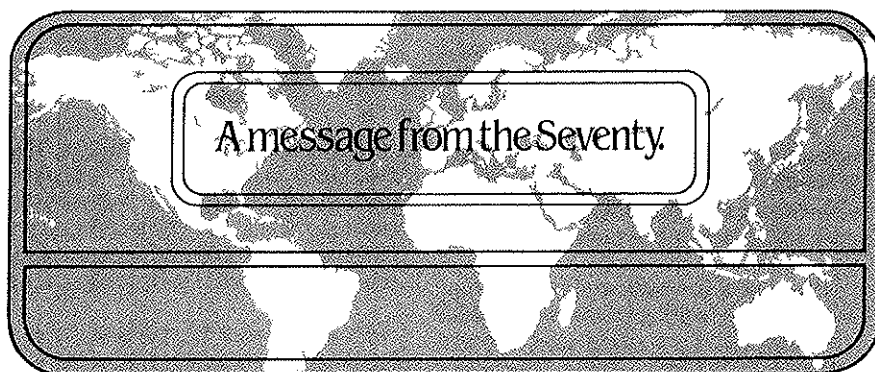
Surgery was performed on the seriously broken ankle, and puncture wounds from the tree branches were tended. X-Rays showed that the leg bone was splintered, but that injury would have to wait. The ankle began to heal, however the two puncture wounds developed an infection. This infection, it was discovered, came from a microorganism found in the woods and is usually found only in wildlife. It refused to be brought under control by any of the antibiotics known to man. The surgeons even resorted to implanting antibiotics deep within the wounds, but the infection thrived. After another operation to remove the impotent antibiotics, the two wounds grew into one with the infection out of control. The possibility of Scott's losing the leg threatened now even greater than before.

The elders of the Church had been called upon many times to anoint Bro. Scott. After many weeks of suffering and hospitalization, Bro. Scott had a wonderful experience. In a dream he saw a very large hand come down into his wound and when it came out, it carried a handful of worms.

Routine blood samples were taken from Scott to check on the progress of the infection. Following his experience, the next test that was taken came up negative. "The bugs are gone," the elated doctor reported.

Improvement has been steady since that time. To date Bro. Scott has had seven surgeries, and his leg must still

(Continued on Page 12)



## Must Reach Them

*By Carl J. Frammolino  
Quorum of Seventy Editor*

"Hearts are being prepared to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ; now we must do the work to reach them!"

This was the underlying theme of extremely beneficial workshops and meetings held by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists the day before the April General Church Conference at Greensburg, PA. Workshops were conducted by the American Indian, Foreign Missions, and Development Committees in the afternoon and a stirring appraisal and planning meeting was held at night.

The three workshops focused on progress made in diverse parts of the world. Primarily, they were about missionary efforts in Guatemala, India, Africa, and Independence, Missouri.

### INDIAN MISSIONARY WORK

In the first segment, Evangelists Dwayne Jordan and Frank Ciotti, representing the Church's Indian missionary work, narrated slides of their recent trip to Guatemala, where doors have been opened of late for the spreading of the Gospel. Upon arriving, they were quick to realize how the Lord was preparing hearts as they were led to people ready to hear.

They had made reservations at a hotel. When they arrived, however, they found that no room was being held for them, and they would be unable to stay there. Disappointed, they went to another place where there were many people interested in hearing about salvation. Having been led to such a favorable reception started the trip off well and it continued in the same way.

The slides portrayed the area in which efforts will be started in Guatemala this

summer, when permanent missionaries, elders Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin, will be returning with their families. As a final note, an experience was related which indicated that Guatemala will be a launching pad for the Gospel to go to other locations in that part of the world.

### AFRICA AND INDIA

Evangelist Joseph Calabrese, representing the Foreign Missions Committee, showed slides of Africa and India at the second workshop. He related how God had prepared souls when the late Apostle William H. Cadman was inspired to correspond and eventually establish the Church in Nigeria, West Africa in the 1950's. From the start, a mighty work has developed.

The effort in India, which also was begun through correspondence, is progressing and showing great promise. The Lord had opened the way for the Church's establishment there in 1981. Besides picturing the saints, slides were shown of the new building in one of the locations. Experiences which have been given to the people by God were also interspersed in this presentation.

The third workshop was conducted by the General Church Development Committee, which operates under the direction of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. Committee Chairman, Evangelist Elmer Santilli, detailed the beginning of the group and some of its goals. The focus was placed in the Independence, Missouri (Oak Grove) project, with an analysis of its origin and growth.

Brother Santilli stated that we face a unique situation in Oak Grove because there are many factions of the Restoration present, and we are asked many in-depth questions about events and beliefs

of the Restoration movement. He discussed some of the questions which have been asked, providing us with further insight and perceptiveness of the needs to be met in this kind of interaction. He also read a few of the dreams which have been received about this project.

Evangelist Sam Dell told some of his experiences during his stay, along with his wife Sis. Josephine, at Oak Grove. He stated that hopefully souls will be coming into the Gospel soon.

Evangelist Tom Liberto then gave a detailed and enlightening talk about the observations gained at Oak Grove and what is required to have a successful domestic missionary program. He disclosed the procedures which may be instituted to start a new work, and specified how the particular conditions of each area must be considered and more permanent workers must be found to insure continuity in the missionary endeavor. A training period was also specified as being of prime concern to properly equip the laborers for their tasks.

### EVENTFUL EVENING SERVICE

The workshops were lively and served to properly prepare the participants for a very active and eventful evening service. The afternoon activities reflected what kinds of measures must now be taken.

At the start of the night meeting, the Radio and Television Committee played one of the tapes used on the radio broadcast in Tse Bonito, New Mexico. It was pointed out that visitors have come to Church after hearing the broadcasts, which are aired every Sunday morning. Plans have been made to use this kind of taped broadcast program in other areas of the Church.

The writer, who is the media committee chairman, presented a research report on the radio market for broadcasting in Spanish in the San Diego, CA area. Broadcasts from there would reach parts of Mexico, southern California, and other nearby states. Time slots are available at a station in San Diego at a nominal cost, which would make it possible to reach many Spanish-speaking people. The broadcasting range has been estimated to include four to five million people.

The Quorum asked the committee to

**(Continued on Page 12)**

## The Gospel News

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

### CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovaile

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Alliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

#### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

#### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

#### FLORIDA

Joseph Graziosi  
819 Sunrise Blvd., Apt. 2  
Ft. Pierce, FL 33450

#### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

#### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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### BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Many of us who were able to attend this past April Conference, or who were at the May GMBA Conference, or who will be attending the GMBA Campout this month, know what it is to be united together with a large group of the saints and enjoy the blessings of God. Such a gathering is something we don't often experience during the course of the year as we meet in our branches and missions throughout the land.

These general gatherings allow us as individuals to experience the unique feeling which manifests itself as we come together with our hearts turned toward God. It is at these times of gathering that we get a better picture of what The Church of Jesus Christ really is, and there is truly a blessing in it.

Yet in our daily walk in life, where our relationship with Christ is truly exercised and given the opportunity to grow, we all find ourselves alone. In the situations that require each of us to make conscious choices whether or not to follow the Lord's direction, there is no great congregation of saints there to uplift and encourage us. As we each do our part to serve and to work for the Lord and His Church, we seldom find a company of brothers and sisters on either hand to assist us in carrying out our daily works.

It seems that as much as we thrive on the spiritual strength that is gained by our efforts to gather together, we must each make an individual effort to increase the portion of the Holy Ghost that dwells within us in order for us to survive and to grow spiritually.

These two endeavors go hand in hand. Without meeting together often, whether we be two or three, or number in the hundreds, we cannot maintain that vital sense of being part of the body of Christ. At the same time, without each of us pressing forward in our individual lives to carry within us a greater portion of God's Spirit, our gathering together will not bring forth the blessings that belong to God's people.

It is beautiful to see us gathered together, filling an auditorium to overflowing a few Sundays out of the year. It is equally important in the sight of God, however, that we're each growing spiritually the other 360-odd days of the year. It's how prepared we are when we gather together, how clean our garments are before the Lord, that determines how much of His power He will manifest among His people. As much as we may enjoy worshiping with a crowd, the mere fact that we're all in the same place at the same time cannot cleanse and sanctify us as vessels fit for the Holy Ghost.

We must make both efforts, then, as much as it is in our power to do so. As we do, we'll draw closer to God both individually and collectively, and we'll find that the resulting Spirit that manifests itself in us and in the Church will draw others like a magnet to Christ's kingdom here below.

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



## The Anger That Killed a Nation

Dear Girls and Boys,

Sometimes we become very angry at another person or their whole family. We feel we are right and *they* are wrong! We go to bed angry and when we wake up and think about them we feel anger in our stomach. We may even tell others about how terrible "they" are, so that we feel right about being angry and so that others hate them too.

Is this right? No. Is this good for us? No! The Bible tells us we must do a hard thing. We must lean on God to be strong inside in the *right* way . . . we must be so determined to do it Jesus' way that we will do anything Jesus tells us to do . . . and Jesus says, "Don't let the sun go down on your anger." Work out what is making you mad that very day. Jesus says to "forgive others seventy times seven," over and over. He also tells members that if they have something against someone else, they must first go clear it up before they take sacrament.

If we go to say we're sorry that something we did caused the other person to be upset, we are "turning the other cheek." And most of all, the Lord God said, "Vengeance is Mine." We truly believe that God sees everything and that he will take care of the good and the bad.

Many years after the Tower of Babel, the people started caring more about riches and gold and power than they did about God. One son fought against another to be king; the nation split into two groups, and then three groups. Each group wanted to beat up the other group and make them servants and slaves to them.

A great curse fell upon this promised land. Nothing was safe from anyone else. Thieves and robbers were everywhere. Coriantumr the king

trained his sons to fight other groups that also wanted riches and power.

God sent the prophet Ether to warn the Jaredite nation to put away their anger towards each other and ask for forgiveness of their sins. The people only sneered and laughed at Ether and then tried to kill him.

Anger grew as people fought each other and loved ones died. The people were full of hate and anger towards each other. Soon they began to divide into two groups. One group followed King Coriantumr; the other group followed the other king.

There was no time to plant gardens or go to jobs. War and fighting were constantly stopping work. Coriantumr made a plan: everyone in the nation on his side would gather. The other king did the same. Both sides would fight to the end.

Grandparents and parents were filled with anger and hate towards their enemies; they went to battle. Mothers and fathers taught their children to feel anger and hate and the desire to kill.

The horrible battle day came. A terrible slaughter occurred. Men, women, and children died by each other's swords. Day after day more of the Jaredites murdered each other. Finally, as God had warned, all were dead except King Coriantumr, who was left as a witness.

Love for riches and power, and anger uncontrolled had planted itself deep in the hearts of this once powerful nation until no one cared for the real and precious things of God and all were dead.

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

KING	TOLD
CORANTUMR	CHRIST
WAR	WORD
KILLED	OF
EACH	GOD
OTHER	HATE
ETHER	ANGER
WARN	PRAY
ALL	LOVE

H	G	K	P	P	R	A	Y	K	N
C	O	R	I	A	N	T	U	M	R
A	D	E	W	N	L	O	V	E	A
E	L	T	A	N	G	E	R	L	W
F	O	A	P	D	E	L	L	I	K
O	T	H	E	R	E	T	H	E	R
C	H	R	I	S	T	W	O	R	D

## CONFERENCE continued . . .

of Zion, and coming to conference is, in a sense, a time for us to replenish our supply of spiritual provisions. It is here that we receive that sweet Spirit of God, but we must remember when we return to our homes that there's something for each of us to do.

As the day progressed we heard from many of our brothers in the priesthood; elders, evangelists, and apostles, some with years of experience and some recently ordained. Bro. David Majoros of Tucson, AZ presented us once again with *Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*, a song whose message became a kind of theme for the entire conference. After closing remarks from several of our brother apostles, we dismissed and parted company once again to return to the Great Work of the Lord.

## Telephone Number Correction

The General Church Telephone Directory lists the phone number of Bro. Ken and Sis. Florence Lombardo of Metuchen, NJ incorrectly. The correct number is (201) 661-3388. They're sorry for any confusion it has caused.



## In Memory of Apostle Rocco Biscotti

By Robert A. Watson  
Secretary, Quorum of Twelve

In the past few months, death has reached in and removed from our presence all three apostles from the Ohio District. This article is in memory of one of these beloved brothers.

Brother Rocco Biscotti came from a family of eleven children and was born in Peschice in the province of Foggia, Italy on February 11, 1903.

He was taken home to be with the Lord on January 24, 1987. His wife of many years, Sis. Angeline Biscotti, had the following dream on the morning that Bro. Rocco died. She dreamed that she, along with Bro. Rocco, were with Brother Anthony A. Corrado. They were all very happy. In the dream she knew that Bro. Corrado had already passed away. Her husband passed away later that day.

Bro. Biscotti was sick for a period of seven years and was confined to a nursing home for a period of fifteen months before his death. During his sickness, he was visited by many brothers and sisters. On December 31, 1986 Brothers Russell Cadman, Bob Buffington, and Fred Olexa visited Bro. Rocco in the nursing home. He was very happy to see them, and appeared to recognize each of the brothers. Not long after this visit, he passed away.

Bro. Rocco was baptized into The Church on August 27, 1922 and was ordained into the ministry in Euclid, Ohio in the year 1923 at the young age of twenty.

In June of 1925 he married Sis. Angeline DeTomaso and from this union, the following children were born: Dr. Matthew Biscotti, currently living in Permia Heights, Ohio; Robert Biscotti, living in Springfield, Massachusetts; and Kathrine Siegel, living in Southgate, Michigan.

In the year 1939, Bro. Rocco was called to be an apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ and was ordained by Bro. Alma B. Cadman. He had the following experience prior to his calling: He dreamed that Bro. Robert Anderson appeared to him and gave him a letter with

the following words, "You are called to be one of the Twelve Apostles."

Bro. Rocco was secretary of the Quorum of Twelve for 25 years, and also held the offices of vice president and president of the quorum. He was very active in working at every level of the Church, which included Branch, District, and General Church.

Brother Biscotti was instrumental in building the Church building on East 200th Street in Euclid, Ohio. He also helped to start the work in New Jersey, working with Brothers Joseph Corrado and Eugenio Perri. He labored in Painesville, Ohio (near Perry) with the assistance of Brothers Dan and Tony Picciuto.

Brother Biscotti was the first president of the Ohio District and served in that capacity for eight years. He was also extremely active in the Atlantic Coast District, a work for which he said he had a special love. He was also involved in foreign mission work, traveling to Italy three times. He made the first trip in 1952 with his wife, Sis. Angeline. He made his second trip in 1971 alone, because of his father-in-law's being very sick. In 1977 he made his third trip, along with his wife Sis. Angeline and Brother Gorie and Sis. Antoinette Ciaravino.

Brother Rocco was truly a worker in the vineyard of the Lord, being baptized for 65 years and working in the ministry for 64 of them. He will be missed at every level of the Church, especially in the Quorum of Twelve, where he served so faithfully. I will always remember him getting up to speak on the day of my ordination into the quorum. It was as though he was reliving his own ordination many years before.

To his wonderful family, we'd like to say that you can be very proud of the rich heritage he left behind, and to Sister Angeline, his faithful wife, we salute you for your faithfulness in standing alongside of him for so many years. You truly were a partner to him in every way.

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*"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."* (Revelation 14:13)

## A Testimony

The following is the testimony of Lillian Frendo, a recently baptized member of the Sterling Heights, MI Branch, as told to Sis. Hazel Zoltek.

I was going to a Lutheran church on Dequindre Rd. for thirteen years, and I watched that church grow from a small group of people in one room to a building with many beautiful rooms and a large congregation. As the congregation grew, however, I began to feel insignificant and unnoticed. If I was having a problem, no one in that church knew or cared. The sermons were repetitious and programmed. I was not satisfied, and I began looking for another church, possibly one closer to my home.

I went to several churches in my neighborhood, but I was still not satisfied, so I decided to go back to the one on Dequindre Rd.

One Sunday, on my way home, my head turned and I saw the letters on a building, "The Church of Jesus Christ," but I continued on my way. I did this for the next two Sundays and I was wondering why, like a magnet, my head kept turning to look at that church. I decided to give it a try, and during the week I drove up to the building to see what time the services started on Sunday.

The following Sunday, I walked into the Church and felt a little nervous, not even knowing what denomination it was, but the fear left me as soon as I beheld the first two friendly faces, Brothers Steve and Claude Champine. I asked one of them for a leaflet on the service and he said, "We don't have any of those here."

The congregation was singing as I took my seat, and I felt warm inside. Bro. Spencer Everett welcomed me by name to the Church. Then Bro. Sam DiFalco opened in prayer, mentioning the name of a sick child as he prayed. The prayer was so beautiful to me; I knew it came from the heart, not just from the mouth. I witnessed the first anointing that I had ever seen and I was really touched.

I enjoyed the entire service and I remember saying to myself, "This is my church. These are my people. They are the people of God." My search was over.

(Continued on Page 11)

## Branch and Mission News

### Detroit Inner City

By Lisa Lopez

As the year 1986 has gone by and 1987 is under way, the Inner City Branch has felt this an opportune moment to count our blessings. And though we still feel the loss of our beloved Brothers Mervyn Heath and Joseph Milantoni, we rejoice that God is still calling laborers to carry on the work in the Inner City.

On May 25, 1986 Brother Gary Champine was ordained into the priesthood. The morning service was opened by Brother Frank Calabrese, who gave an especially beautiful sermon from the book of Isaiah that was pertinent to Bro. Gary's calling.

Brothers Larry and Steve Champine sang a song for their Brother Gary. Bro. Nick Pietrangelo then spoke on the steps a brother goes through when being considered for the priesthood, to be sure that the calling is from God. There is much prayer and fasting on the ministry's part, each step of the way, and it was truly felt that this calling was blessed from on high.

Bro. Eugene and Sis. Donna Amormino sang *He Changed My Life Completely*. Sis. Arlene Buffington received this song shortly after hearing Bro. Gary Champine's testimony. Our Bro. Gary testified that God truly changed his life, and never did he think, years ago, that he would ever be where the Lord has brought him to today.

Bro. Gary had his feet washed by Bro. Sam DiFalco. It was especially touching, since Bro. Sam was the one that introduced Bro. Gary to the Gospel about nine years earlier. Bro. Joe Milantoni laid his hands upon Bro. Gary and ordained him into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We thank God that He has provided another shepherd for the Inner City.

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On August 24, 1986 our branch experienced a blessing and a baptism. We gathered in the morning on a sunny river side to watch our Sister Karen Smith join the family of God.

We opened our baptism service by singing *Shall We Gather at the River*. Bro. Eugene explained how today Sis. Karen would experience the death of her old self, and a resurrection as a new creature in Christ. This was also a special occasion for Bro. Gary Champine, as it was the first baptism he performed.

Bro. Dominic Moraca opened the service when we returned to the branch, and very beautifully explained the difference between a baptism and a blessing. Then Bro. Mike and Sis. Marlene Coppa brought their daughter Amy Rose forward to be blessed.

Our Sister Karen was later confirmed by Bro. Tony Gerace, and Sisters Donna Amormino and Inez Cotellesse sang *Now I Belong to Jesus*.

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Sunday January 11, 1987 the blessings of God came in downpours into the Inner City Branch. The spirit of song was already strong with us as we came in. We sang *The Sea So Great, Lord, My Boat So Small*, and Bro. Gary Champine opened in prayer. Two sisters then sang *Passing Over the Perils*.

Brother Richard Thomas, visiting from Branch 1, began reading from the book of Helaman. He explained how Nephi the son of Helaman was a strong servant of God, and how the Lord blessed him. His family held high offices in their community, but always attended diligently to the things of God.

As Nephi looked out on the corruption in society that surrounded him, his heart went out to the people because of their iniquities, much the same as ours does today. Nephi thought, as we might, if only he could go back to the old days, back to the days of his father, when things were well in the land. But he took his burden before the Lord in prayer, and because of his faithfulness, even through all his trials, he was blessed with a great blessing and a promise from God (Helaman 10th Chapter).

Bro. Richard ended his message today by saying that Helaman's son left his high-status position to preach the Gospel to his people. Nephi recognized the need. Our brother asked us today, "Could we do the same?"

The message was delivered so powerfully to us, it was as though we were hearing about a person of our present day. Brother Gary Champine followed along the same lines, and we closed our meeting after a beautiful season of testimony.

### Sterling Hts., MI

By Larry Sourvelis

March 8, 1987 was a joyous and lovely day at the Sterling Heights Branch. We were blessed to have visiting us this day Bro. V. James Lovalvo and Bro. Tony Lovalvo.

Bro. Jim Lovalvo was inspired to exhort the congregation with the words of the Psalmist David, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" he said. We all meditated for a moment and thanked the Lord for His benefits toward us, and Bro. Jim continued reading, "I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the Lord." David's cup was running over with joy.

Unfortunately, when David sinned, he lost his joy in the Lord for a season. It is the same today, if we lose our joy in the Lord, we will not be able to tell others of our Lord, or show others of His glory upon us.

The thing that Bro. Jim stressed this morning was where David said, "I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people." Just as David did, God is expecting the Church to pay its vows to Him.

We must *show* the Lord, by our service, how much we love Him, Bro. Jim concluded. His closing remarks were that after we pray, let us stop and listen for the voice of the Lord as He speaks to our hearts. We as followers of Christ have to be good listeners. Our brother's words were truly inspired.

Bro. John Impastato was also visiting us from Branch 1 this day. He testified how the Lord spared his life as He directed his physician in performing delicate brain surgery. He was so grateful for the way the saints visited him and prayed for him during this life-threatening situation. The joy of salvation was surely flowing from him as he bore his testimony this day, for which we thank the Lord.

## Brooklyn, NY

Sister Joan Rogolino was ordained into the office of deaconess on December 21, 1986 in the Brooklyn, NY Branch by Bro. Dominick Rose. Sis. Joan's feet were washed by Sis. Belle Rose. Sister Joan has been a member of the Church for 30 years as of January 6, and along with her husband Bro. Matthew, and her family, has been recently attending Brooklyn and servicing the work in New York's Bowery.

Everyone enjoyed a great blessing at this ordination, with visitors in attendance from Florida and New Jersey.

## San Diego, CA

*By Carolyn Martorana Light*

"And their meetings were conducted by the Church after the manner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Holy Ghost led them whether to preach, or to exhort, or to pray or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done" (Moroni 6:9).

And so it is done today. On February 1, 1987, the ministry of the San Diego Branch was inspired to dedicate the entire worship service to singing. We departed from the usual format of exhortation and gave the lead to our visiting brothers, David Majoros and Eugene Amormino, to conduct the service. God has endowed His people with beautiful gifts and talents, and these two brothers have used their musical abilities to the honor and glory of God.

Bro. Eugene introduced the service by greeting the congregation with uplifting words of hope concerning the coming of a peaceful existence on the earth. He encouraged us to look to Christ and be "overcomers" of discouragement and weakness. With reference to one of the *Songs of Zion*, he added that we should not let anybody take our crown, but should serve God joyfully. He then joined Bro. David as they honored us with selections from recently completed *Songs of Zion*. As the words and the music rang out, one could hear praises ascending to God, while others were heard singing or humming along. The Spirit of God brought smiles and tears of joy and hope to the faces of the brothers and sisters. The message was one of peace, hope,

reuniting, and dedication; words to strengthen God's people.

Bro. David expressed his thanks to God by repeating the words of the hymn *He Held His Arms and I Ran In*, stating he felt he was indeed wrapped in the love of God. Unfortunately, our brothers had to leave the meeting early that day to return to their homes, but not before sharing the Lord's Supper. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to testimony and the saints expressed many beautiful thoughts concerning the day's events. Praise God for the gifts and inspiration He gives.

## Niles, OH

One of the most exhilarating experiences of the saints is being able to gather at the river and witness the conversion of another soul into the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We of the Niles Branch had this opportunity on February 22, 1987 as Sis. Marge Brown committed her life to Christ. We welcomed visitors from Greensburg, Kent, Warren, and Detroit, which helped make this blessed event a more memorable occasion.

After an inspiring solo by Bro. Bob Beam of Greensburg, Bro. Mario Milano introduced the morning service by using II Corinthians 12:1-4. Bro. Mario likened this to the unspeakable joy that we all experience upon entering the family of Christ. Serving the Lord has great spiritual rewards and dividends that are unparalleled by the world. Bro. Mario recounted how the Lord led him from Italy to this great and promised land of America. He stated that he had a love for God as a young boy and was desirous to read the Bible in a religion where it was forbidden to have a Bible in one's home. One of the greatest blessings in coming to America was that he could study the scriptures freely. Bro. Mario concluded his remarks by accentuating the importance of rendering obedience unto the Lord, and bade others to heed the perpetual call to repentance and baptism.

Bro. Ron Genaro followed, stressing the validity and eternal significance of the scriptures. He stressed the importance of utilizing life's pilgrimage to prepare for eternity. He also pointed out that hell is a very real place, despite philosophies that try to deny its existence or espouse the notion that the mercies of God will inhibit Him from condemning anyone to eternal damna-

tion. Bro. Ron stated how we as humans very often misplace our priorities and seek first after an education, a vocation, financial success, a spouse, or a home instead of seeking first the Kingdom of God. Although we are confronted with many decisions in life, the greatest decision we will ever make is to follow Jesus. Bro. Ron concluded by elaborating on his calling into the Church.

At the conclusion of the morning service, we gathered at Mosquito Lake where Sis. Marge was baptized by Bro. Wayne Martorana. We returned to Church for our fellowship service. Prior to the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon our sister, the ministry knelt in prayer and Bro. Russ Martorana invoked God's blessings. Sis. Marge was then confirmed by Bro. Brian Martorana. A beautiful spirit of testimony prevailed, and after the administering of the Lord's Supper our meeting was brought to a close.

Sis. Marge resides in Akron, Ohio and will attend the Kent Mission. We pray that the Lord will bless her abundantly, that she would be a spiritual asset in that part of the vineyard.

## Lakeside, AZ

*By Bonnie Smith*

The Spirit of God has been striving in our midst at the Lakeside Branch. We have been enjoying the blessing of the spirit of repentance from time to time, and watching those being drawn to the Church through this spirit. On three separate occasions we have been able to witness souls surrendering to the will of God. On the Sabbath our district met at San Carlos for the ordination of Bro. Norman James, an overwhelming outpouring of God's Spirit was experienced. Dana Mead felt that calling spirit and asked for her baptism. After witnessing the baptism of Bro. Vernon James and his wife Ophelia, we traveled to Whiteriver, AZ to proceed with Sis. Dana's baptism.

As another occasion arrived, the GMB Campout in Indiana, the opportunity for Bro. Ike, Sis. Bonnie, and their son Brent to attend presented itself. The fellowship of the saints was enjoyed by all in attendance. The scheduled activity for Monday's evening meeting was a film review of the past

(Continued on Page 10)

**LAKESIDE continued . . .**

20 years of Campouts. For various reasons, however, the film was postponed till the next evening, and on Monday evening several asked to be anointed.

One of those who requested prayer was Brent Smith, who suffered an injury during the sports activity of the day. While his grandfather, Bro. Joseph Calabrese, anointed him for his injury, he also petitioned God on behalf of Brent's spiritual needs. Once again we witnessed the compelling Spirit of God to move as Brent requested baptism. What a thrill for Bro. Ike and Sis. Bonnie to witness one of their children render obedience to God. Since they had to leave for Arizona before dawn the next day, arrangements were made for the baptism to take place immediately. The lake, directly across the road from the meeting hall, was illuminated only by car lights and individual flashlights. Bro. Ike officiated at the baptism of his son.

The following Sunday at our Lakeside Branch, two more young people felt the need to submit their lives to Christ. Faith Ann Hemmings, the daughter of Bro. Herb and Sis. Shirley Hemmings, along with Richard Matthews asked for baptism during another beautiful service. They were baptized at Whiteriver by Brothers Herb Hemmings and Ike Smith respectively

Remember our endeavors among the White Mountain Apache people. Our desires and responsibilities are great, and our blessings are multiplied routinely. We thank God for all things.

**Quincy, FL****HAVE MIRACLES CEASED?**

"Have miracles ceased?" Behold, I say unto you, "Nay, for they cause the inner spirit to hiss forth with psalms." Great is the Lord, 'tis good to praise His high and holy name. Well might the saints in Latter Days His wondrous love proclaim. To praise Him let us all engage, that unto us is given to live in this momentous age, and share the light of heaven. Yes, we're living in a momentous age, when miracles prevail under the restored power invested in the ministry. A drop of oil, a prayer of faith, and the glories of this momentous age emerge suddenly; a miracle comes vividly into view.

Such transpired on March 4, 1987 at approximately 9:30 p.m. The house was lit up with joy as the saints were gathering there. Sister Sharon Boykin, hurrying up the steps to enter into the house of her father, Bro. Cleveland Baldwin, to join the saints, missed a step and slipped, and down she went. This, of course, caused immediate excitement as we all ran to the door. As we tried to get her up and bring her into the house, we discovered that it was impossible for her to stand or put weight on either foot. It was apparent that our sister felt pain and discomfort. The saints picked her up and carried her, like a baby, into the bathroom, thinking to apply heat and cold to the injured areas. Immediate swelling, discoloration, and distinct abnormalities were observed.

Apostle Joseph bittinger was among the brothers and sisters visiting. Crying in pain, Sis. Sharon requested to be anointed. Bro. Joe anointed her and she later stated that as our brother was praying, she could feel the bones going back together in her foot. She got up immediately; the swelling and discoloration had disappeared and she began to walk as if nothing had happened.

Have miracles ceased? I say unto you, "Nay." The saints knelt in prayer, acknowledging the blessing of God. Shortly afterward, Bro. Charleston Hester heard a voice saying, "Greater things than these shall ye see." Thus we praise our Lord for more glorious things than language can express. The everlasting Gospel brings the blessings of God.

**Edison, NJ**

*By Mary Thickstun*

March 8, 1987 was a wonderful day for the brothers and sisters of the Edison Branch. Brother Michael A. McLaughlin was baptized by Brother Philip Arcuri and confirmed by Brother Donald Ross.

We enjoyed having Brother Michael's parents and family attend the baptism and join us for our morning services. Throughout the day we felt a blessing as our elder brothers stressed baptism, daily service to God, and perseverance. We were delighted to share our joy with visiting brothers and sisters from the Metuchen and Hopelawn branches.

Brother Michael began attending services with Sister Rosemary Pittman.

They are engaged and plan to be married in November. We hope that God will bless our new brother both naturally and spiritually.

**Lakeworth, FL**

*By Joe Graziozi*

On Sunday March 22, 1987, brothers and sisters from all over the Florida District gathered in Lakeworth, Florida to share in witnessing the ordination of Brother Charleston Hester, from Quincy Mission, into the priesthood.

Brother John Gray, also from Quincy, washed Brother Hester's feet while the congregation sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo explained to the congregation how an elder is chosen. He read to us one of the experiences pertaining to Brother Hester's calling. He then read Matthew 28:18-20 and from the book of Alma, explaining what the priesthood is. Bro. Nick said that one of the most important qualities an elder must have is the ability to love as Jesus Christ loved. Other qualities are a firmness in keeping the commandments of God, a willingness to accept correction for themselves, that they be well-adjusted persons, and that they be impartial in all cases. They must never be abusive, hostile, arrogant, self-righteous, intolerant, or hypocritical. Elders should be self-disciplined, totally dedicated to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Pietrangelo then asked us to remember Brother Hester in our prayers. Brother Frank Rogolino ordained Brother Hester into the priesthood. Bro. Pietrangelo then asked Sis. Rhonda Hester to stand, and he told her that she was blessed on this day, too, and that she's important to her husband's ministry.

**Tijuana, Mexico**

*By Stacey Light*

Sunday, April 12, 1987 was an historic day for *La Iglesia de Jesucristo*. The saints and visitors witnessed a baptism; the ordination of eight deaconesses, five deacons, and two teachers; the blessing of two babies; and the organization of the very first MBA local in Mexico.

By 8:00 a.m. the saints were already beginning to arrive at the mission to make the 15-mile drive to Rosarita Beach on the Pacific Ocean. Approximately 45 brothers and sisters were able to gather at the ocean while Bro. David B. Cicatti questioned Sis. Maribel Mora, using Bro. Luis Pacheco to help translate into Spanish. The surf was rough and the water cool as Bro. David, performing his first baptism, led Sis. Maribel into the ocean. Bro. David spoke only in Spanish as he raised his hand toward heaven and called upon his newly-ordained authority.

Returning back to the church around 10:00, we found the service had already begun in the usual manner, with singing praises unto the Lord. Saints from Modesto, Anaheim, Santa Ana, San Diego, and Mexicali, as well as from other cities in Mexico joined those from Tijuana this morning as Bro. Eddie Perdue welcomed all. Sis. Evelyn was unable to attend due to her affliction, which was especially unfortunate because she had held in her arms as babies many of those who were being ordained today.

Bro. Tom Liberto spoke to the congregation, outlining the events for the day. Bro. Jose Escalera opened in prayer, after which several more special hymns were sung. *Cristo Usame* was sung by all who were to be ordained. Sis. Maribel was then confirmed by Bro. Isidro Gonzales.

Bro. Frank Ciotti, chairman of the California District Mission Board, gave an inspired sermon entirely in Spanish. He used as his text Matthew 9:37 & 38, "... the harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

One chair at the front of the church was used as those called into these ordained offices came forth one by one to have their feet washed. Several had their feet washed by members of their family, who had been called by God earlier to serve His Church. The priesthood encircled this same chair as each returned one by one to be ordained into their respective office.

Those who were ordained this day were called through fasting, praying, and the revelations that were had by the ministry of Tijuana. Many of them will be used to service the three other missions that have already sprung up in Tijuana.

After the ordinations took place, Bro. Isidro Gonzales was privileged to bless his and Sis. Rosario's newborn son, Isidro Nathanael. Bro. Adrian Rodriguez then blessed his new nephew, Levi Manasseh, son of Bro. Jose and Sis. Maribel Rodriguez.

Sacrament was administered while the over 200 in attendance very quietly remembered the Lord.

Bro. Paul Liberto spoke of the vision that we all have to see the Church spread to the small villages and towns, some of which he has been to, deep in the interior of Mexico. Bro. Paul was inspired with the thought that many of those ordained this day would one day soon be spreading the Gospel in the mission fields.

The meeting was dismissed to break for lunch, but it was already 3:00 p.m. We had been feasting spiritually for over five hours!

After the break, over 90 of the brothers, sisters, and young people gathered again to organize the first MBA local in Mexico. Area Organizer Bro. Nick Liberto welcomed all and expressed that this event was fulfilling a dream that he has had for several years. California Area MBA President Randy Ciccati explained the structure and goals of the MBA. Bro. Luis and Sis. Julia Pacheco assisted in translating while over 90 new members were read the "Duties of Members." Elections were held, with Bro. Isidro Gonzales being elected the first local president in Tijuana. All were willing to take part and fill the needed offices.

The meeting was closed around 7:30 p.m. with many having been in attendance faithfully for twelve hours. All were blessed, and all knew that the day had been set apart *para la honra y gloria de Dios!*

#### TESTIMONY continued . . .

After the service, the people were so friendly and kind, and everyone said "God bless you," and I could see they really meant it (The only time anyone blessed me in the past was when I sneezed.). No one pressured me to come back, or to join, but I knew in my heart that some day I would join this Church.

One day, about a month later, The Book of Mormon was mentioned and I thought to myself, "Oh no, don't tell me

they are Mormons. What have I got myself into?" Bro. DiFalcone gave me a Book of Mormon to read. I mentioned it to one of my neighbors, and she rushed out and got me a cassette tape depicting the things the Mormons believe in and do.

I was very sad and confused. My husband was in Europe all this time, and while alone in bed at night, I would listen to the tape and read The Book of Mormon. When I woke up in the morning, I would find myself with my head at the foot of the bed. Yes, I was all turned around and so confused. I called the elders and asked them to come to my house and answer the hundreds of questions I wanted to ask.

Well, they answered them and I was overjoyed to hear they weren't the people I had heard about on the tape. I kept coming to the Church and I liked it and I loved everyone in it. I asked my husband to come one Sunday and he liked the Church too. When I mentioned to him that I would like to be baptized, he said, "No. If this church interferes with our lifestyle, there will be trouble between us."

Once again I was troubled. I asked my husband if he would talk to Brothers Vitto and Everett, and he consented. We set up an appointment and met them at the Church. On the way home, he told me he wouldn't interfere with my decision; whatever I wanted to do was all right with him. I was so happy and relieved that the choice was mine.

Shortly after that I asked for my baptism. I repented of all my sins and made a commitment with God to serve Him. That was the happiest and most meaningful day of my life, and I always want to keep the commitment, to live up to it, and always walk in Jesus' footsteps.

### *A Salute to Fathers*

On behalf of the entire *Gospel News* staff, I wish to acknowledge all the fathers who have toiled through the years to provide for and support their families, and who have endeavored diligently to be spiritual leaders in the home.

May the Lord bless you with continued strength to carry out your duties, and may He reward your labors by prospering your families both naturally and spiritually.

Anthony J. Scolaro, Editor

**EXPERIENCE continued . . .**

be in a cast. Seven months have lapsed since the accident took place, and the road has been extremely trying. Please continue to remember Bro. Scott in your prayers as he continues his recovery. God has blessed him with many beautiful experiences and we feel he is a good example to all. It is wonderful to see how the Lord works among His people.

**REACH THEM continued . . .**

pursue the possibility in San Diego and to report back in October on the progress in both Tse Bonito and San Diego.

Evangelist Paul Benyola, President of the Quorum of Seventies, read from a talk given last year by our late Quorum

President, Evangelist Joseph Milantoni, on spreading the Gospel throughout the world. Brother Paul then showed a slide of all the locations of The Church of Jesus Christ, after which provocative questions and comments about how we may reach the prepared hearts in all parts of the world precipitated a lively discussion. As the slide presentation was viewed, a graphic illustration was depicted of the enormous task of the Church.

Until more long-range programs can be formulated and implemented, a plan was instituted by the Quorum to send two Evangelists from one district to another and hold weekend Evangelistic meetings. Some of the Evangelists volunteered immediately to participate in the program. Each team will be coordinated through the Evangelists and District Presidents in establishing the

times and dates of these services. The "Independence Plan" will be utilized, involving aids like door-to-door invitations given by local members, media advertising, and group singing of Restoration hymns at the meetings.

At the end of the day's services, Quorum Vice President, Evangelist Isaac Smith, thanked the workshop participants for their excellent presentations and Brother Benyola for his overall missionary view and planning.

The inspiring day's activities were concluded when the Quorum formed a circle and closed in prayer, awaiting the next General Quorum meeting on October 8, 1987 at the Auditorium. It is hoped that much further progress will be reported then in reaching the hearts that are being prepared in advance by the Lord.

## New Arrivals

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

Cory Adam to Terry and Sharon (Jackson) Van Kanegan of Kinsman, Ohio.

## Blessings

On July 6, 1986 Michael Blair was blessed in the Church by Bro. James R. Link at the Bronx, NY Branch.

Dwight Roland Hedley was blessed by Bro. Salvatore Feola of the Bronx, NY Branch on August 17, 1986.

On March 15, 1987 Michael Anthony, son of Colleen and Tony Manalaysay, was blessed in the Church by his uncle, Bro. Mark Kovacic, at the Miami, FL Mission.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## OBITUARIES

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

### ANNETTE PAGNOZZI

Sister Antoinette (Annette) Pagnozzi passed on to her reward on October 27, 1986. She was born in 1919 in New Brunswick, NJ and was baptized into the Church on July 7, 1957 by Bro. Dominic Thomas, and confirmed by Bro. Gabriel Mazzeo, Sr.

She was ordained a deaconess on March 31, 1974 by Bro. Frank Mazzeo.

Sis. Annette's cheery disposition and bright smile will be missed by everyone in the New Brunswick Branch and the Atlantic Coast District. While she suffered with illness during her last years, she never failed to praise the Lord and give of herself.

May God bless and comfort her sister Mary, and all her surviving family.

### ANTOINETTE BILARDO

Sister Antoinette Bilardo passed on to her eternal reward on April 9, 1987. She was born in Queens, NY on October 16, 1909. She became a member of the Church on October 16, 1925.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Frank Mazzeo and James Sgro. Our sister is survived by her husband, Bro. Natale (Chris), two sons, one daughter, three sisters, two brothers, and seven grandchildren.

Our sister will be missed by the brothers and sisters of the New Brunswick Branch, and by a host of beloved friends throughout the Church.



# The Gospel News

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

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## Married 50 Years

*By Katherine Cocco*

Bro. Joseph and Sis. Victoria Calabrese of the Lorain, Ohio Branch celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary recently at a reception held at a hall in Lorain. Bro. Joe and the former Victoria Thomas are both native to the Lorain area and were married there on April 6, 1937. They are the parents of Sis. Bonnie Smith and Sis. Cheryl Smith, both of Pinetop, AZ; Bro. Dennis Calabrese and Sis. Candace Genaro of Tse Bonito, NM, and Bro. Joel Calabrese of the Lorain Branch. They have fourteen grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Sis. Vicki was the first of the two to be baptized, in July of 1944. Bro. Joe joined the Church shortly afterward in February of 1945. Since that time, The Church of Jesus Christ and promoting the Restored Gospel have been the center of thier lives.

In their years of serving God together there have been blessings beyond



Sis. Vicki and Bro. Joe Calabrese of Lorain, OH.

measure, and trials to build their faith. In 1950 Sis. Vicki was severely burned while lighting a furnace pilot light. Through the goodness of God she not only miraculously survived the accident, but she bears no scars or marks on her body to indicate that the tragedy occurred.

In 1965 Bro. Joe became the General Church correspondent, a position he held for fifteen years. During this time he received a message from the Lord: "Increase your faith." Soon after that he became blind, and following cataract surgery his eyes hemorrhaged, giving the doctors little hope for his vision returning. The saints went into prayer and fasting, and today Bro. Joe has 20/15 (better than average) vision in both eyes. Praise God for His mercies.

Through the years Bro. Joe has been active in the General Church, District, and Branch levels, holding offices responsibly and opening doors for the spreading of the Gospel. One time, when Bro. Joe was hospitalized for severe nosebleeds, he complained to the Lord, asking Him why this was happening. While in an unconscious state, he was removed from the hospital room by Jesus and taken back through time. Jesus showed Bro. Joe Cain killing Abel. The Lord said, "The same spirit that did this to Abel and to the prophets and to all men of God is trying to do it to you." Bro. Joe was in this state for a number of days, and after many prayers he was made well. The good Lord once again healed our brother!

Sister Vicki, along with her husband, has kept active and involved in all facets of the Church. She has served as a deaconess since her ordination in the early 1960's, and has held various of-

fices in the Lorain Ladies' Circle. She has been an example to her family and to everyone who knows her, always bearing up her husband's hand, helping in every way.

(Continued on Page 3)

## NOTICE

The National Education Committee is searching for instructional material (units of study, lesson plans, seminar packets, etc.) that has already been used successfully in the Branches and Missions of the Church. For many years, God has inspired brothers and sisters to develop teaching material for use at the local levels. The National Education Committee hopes to collect and compile appropriate materials into an organized curriculum.

Please gather and send any pertinent instructional material that you have to:

Sis. Jan Steinrock  
200 Russell  
Saline, MI 48176

Please include background information, if known, with the material; for example, scriptural sources, when and how the materials were used, authors, whether or not it was approved by the priesthood.

Your help will be greatly appreciated. May God bless you for your efforts.

The National Education Committee

## Miracles Never Cease

The Bright Family from the Levittown, PA Branch would like to thank all those who sent their prayers, cards, and gifts for our son Jared. As many of you know, Jared, at four and a half years old, had to have exploratory surgery.

The remarkable thing about the surgery was that the surgeon who performed the operation felt it was necessary because he could not believe the miracle that he saw with his own eyes.

Jared had been complaining of stomach pains for a couple of days, but it didn't seem to be anything serious since our other son, Benjamin, has just recovered from a five-day bout with a stomach virus. When Jared's sickness lasted into the sixth day, Ray (his father) took him in for a check-up.

Because it was Sunday, Ray had to take him to the emergency room at the hospital. After an x-ray and a blood test, the doctors there were not sure if Jared had appendicitis or if it was a viral infection. They sent him home and told us to bring him back to the pediatrics ward Monday morning for a follow-up examination. That evening after coming home from the hospital, Jared ate a large plate of spaghetti. He did not have any symptoms of appendicitis.

The following morning when Ray took Jared to the hospital, the doctors could feel a lump. While waiting for the surgeon to come to examine him, Jared was running around the room as if nothing was wrong. The surgeon arrived and decided that the lump had to be investigated in order to determine its cause. He thought that because Jared was not in much pain, it could be a tumor. When occurring at such a young age, tumors are usually cancerous.

When the doctor operated on Jared, he found that Jared's appendix had ruptured and could see by its condition that it had *been* ruptured for a number of days. The miracle is that the poison stayed in a pocket just around the appendix area. It came near his intestines, but did not penetrate the region at all. It just caused them to swell a little.

The surgeon could not believe his eyes. The poison should, by rights, have gone all through Jared's system. So the doctor performed the exploratory

surgery, but his eyes were right the first time. The poison simply stayed by his appendix. Further tests confirmed that Jared's appendix had been ruptured for five days.

PRAISE GOD!! Our son is still alive! One week from the day of his surgery, Jared was released from the hospital. Oh, how we love our ALMIGHTY God and how we thank Him for *all* that He has done for us. God is still the same yesterday, today, and forever. Praise Him! We love Him.

In Christ,  
Sis. Cindy, Ray, Jared, and  
Benjamin Bright

## My Experience

*By Sis. Janet Oestreicher,  
Saline, MI Mission*

On April 3 of this year, my husband Pete and I had all the members and friends of the Saline Mission to our house for a get-together. About a week and a half before they came, I had the following experience:

I was lying in bed, unable to sleep. I didn't want to wake my husband, so I started to sing a hymn to myself. There is a street light that shines into our room, but suddenly the room became very dark. I could see a black cloud hovering in the room. Suddenly I felt a very heavy force on my body. I couldn't move. I tried to reach for my husband or say something to him, but I could do neither. I became very scared, and began to pray. Finally it left, but when I awoke the next morning, I had a terrible backache, with pain all the way down my legs.

A few nights later the same thing happened. This time the evil spirit had me by the neck and it felt like I was being choked. I could hear the most evil breathing, a horrible sound I cannot describe. This time I wasn't scared, though; instead I became very angry. I knew that the evil spirit was trying to keep me from having the brothers and sisters to our house. When I awoke this time, I had a terrible chest cold and congestion. I kept saying to myself, "I don't care if I have to crawl, I am having the Saline Mission over to our house."

A couple of nights later, the evil spirit came back a third time. This time, the

dark cloud just hovered in the room. It didn't come near me. The next morning I had a very large lump under my arm, so large that I could see it when I lifted my arm. I became very alarmed, because being a nurse for many years, I knew that if this lump was cancerous, the surgery would be extensive because of its location near the lymph nodes. I didn't tell anyone what had been happening. I just prayed and fasted every day, not touching so much as a drop of water.

Finally April 2 arrived and my sister, Theresa, came up from Pennsylvania to help me with the preparations. We had planned for April because we assumed that the weather would be nice by then. Well, another setback occurred. She had to leave on the morning of April 3 because Ohio and Pennsylvania were expecting a big snowstorm. My sister didn't want to leave, but I insisted that I could handle things myself. The rest of the preparations were very easy, and I even had time to sit down for a couple of hours before the brothers and sisters arrived. Bro. Jim Cotellesse said a few words of prayer, and the evil spirit never appeared to me after that.

A couple of days before my doctor's appointment to have the lump checked, I had a dream. To clarify the dream, I must tell you that my mother, the late Sis. Rose DeVincentis of Aliquippa, PA, had experienced many dreams of revelation. She had learned through the years that whenever she dreamed of a baby, she knew that some trial or problem would come to the person who was holding the baby. Well, I dreamed that a big white car came to my house and drove off with a baby. I felt then that my problem would be taken away.

I saw the doctor on April 23. As I drove into the parking lot, I lifted my arm again. The lump was still there, as big as ever. I said, "Lord, I've done everything that I was taught to do. I've fasted and prayed, I was anointed, the rest is up to You. This is it. This is the 'showdown.'" I went into the office and the doctor began to examine me. She said, "Where is the lump? I can't find anything."

God answered my prayers. I just want to praise Him!!

---

*"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." (Isaiah 26:3)*

## An Experience

By Bertha Constantine  
Cape Coral, FL

On March 4, 1987 as we were driving south in Fort Myers, Florida (Joseph was driving) we hit a wet spot in the road and our car went out of control, skidding over the median strip. The traffic was very heavy at the time (8:30 a.m.), and thinking we would be hit at any moment, fear came over me, but thoughts of God's help were with me.

I screamed out, "God help us!" The car turned north and came to a halt on the median strip—traffic on both sides had stopped. Only the hand of God could have taken control of our car at that moment.

We want to praise His high and holy name for being with us at that time and watching over us, as He has done many times in our family's lives and our own.

We know we serve a living God who listens when we cry out unto Him. Two weeks later I was hospitalized for my heart problems and placed in intensive care for 24 hours, but I remembered that before I left home Bro. Raymond Cosetti had anointed me and I felt the Lord's presence with me. I thank all the brothers and sisters throughout the Church for their prayers and cards and telephone calls. Thanks to God again for being with me.

## Miracle in Warren, Ohio

On July 17, 1986 Sister Jennie Ciarrochi was taken to the hospital in very much pain. The doctors began taking a variety of tests and x-rays. They said that she had a lower bowel obstruction and needed immediate surgery. This was on a Sunday morning. She refused to have surgery, but the doctor said that she had no choice. Sis. Jennie said she was too old for an operation, and that she would put her trust and faith in the Lord. She was anointed several times.

One night in the hospital as she had her eyes closed and was praying to God to help her, she opened her eyes after praying and saw in front of her eyes a sign with the word "no" on it. She didn't pay much attention to the sign, but it kept appearing to her off and on.

The same thing happened the next day, only the word that appeared this time was "surgery." She was confused and became depressed because she thought the good Lord was trying to tell her something, but she didn't understand.

In the meantime, the doctor came in and asked her if she had made up her mind about the operation. She said, "No, I'm waiting for a miracle." She told this to everyone who came in to see her.

That same day, the miracle happened. The doctor showed her x-rays which indicated that the obstruction in her bowel had cleared itself. Sis. Jennie had a wonderful testimony when she got out of the hospital. She thanked God for sparing her the operation, and was grateful for the wonderful love God has for us.

Sis. Jennie is the oldest member of the Warren, Ohio Branch, 85 years old with 60 years in the Gospel. May God bless all who read of this miracle. He has been good to Sis. Jennie in many ways, and she thanks Him for His wonderful love.

## Greetings from Anadarko, OK

From Oklahoma to all the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ,

We wish to thank you all for your prayers for Bro. Bill since his light stroke last January. He has been in the V.A. Hospital in Oklahoma City in April and May. On May 19th surgery was performed to clear the arteries in his neck. After a day in the ICU, he is getting along rather well. He told me that the first thing that came to his mind when he awakened from surgery was the song *Sing Hallelujah—There is a Savior, they call Him Jesus*.

In April we traveled to Indiana to be with our daughter Sara and her family. They had been in an automobile accident the week before and Sara, her husband Dave, and their six-month-old son Andrew had suffered injuries, both major and minor ones. Their two older sons were both okay, thank God.

Brothers Jerry Giovannone and Vince Gibson had flown to Indianapolis to visit our daughter. They anointed her and blessed the baby. After Andrew was blessed he no longer needed the heart

monitor he had been on from birth. Our daughter is now back to her job on a limited basis, and her husband expects to return to his job shortly. God has been so good to them.

We are thankful to the Audio-Visual Committee for being so prompt in sending us the tapes of all the Church meetings and activities. We listen to the tapes almost every day, and these tapes are our "Church," as the nearest branch or mission is 250 miles away from us.

God has been so good to us, and He blesses us daily. May God bless you all as much as He blesses us.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Crall,  
Anadarko, Oklahoma

### MARRIED continued . . .

Bro. Joe is planning his fourth trip to India for the Church later this year. When he was asked recently when he first became a missionary, his reply was, "When I walked out of the waters of baptism." May God bless our brother and sister with many more happy years of service to Him.

## Six Nations Mission 50th Anniversary

The Church of Jesus Christ has been involved with missionary work at the Six Nations Indian Reservation in Oshweken, Ontario, Canada since 1937. In observance of the mission's 50th anniversary, a special weekend is planned for July 25-26, 1987. Meetings are scheduled as follows:

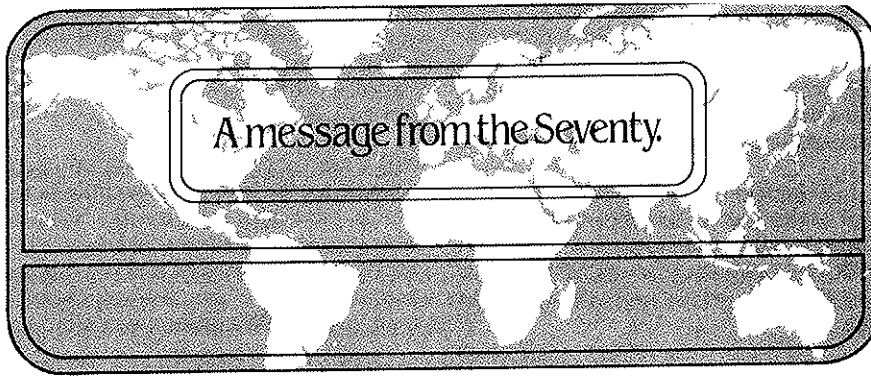
Saturday, July 25

7:00 p.m. Evangelistic Meeting, featuring Brothers Luis Pacheco and Norman James. Meetings will be held in the community building at Six Nations.

Sunday, July 26

10:00 a.m. Anniversary Service, location to be announced. A lunch will be served following this service.

All are welcome to come and make this celebration one to remember. For further details contact Bro. Tom Everett, (313) 777-6637.



## Some Present Ongoing Programs

*By Carl J. Frammolino  
Quorum of Seventy Editor*

The missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ is being pursued in many places on the earth today. New locations are being reached, while existing missions are being serviced to help them grow and flourish.

All parts of the ministry are being used, as apostles, evangelists, and elders are working together to accomplish the goals of the Restored Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ. While it is impossible to report all of the efforts in this magnificent overall work, it may be appropriate to examine certain areas, historically and currently.

Some evangelists have either pioneered or have been given the responsibility to implement ongoing programs, as expounded by their calling. They have been very much involved in distant lands, as well as in North America, where the main branch is located at Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

### AFRICA

The Church's first travelers to Africa were the late General Church President, Apostle William H. Cadman, and Apostle Joseph Bittinger in 1954. Brother Cadman had received correspondence from Africa, and in pursuing these letters, he became increasingly desirous of going there. After the initial trip, the late Evangelist Alvin Swanson served an 18-month tour of duty there, planting this endeavor permanently.

The late Evangelist John Ross became the Church's liaison to Africa after Brother Cadman. Brother Ross made many trips there and was so beloved by the Nigerian brothers and sisters that they named him "Nigerian Brother" and "Nigerian Son." He also

served a tour of duty there, accompanied by his wife, Sister Mary.

Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio was a resident missionary in Nigeria for six years, along with his wife, Sister Lorraine, and their two sons. His accounts of how the Lord has blessed the saints in Nigeria have thrilled the entire Church. He currently is in charge of coordinating the Nigerian work.

Now there for their second term are Elder Paul Carr, his wife, Thressa, and their family. While in the United States between tours last year, Brother Carr related how God is continuing to bless the African brothers and sisters.

Many have come into the Church and the paramount ruler, E.U.A. Arthur, also an evangelist, is president of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria. There are many branches and missions in that country, and the Church has been extended west to neighboring Ghana and eastward to Kenya. Inquiries and requests are also being received from other African nations.

### SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Church has established a secondary school in Nigeria. It was built on church-owned land more than fifteen years ago. The school was dedicated in 1972, and the then-General Church President, Apostle Gorie Ciaravino, attended the dedication along with Apostle Joseph Bittinger. Brother Ciaravino delivered the dedicatory sermon before 5,000 people.

The school is being run with the assistance of the Nigerian government. It has served to be immensely valuable to the students there, providing them with an opportunity to further their education that they might not otherwise have.

### INDIA

In 1981, Evangelists Swanson and Joseph Calabrese traveled to India to establish the Church there. Once again as in Africa, the work was begun through correspondence.

A medical professional, B. David Livingston, had written to Brother Calabrese, who was the General Church foreign correspondent, inquiring about our faith and doctrines. He subsequently came to the United States, became familiar with the Church, and is now an elder in one part of that huge nation.

Another man from India, A. Devanandam, later visited the parent church and is now an elder. He leads a large flock in another area, 350 miles away from Brother Livingston.

As in Africa, many souls are coming into the Restored Gospel fold, and the work of the Lord is growing there. Many beautiful spiritual experiences have been reported, and the gifts and power of God are being manifested.

Brother Calabrese has shown slides of India to many Church locations in North America. He is very willing to visit any place and show these slides of the Church in India.

### GUATEMALA

In another part of the world, plans have been made to send missionaries to the country of Guatemala this year. A contingent headed by Evangelists Frank Ciotti and Dwayne Jordan traveled there last December to prepare the way and to find a building in which to hold services. This branching out into the Central and South American direction is in keeping with the Church's belief that the Gospel is to go to the Seed of Joseph in the western hemisphere.

Elders Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin and their wives and families, along with Sister Rose Anderson, all from the Santa Ana, California Branch, are scheduled to go and live there on a permanent basis. Hopes are high for Guatemala!

Back in the United States and Canada, new places are being started while others have been maintained in a particular program under the General Church Development Committee. This group is composed of Evangelists who

(Continued on Page 6)

## The Gospel News

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovatvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Mary Tamburino  
100 Oak Drive  
Alliquippa, PA 15001

**DISTRICT EDITORS****ARIZONA**

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

**ATLANTIC COAST**

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

**CALIFORNIA**

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

**FLORIDA**

Joseph Graziosi  
819 Sunrise Blvd., Apt. 2  
Ft. Pierce, FL 33450

**OHIO**

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

**MICHIGAN-ONTARIO**

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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**BUSINESS OFFICE**

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In my three years as editor, I have always depended on the Lord to provide me with material to print in the *Gospel News*, and He has never failed me. Because I don't plan what articles will be written from month to month, I am always pleasantly surprised to discover the things God has inspired my brothers and sisters to write about.

As I was compiling this month's issue, a theme clearly emerged in the mail that I received: The Lord has blessed His people with miracles and demonstrations of His great power, and we want to praise Him for it.

In a great variety of ways, God has shown to us again and again that He is real. A woman lighting a gas flame is severely burned and suffers no scars. A child's appendix is ruptured for five days and he barely suffers. A car out of control is brought to a safe stop by the hand of God. An elderly sister in the hospital puts her faith and trust in the Lord and He eliminates the need for surgery. Another sister, preparing to entertain the saints in her home, has a lump appear under her arm. She turns her heart to the only One who can take it away, and the tumor disappears completely.

We read of a Mexican brother who, unable to repay a bank loan, miraculously has the money handed to him at the last second. And lest we forget, we are reminded of the miracle that God performed on Bro. Ryan Ross nine years ago, extending Ryan's life so that His name might be glorified.

At a time when it seems easy to dwell on what *doesn't* seem to be going right, it is important for us to remember how good God has been. The examples above are only a few of the ways that the Lord has taken care of His people; each one of us, I'm sure, could recount a dozen more from personal experience. As we each endeavor to draw closer to the Lord, feeble as our efforts may sometimes be, He continues to extend His mighty arm toward us in much mercy.

It is important for us to hear how the Lord has intervened on behalf of His servants. Hearing these testimonies and experiences gives us greater strength and determination to continue on the path of righteousness.

Conversely, if we begin to dwell on life's trials, we can quickly become discouraged and open the door for fear and unbelief to creep in. Certainly the enemy of our souls would want to weaken us by causing us to forget about the goodness of God. That is why I am especially happy, perhaps now more than ever, to read of these many ways that the Lord has taken care of us.

It has always been my desire that *The Gospel News* would be a means by which the saints of God, and all those who read it, might draw closer to one another and to the Lord. We can rejoice with those that rejoice in these wonderful experiences, and perhaps take the time to recall some of our own. My prayer is that we all would continue to know in our hearts that God *will* take care of us, as long as we do our utmost to please Him.

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## God Is the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever

Dear Girls and Boys,

We read about great people in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Everyone seems like they are braver than we are, or have more faith, or are more special and had an easier time of it than we do today. But that's not true; sin is as old as the Garden of Eden. God always blesses people who love Him and search to learn His ways.

But when people are blessed, they often feel confident and strong and then they stop leaning on God. They forget to say their prayers and ask God for direction. Then they go down the paths of life and make one little wrong turn, then another, and then another.

Sometimes people have to be really lost or fall into a big hole before they remember God—the marvelous God who first created them and who has blessed them so much in the past. Many people are hard-hearted or stubborn and must travel dark paths of unhappiness before they believe and see that the beautiful peace along the pathway to God's kingdom is also the most joyful path. It's a path full of God's mysterious power.

In the Old Testament days, God worked eighty years with Moses to teach him before he was chosen to lead thousands of the Children of Israel to freedom. Moses and the Lord worked long, and hard, and patiently to show the people the beauty and power that could be theirs when they walked on God's pathways. But those people, who had all been slaves in Egypt, were used to sinful ways, and used to feeling like sophisticated Egyptians and were quick to forget God's ways and His blessings upon them.

First they had seen God send ten

plagues upon the Egyptian nation while He protected them. Then they were heaped with gifts and riches by their Egyptian masters before they left on their journey.

God guided them by night with a huge, towering cloud of fire that gave them light, and by day with a tall, tall cloud to shade them from the hot desert sun. When the Pharaoh and his armies came rushing after them on horseback and on chariots, God sent an east wind to blow a path through the sea so the people Moses led could cross over on dry land. And the Lord stopped the wind when the Pharaoh's armies crossed so they were all drowned and could not harm Moses and the children of Israel.

Yet the people still complained after a few days that they were hungry, so God sent a delicious special food from heaven, called manna. Every day they gathered enough to eat, but they still wanted meat, so then God sent flocks of quail, a delicious bird which they caught and ate, and then a few days later they complained again.

In the Book of Numbers, in Chapter 21, the Lord delivered the house of Israel from another great battle. A short while later the people became discouraged again and complained, saying, "Why did we have to leave Egypt and be in this wilderness? We're sick of manna, too!"

And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and the serpents bit them and many of the people died. The others stopped to think about what they were doing and said, "We've sinned, complaining against the Lord." They asked Moses, "Pray unto God, that He would take the serpents from us!" And Moses prayed.

And the Lord said unto Moses, "Make a fiery serpent out of brass and put it on a pole, and anyone who is bitten only has to lift up their heads and look, and they will live.

Yet some of the people were so angry and stubborn that they refused to lift their heads and look. It's just like Jesus today. Anyone who will look to Jesus and lift up their problems in prayer to Him can be healed of their problems or the pain of their problems.

Just like the children of Israel who lifted their heads and were healed, we can be healed, too. We can tell Jesus we were on the wrong path and He will take us back to the right path and begin to help us. As God did in the days of Moses, he will do today—because Jesus tells us, "God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

---

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."*  
(Matthew 11:28 & 29)

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### PROGRAMS continued . . .

function through the Quorum of Seventy. Brother Elmer Santilli is the chairman of this committee.

The goals are to review, coordinate, and establish programs to promote spiritual growth in branches and missions throughout the Church. The scope includes attracting new members, encouraging friends to attend, servicing missions in remote areas, concentrating on the gifts of the Gospel, and providing meaningful activities for children. This list is not complete; there are many ways in which service may be rendered to established locations. The committee and all evangelists, of course, are fully aware that God's help and guidance are required for all efforts to be successful.

Even though it is not possible to report on all phases of the Church's missionary activities in this article, it is hoped that more insight may be gained into the vast missionary labors being expended. Your prayers are also requested, as continued efforts are made to spread the Gospel of Christ.



## MBA Highlights

### Spanish Studied in New Jersey

By Linda Calabro,  
Hopelawn, NJ

On the first Sunday of 1987, Bro. Gary Ciccati, our MBA President, posed a question at our MBA service that has made a big impact on the Atlantic Coast Area. He asked us to state our New Year's resolution. It was that night that I decided to pursue learning Spanish this year. A few weeks had passed, and

I asked Bro. Rick Calabro and Sis. Lisa DiRado if they would join me in my venture. They both agreed, and we enrolled in a night course at the local high school. A week before we started our class, I saw in a dream Bro. Rick, Sis. Lisa, and myself marching side by side while singing the chorus to *Keeping Step*.

We began to attend our classes, where we met our instructor, señora Lake. Towards the end of the term, we decided to ask señora Lake if she would be willing to teach the brothers and sisters one night a week. We thought we'd have to cajole her with money. One evening after class, we began to tell her about the Church. When we explained that we have Spanish-speaking members of our church, and that we were taking Spanish in order to communicate with them, her face lit up. She

was so impressed that we as young people had a desire to serve the Lord. She willingly accepted the offer to teach the brothers and sisters, free of charge. We learned that night that she is very active in her church and that she corresponds with missionaries in Brazil. Bro. Rick, Sis. Lisa, and I knew that the Lord had put señora Lake in our path.

Señora Lake has agreed to come to one of our branches and offer Spanish to anyone willing to learn. We are thankful that the Lord blessed us with a kind, religious instructor. We are excited about taking these classes, and we pray that some day we will be able to freely communicate with the Seed of Joseph and break down the barriers of communication that serve as a stumbling block in fulfilling our Divine Commission.

## Our Women Today

### Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Vanderbilt, PA on May 2, 1987. Approximately seventy sisters from Ohio and Pennsylvania were in attendance.

The Vanderbilt Circle sang *Help Somebody today* and *Count Your Blessings*. They then read poems and scripture surrounding the theme, "Stop and Smell the Roses." Sis. Mabel Bickerton, president of the General Circle, said we should count our blessings and that we ought to do more for the Lord.

The business began with the roll call of officers and the reading of the last Conference's minutes. We then heard condensed reports from the Area Circles of the Arizona, Atlantic Coast, California, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania Districts.

Financial reports were given and accepted by motion. The circle has General, Indian Missionary, Cook Book, and Memorial funds active at this time.

Contributions to the Memorial Fund for this period were given in memory of: Stella Arcuri, Harold Barnhart, Irene Beeman, Edna Bittinger, Frank

Calabrese, Del Carneval, Mr. and Mrs. James Cowan, Evelyn Dale, Joseph Damore, Concetta Dintino, Cora Fowler, Rosemarie Geracitano, Tony and Nancy LaCivita, Art Landrey, Ellen Timms Lottic, Joseph Milantoni, Eugenio Perri, Filomena Rullo, Carlo Saragosa, Fedelle and Domenica Tamburrino, Harry Timms, Sr., Milton E. Timms, and David Williams.

The special project, funds for Mexico, was a huge success. A total of \$4229.00 was collected from the home circles. The next period's project will be to send layettes to San Carlos and to Sis. Perdue in Tijuana. There will also be a special drive for the memorial fund.

Funds were donated to the General Church Mission Board for American Indian work, for Africa, and for India.

Answers to the questions assigned at the last conference were given as follows:

1. Who was called the Prince of Peace? Book of Mormon—II Nephi 19:6 and Alma 13:8.
2. Who shall inherit the Kingdom of God, and what shall be theirs forever? Book of Mormon—II Nephi 9:18.
3. How many things were made from steel? Book of Mormon—I Nephi 4:9 & 16:18, II Nephi 5:15, and Jarom v. 8.
4. What made Enos whole? Book of Mormon—Enos v. 8.

5. Where in the Old Testament do we find Muppim, Huppim, and Ard? Genesis 46:21.

The next General Conference will be held at Warren, Ohio on October 3, 1987. A vote of thanks was given to the Vanderbilt Circle for their hospitality.

The remainder of the conference was spent in singing songs, and some of the sisters gave their testimonies as to how they came in contact with the Church.

As was said by one of the sisters, the sun was not shining outside, but the Spirit of God was shining inside.

### Aliquippa, PA Circle

By Mary Tamburrino

The Aliquippa, PA Ladies' Uplift Circle had a get-acquainted dinner. Forty-four sisters and friends attended the dinner on Tuesday, May 26, 1987.

Joyceann Jumper, the local president, started the program by welcoming everyone. Josephine Ross gave a brief background of the Ladies' Circle, Ruth Jumper read the pledge, the by-laws were explained by Martha Jumper, Erma Rossi told of how she finds the word in her office as Word Giver. Philomena DeLuca sends cards or flowers, Victoria

(Continued on Page 11)

## Coming Forth As Gold

By Jeffrey Giannetti

*"But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold" (Job 23:10).*

On Sunday, May 17, 1987, Brother Ryan Ross passed on to his eternal reward. The cause of death was a tumor located at the base of Ryan's brain. This affliction was the second brain tumor suffered by our brother. The first tumor, appearing in 1977, was removed completely by the hand of God and Bro. Ryan's life was extended an additional nine years.

During the nine years granted Ryan by the Lord, our brother bore an endless testimony in praise to God for the goodness bestowed upon him. Schoolmates, co-workers, loved ones, brothers and sisters, family, and friends were constantly reminded by our brother of the miracle God had worked in his life.

Bro. Ryan never passed an opportunity to tell someone what the Lord had done for him, and he would use his testimony to introduce his listeners to The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Ryan planted hundreds of seeds as he bore his testimony to all who would listen, and we trust and pray that as the years pass, the Lord will add the increase.

In June of 1986, Bro. Ryan was again diagnosed as having a brain tumor. He was given four months to a year to live. Let me point out that this tumor was in no way related to his previous illness. Let no one doubt the miracle that occurred in the removal of that first tumor from our brother's body.

As the months passed, literally thousands of prayers were offered in Ryan's behalf. However, the Lord chose to take him home. Ryan Ross died at the age of 30.

We may not understand why the Lord took such a zealous brother home at this very young age. Suffice it to say, God knows best in all things. There is one thing of which we can be certain, however, and that is that Bro. Ryan did not die in vain. Hundreds were touched by his testimony and the name of God was glorified for the miracle worked in Ryan's life.

Also, throughout this long trial en-

dured by our brother and his loving family, as the scripture above states, our brother came forth as gold. Never did he ask why or complain. Words of discouragement and despair were not in his vocabulary. From beginning to end, in good times and in bad, the name of the Lord Jesus was on our brother's lips as he lifted his voice in praise. Bro. Ryan's faith and courage were unsurpassed. He brought honor to the Church and illustrated a true love for his God produced by obedience to the Restored Gospel.

Bro. Ryan's life is certainly one from which we can all learn a valuable lesson. His love for the Lord, his faith and unceasing praise, were sterling examples to every member and friend of the Church. Let us all honor God by attempting to continue the praise Bro. Ryan so tirelessly offered. Each day of our lives, let us praise God and tell all of His goodness and love. For the name of God and His son, Jesus Christ, are truly "Names Worthy of Praise."\*

\*"A Name Worthy of Praise" was the title given to the program authored by Bro. Ryan for the November, 1986 GMBA Conference

## The Savor of Salt

Salt is a common chemical compound of sodium and chlorine; a vital element needed in the chemistry of the human body. While the dietary requirements of the body must maintain a certain level of salt for metabolism, we are admonished by the medical profession to limit our salt intake. Excessive salt intake in our diets can substantially contribute to health problems; principally high blood pressure and heart disease.

There is considerable effort put forth in the food processing market to make available salt-free and low-salt foods for those who require or prefer this type of diet. In conversing with anyone on a salt restricted diet on the subject of food, there is a strong probability that the individual is dissatisfied with such a bland, tasteless diet. Why so tasteless? Anyone who enjoys eating knows that salt is a necessary ingredient in food preparation. Salt makes the taste of food (which is the enjoyable part of eating) more palatable. When added to your favorite foods it makes them savory. Even dessert recipes require a pinch of salt.

Seeing the necessity of salt, the Lord

Jesus Christ exhorts the saints in Matthew 5:13, saying, "Ye are the salt of the earth." In pondering this statement, we come to realize that as salt adds the savor to food, so likewise the saints add a savor to life. It is our obedience to the commandments of God, the virtues of faith, hope, and love, our thanksgiving in good and bad times, our fervent desire to gather together and worship God; these qualities working in our lives add a savory ingredient that makes life worth the living.

When we come in contact with those in search of life's meaning, these virtues of our service to God kindle their interest. The seeking soul observes within our lives a joy and peace that causes them to desire the same. Our righteous service to God is the saltiness that flavors life: It opens the door of friendship, enabling us to convey this saltiness to those who know not the Gospel. How delicious to the seeking soul is our testimony of joy and love. Truly the savor of salt is our service to God; by it we lead others to Christ.

Jesus further states, "but if the salt have lost his savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." In the total completion of this verse, Jesus indicates that the salt can lose its savor or, in reality, the saints can fall short of their service to God. If any of us permit ourselves to fall into this situation, we become fruitless in the Gospel: we return to the pleasures of sin; our life becomes lukewarm. The saltiness (which is our service to God in righteousness and truth) no longer flavors our life.

Signs of the salt losing its savor include a gradual overall lack of interest in the Gospel. Time is given to other activities until we are at a minimum of involvement in the work of the Lord. We maintain a weak membership, drifting along without realizing any trouble within one's self.

Oh, that we all might awaken to the reality of our day and time, that we might take inventory of our lives. To retain our saltiness throughout life, we must maintain righteous living on a day-to-day basis. As we continue in this way of life, our contact with others will, by our daily living, give them a taste of the joy of this life as it is properly seasoned with the salt of the earth.

Love in Christ,  
Brother David Nolfi

## Ohio District Mission Board

By Joel T. Calabrese

Greetings to all the brothers and sisters and readers of *The Gospel News*. We of the Ohio District Mission Board wish to enlighten everyone of the missionary efforts in our district.

The arm of our involvement reaches as far as Omaha, Nebraska and as near as the West Side Mission of Cleveland, with South Bend, Indiana, Cincinnati, Kent, Kilvert/Broadwell, and Columbus, Ohio in between. Recently we have been coordinating efforts with the Florida District in Evergreen, Alabama, and we have a number of members in North Carolina.

In Omaha the saints are very hard-working and they enjoy a very good spirit. With attendance growing some remodeling of their building was necessary, and recently completed.

South Bend currently has 14 members. Plans for their building include an addition on the back so that our brothers would have a place to stay since they will be spending more time there.

Our Cincinnati Mission currently meets every Sunday in the homes of the

saints, and they recently started traveling up to Columbus on the last Sunday of each month to meet with the brothers who are holding monthly meetings there. In Columbus we also held a Thanksgiving Dinner in which we fed over 250 people, mostly consisting of Native Americans, and it was a great success. Every branch supported the effort and the Indian people greatly appreciated it and received it very positively.

The Kent Mission, which meets twice a month, enjoys a good spirit and appreciates visits from brothers and sisters from throughout the district. The brothers and sisters involved in the Kilvert/Broadwell area enjoy God's blessings for their efforts as well.

On the first and third Sundays of the month the Cleveland West Side Mission meets in the homes of the saints. Their meetings are well attended and growth potential is good.

Lest we forget, the district is publishing *The True Vine Journal*. We print over 1,000 copies and mail them from the east to the west in the United States and the province of Ontario in Canada. New responses to it continue. We started to print part of it in Spanish, which led to inquiries from Miami, Florida and Southern California. Various literature continues to be requested and is sent out as available.

As you can see, the Ohio District is very active and a continued interest in your prayers is appreciated. God bless you all in your efforts to spread the Gospel throughout the entire world.

**Note:** Anyone with friends and/or relatives in any of the above-mentioned areas, please forward their names and addresses to:

Joel Gehly  
3229 S. Hill Rd.  
McKean, PA 16426

## Anaheim Couple Honored by Indians

Bro. Floyd and Sis. Lucy Hemp have been chosen by the Indian Council to be the guests of honor at the Annual Indian Pow-Wow held at the Orange County Fairground in Costa Mesa, CA from July 31 through August 2, 1987. There will be Indian tribes from many states represented at this large event.

This important honor is given in recognition for their 20 years of work with the Seed of Joseph.

They are members of the Anaheim, CA Branch and have just celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

## Branch and Mission News

### Anaheim/Santa Ana

By Carl Huttenberger

#### REVIVAL MEETING

At our Anaheim/Santa Ana joint revival meeting on February 4, 1987, we were privileged to hear, from Brothers Jim Huttenberger and Frank Ciotti, the news from Mexico City. The news is that God is working miracles like He never has before. Our brothers had visited with the brothers and sisters in Mexico City the week before.

One of the marvelous experiences that we heard about was had by a brother in Mexico City who had borrowed some money from the bank to do repairs to his home. His children had promised to help pay the loan back. The

amount of the loan was 250,000 pesos (about \$250 US). When the time came to pay the loan back, however, his children were not able to help him.

The bank told our brother that he had to pay the loan back by a certain day or he would be put in jail. Our brother fasted and prayed the night before that God would help him through this ordeal. The next day he began the walk to the bank, knowing the consequences that awaited him. (Incidentally, our brother earns two dollars a day at his job.)

As he approached the bank, someone tapped him on the shoulder. He turned around and saw two hands that were pure white. The voice he heard said, "Here is the money you owe." The hands counted out 255,000 pesos in brand new bills to our brother. When our brother looked up to see the person

attached to the hands, there was no one there, and then even the hands disappeared.

Not only was our brother able to pay the loan back, but he has the extra 5,000 peso note at home to prove to the world that God is alive and can work mighty miracles in our everyday lives, if we'd only trust in Him.

The following Sunday at the Anaheim Branch, we were privileged to have San Diego's Presiding Elder Lou Cicatti with us. He preached a beautiful sermon on a passage of scripture found in Luke 10:62. It reads, "And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Those of us who have begun our work for the Lord must not look back. Past mistakes and temptations are just that: Past! God wants us to look ahead to the

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## ANAHEIM continued . . .

great task that lies before us. If we harp on the past, Jesus says we are not even fit for the kingdom of God. The testimonies that followed confirmed this.

Bro. Mark Coppa told us that while on a business trip he was praying about the future work of the Church and Zion. Although we aren't seeing the physical aspects of Zion yet, God spoke to our brother and told him that if we want it, we can have Zion in our hearts right now. This is what we should be striving for today—a kind of peaceful reign within our hearts and within the Church. God told us we can have it now if we want it.

## Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Sunday February 8, 1987 the Inner City Branch of Detroit, along with many visitors and members from other branches, celebrated the ordination of four members to labor in the vineyard of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brothers Michael Coppa and Mark Mancinelli were called to be teachers in the branch, and Sisters Marguerite Heath and Judy Salerno were called as deaconesses.

A member of the Church for six years and a deacon for five, Bro. Mike's feet were washed by Bro. Dan Cotellesse and he was ordained by Bro. Gerald Benyola of Branch 1. Bro. Mark, also a member of the Church for six years, had his feet washed by Bro. Larry Champagne of Branch 1, and was ordained by Bro. Gary Champagne.

We believe that these two men accepted their new office with great joy and a newly refined look into their service to God.

Sister Marguerite has been in the Church for nearly eleven years. Her feet were washed by Sis. Rose Milantoni and she was ordained by Bro. Eugene Amormino. Sister Judy, a member of the Church for over 16 years, had her feet washed by Sis. Elizabeth Gerace and was ordained by Bro. Brian Martorana of Niles, Ohio, her home branch.

Right after the washing of feet took place, Bro. Joseph Genaro of Niles, Ohio had the gift of tongues, pointing to each

of the four chosen ones as he spoke. The interpretation later came forth that each one of them was washed clean. It was a beautiful confirmation that these callings are from God, and our prayer is that God would use these His servants to His best advantage.

## San Diego, CA

By Carolyn Martorana Light

The day began with a lively discussion in Sunday School about the calling of men into the ministry. Thoughts were raised about the purpose, manner, work, and responsibility of such callings. The Spirit of the Lord had begun to descend upon the congregation that had gathered to witness the ordination of Brother David B. Ciccatti into the priesthood on March 15, 1987.

Bro. Tom Liberto welcomed all to the House of the Lord, from as far away as Michigan and New Jersey. We were privileged to have Apostle Gorie Ciaravino in our midst, along with Bro. James Sgro, from New Brunswick, New Jersey, who opened the morning service describing the calling and works of men of God in the scriptures. Using such examples as Jeremiah, Moses, Abinadi, and Peter, Bro. Jim spoke of the various ways these men approached and related to God, and that God had sanctified them from the foundation of the world. He stated that many times these men felt unworthy, but that God said He would put His word in their mouths and with Him all things are possible.

Bro. Tom then read from Alma 13 on the order of the holy Priesthood being patterned after the order of the Son of God, without beginning or end. He admonished the minsitry to allow the Spirit of God to prompt them to take part in the ordination as directed. He also requested that any confirmations received that day be shared with all.

And so it was: After Bro. Isidro Gonzales of Tijuana washed Bro. David's feet, and Bro. Ralph Frammolino ordained him, three sisters revealed experiences in which they were given to know by the holy Spirit that these brothers would participate as they did. A vision was also related in which a personage descended from heaven with a crown, a scepter, and a mantle. As Bro. David was being ordained, one by one, each was placed upon him, symbolizing the authority of God. Praise the Lord for such revelations!

The ministry then felt to call Sis. Debbie Ciccatti and their sons forward and offer a prayer that God would bless them as they support Bro. David in his ministry. Throughout the day, various songs were dedicated to the occasion, including *He's Taken My Blindness*, and *Cristo Usame* (Jesus Use Me), which hold special significance for Bro. David. Then, given the opportunity to express himself, our newly ordained brother gave thanks unto God and to the many spiritual fathers and mothers that assisted him as he grew in the Gospel. He also thanked the ministry and requested their support in his work. Bro. David expressed a strong desire to labor among the Seed of Joseph.

After sacrament was administered, the meeting was opened for expressions of the saints. Again, more experiences were revealed regarding the calling of our brother. Our prayer is that Bro. David would always work to bring souls to Christ. We wish to thank our God for calling laborers and for confirming these callings with His Spirit and revelation.

## Lorain, OH

By Katherine Cocco

On Sunday, March 29, 1987 Bro. Brian Smith of Monongahela, PA opened our morning service using the teachings of Christ in Luke 17 as his text. He spoke on our service to the King and paid tribute to his grandparents, Bro. Joe and Sis. Vicki Calabrese. Bro. Tommy Smith, Brian's brother, played the piano for us on this morning.

On April 19, Bro. Ike Smith of Pinetop, AZ opened our meeting on the topic of planting the seed of Christ in our life and allowing spiritual growth to take place. His inspired words provided a blessed Easter message for all.

That same day, Brother Joel Calabrese was ordained an elder in the Church. His feet were washed by Bro. Brian Smith, and he was ordained by Bro. Joseph Calabrese. Bro. Joel has served as a deacon and a teacher since joining the Church in 1974.

Brothers Mark Naro and Eugene Presutto were ordained into the office of deacon on this day as well. Bro. Mark's feet were washed by Bro. Chuck Naro and he was ordained by Bro. Fred Olexa. Bro. Tony D'Antonio washed

Bro. Eugene's feet, and Bro. Bob Buffington ordained him. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless our brothers, along with their families, as they do their best to serve Him in the offices to which He has called them.

## Cleveland, OH

Sis. Kim Mellor of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch was baptized on Sunday, April 26, 1987 by Bro. Vince Gibson.

She was confirmed later that day at the General Church Conference by Bro. Paul Palmieri. May the Lord bless our new sister as she begins a life of service to God.

## Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Greetings to all my brothers, sisters, and friends. I am back with you after two years and will endeavor to bring you up to date on some of the happenings at our branch during that time.

There were four baptisms: Sis. Grace Bashaw, baptized and confirmed by Bro. Spencer Everett on July 28, 1985. Sis. Josephine McLennan was baptized by Bro. Lou Vitto on September 29, 1985 and was confirmed by Bro. Nephi DeMercurio. Bro. Joseph Jenio was baptized on August 31, 1986 by Bro. Louis Vitto and was confirmed by Bro. Dominic Moraca. Sis. Lillian Frendo was baptized on November 30, 1986 by Bro. Lou Vitto and was confirmed by Bro. George Benyola.

One of our sisters, Sis. Mary Armes, departed from this world to be with our God. Bro. Lou Vitto performed the service.

Our Easter service was a little different this year. Instead of having Sunday School, we met in the basement and had doughnuts and coffee, and milk for the children. Bro. Lou Vitto started off the service by wishing us a happy resurrection morning.

Bro. John Buffa was honored with a boutonniere, pinned on by his wife Sis. Grace, for fifty years in the Church. Bro. John thanked everyone for their prayers and support throughout the years. The young children entertained us with a couple of songs, one being *I Shall Wear a Crown*. Each child had on

a gold paper crown.

Bro. Sam DiFalco spoke to us from III Nephi 11:1-27, where Nephi was given the authority to baptize.

Bro. Lou summarized the service, stating that it was nice to see all the children of the saints with us today, and how we would like to see them more often. There is a wonderful spirit in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Bro. Lou invited any who wanted to commit their life to Christ to do so today.

Sis. Tammy Brown testified of her brother, Bro. Bill, who was badly hurt in an automobile accident and how he is miraculously improving. The doctor stood by his bedside as his vital signs improved and said, "Someone's prayers are being answered; it's nothing that we did."

Love written in the heart is there to stay, love written in the sands is soon washed away.

## Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Mother's Day, May 11, 1987 the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 3 were honored and blessed to have in our presence Apostle Joseph Bittinger. We also had visitors from Windsor, Ontario, Harrison, Michigan, and Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania.

Bro. Paul Whitton, our presiding elder, read *A Mother's Day Prayer* in honor of all mothers past, present, and yet-to-be. Then Bro. Paul turned the meeting over to Bro. Bittinger. Our visiting brother introduced the service by acknowledging the significance of this day and expressing to us the importance of building hope in the Resurrection. It is our faith and hope in Jesus Christ that will enable us to see those we love who have gone on before us. Bro. Bittinger then read from III Nephi 14:13-27.

In elaborating on this message, Bro. Joe mentioned that it is *not* easy to find the narrow gate. Jesus Christ drew us in and led us to the gate which leads to that narrow path. It is *not* easy, but it is *essential* to have desire, determination, and will. The things of God should be first and foremost, even in this material world in which we are living. There are limitations and guidelines, all found in the scriptures, that teach us

how to do the will of God. We must conform our lives to those standards set forth in the scriptures and become interested in the things of God, rather than the things of the world.

Bro. Bittinger continued his message. He likened the flow of a canoe in water to the way of a servant of God. A canoe, when left in the water on its own, will follow the flow of the stream. To change direction of the canoe requires some effort, as well as some aid. Likewise, to be a servant of God takes effort. He or she cannot drift along with the world.

To expound on his message further, Bro. Bittinger likened the construction of a building to the making of a servant of God. To build a structure requires all kinds of material. But this material must be of good quality and usable. Some buildings appear to be unique and extremely beautiful when viewed from the outside. But if these buildings happen to be constructed of bad material, their outside appearance amounts to very little. You see, the inside of the building carries its strength and forms the basic structure of its foundation. As a church, we must build our hope upon Jesus Christ, the solid Rock, or else we, like some of those apparently beautiful structures, will amount to very little.

In concluding the service, Bro. Paul Whitton reinforced today's message. He stated that the only thing we need to build upon is **God's Word**. The Church must be built on the precepts of God or it will shift to and fro. The higher the building is to reach, the deeper its foundation must be.

We thank God for this glorious day and for the message Bro. Bittinger brought forward to us. May our hope in Christ continue to flourish as the blossoms of Springtime.

### ALQUIPPA CIRCLE continued . . .

D'Antonio takes care of the layettes that are sent out, the history was read by Dora Rossi, and the collectors gave a short talk on their office.

The hymn *To the Work* was then sung. Five of the sisters in attendance made their wishes known that they would like to become members of the Ladies' Circle. We pray the Lord will bless them and all those that are active in supporting the missionary endeavors of The Church of Jesus Christ, which is one of the aims of the Circle.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

HUTTENBERGER—GENARO

Bro. Randy Mark Huttenberger and Sis. Amaya Joy Genaro were united in holy matrimony on February 14, 1987 at the Bixby Avenue Chapel in Garden Grove, California.

Bro. Frank Genaro, assisted by Bro. Peter Genaro, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sisters Alyse Genaro and Diane Surdock. All who attended expressed that they felt God's beautiful Spirit during the ceremony.

Members of the Anaheim Branch, the newlyweds are residing in Anaheim, California. We pray that God will reside in their hearts as they start their new life together.

WAYNE—HICKMAN

Bro. Jim and Sis. Jackie Hickman of New Bern, North Carolina announce the marriage of their daughter, Sister Jamie Hickman, to Michael Wayne on February 23, 1987.

The couple are making their home in New Bern, NC. May God bless their union with much joy.

ROSIER—AINSWORTH

On Saturday March 21, 1987, Michelle Renee Ainsworth and Dorsey Lee Rosier were joined in holy wedlock at The Church of Jesus Christ in Warren, Ohio.

Brother Jerry Giovannone performed the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sister Barbara Nuzzi.

The couple will reside in Georgia. May the Lord be with them in their new life together.

**New Arrivals**

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

Darren Andrew to Ron and Kathy (Furnari) Peshl of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Tanya Leigh to Gary and Mary Robertson of Erie, Pennsylvania.

Justin Louie to Joe and Denise Pennell of Lorain, Ohio.

Patrick Albert to David and Rosemary (Miller) Coleman of Virginia.

Rachel Lee to Terry and Diane (Miller) Hunt of Warren, Ohio.

Melissa Susan to Mark and Susan Coppa of Anaheim, California.

Darren James to Jim and Dottie Henderson of Anaheim, California.

**OBITUARIES**

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

ESTHER DYER

After a long, serious illness Sister Esther Dyer passed away on April 15, 1987. Anyone who visited her in her last days would hear her say that she was going home.

Sis. Esther was the wife of Bro. Bob Dyer, formerly of Erie, Pennsylvania. She was born June 2, 1925 in Glassport, PA and was baptized in December of 1945 by her father, Bro. Tony DiBattista. She was an ordained deaconess in the Church.

Bro. Ken Staley of Hollywood, FL read the eulogy at the funeral service, and Bro. Rodney Dyer gave the sermon. Solos were sung by Sis. Flo LaRosa and Sis. Judy Dyer.

Besides her husband Bro. Bob, our sister leaves a brother, John DiBattista of Glassport, PA, two sisters, Sis. Elizabeth Staley of Glassport and Sis. Florence LaRosa of Gastonia, NC, three sons, Robert, Ronald, and Rodney, and eight grandchildren.

Our sister will be missed by everyone at the Carolina Mission, but her name will live on in the beautiful songs which she wrote to the honor and glory of God. Two of her most familiar hymns are *Hallelujah*, *the Gospel Is Restored*, and *First Love*. May God continue to comfort her family, for we know she is free of her terrible sufferings.

VINCENT AQUILINO

Bro. Jim Aquilino passed on to his eternal reward on April 27, 1987 at the age of 98. He was born December 3, 1888 and was baptized into the Church in Lorain, Ohio on September 11, 1927. He served as a deacon and a teacher in the Lorain Branch, and in the course of his lifetime also held membership at the Detroit, MI Branch 4 and San Diego, CA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brothers Dominic Thomas and Joseph Calabrese officiated at the funeral in Lorain.

Our brother is survived by three daughters, Sis. Josephine Domenico of San Diego, Sis. Antoinette Ciaravino of Detroit Branch 4, and Sis. Violet Thomas of San Diego, as well as a stepdaughter and three stepsons. He also leaves five grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren, as well as many brothers, sisters, and friends in many parts of the country.



# The Gospel News

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

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August, 1987

Volume 43, No. 8

## May, 1987 GMBA Conference

*By Jeffrey Giannetti, GMBA Editor*

On the morning of May 16, 1987, saints from every district of the Church gathered for the start of the May GMBA held in Greensburg, PA. Following opening Comments from GMBA Chaplain Bro. Paul Ciotti, we were ready to proceed with the business of the day.

Throughout the morning, reports on this year's Campout, the Book of Mormon Concordance, the Student Morale Booster Program, the Camp Director's Manual, and other assorted items were heard. Also included in the business of the day were officers' and delegates' reports. Details of all the business conducted at the conference can be found in the GMBA minutes, available at your local MBA.

The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to a look at two of the Church's Established Missions, Muncey and Six Nations, and a new work, Meaford, all located in Ontario, Canada. Brothers, sisters, and children from these missions were guests of the GMBA for the weekend, and the afternoon session gave us an opportunity to know them better.

A series of three seminars were held during the afternoon, showing the history, background, and present status of each of the featured missions. The seminars were quite informative, and illustrated God's dealings with the Seed of Joseph in these areas. Our prayer is that the Lord would continue to bless and prosper these mission fields and all those involved in the work.

Saturday evenings at GMBA are always greatly anticipated. Various Area MBA's prepare programs that, through the years, have been a tremendous blessing to all. Over the years, the Michigan-Ontario Area has produced some of the finest programs, and this year's was no exception. The singing of beautiful hymns, combined with inspiring thoughts, produced an evening filled with the blessings of God. We thank the Lord for the wonderful talent that He has given to the Church. With the conclusion of the program, we adjourned for the day with anticipation of spending the Sabbath together.

Our Sunday service was started by again enjoying the singing of the Michigan-Ontario Choir. The meeting was then opened by Bro. Rodney Dyer of the Muncey, Ontario Mission. Bro. Rodney spoke from I Nephi 22 and told us that we (the Church) must be the standard for the world. We must prove that we are The Church of Jesus Christ by the lives we lead. Bro. Rodney asked if we are willing to do anything to see the Gospel prosper. He instructed us to accept and follow the plan of God in our lives and put God above all things. The lesson put forth by our brother was indeed an inspired one and much was learned from his message.

Throughout the morning, Brothers Norman Campitelle, Fred Olexa, Bob Buffington, Peter H. Capone, and Russ Martorana also spoke words of instruction and encouragement as the Spirit of God was enjoyed by all.

With the close of the Sunday service, the May GMBA Conference was

brought to a close. Once again we enjoyed the blessings and the Spirit of God, which are always present when the saints of God are gathered.

## Arizona District Conference

*By Frances J. Capone*

When the Arizona District Conference ended on April 5, 1987, the sun was shining and the weather was perfect, but the point of significance was that a beautiful, humble spirit had prevailed throughout the conference.

At the beginning of the Sunday service, Bro. Peter Genaro led the singing. Sis. Amy Cook, who directs the Phoenix Choir, was called upon to organize an impromptu district choir. This group sang *God's Still on His Throne* and *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*.

After opening prayer, we heard two men's quartets, one from Phoenix and one from Tse Bonito. District President Dwayne Jordan then addressed the congregation. He spoke on IV Nephi, where the people had all things in common, and works and miracles were performed in the name of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Jordan commended the Arizona saints for reaching out to each other in faith and support. Bro. Dwayne concluded his sermon with these words: "Let this be my gift to you—that you will see the vision that God sees in you."

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## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

### WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE IN LIFE? WHO CARES?

We live in a mass society, like a herd. Conventional wisdom teaches us that safety lies in following God's given virtue. But, our life relies on skill and understanding.

Human beings are not herding animals. Man's survival depends first on his God, then on his skills and abilities to act, as our Creator has endowed us with an organizational understanding and the wisdom to work, to build, to cultivate, to sow, and to harvest.

The more mechanical and complicated our world is, the more we need the simplicity of the Power that guides and protects us. It is one God-given gift that allows us to remain human in an inhuman world—for the love of God in us gives us power to be ourselves. We don't have the same ambitions and desires. But we can live and prosper as long as love prevails.

However we need to examine ourselves coldly and clearly as if our life depends on it, because it does.

Learn to accept your mistakes, not being a perfectionist, but striving to excel to the highest. True, most of those whom we know are rendered powerless by their need to be perfect, as if one mistake would destroy them. Powerful, holy, and successful people accept the necessity of taking risks and of being wrong at times. They don't waste time justifying their mistakes, or try to transform them into correct decisions by making excuses or blaming someone else. Nothing makes one seem more foolish or impotent than the inability to admit a mistake.

We need to strive to be perfect and

do all in our power to achieve, but when we fail after having done our best, it is a sign of true adulthood to admit mistakes that may result as we strive to overcome.

Act impeccably, perform every part as if it's an old principle—you put your whole soul and being into the act you are performing—run to win. Winning is not everything—it's the only thing. When others better us, it's time to hail the victor.

Let us make everything we do or everything we say important. Listen with interest to the old and to the young, even to our children: they, too, have their ideas.

The crucial point in life is to "know that God cares, helps, and loves us so much that *He gave His only begotten Son to die for us.*" By His stripes, we are healed. Ought we not likewise to care, help, and love indiscriminately?

Let us face life realistically, honestly, and with a true sense of doing our utmost as God requires of us, willingly and cheerfully, putting forth our full dedication and devotion, as if everything we hope for and strive to achieve depends upon it, because it does. It is a good fight; let us fight to win.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers during my recent illness. God was surely by my side during both of my operations, not only giving me comfort, but strength to see me through.

I, along with my wife, want you to know how much we deeply appreciate your prayers, cards, and phone calls. They were truly a comfort to us.

Truly we have a love in this Gospel that is beyond compare. God bless each and every one of you.

All my love,  
Bro. John Impastato

\*\*\*\*\*

We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our brothers, sisters, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ for your kind acts of love during Ryan's illness. We thank you for your prayers, fasting, and encouragement during a

very difficult year. Ryan passed away giving praise and glory to our Lord Jesus Christ. He loved The Church of Jesus Christ and all of its members very much. My wife, daughter-in-law, and myself have been overwhelmed with a flood of flowers, gifts, cards, and letters of love and understanding.

It is our desire to thank each of you personally, but failing that we thank you through this letter for now. May God continue to bless each and every one of you.

Love in Christ,  
Sis. Mary Lou, Bro. Lou,  
and Jennie Ross

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to express my thankfulness to all of you for the prayers, flowers, cards, calls, visits, and contributions to the North Carolina Mission Building Fund in the memory of Sister Esther DiBattista Dyer.

I must say it's been a great honor for me to be able to call her my wife, my Sister in Christ, and my friend. I miss her very much and ask that you continue to pray for me and my family. We know that her suffering has ended and she has gone to a better place to receive her reward.

Bro. Bob Dyer

## In Loving Memory

In remembering Sister Esther Dyer, we know that her greatest joy was entertaining the saints. She loved to hear the testimonies and experiences, and to tell of hers and to play the piano. She wrote many beautiful hymns and felt so blessed for having a gift that could be shared with everyone.

Esther is surely missed as a wife, mother, sister, and our sister in Christ. She was a deaconess in the Church for many years and performed her duties with such ease because they were so much a part of her. She took the office very seriously because the Church was the most important part of her life. She is gone, but will never be forgotten by so many whose lives she touched with her loving way, her patience, and her beautiful music. Our prayer is that we would remain faithful so we will meet again in Paradise to part no more.

Love in Christ,  
The Family of Esther D. Dyer

## 50th Anniversaries

DETROIT BRANCH 4

Sunday, April 5, 1987 Branch 4 was extremely proud and happy to celebrate the fiftieth spiritual birthday of Sister Antoinette Ciaravino. It all happened fifty years ago, at the Detroit General Church Conference in Southeastern High School, where she and her sister Violet (Thomas) were so deeply touched by the spirit of the Lord that they both asked for their baptism. Many of us sitting here today attended that conference and remember what a blessing we all received.

All the saints of Branch 4, family, and relatives of Sis. Antoinette were here today to share this special day with her. Bro. Anthony Lovalvo read a brief summary of Sis. Antoinette's life. She was born in Lorain, Ohio to Bro. Jim and Sis. Mary Aquilino and was baptized on April 5, 1937 by Bro. Rocco V. Biscotti. She was confirmed by Bro. William H. Cadman.

On March 12, 1938 she married Bro. Gorie Ciaravino. Later, a daughter and son were born to them. Sis. Antoinette was ordained a deaconess in January of 1952 by Bro. V. James Lovalvo.

Bro. Dominic Thomas followed, recalling how he and his sisters had grown up with Sis. Antoinette and her sisters in Lorain, Ohio. During the years of the Great Depression, the two families lived in the same house. They went to all the church meetings together and par-

ticipated together in programs and other activities. He was happy today to know that she had taken a step in the direction of the Lord, and dedicated her life to His service.

After a corsage was pinned on our sister by Sis. Julie Cotellesse (Bro. Gorie's sister), she expressed her thanksgiving to the Lord for blessing her throughout her life.

Branch 4 considers it an honor to have Sis. Antoinette in our midst; we have shared many blessings, much laughter, and tears of joy and sorrow throughout the years.

"As the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:6-8).

By Marie Fera

ALQUIPPA, PA

The saints and friends of the Aliquippa, PA Branch were privileged to honor our beloved sister, Erma Rossi, on the occasion of her fiftieth anniversary as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. We were fortunate to have many visitors in our midst to honor our sister. Two of Sister Erma's natural brothers, Apostle Paul D'Amico and Brother John D'Amico, were also in attendance, as well as members of our sister's immediate family.

Bro. Chuck Jumper opened our meeting and the congregation sang *He Planted Me Deep*, which is an appropriate description of our sister's life in the Church. *O Jesus, I Have Promised* was presented as a solo in honor of our sister's longevity and service to the Church. Bro. Paul D'Amico opened, using Matthew 20 as his text.

Our brother shared this parable of the man who owned a vineyard and sought laborers to work in his fields. Just as our Sister Erma had served the Lord for over fifty years, Bro. Paul reminded those in attendance that the reward was the same, regardless of our years of service. He extended an invitation to the congregation to become workers for our Heavenly Father. Bro. Joe Ross followed on the same theme, after which Bro. John D'Amico was afforded the opportunity to express himself.

## An Experience

By Stella Benyola

In the Latin language, Stella means 'star'. Sister Stella Arcure, a faithful member of the Metuchen, NJ Branch, passed on to her reward on April 6, 1986. She was baptized in the Church for over 57 years and served as a deaconess for over 40 years.

Space will not permit us to mention the many experiences she had in her life in the Church, but there is one that is most outstanding, which I know is worth sharing with you at this time.

This experience takes us back to October 11, 1928, the day Sister Stella was baptized. This was not a dream or vision, but according to her testimony, an actual visitation by a messenger of God who, in the opinion of many, could have been one of the three Nephites.

As Sister Stella would tell us if she were with us today, "I was alone in my kitchen on Sunday morning getting ready for church. Suddenly I heard a knock at the front door. It was an old man dressed very poorly, asking for something to eat.

"I suddenly felt a peace come over me, and did not feel afraid at all. I invited him in and asked him to sit at the kitchen table. As I was preparing his breakfast, he began talking to me. He told me many things written in the Bible, and even told me that he knew I was getting baptized that day. I asked him how he knew all these things, and where he came from. He told me that he lived way up on top of the mountain and he knew everything about me and the church I was getting baptized in.

"He said so many things I could not remember them all. When he finished eating, he got up and said he had to go now, but before he left he said, 'I was hungry and you fed me; I was thirsty and you gave me drink.' He said goodbye and left.

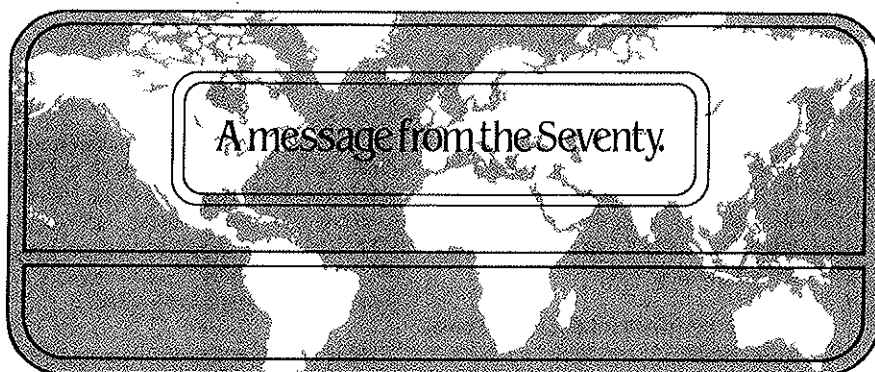
"I went to the front door to see which way he went, and by the time I got to the door he was already gone, as if he had suddenly disappeared. I went back into the kitchen to clear the table, but to my surprise, when I picked up the dish he ate from, it broke in half, and when I picked up the knife and fork, they also broke in half."



Sis. Antoinette Ciaravino

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(Continued on Page 11)



## Team Visits Planned for Each District

*By Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor*

Two evangelists from different parts of The Church of Jesus Christ have been scheduled to visit other districts in a new United States home missionary program established by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. The plan was adopted at the last General Church Conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and is being implemented as soon as practical in each part of the Church.

The intent is to hold one weekend of special spiritual meetings utilizing members in the planning, advertising, and participating in various segments of the total activities in each district. The total involvement program is being visualized as a kind of "complete church concept."

The main objective is to invite visitors from the immediate and surrounding communities to enjoy the singing presented and to be introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ. Many means will be used, including radio, newspaper, and cable TV. Also, door-to-door canvassing will be included in making personal contact in a "people-to-people" phase of the program. Obviously, the greater our ability to reach out and the larger the scope, the more likely we are to increase the attendance of new people at these meetings.

### IN UNISON

The guest evangelists at these services will be working in unison with the officers and ministry of each respective district, which will be coordinating the entire project for their own region. The fundamental principle is to further help stimulate interest in The Church of Jesus Christ by presenting new speakers through a joint effort by all individuals who will participate. Obviously,

everyone is being asked and encouraged to enlist in this endeavor.

The times and dates have not been set yet, but they will be in keeping with the wishes of the home districts. Preference for August and September has been indicated for some locations.

In leading the program, Quorum President Paul Benyola has urged the quorum to expend greater efforts in the home, as well as foreign, missionary work of the Church. Individual efforts have been made in the past, but now a unified approach is being established. The precedent was set with the activity at Independence, Missouri within the past two years. There a tandem kind of teamwork was established. When one evangelist had served a tour of duty, another evangelist or elder was sought to replace him. The brothers who were thus involved maintained a continuity there as their schedules permitted.

### PILOT PROGRAM

The pilot program at Independence also included a more intensified approach than in the past. Various means involving many members were employed in the more graduated plan.

Some of the methods used were door-to-door visits within the community with an invitation to attend our services, singspirations in which church singers from various locations participated, and special services at a larger location. Also radio, television, newspaper, and other advertising means were utilized. The training gained from these endeavors is invaluable, and will be put into practice more intently as each district is visited.

Incidentally, a singspiration is being held August 15 at Independence. Many talented brothers and sisters from

various parts of the Church will be participating. Once again, all who can travel there are being requested to do so. The handicap of being located far from Independence has not kept some devoted workers from traveling there in the past, and their determination has been most helpful, inspiring, and uplifting.

### EVANGELIST TEAMS

Following are the Evangelists who have been scheduled for the team visits and the districts to which they will travel:

<u>District</u>	<u>Evangelists</u>
Atlantic Coast	Frank Ciotti and Mitchell Edwards
Arizona	Carl Frammolino and Eugene Perri
California	Elmer Santilli and Dick Christman
Florida	Vince Gibson and Matthew Rogolino
Michigan-Ontario	Tom Liberto and Dan Picciuto
Ohio	Dwayne Jordan and Sam Dell
Pennsylvania	Paul Liberto and Joe Calabrese
Attend on Invitation	Paul Benyola and Ike Smith, president and vice president of the Quorum of Seventy

It is hoped that, after the district officers select the dates and places where their weekend services will be held, announcements will be made throughout the Church so that everyone will be acquainted with all of the schedules and that prayers can be offered for the success of these meetings. These supplications will allow us to ask God to give us the most important part of the program, His blessings, and to ask that He lead souls to the path of salvation, which is the main reason why all the plans and activities are being undertaken.

*"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come" (Luke 10:1).*

The Gospel News

**EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

**ASSISTANT EDITOR**

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

**CONSULTANTS**

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Cathy Gentile

**GMBA EDITOR**

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

**GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR**

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

**DISTRICT EDITORS****ARIZONA**

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

**ATLANTIC COAST**

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

**CALIFORNIA**

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92386

**FLORIDA**

Joseph Graziosi  
819 Sunrise Blvd., Apt. 2  
Ft. Pierce, FL 33450

**OHIO**

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

**MICHIGAN-ONTARIO**

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

**PENNSYLVANIA**

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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**BUSINESS OFFICE**

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"For the time speedily shall come that all churches which are built up to get gain, and all those who are built up to get power over the flesh, and those who are built up to become popular in the eyes of the world, and those who seek the lusts of the flesh and the things of the world, and to do all manner of iniquity; yea, in fine, all those who belong to the kingdom of the devil are they who need fear, and tremble, and quake; they are those who must be brought low in the dust; they are those who must be consumed as stubble; and this is according to the words of the prophet" (I Nephi 22:23).*

In the past months, we have witnessed the above prophecy beginning to unfold as various religious organizations have come under fire. Those who seek to prove all religion to be false are scrutinizing churches more closely; those who are diligently seeking the truth are doing the same. In the midst of this scrutiny, The Church of Jesus Christ has an opportunity to shine as an example to the world.

Sometimes we are tempted to adopt practices, as individuals, as branches, or on a general level, which seem to bring "success" to other churches. We must remember, however, that Christ never sought to be like others; He set the example and He became the Standard. Likewise, it must never be the aim of The Church of Jesus Christ to be like other churches, no matter how large a congregation such measures would promise to bring us. As Christ restored His Gospel anew in the midst of a world that claimed to know Him, we must maintain the uniqueness of the Church and not strive to blend in with the many hundreds of organizations which claim to promote the cause of Christ.

*"Abstain from all appearance of evil,"* Paul teaches us (I Thess. 5:22). One of the ways that our Church can stand out as unique is for us to individually and collectively avoid any practices which might so much as *appear* questionable to an outside observer.

The misuse of funds, for example, is one of many popular issues in the religious world these days. By carefully managing the resources that are available to us, we can prove our dedication to the Church's cause. Let us do our utmost to avoid costly mistakes, and go out of our way to eschew any conduct that may bring even the slightest reproach upon The Church of Jesus Christ. Those of us who have been elected or appointed to positions of responsibility in the Church should be able to *account*, to the rest of us and to those who may be looking in, for our use of financial resources. Not only is the prudent and responsible use of our money simply good business, it is also one of the many ways in which we can be more united in our actions and work toward the higher level of righteousness we are all striving for.

Notwithstanding all we may do to present ourselves as spotless to the world, it will still be the Spirit of God within us that will draw others to Christ. As we endeavor to purify ourselves inside and out, this key ingredient will naturally abound within us and have free reign both in our daily lives and, just as importantly, as we meet together as the body of Christ.

*"And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture" (I Nephi 22:25).* Let us take hold, then, of the very things that make The Church of Jesus Christ *different* from the churches in the world, and strive to make those things our strengths, that we may go forth with the power of God and truly draw the many honest of heart to this wonderful knowledge of the Truth.

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



## Sometimes God Says No!

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you ever pray hard for something and not get it? Did you ever wonder if maybe God just wasn't listening, or maybe He didn't like you? What if He was listening, but His answer to you was No? Have you thought about that?

Joseph of old was seventeen years of age. He had a father named Jacob who loved him over his eleven brothers. He had a beautiful coat of many colors and eleven jealous brothers. Some of them hated him.

Joseph's dreams made him feel even more special. He dreamed that each of his brothers was a bundle of wheat and each bundle bowed in front of his bundle. He dreamed his parents were the sun and moon and they bowed in front of him too.

"Oh, here comes the dreamer who thinks he is so important!" his brothers said when he came out to the fields to check on them.

"Let's kill him now!" one shouted.

"No, don't kill him—just put him in this big hole," suggested another. "We'll soak his coat in animal blood so our father will think a wild beast killed him."

How Joseph must have begged and cried when his older brothers shoved him into the ground. The next day when his brothers pulled him out and sold him to some traders, you know he must have been calling to God to let him go.

Joseph suffered many many days before he arrived in faraway Egypt. How lonely a dusty shepherd boy must have felt in a huge city of foreigners! Don't you think he wondered if God was hearing him when a rich man named

Potiphar bought him and took him home?

Years passed and Joseph, the slave, worked hard and learned to run his master's businesses. One day Potiphar's wife told her husband terrible lies about Joseph and he was dragged away to prison. No one believed Joseph when he told them she was lying.

Can you imagine how disappointed and scared Joseph must have felt when he walked through the prison doors? Do you think he ever wondered in his heart, even for one minute, if God was listening to his cries?

Several years passed and Joseph learned much about hard prisoners and prison life. The keeper of the prison eventually gave Joseph total charge there. The Lord was with Joseph and everything he did turned out right.

When a servant of the Pharaoh was imprisoned, he dreamed a dream that worried him. Joseph was given power by God to tell him the true meaning. Two years passed and the servant finally mentioned Joseph to the Pharaoh because he, too, was troubled by a dream.

Joseph told Pharaoh the truth. He said, "It's not me that tells you your dream; God will give you the answer." Then Joseph explained to Pharaoh that his dreams meant seven years of good crops would be followed by seven years of no crops. Pharaoh trusted Joseph and released him from prison. Joseph was made second in charge of the whole kingdom.

For seven years he organized a way to store grain. When the hard times came, there was food to buy in Egypt. Finally even shepherds from far away, Joseph's family, came to Egypt to buy

food. At first they never recognized their younger brother, who was living like a king in Egypt. They bowed to him (like in his boyhood dreams) and begged to buy corn. Everyone in that part of the world suffered from starvation. If God hadn't spoken through Joseph, there would have been no food saved anywhere.

Now, years later, we can see why God answered Joseph's prayers by saying No. Being sold led him to Egypt. Serving Potiphar he learned Egyptian ways and how to manage many responsibilities. Losing his comfortable life and landing in prison taught him much about ruling all sorts of good and evil men. Running the prison taught him how to organize a huge food storage system and financial payment program. Selling stored food to foreigners meant he could save his family from starvation!

Sometimes we don't know why painful things happen to us. Sometimes we don't find out for years and years. But getting a "No" from God doesn't mean that He doesn't hear you.

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

### CONFERENCE continued . . .

Bro. Peter Capone spoke, assuring the congregation that although man has made a mess out of the world, God is still on His throne and He is in control. Bro. Pete urged everyone to live in a manner acceptable unto God. He said, "God does not expect you to be a great warrior, but to brighten the corner where you are."

Bro. Ike Smith arose, and challenged the congregation to make improvements within their lives and not to blame the Church's leadership for all the shortcomings. He emphasized the fact that we need to give one another more pats on the back for the good we endeavor to do.

Bro. Peter Genaro followed with an inspirational message in which he reminded the people that as Christ has confidence in us, we must be confident in one another. This can *only* be done through His Spirit.

We heard two selections from the Tse Bonito Choir, after which Bro. Paul Francione remembered the brothers in

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## Our Women Today

### California Ladies' Retreat

By Carolyn Martorana Light

The annual California District Ladies' Circle Retreat was held this spring at Apple Valley. In attendance this year were eighty women from California, Michigan, and Arizona, ranging in age from nine to seventy-six years of age. Sis. Elizabeth Simpson was the facilitator, and she offered much food for thought and challenged everyone to listen to God during this weekend, taking time not only to pray but also silently listen for His response.

Plan, Purpose, Provision, Prayer, Praise, Peace. These words have two things in common: they all begin with the letter "P", and they were all topics of discussion.

After lunch, small group discussions took place to share experiences and meaningful scriptures. In the evening we enjoyed a banquet dinner and socializing. We shared openly the details of the group discussions that had taken place earlier, and also expressed thanks to God and to Sister Elizabeth for her efforts.

The next morning being Sunday, we gathered for a praise service and no one really expected what would take place that day. We have experienced a special feeling of closeness and love in our gatherings as sisters. An atmosphere of ease and acceptance afforded testimonies, prayer requests, and songs. God had been working with various sisters that weekend. Some had come with specific needs and they revealed that sisters had been put in their paths to help them. Others found answers in quiet time spent with the Lord. The Spirit had directed others to rid themselves of inter-personal problems and differences, and to love unconditionally. Before the morning was over we witnessed God's healing touch on those who had come to the retreat with such burdens.

Sister Marcia Liberto became very ill while we were in a circle at the close of the service. There were no ministers in attendance to anoint her, and so the sisters were inspired to kneel and ask

God for help. Cries ascended to God, and a sister had a vision in which she saw Christ raising our sister from the floor. This was confirmed by another sister who had the same vision, and a nine-year-old who had witnessed the light of the presence of Christ in the room at the same time.

Sis. Marcia did receive strength after these prayers were offered, and God did raise her up. What a glorious outpouring of the gifts of God in our midst! Once again we can attest that God waits to bless us when we come before Him as pure vessels.

We departed that day full of joy and thanksgiving for the opportunity to have come together as sisters in Christ.

### Circle Seminar Held at General Conference

By Lucetta Scaglione

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle held a seminar on April 24, 1987 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch Building during the Friday afternoon session of the General Church Spiritual Conference. There were more than one hundred sisters in attendance. The theme of the seminar was the role of today's woman in the Church. Bro. Dominic Thomas, president of the General Church, offered the opening prayer and Sister Diane Surdock sang *You Chose Me, Lord*.

Seminar topics and topic leaders were as follows:

The Role of a Minister's Wife—Ethel Cadman

The Role of a Mother—Eva Moore

The Role of a Sunday School Teacher—Susan King

The Role of a Deaconess—Dorothy Schaeffer

The Role of a Missionary—Sara Vancik

The role of a Circle Member—Ruth Akerman

The Role of a Neighbor—Fannie Casasanta

After much lively discussion in each seminar group, the sisters in charge gave a summary of what was brought forth. The seminar was a huge success, and the sisters are looking forward to another one in the future.

## MBA Highlights

### Spring Break '87

By Rhoda L. Jumper

Under the direction of the Aliquippa, PA Local MBA, a seminar retreat was held in Ligonier, Pennsylvania on the weekend of March 13-15, 1987. Young people from Michigan, Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania were equally represented. The astonishing and remarkable thing about this entire weekend was the spirit of peace that prevailed.

During the seminars and into the Saturday evening meeting, the concerns as well as the experiences of the young people were aired. Sunday morning again brought a most powerful and blessed meeting.

As we set out on our way home and started counting the days and hours until we would all be together again, it dawned on us that the purpose of this weekend was to help college-bound people deal with the changes in their lives, and their relationship with God.

But much more happened there that weekend. We were taught not only by our seminar teachers, but also by God through the wonderful manifestations of His Holy Spirit. The love He bestows on the children of the saints is evident in the friendship He provides among us.

*"And under this head ye are made free, and there is no other head whereby ye can be made free. There is no other name given whereby salvation cometh; therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ"* (Mosiah 5:8 & 9)

## Branch and Mission News

### Anaheim, CA

*By Carl Huttenberger*

News flash! A baby boom has hit the Anaheim Branch. Yes, a baby boom consisting of many, many youngsters has changed the appearance of our branch considerably. We are overjoyed by this recent development.

There are currently five full classes for our Wednesday night MBA meetings as well as our Sunday School. Not only that, but the demand has led us to form a nursery which has become more than just a cry room. We actually have a separate building, renovated to accommodate the influx of children. This nursery teaches our children about Jesus Christ, and creates an atmosphere that makes it exciting for them to be there. This, in turn, will put a positive image of Church in their minds at a young age, and with much prayer, our children will grow in the admonition and fear of the Lord. Someday they'll be mighty warriors and defend this Gospel to the world as we march into the city of Zion. What an exciting thought!

How real is that vision we have? It is real enough for us to understand that we need to raise our children in the proper ways, to assure that God's work will be done swiftly. Experiences have been revealed to us confirming this need. Not a Sunday or Wednesday goes by that our children do not perform some kind of skit or song for us. They look like precious little angels up there, praising God. Our love for them is immense.

At our MBA open meeting in April, we used Easter as our theme. We played 10-question Bible trivia (the two teams competing tied). We also had the congregation come up one by one and read pieces of scripture, laid out in sequential order, that completely told us the story of Christ's passion. We also had a season of testimony centering around the word "Jesus" written on the blackboard with many concentric rings encircling his name. The testimonies were enlightening. Some saw the design as being Jesus as the center of our lives, just like the sun is the center of the universe, and all the planets are held in orbit by it. Others saw it to say that the more circles (or people) there are around Jesus, the bigger and stronger

the Body of Christ is. This thought convicted us that we should witness more. All in all, it was an educational and enjoyable evening.

We recently had our men's retreat and our ladies' retreat. Both were total success stories, praise God.

On Mother's day, all the dads and young men cooked a big meal of steak, ham, potatoes, corn, and various desserts for our moms and young ladies. After the sisters were seated, they were waited on by the brothers. Needless to say, the sisters really enjoyed a day off from cooking and serving meals.

We thank the Lord that He never forgets to bless us each time we meet. Our testimony meetings are filled with stories of miraculous healings of body and spirit. Testimonies of mended relationships, of children who it was thought would never be born, of sicknesses thought incurable being healed; God is alive and working with those who truly trust and obey Him.

On Saturday night May 16, our newly-elected district officers held a special meeting at Anaheim. They told us about all the new, exciting, and innovative ideas in store for the California District. District President Paul Liberto admonished us to work together in order to allow the district to progress. Bro. Frank Ciotti followed by telling us that the Lord is just waiting for us to come out of the wilderness and realize that Zion is at hand. He said that we do have the ability to move God's hand by our aggressiveness in the work and commission of the Church.

On Sunday, we were privileged to have Brothers Liberto, Ciotti, and Bro. Carl Frammolino in our midst, along with many other visitors. The preaching was truly inspired by God. The message was loud and clear. The Lord was telling us to be bold in asking for help from Him. The time usually left for testimonies was given over to preaching as the spirit directed.

Then the Lord began to work among the congregation. For the next couple of hours, many brothers and sisters came to the ministry for healing of mind, body, and spirit. Hands were laid on many and a feeling of total faith and humility abounded. Everyone truly felt

as if God's hand was actually moving through the congregation. There wasn't a dry eye there. Just then, Sandy O'Brien rose to her feet and told us she was tired of being on the outside looking in, and asked for her baptism. We closed the meeting singing powerfully and left overflowing with the Spirit of God. It was a beautiful day in the house of the Lord.

May the Lord hear all your prayers and bless you as He has us.

### Aliquippa, PA

*By Marty Jumper*

The morning of March 29, 1987 was bright and beautiful as we met early in fasting and prayer for the sick of the Branch. Although our hearts were heavy because of the affliction of the saints, we looked forward with great anticipation to the baptism that would take place later in the morning.

Bro. Jim Gibson opened our morning service by reading from Luke 10:25-28. In this scripture a lawyer asked the Lord what he must do to inherit eternal life. Our new sister, Vickie Cegelski, after attending church for only a few months, asked the same question, accepted the answer, and requested her baptism.

We gathered with the saints in Imperial to witness the ordinance of baptism. Bro. Chuck Jumper led Vickie into the water, and returned to us a new saint of The Church of Jesus Christ. Standing at the water's edge, Bro. Chuck asked if there were any others who wished to have Jesus walk with them through the trials of life. To our delight, Cindy Giannetti raised her hand and proclaimed her desire to be baptized. Bro. Chuck baptized her as a tearful crowd watched, praising God for His goodness toward us.

We came together that afternoon to share a time of rejoicing. Bro. Tony Ross and Bro. Jim Gibson confirmed Sisters Cindy and Vickie, respectively. Later they each gave their testimony, and Sis. Vickie related a dream she had showing her baptism and the three elders in attendance. Thank God for our new sisters, and we pray that the Lord will bless them as they begin their walk with Him.

## Santa Ana/Anaheim

*By Anthony Cardinale*

On the first day of April 1987, the Santa Ana Mission met with the Anaheim Branch for their monthly meeting. We were unaware of what was waiting in the storehouse of God. The people of God—the Seed of Joseph and the converted Gentiles—were ready to be fed from the word of God.

Truly, the Lord blessed the preaching of His word. When Bro. Frank Ciotti opened the service, the Spirit of God came forth as a mighty river. He spoke about Nehemiah and the building of the walls of Jerusalem. He explained that each of us must build our part of the wall as they did in the Old Testament, having the vision of the outcome implanted deeply within their minds. Bro. Frank related that if only some people work to build the wall and others don't build their part of the wall, the resulting structure is unable to protect us as a whole. Everyone must work together, converted Gentiles and the Seed of Joseph, each doing his part. As our brother concluded, he stated that we must have a positive attitude and that the Church will go forward and be triumphant if we build up the walls of righteousness. As Bro. Frank concluded, all were awakened to the awesomeness of our responsibility to live righteously, a life without sin.

Bro. Isidro Dominguez followed Bro. Frank's sermon in Spanish while Bro. Anthony Cardinale translated his words into English. Bro. Isidro spoke about the commission of the Church and that even as Nehemiah, just one man, made a difference, we can also make a difference. He quoted II Nephi 33:1, where Nephi said, "Neither am I mighty in writing, like unto speaking; for when a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost, the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men." Bro. Isidro stated that the power of the Holy Ghost shall convert the world, not ourselves, because God with us can make the difference. He also read verse 3, where Nephi said, "But I, Nephi, have written what I have written, and I esteem it of great worth," relating how we esteem serving God and the spiritual things of great worth. He closed by exhorting us to live righteously and be positive, as Bro. Frank had stated.

Suddenly Bro. Ricardo Nava of Santa Ana stood up and related a vision that

he had while Bro. Isidro was preaching and Bro. Anthony was translating. He said he saw an angel of God between them embracing them both, and that the angel looked at one, then the other, saying, "They are equal." He then saw sparks go from one brother to the other, and from them to the congregation. In his vision, the whole Church became as bright as the noonday sun, and as he looked at the priesthood again, they were illuminated even brighter than the congregation. Bro. Ricardo stated that the vision lasted for the whole time that the brothers were speaking.

As soon as Bro. Ricardo sat down, Bro. Anthony started to interpret the words of our brother's vision into English when all of a sudden the Spirit of God fell upon him. He then started to preach about the reality of the commission to the Seed of Joseph that rests upon us. We must work like Nehemiah, and not just dream that Zion will one day come.

We praise God for our meeting together, as the storehouse of heaven was opened and we rejoiced. Amen.

## Carolina Mission

*By Margaret Iorio*

The Carolina Mission is rejoicing to see the Lord bestowing His blessings upon us. The weekend of May 16 and 17 was set aside for the ordination of our Brother John Genaro into the priesthood. We were expecting a large group of visitors for this occasion, and since we usually meet in the homes of the saints, we set about finding a place to hold this special gathering. We were fortunate to rent a meeting room at the Howard Johnson's nearby, which could accommodate us all.

Our Saturday evening meeting featured visiting elders from Ohio and Pennsylvania. We heard from almost all of the ten elders visiting, as each expressed himself briefly. Several visions were seen while the brothers were preaching, confirming the Lord's presence and the Truth of the Restoration.

The testimonies that followed were filled with thanksgiving to God for permitting all of us to attend this blessed occasion.

Sunday morning many more visiting

saints were in attendance. We had to open up the doors to the next room in order to accommodate everyone there. We enjoyed a blessed season of singing, preaching, and testimony.

Bro. Mitchell Edwards washed Bro. John Genaro's feet, and he was ordained by Bro. Phil Jackson. After the priesthood was seated, Michael Nuzzi of Niles, Ohio asked for his baptism. Several other testimonies came forth, confirming the calling of our Bro. John Genaro into the priesthood.

Our new elder's first work was to administer the ordinance of baptism to his brother-in-law Michael. He was later confirmed a member of The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Joe Genaro.

The following Sunday, while testimonies were being heard, Sam and Vera Jackman, formerly of Aliquippa, PA, asked for their baptism. Sam had told Bro. John and Sis. Connie Ross of Tucson, AZ that the next time they saw him, he would be a brother to them. We then went to the water and baptized our new brother and sister.

Our prayers are that God will continue to bless our mission. Each month we meet at a different home, and our meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month. May God bless each of you.

## Erie, PA

"It is a sacred and holy ordinance in The Church of Jesus Christ." These were the opening words of our first speaker, Bro. Ron Genaro of the Niles, Ohio Branch. It was a special, blessed day for the Erie Branch when Bro. Joel Cadman Gehly was ordained into the priesthood.

Bro. Ron read from I Peter 5 and Alma 13. He spoke on the honor and responsibility of being called into God's priesthood.

Bro. Russ Martorana was our next speaker, and his words were on Jesus' choosing His apostles, and how others, including women, have been called and used by God in the Church.

After lunch and fellowship with our brothers and sisters and friends from other branches, our afternoon meeting

(Continued on Page 10)

## ERIE continued . . .

was opened by Apostle Russel Cadman (Bro. Joel's grandfather). Bro. Cadman spoke about the family, and how Bro. Joel represents the fifth generation in the Church. He read out of the Church History of the first ordinations, and how the ministry of the Church will remain until Christ comes again.

We heard wonderful words of testimony from our other speakers; Bro. Fred Olexa of Lorain and Bro. Mitchell Edwards of Warren. The ordination began with Bro. Joel's feet being washed by his father, Bro. Art Gehly. He was then ordained by Apostle Russel Cadman. Bro. Harold Burge spoke on the great work that lies ahead for Bro. Joel.

There was a special song by Bro. Bob Beam of Greensburg, entitled *Are You Working in the Vineyard of the Lord?* A duet, *The Flowers Still Bloom*, was also presented. We can truly say we have so much to be thankful for today.

Bro. Jesse Carr made the closing remarks, asking all to remember the priesthood in prayer.

## Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

On Sunday June 7, two sisters were recognized for over fifty years of service to God at the Sterling Heights Branch. Sister Yolanda Spada and Sister Nancy Cusmano each had a corsage pinned on them by our sister deaconesses. The two sisters then gave a few words of testimony.

In his opening remarks, Bro. Lou Vitto referred to our recent fasting and prayer service on behalf of the children of the saints. We praise God that today there were some present who had not been in our midst for some time.

Bro. George Benyola requested that we sing the hymn *Ready*. He chose the topic of "preparation" for his sermon, remarking how important it is to be ready when God calls. He read from Matthew 25:1-13 about the five wise and five foolish virgins. Unless we are as the five wise virgins, we might be left knocking at the door, only to hear the words, "I know you not." We wouldn't think of starting on a journey without having a spare tire for our car; neither

do the young people facing a test in school go without preparing.

Let us ask ourselves, are we prepared? Do we have oil in our lamps? Are the wicks trimmed? A man faces death alone, even though his family might all be gathered around him. Are we absolutely sure that if we are called home, we will be ready to go?

Our brother George spoke for a bit about squirrels. Nature provides them with the knowledge that they must provide food for themselves for the winter months; they must prepare. We, in turn, should be concerned about our soul's salvation. When God calls, do we listen, or do we say, "Another time, not today." We must be ready to go, ready to stay, ready to do His will. We cannot be dependent on others; they cannot save us. Cursed is he who puts his trust in the strength of man; blessed is he who trusts in the arms of God.

Bro. Lou Vitto followed, saying that preparation precedes the blessings of God. He warned us that the Spirit of God does not always strive with man. No man knows the hour nor the day when the Lord will come; He comes like a thief in the night. We must let no man take our crown, we must keep strong and be well prepared for His coming. Only through Christ can we have salvation.

Place a word of wisdom here and there, someone is certain to hear it.

## Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

Modesto rejoices in the Lord evermore for two blessings: One was the visit of Brother Tony Picciuto and family, and the baptism of Richard Deulus, son of Brother and Sister Richard and Rose Deulus.

Evangelist Picciuto spoke of the great conversion of Saul of Tarsus, who made a miraculous turnaround from a persecutor of the Church of Christ to a daring missionary. Saul became Paul and suffered many things for the very cause he once opposed.

Bro. Tony spoke of the June graduates, who were launching out into new careers and new opportunities and putting to use the things that were learned in school. He applied this

analogy to men and women who find new experiences in a Christian life; new opportunities to prove the new Spirit that has entered into their lives. He went on to say that we can best know who we are and what we can do when we begin to put to use what we have learned and received—try the Spirit which Jesus Christ gave us.

His sermon was an inspiration to all of us, more so because his illustrations brought to mind what we have received and how much of it (or how little of it) we have put to practice.

Later that day, Richard Deulus was baptized by Bro. Leonard Lovalvo. That same day a young woman was baptized at our Riverbank Mission, so again here was a twofold blessing.

We hope to have more of this type of blessing. Is not this the mission of the Church, to bring God's children to Christ?

Our new brother Richard was confirmed by Bro. Tony Picciuto. The Deulus family is now complete: Warren and Lisa of Fresno, and Richard of Modesto.

Our brother's grandmother was visiting from Ohio and was present to see the event. Bro. Picciuto spoke on how we rejoice in our baptisms, because they are willing adults who openly declare their desire to commit themselves to Christ. It is a personal choice to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, and make their commitment to God unto repentance.

Baptism is quite an impressive and teaching experience, not only for the person being baptized, but also for those who witness the open confession, "I repent of all my sins and promise to serve God all of the days of my life."

Bro. Picciuto pointed out that our baptism is by immersion, in an open body of water. His words were an inspiration to all those present, and we rejoiced in Christ for such a blessing.

As our bygone brothers would say, one day mankind will be baptized by the thousands. There must be a day of true repentance; our prayer is that this day would come quickly.

*"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).*

## My Savior, My Friend

One night while sitting in my bedroom I was reading through some old letters that I had received from some Church friends. After I had finished, I was getting ready to write some letters to send out. Before I started to do that, I was thinking how good the Lord has been to me in the 19 years of my life. He's blessed me with a wonderful family and many wonderful friends. He's also blessed me by allowing me to be raised in His Church.

After all this, I thought to myself, "I don't know how to thank Him," and that was the first line of my poem. After that, the rest of the words fell into place. All I can say is that I'm thankful for this and that someday I hope I, too, can be a part of this wonderful Church.

I don't know how to thank Him  
For all that He has done.  
For bringing me up in His beautiful  
Church,  
And warming me with His love.

There are times when I disobey,  
But when I do, I just kneel down  
and pray.  
And ask the Lord to watch over me  
Each and every day.

I'm thankful for my Savior,  
And I'm thankful for my Friend.  
Because of the way He blesses me—  
I don't want it to end.

I will never forget Him,  
On Him I will depend.  
He's the best that I've ever had—  
My Savior, My Friend.

*By Ralph Cartino, Jr.  
Warren, Ohio*

### CONFERENCE continued . . .

the priesthood who had departed from our midst within the last year. He thanked God for these men and their excellent contributions to the Church. The essential part of his sermon was for every member to be an ambassador of the Gospel—to get out of habitual patterns of behavior—to visit the sick, write encouraging letters, and to get "busy busy and do!"

Communion was passed to the large gathering in attendance, and it was a blessed experience.

After closing remarks from Brother Dwayne Jordan, we were closed in prayer by Bro. Chuck Curry. Indeed, it had been a glorious conference from beginning to end.

### EXPERIENCE continued . . .

Being so new to the Church, our sister did not realize that she had just had a beautiful experience from God. When she told the elders this experience, they all rejoiced and explained to her how the power of God was made manifest in her home that day. They pointed out to her the scripture of the three Nephites found in III Nephi, 28th Chapter. What a glorious day that must have been for her!

This experience turned out to be only one of many that she would enjoy throughout the next 57 years she spent in the Gospel. She lived and died a faithful sister in the Church, and now holds her place in the Paradise of God.

In memory of our mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. From all her children, who loved her dearly and miss her very, very much.

### ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .

Sis. Erma, the daughter of our late Bro. and Sis. Ishmael and Julia D'Amico, was baptized by Bro. V. James Loyalvo in Rochester, New York on September 1, 1935. On August 24, 1940 Sis. Erma married Bro. Carmine Rossi and transferred to the Aliquippa Branch, where she has been a member ever since. In her testimony, our sister expressed that she is never ashamed to tell anyone about the Gospel and what the Church has done for her in her life. Several years ago, Sis. Erma and Bro. Carmine's son, Larry, died in an airplane accident. Sis. Erma told us that her faith in God sustained her after this tragedy. Over the years, Sis. Erma has held many branch and Circle offices. She has held the office of teacher in Ladies' Circle, Sunday School, and MBA. She has served as Word Giver for the Circle, as well as card sender and floral committee member for the branch.

We in the Aliquippa Branch look to Sis. Erma as an example of stability and constant service to her Lord. She bears testimony by example, and always has a kind word for the saints, willing to do anything she can to be a support. Several years ago, our Sunday School and MBA had a bake sale at the local mall. Sis. Erma worked in our booth every day except for the days when she was baking additional goods for the sale. We are truly fortunate to have such a worker in our midst, and trust that as long as the Lord permits, she will continue to do what she can for the Church.

After our meeting, we enjoyed a luncheon provided by the branch in Sis. Erma's honor. Truly, the day's activities were enjoyed by all in attendance.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

### KING—FITCH

Douglas King and Darla Fitch were joined in marriage on May 9, 1987 at the Phoenix, Arizona Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother David Majoros officiated, with Brother Stephen Saffron assisting.

Bro. David Majoros was also soloist at the wedding.

May the newlyweds find happiness through the grace of God.

### MAHL—MATTHEWS

Mr. Robert William Mahl and Sister Joyce Eileen Matthews were married May 9, 1987 in Creston, Iowa.

Brother Clifton Wells officiated at the outdoor ceremony, with the assistance of Brother Cal Matthews, the bride's father.

The couple will be residing at 1004 N. Walnut in Creston, Iowa. May the Lord bless them in their new life together.

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**WEDDINGS continued . . .****YARKEE--MILLER**

Mr. Kurt Yarkee and Miss Laura Miller were united in holy matrimony at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hollywood, Florida.

Brothers Dennis Moraco and Joe Catone, Sr. officiated at the ceremony.

The couple resides in California. We wish them God's richest blessings in their life together.

**New Arrivals**

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

Anthony Charles to Chuck and Laura (Benyola) Catone of Hollywood, Florida.

Corey Benjamin to Kevin and Denise Naro of Lorain, Ohio.

Hannah Naomi to Dane and Gail (Santilli) Gruver of Youngstown, Ohio.

**OBITUARIES**

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

**GIROLOMO PALERMO**

Brother Jerome Palermo of Detroit Branch 4 departed from this life to the realm of eternal rest on April 6, 1987. He was born on August 28, 1897 in Montelepre, Sicily, Italy and was baptized in the Church on February 3, 1929 by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico. He was confirmed by Bro. Thurman S. Furnier.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo and Norman Campitelle.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Bro. Jerome is survived by his wife Sis. Providence, a son, four daughters, fourteen grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Bro. Palermo spent the last six years in a nursing home, seriously ill, but he always welcomed visits from the brothers and sisters. He was a pillar of our branch and a very faithful brother. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his family and in sharing their sorrow, we pray the Lord will bless and give them comfort.

**RYAN ROSS**

Brother Ryan Gene Ross of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his eternal reward on May 17, 1987. He was born on March 18, 1957 and baptized into the Church at the GMBA Campout in 1977 at Camp Towanda, PA.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Palmieri and Thomas Ross.

Bro. Ryan is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Lou; his parents, Bro. Louis and Jennie Ross; a sister, Candace Obradovich, and a niece.

Bro. Ryan was an inspiration to all who knew him and will be sorely missed.

**DAVID McCLOUD**

David Christopher McCloud, born April 23, 1983, departed from this life on May 25, 1987.

Called the "Angel of Love" by the Quincy Mission, young David had fought the dreaded disease of cancer with a smile.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers John Gray and Cleveland Baldwin.

David leaves to mourn his father and mother, Brother P. C. and Sister Barbara McCloud, as well as all of the saints who caught a glimpse of the love manifested in his smile.

**JANET WARDEN**

Sister Janet Warden, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ in Hollywood, Florida, passed away on Wednesday, May 27, 1987. She was baptized in January of 1954 in Glassport, PA and attended the Lorain, Ohio Branch before relocating to Florida with her family in 1976.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Frank Rogolino. He was assisted by Brothers Joseph Catone, Sr., Ken Staley, Mark Kovacic, and Dennis Moraco.

Sister Janet is survived by her husband Jerry, a son, three daughters, one grandson, a sister, and a brother.



# The Gospel News

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

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September, 1987

Volume 43, No. 9

## Michigan-Ontario District Conference

*By Anthony J. Scolaro*

### PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

We truly felt the blessings of God on July 19, 1987 as brothers, sisters, and friends gathered from all over the Michigan-Ontario District at Detroit Branch 1 for a Sunday morning service.

Because the day before was a General Mission Board Executive Committee meeting, we were privileged to have a number of the priesthood visiting with us from other parts of the Church. District President Leonard A. Lovalvo extended an invitation to our visiting brothers to speak to us, and truly the Lord inspired their hearts and minds with words from above. All the brothers spoke on a common theme: Past, Present, and Future. They related blessings and experiences from the past, told of what the Church was doing at the present time, and spoke of the marvelous things the Lord has in store for His Church in the future. Though their comments were brief, each of our speakers was truly inspired.

After Bro. Joseph Bittinger opened the meeting in prayer, we heard from Bro. V. James Lovalvo. He spoke of how good it was to be back in his spiritual birthplace, Detroit, and then reminisced about how dedicated the saints of old were. Back then, they didn't have many of today's conveniences. In the winter, the building would be so cold on Wednesday nights that the brothers and sisters left their heavy overcoats on during the meeting. And on hot, humid summer Sundays, the brothers would bring a clean shirt to

change into between morning and afternoon meetings. Our brother's point was that in spite of the physical discomfort or inconvenience, the brothers and sisters had a desire to meet together, and for this they were greatly blessed. Miracles and manifestations of the Spirit prevailed, and many were moved upon to obey the Gospel.

Our Brother Jim used as his text this morning Psalms 20:7, which states, "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God." He applied this scripture to today, how people are impressed by the prestige and glory to be gained by material things, not realizing how shallow and meaningless these things really are. In the Gospel, however, we learn to be content with our natural state and put God above all else. He related several past experiences pertaining to this very theme, where individuals turned away from various opportunities to gain great wealth and glory, and instead put their efforts into serving God. Their reward, Bro. Jim pointed out, is much more important and lasting than all the riches in the world.

Our brother then spoke in general on the subject of memories. Sometimes recalling an experience brings us a blessing that's just as powerful as it was when we first had it. These kind of memories strengthen and uplift us. Bro. Jim also spoke of *vision*, that vision we have of future events through reading the word of God. He stated that this kind of vision is like an opposite of memory, yet it has similarities. Like memories, vision can be a blessing and

a source of strength. We must have this dream, this vision, he said, that the kingdom of God will be established on the face of the earth. This great event, our brother pointed out, will be accomplished through our righteousness.

Bro. Jim concluded his talk this morning by stressing how important it is that we not live only on the experiences of the past, nor should we live only for what the future has to offer. There must be a kind of marriage in our minds, between memory and vision, for us to be properly balanced and live for Christ today.

Toward the end of his remarks, a young brother from the Sterling Hts. Branch rose to his feet and proclaimed that on his way to church this morning, he saw Bro. Jim in a vision speaking on the topic of memories. Truly this experience confirmed that the Lord was in charge of the service.

Bro. Don Ross followed, recalling how patient the Lord had been with him, never giving up, always giving him another chance. Until you experience Jesus Christ in your life, our brother exclaimed, you don't know how good it is. He went on to speak of how we remember those who have gone on before us. What kind of memory will people have of us, he asked, when we're gone.

Bro. Paul Benyola pointed out that memories are a beautiful thing, and vision is a beautiful thing, but what are we doing in the Church *today*? It's an exciting time to be serving God, and the Lord has plenty of work for His servants to do. There are boundless oppor-

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## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Dedicated to the Memory  
of Esther Dyer

Some may be members of a church, a fraternity, or a family, yet never attain the place of friendship.

To friends you can speak without fear, pouring both chaff and grain, and rest assured that a friend can gently blow the chaff away and just keep the grain.

Esther was such a friend to many persons, and she was also to me.

I did not know that Esther had cancer at the time I sent two poems. Upon receiving them back with music, she expressed that she had been on chemotherapy.

Esther will live in the hearts of those of us who were touched by her music, her love, and her friendship.

This ugly enemy known as death cannot destroy the memory and the hope that we in Christ shall meet again! Esther's music, her inspired poems, have enriched many of us and our children to come.

Yes, Esther, *We Shall Meet Again*. There our praise shall be perfected. What a choir that will be! The righteous of all ages shall sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of His glory."

For us, the living yet in this robe of flesh, let us be armed with this awareness that we, too are fording the river one by one. My beloved father would say, "From the time we are born, we begin to die one day at a time."

It is not how long we live, but how we live, that counts!

## An Experience

In April of 1987, my Aunt Lucille Blanc became very ill. Bro. Joe Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio traveled to Texas to be with the family, and the Sunday before Easter a carload of us from the Dallas Mission drove out to visit my aunt at the hospital and to have a short service afterward at my Uncle Sam's house.

When we arrived at the hospital my aunt was very sick. She appeared to be in a coma, and was not aware that we were there. Bro. Calabrese left the hospital with my husband and Bro. Doug McLellan at about noon. While they prepared for the service, Sis. Pat McLellan and I stayed with my Uncle Sam at the hospital a little longer.

A few minutes later the doctor came in and told us that Aunt Lucille was dying, and requested permission to remove the life support equipment. My uncle said he would give him an answer at 2:00 p.m., after he went home and talked to Bro. Joe. The doctor said that Aunt Lucille wouldn't live until 2:00, that she was nearly gone now.

My uncle, Sis. Pat, and I all had the same thought. We wanted Bro. Joe to offer a prayer in my aunt's behalf. We rushed home, and not only did Bro. Joe offer a beautiful prayer, but each one of us prayed in my aunt's behalf as well.

As a result of those prayers, Aunt Lucille not only recovered, but was able to return home, where she and Uncle Sam were able to enjoy many happy days until her death on June 21.

May God bless you,  
Sis. Jane Ardinger  
Dallas, Texas Mission

## 50th Anniversary

By Hazel Zoltek

Bro. John Buffa of the Sterling Heights, MI Branch celebrated his fiftieth spiritual birthday in the Gospel of Jesus Christ on April 25, 1987. He was baptized on that date in 1937 by Bro. Anthony Pietrangelo and confirmed by Bro. Joseph Madonia. Born in Detroit in 1920, Bro. John was only sixteen years old when he rendered obedience to the Lord. Fifty years in God's service is a milestone we would all like to reach.

Bro. John and Sis. Grace (Sgro) were married on October 25, 1946 and are looking forward to their 41st wedding anniversary this fall. Bro. John praised his wife for being his help-mate for all these years. They are the parents of two sons, Ronald and John.

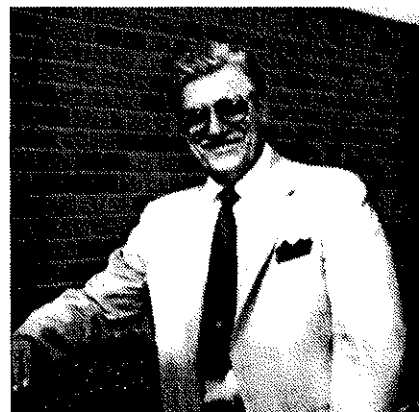
Bro. John was ordained an elder in the Church in New Jersey on April 24, 1955 by Bro. Rocco Ensana. He was a charter member of the Sterling Heights Branch, having taken his transfer from Branch 1 on June 18, 1972 when we were still meeting in the Ridgefield School in Warren, Michigan. Our brother John is currently working with the Seed of Joseph in Muncey, along with other brothers in the Detroit area.

Throughout the years, Bro. John has donated much of his time doing electrical and other construction work for various branches and missions of the Church.

On this special day, our brother recalled one experience he had years ago during World War II, when he was stationed in Alaska. On one occasion, feeling low in spirit and missing his loved ones back home, Bro. John left the barracks and went out into the Arctic night. There he knelt in the snow and poured his heart out to God in prayer. Upon arising from his prayer, he felt blessed and spiritually refreshed.

After the war was over and he returned to Detroit, a sister in his branch, Marietta Ruzzi, now long gone to her reward, told him how she saw him in a vision, kneeling in the snow. Another of God's wonderful miracles.

Brother John's message to the world is, "Come, walk on that narrow path with me, and one day, our Savior's face we'll see."



Bro. John Buffa

# The Humanist

By George "Rusty" Heaps  
Taken from The Anaheim Newsletter

*Editor's note: While I hadn't seen it labeled "Humanism" before, I quickly recognized the philosophy referred to in this article, that God was created to serve man and not the other way around. Though the idea is very popular in the Christian world today, it is not supported by the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

The Psalmist said on one occasion, "What is man that thou art so mindful of him." I believe that this statement shows an attitude that is pleasing to God. The Bible states that David was a man after God's own heart and he proved this many times, *not in his sins*, but in his acceptance of the fact that he had dishonored God's love for him while in his sins and repented sorrowfully for that which he had done, and wanted to get back in the right relationship with God. What was that relationship?

I believe that the proper relationship with God is when we accept the very simple fact that God, the Father, is the creator and we are the created. We are here on earth to worship and serve God, and that God is not there to do our bidding. One might cry out as the Humanist does, "We believe in God and love Him," but just believing in God does not do it. It does not get the job done. It does not create a proper relationship. The Bible teaches us that the devils also believe but they tremble.

## WHAT IS THE DOCTRINE OF THE HUMANIST?

I have heard that it is a theory—a doctrine—a belief—a study. Recently, a court decided that Humanism is a religion and therefore should benefit in all the privileges of a church (tax-exempt status, etc.).

It is this humble man's thought that the Church is here for the instruction of man on how and why we are to *worship and serve God*. I understand the Humanists believe that man is all things and God is there for man. They use scripture to back up their stand: "Ask and you shall receive," "All things are given unto you," "I have given you the keys of the kingdom," "All power is given unto you." They seem to forget the scriptures that say, "Fear God and keep His commandments," "He that says he loves God and keeps not His

commandments is a liar and the truth is not found in him." I could go on, but you that believe know the scriptures.

## IS HUMANISM SOMETHING NEW?

No, I do not think so. As I said earlier, it is an attitude of the mind and heart. It is the theory of Humanism that caused Cain to murder his brother; that filled the earth at the time of Noah; that caused Saul's downfall; that promulgated the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah; that caused the Apostasy. And that same attitude will cause the downfall of all men, individually and collectively, that fall prey to its insidious and diabolical teachings.

## DOES THIS TYPE OF TEACHING EXIST IN THE CHURCH TODAY?

I believe there are those who not only are prone to it, but some even unknowingly (here I give the benefit of the doubt) teach the attitude of Humanism.

The Bible says that in the last days, "Men shall raise up to themselves teachers having itching ears." This simply means that people will listen to those that only say what they want to hear, and will reject the "Fiery Hellfire" sermon. The pulpits of the world today are filled with men and women that are hirelings, some for money and some for the plaudits of men, whichever, it still makes them hirelings.

The Psalmist said, "A broken heart and a contrite spirit thou shall not refuse." Where are the broken hearts for offending God today, and the contrite spirits? It is hard to find people that are willing to confess that which they do is sin. We have changed drunkenness into social sickness; adultery is now the modern marriage; fornication is referred to as the free spirit; homosexuality and lesbianism are now simply the freedom of choice. **Sin is no longer sin.** The murderer is now a product of a disordered society, and the thief's problems stem from an unhappy childhood, and when anything else is wrong, it must be the fault of the parents. It appears that everything we do is not our fault. Well, I want to say here and now, **Sin is sin** in God's sight, and without a broken heart and a contrite spirit, every sinner that does not repent will be rejected of God and cast into a place of weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth, according to His word, whether they are members of a church or not. The Bible says, "If the

righteous scarcely are saved, where shall the sinner and the ungodly appear?"

There are other forms of humanism which we fall into without thinking, such as blaming God. How many of the saints lived under His blessings for years, and when a tragedy or an accident occurs it is heard, "Why did God allow this to happen? Why did God do this to me?" Where is the contrite spirit that says, "Blessed be the name of the Lord. The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away." I personally am not a believer in fate as some teach it. I believe we live on this created, God-given earth to spend our allotted time, which God has set to be 70 years or by reason of strength 80 years, to live a life subject to all the pitfalls and problems that man creates for himself. Some are innocent bystanders and get injured; others are involved in sinful acts and get hurt, but our attitude toward God has a great effect on how God reacts to our needs. If we go to God with an attitude of the Humanist, and say that God *owes* us, we lose. If we accept God's decisions, whatever they may be, we win even if we lose.

This subject requires more space than I have, so I will close with: Don't be a Humanist. Be a God-fearing, God-loving, God-obeying, God-worshipping sinless Saint, and no matter what you think you lose, **YOU WIN!!**

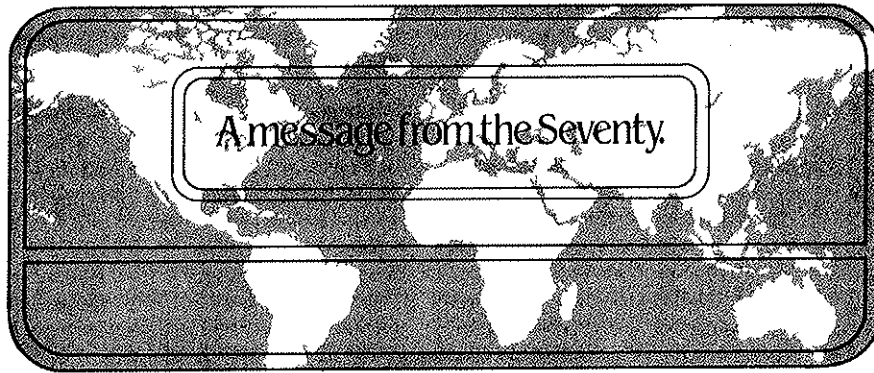
## Conference Notice

The annual Business Conference of the General Church will convene on Thursday evening, October 8, 1987 at 6:00 in our conference facility at Greensburg, Pennsylvania. This session will be open only to priesthood members and ordained teachers of the Church.

Friday, October 9th's meetings will be a continuation of the business begun on the day before. The Friday session begins at 9:30 a.m., and a lunch and supper will be provided for the elders and teachers present, as in the past, for a small charge.

The meetings on Saturday, October 10 will be open to all who wish to attend. Again, the morning session will begin at 9:30, and a lunch and supper will be available to those attending.

Sunday's meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. in the Greensburg Auditorium. All are welcome to attend this gathering of the saints.



## Church Being Registered in Guatemala; Contingent Getting Ready to Leave

*By Carl J. Frammolino  
Evangelist Editor*

The Church of Jesus Christ is being registered in the country of Guatemala and the missionaries who will be working there are getting ready to leave. Incorporation papers were signed by Evangelist Frank Ciotti and Elder Luis Marroquin on July 3, and the first permanent group will be taking residence there upon their adoption.

The paperwork is expected to be completed about the time of the October General Church Conference, after which Brother Marroquin and Elder Isidro Dominguez and their families, along with Sister Rose Anderson of Santa Ana, California are scheduled to go. A site to hold services is being sought in Guatemala City, and there are good expectations that the work of the Gospel will progress well there.

The two ministers are originally from Guatemala City. They had come to the United States to seek employment and to start a new life here, but it was different from what they had planned. Fortunately, the new life they began was with Christ.

Brother Dominguez, who was born April 4, 1960, was the first to come to America, arriving in June, 1980. His childhood friend, Brother Marroquin, who will be 25 years old on October 2, came later that year.

### MET GOSPEL IN SANTA ANA

They heard about the Gospel of Christ in Santa Ana, the city to which they had traveled directly from their home. A young niece of Brother Isidro, Martha Dominguez, encountered the Church through her schoolteacher, Sister San-

tina Mercuri, who had brought her school children to church.

Soon after they began to attend services, they felt the power of God in their lives. Brother Marroquin was baptized in August 1981, and Brother Dominguez followed in 1982. Their zeal to work for the Lord made itself evident and they were called into the priesthood in 1984. As special blessings, each brother was privileged to baptize his own mother soon after he was ordained an elder.

These brothers have been determined to return to Guatemala to preach to their people, and they have received various revelations about this. Feeling the influence of God's Spirit, they have been prepared for this return to their native country with a keen anticipation of what is in store.

They will be looking forward in particular to preaching to many relatives and friends whom they left behind as they came to the United States. Some have already heard about the Gospel through correspondence, and some have been acquainted through short-term visits to Guatemala. It is hoped that these people will form the base from which this effort will grow.

### WENT EARLIER

As noted in the July, 1987 issue of *The Gospel News*, Evangelists Ciotti and Wayne Jordan, along with Brother Marroquin, traveled to Guatemala City last December with a small group to become acquainted with the area in which the missionaries and their families would be settling, and to start searching for a building in which to hold services.

Others who made the trip with them were their wives, Sisters Shari Ciotti and Elaine Jordan, Brother John Genaro, and Brother Alan and Sister Bonnie Metzler. They were joined there toward the end of their stay by Brother Mark and Sister Karen Mancinelli, who had been touring Mexico at General Church direction. Brother Mark, a gifted photographer, had been taking pictures of the missionary work there, and he also photographed the efforts being made in Mexico.

According to a 1984 census, there were 6.58 million people in Guatemala, including 1.79 million in Guatemala City, the nation's capital.

Our prayers are that many people from this vast number will obey the Gospel of Christ, and that the work that will be started in Guatemala will spread to many other parts of the continent there.

### SPANISH RADIO BROADCAST

Other efforts are being made to reach Spanish-speaking people. A weekly radio broadcast in that language was begun August 15 in San Diego, CA over station KMJC (910 AM) at 7:45 a.m.

Church singers from branches in Tijuana, Mexico are providing the singing and Elder Luis Pacheco is the main speaker. Bro. Luis Marroquin of Santa Ana has been selected to serve as the announcer before he leaves for Guatemala.

An introductory series is being planned, after which more detailed explanations of the Restored Gospel will follow. The exciting new project will allow millions of Spanish-speaking people in Mexico, California, and adjoining states to hear of the Gospel of Christ.

The new venture is further evidence that work among the Seed of Joseph is proceeding beautifully in North and Central America.

## Change of Address

Nephi and Lorraine DeMercurio  
6655 Jackson Rd.  
Lot 443  
Ann Arbor, MI 48103  
(313) 662-2112

## The Gospel News

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

### CONSULTANTS

Nepht DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
3406 Sunflower Rd.  
New Brighton, PA 15066

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

#### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

#### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92386

#### FLORIDA

Joseph Graziosi  
601 S. Indian River Dr.  
Apt. #3  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

#### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18990 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

#### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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### BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord"* (Isaiah 55:8). One of the great mysteries of God is that no matter how intelligent we may think we are, or how close we believe we are to the thinking of God, we are continually made to marvel at the mysterious ways in which He carries out His will.

Men and women sometimes make plans according to the way they *think* the Lord would do things, and then they energetically pursue these plans as though the Lord Himself told them to carry out the project. No matter how good our intentions might be, however, we will not succeed unless the Lord is the true author of our plans.

As we meet together in Conference each fall and sometimes see plans conflicting, we are forced to ask ourselves whether all the pathways and projects that lie before us are truly in accordance with the plan of God. In some instances, supporting and carrying out one plan would make it impossible for us to effectively implement another equally feasible and appealing one. If we are not careful, supporters of each of these plans could theoretically form separate groups, resorting to political means to resolve the conflicts rather than putting aside their human nature and joining forces in petitioning God as to which is the right course to pursue.

In the Church, there is little to be gained in a political victory. While these tactics may succeed in getting a policy changed or a project started, they seldom serve to unite the Church, which Christ refers to as His body, to rally behind a common goal. When the Lord is in charge of what we are doing, however, His Spirit makes itself manifest, and its attendant peace serves to soften and unify our hearts. There is no cause for debate when we are all intent on doing the Lord's will.

How can we get to this point? The secret is for each of us to *open* ourselves to the Lord's will. We must go to Him constantly in prayer and ask, "Lord, what would *You* have me to do?" If our aim is truly to be used of God in whatever capacity He sees fit, He will be able to guide and direct us in the way that we should go, and as willing, humble, submissive servants we will *gladly* take up the work He has laid out for us. Furthermore, with the knowledge that the Lord has *called* us to do a particular work, and that He is with us in it, we will have the inner strength to pursue our course in times of opposition and fatigue, in situations where we would fail miserably if we went on our own. And best of all, we will have the fruits of His Spirit with us as a testimony to the world that we are servants of the Living God.

I address this issue at the advent of our annual Business Conference; however this attitude can apply to all our dealings with one another, on all levels of the Church, and in our personal lives as well. Let us strive to be directed by the Lord in all that we do, and He will use us to do great things in His sight, for His honor and glory.

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



## A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Dear Boys and Girls,

In the old days upon the land of North and South America, there lived a great nation of people. Some of these people were called Nephites and some were called Lamanites. Sometimes the Nephites served God more than the Lamanites, but there were times when the Lamanites were more pleasing to God.

God loves everyone. He doesn't care if you are Nephite or Lamanite, black or white, fat or thin, aging or very young; He loves and hears everyone who turns their heart to Him.

One famous Nephite who turned his heart to God was Jacob. Now the Lord knew Jacob was sincere. He sent angels to speak with Jacob and He also let Jacob hear His voice. Jacob was filled with the beautiful power of God.

Another Nephite named Sherem wanted the same power and influence over others like Jacob had. But Sherem was not like Jacob. Instead of quietly fasting and praying and changing himself, to be God's tool, he listened to the devil.

The devil told Sherem to set up his own church and teach the people not to believe in the true church where Jacob taught about Jesus Christ. He told Sherem how to make people like him, and how to pretend he was good and sincere, gentle like a sheep instead of being his true self—sneaky and planning to attack others like a wolf.

Many, many people in the Church believed the words of Sherem; they became confused. When Sherem talked to the people, the devil told him how to trick them. Some people stopped to pray when they heard Sherem and they were not tricked. Jacob was one of these.

Jacob did not forget the angels he'd seen, or his beautiful experiences with God. Jacob agreed to meet with Sherem, and he went, filled with the beautiful power of God. He was not afraid of the devil or of Sherem's big lies.

"Show me a sign by the power of this Holy Ghost you tell us to believe in, and you say you know so much about!" Sherem demanded of Jacob.

Firmly Jacob replied, "Why should I show you a sign when you know that everything I said about Jesus is true? You lie about it because you are of the devil."

No, Jacob was not afraid. He went on to say, "Since you want a sign, let not my will be done, but if God strikes you down, let that be a sign to you that He has power, both in heaven and on earth; and also that Christ shall come."

Now when Jacob said these words, the power of God came upon Sherem, and he fell to the earth!

For many days Sherem lay ill; then he said to the people, "Gather in a meeting tomorrow. I am going to die, and I wish to speak to the people before I do."

A huge group of Nephites came together the next day before Sherem, and he confessed to them, "I was tricked by the devil. I truly do believe in Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Ghost, and that angels are sent by God to help His people! I lied unto God greatly and now I fear, but I admit this to God."

And it came to pass that when he said these words, he could say no more, and he died. And when the crowd of people witnessed that he spoke these things as

he was about to die, they were astonished terribly. The power of God came down upon them, and they were overcome and they fell to earth.

The Lord had heard the cry of Jacob and answered his prayers. Peace and the love of God was restored again among the people. The wolf in sheep's clothing had been removed, and the people did not listen any more to the words of this wicked man. God heard the cries of His people.

So today, if you feel confused or hear a wolf in sheep's clothing, do as Jacob did. Pray, and trust in God. When the time is right, God can put the wolf right out the door, even as He did with wicked Sherem.

Sincerely,  
Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

PEOPLE	PRAYS
OF	NEPHITE
GOD	CROWD
BELIEVED	FELL
JACOB	DOWN
LIED	WICKED
ONE	SHEREM
GOOD	DIED
MAN	SIGN

J	M	L	I	E	D	L	V	B
P	R	A	Y	S	E	O	N	E
S	I	G	N	H	I	N	G	L
W	I	C	K	E	D	E	R	I
O	N	L	D	R	W	P	B	E
L	W	L	O	E	O	H	O	V
V	O	E	O	M	R	I	C	E
E	D	F	G	O	C	T	A	D
S	P	E	O	P	L	E	J	N

## Address Correction

Thomas Everett  
22400 Alger  
St. Clair Shores, MI 48080  
(313) 777-6637



## Our Women Today

### Michigan-Ontario Area Circle Visits Meaford

By Cathy Mulla

"The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you."

On Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31, 1987, the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle gathered at the Meaford, Ontario Mission to join the saints there in a weekend of fellowship and worship. Approximately 25 sisters and friends arrived on Saturday afternoon to spend time with their appointed families.

At 7:00 p.m., the sisters met at the church building to take part in a seminar entitled, "God Never Makes Mistakes." Sister Cathy Gentile, our area president, directed the group's attention to the quote above and asked us to ponder upon it throughout the classes. At the end of a very emotional and fulfilling period, we drew closer to an understanding of ourselves through our trials and the manifestation of the will of God in our lives.

On Sunday morning we met at the city's town hall and the service began with a season of singing. The visiting sisters sang *Give Me Understanding, Lord*, and Bro. Matt Collison opened in prayer.

Bro. Rick Elzby spoke about the significance of the Gentiles in awakening the House of Israel. He showed us how our faith plays an immediate role in bringing about Zion. He spoke from the 13th chapter of Mark. Bro. Matt Collison followed with a few words, mentioning the importance of faith in bringing about Zion, and that the Lord is able to do anything, if we just have a little faith.

Following a period of testimony, special prayers were offered to God on behalf of those sisters currently facing burdensome trials. After we dismissed, the Meaford Mission honored us with a lovely luncheon and a special cake.

We thank God for the love which the

brothers and sisters showed us and for their hospitality. May God bless the Meaford Mission is our prayer.

### Pennsylvania Area Circle Retreat

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Circles met on the weekend of July 11 and 12 at the Antiochian Village and Learning Center, located in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. The 49 sisters that attended were from North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The retreat began with a short business session. The devotion was taken care of by the Aliquippa Circle. They read from John 15:9-17, 13:34-38, and 14:20-24, and they sang *The Way That He Loves* and *O How I Love Jesus*. There was an election of officers, with Sis. Sara Vancik elected chairperson, Sis. Dorothy Schaeffer elected secretary and Sis. Jan Cornell as treasurer. Sis. Karen Progar was elected as chairperson in charge of next year's retreat.

The Pennsylvania Area Circle meeting will be held at the Aliquippa Branch on November 7, 1987.

After lunch was served, a seminar was conducted on "The Commandments of the Lord." Sis. Susanna King was the seminar monitor. The commandments were discussed by Sisters Dorothy Schaeffer of Monongahela, Mary Lou Buffington of Imperial, Eleanor Sproul of Fredonia, Ruth Carr of Greensburg, Becky Tarbuck of Imperial, and Darlene Large of Levittown.

In the evening session there was scripture reading, singing, and testimonies.

Sunday morning began with a sunrise service of prayer conducted by the McKees Rocks Circle. Brothers David Nolfi and Lawrence King, Sr. presided over the Sunday service. A number of brothers were in attendance at this service, and they honored the sisters with a song. Bro. Dan Buffington of Imperial spoke on the promises of God.

Sacrament was served, and there were some beautiful songs sung all to the honor and glory of God.

*Thou shalt have no other Gods but me,  
Before no idol bend thy knee.  
Take not the name of God in vain  
Nor dare the Sabbath Day profane,  
Give both thy parents honor due,  
Take that thou no murder do.  
Abstain from words and deeds unclean  
Nor steal, though thou art poor and mean.  
Nor make a willful lie, nor love it.  
What is thy neighbor's, dare not covet.*

### Memorial Fund

By Mabel Bickerton, President  
General Ladies' Uplift Circle

I have been asked to write about the Memorial Fund of the Ladies' Uplift Circle, as to its origin and purposes. I will quote from *The Gospel News* of June, 1960:

"A resolution adopted by the Ladies' Uplift Circle is called to the attention of the readers. The motion passed was to establish a Memorial Fund for departed loved ones, with the proceeds to be used by The Church of Jesus Christ in the future. The legislation taken from the General Circle minutes of June 25, 1960 reads: 'At the passing of Sister Sadie Cadman, our General Circle President, many circles and friends sent money to the General Circle and the Cadman family, to be used as a tribute to our sister. Some felt we should have a lasting memorial instead of giving flowers at that time. The General Circle now has a Memorial Fund with Sister Mabel Bickerton as treasurer. Circles or others wishing to contribute may do so in memory of departed ones. This money will be used to help the Church if and when it has homes for the aged or a similar project.

"A memorial card is sent to the bereaved family, telling of the contribution and from whom it has been sent. The amount is not stated. Also, a card of thanks will be sent to the donor." (end of quote)

As of this date, 1987, the treasurer is Miss Dorcas Rossi, 822 Monaca Rd., Monaca, PA 15061.

I hope this will clear any misunderstanding and enlighten those who are not familiar with this Circle project.

## MBA Highlights

### Spartanburg, SC MBA

#### THE MESSAGE OF THE ANGEL VISITS SPARTANBURG

"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,

"Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:6 & 7).

On Saturday evening, June 13, 1987, the Spartanburg MBA was privileged to have a drama presented by the children of the Quincy, Florida Mission entitled, "The Greatest Story Ever Told." The greatest event that has ever transpired on the face of the earth since the creation of man, aside from the coming of Jesus Christ, was proclaimed here in the city of Spartanburg. Silence filled the auditorium as the children sincerely illustrated the complete apostasy and restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As the world observed the saints,

many beautiful comments were spoken of the excellence of the drama and the great love felt among the saints. Among those visiting, we were honored to have three children from the Four Holes Indian Reservation in Ridgeville, SC, as well as a visitor from Nigeria, and one from Haiti, both of whom were amazed at the drama and who enjoyed seeing the children perform. Surely this was a wonderful weekend, as the saints enjoyed one another's fellowship. Now we are left with a great question: "Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?" (Isaiah 53:1)

As the angel came forth and cracked open the sky, making full speed to the earth to proclaim the message, we pray that it had the same impact on those who were present.

### Sterling Hts., MI MBA

*By Larry Sourvelis*

In our recent MBA meetings, we have been shown slides of the restoration of the Gospel and of the ancient civilizations of the Americas.

Brothers Spencer Everett and John Straccia have been blessed by the Lord to bring these slides to the saints. There has been a great deal of information shown.

From the artifacts taken from the ancient civilizations of South America, Central America, and Mexico we have learned how their way of life coincides with the descriptions taken from the Book of Mormon. Two of these civilizations, the Toltecs and Zapotecs, used materials similar to that of the people in the Book of Mormon in construction of various buildings. They were well equipped with all kinds of tools, and skilled in workmanship. The ancient civilizations were more sophisticated than we think. There are evidences of actual brain surgery performed on certain people.

Some of the words in their languages were very similar to words that have come down to us from the Hebrew. This reveals to us that they were influenced by the Middle East at one time. Of course, we know that the Book of Mormon people came across the ocean from that very region.

These slides our brothers have put together have been a great deal of help in our understanding of the Book of Mormon. The slides have all been supported by the Holy scriptures, with God's assistance.

Another topic we are getting more involved with is Jesus Christ in America. We thank God for all the knowledge He has blessed us with. May the love of Jesus Christ be with all the saints. Amen.

## Branch and Mission News

### Santa Ana, CA

*By Mary Ann Nicosia*

Santa Ana, a Spanish-speaking mission, has adopted Tuesday evenings for holding English services. There was much enthusiasm and excitement at the first one held on April 6.

Bro. Frank Ciotti introduced the meeting by bringing forth a challenge to the congregation. There were 17 in attendance. Bro. Frank's challenge was to double the attendance the following week. The desire was felt to invite the neighbors to either the Tuesday evening English or Thursday evening Spanish service, and to tell the community of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

On April 13, the mission was honored by a visit from Apostle Paul Palmieri. Bro. Paul opened the English service by recounting a dream that he had had on May 6, 1980 and how it was fulfilled in his ordination as an Apostle in the Church.

Bro. Paul then spoke on the vision that Nephi had about there being two churches. Eventually the Church of the Lamb of God will prevail on the earth.

He also explained how we can show people in this world the love of God. We can do this by our sharing, caring, praying, and being concerned. He said that by our love we can attract our neighbors, our friends, our relatives, and others with whom we come in con-

tact. By this love we will allow others to know of The Church of Jesus Christ and the opportunity to come to Christ to have their souls saved.

Bro. Frank Ciotti followed by reading from the 14th Chapter of Revelation, a great admonition to the Church to go out to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. He related an experience which was revealed in Tijuana, Mexico not long ago. In this experience it was given that the Gospel will go out to new frontiers. The young people were going into the midst of a fire (sin) and reaching out to the sinners. The words that were given in this experience were: "Go ye therefore unto all nations, teaching them to observe all things as I have commanded you and I will be with you until the end." Bro. Frank encouraged all to do their share for the Lord and the Lord will bless us. If we put forth the efforts, the Lord will do the rest.

Did the congregation meet Bro. Frank's challenge to double the attendance? There were 39 in attendance at the second English speaking meeting, more than double the first one. Praise God!

## Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

On Wednesday evening, July 1, we had a social in honor of the George Benyola family, who left us to return to Dallas, Texas. After a short service, we enjoyed cake and ice cream. Bro. George spoke to us, stating that his stay in Michigan was likened to a stopping-off place where he has been filled anew with the Spirit of God, and his soul has been refreshed.

Although Bro. George was transferred back to Dallas by the firm for which he works, the Lord has had a hand in it as well. The Dallas Mission has been sorely in need of an elder, and Bro. George will fulfill that need.

That Sunday, Bro. George's sermon centered around the song, *Taste the Grass on the Summit*. He said that even though we may not have a voice for singing, we receive a great desire when we hear these songs. The message in this hymn is to climb higher; the higher we climb spiritually, the sweeter the word of God becomes.

Man has altered so many things on this earth, even the very water that we drink. Man has changed the precepts of Christ, and the purity of the Gospel is to be found only in The Church of Jesus Christ. It was the absence of the Gospel that caused Joseph Smith to seek for a pure religion.

Bro. George said that it is a struggle to climb to the top and taste the pure Gospel of Christ, and few make it. Our desire increases, however, as we near the top. The higher we climb, the less debris and the more purity we find. If we want to receive the fullness of God's blessings, we must give our all. God's Gospel is untouched by man; that is why it is pure.

Our brother warned us not to become complacent on our way up. We must keep climbing until we reach the top, where we will receive our reward and enjoy eternal peace. To know there is a reward keeps us climbing ever upward. We know how it feels to be in the

valley, and it is our desire to climb out, to get back on top of the mountain. We cannot do this alone, however, we need the Lord in order to do it. When the going gets rough, it's God that's carrying us. It's then that we see only one set of footprints when we look back.

Bro. George stated that he had mixed emotions about returning to Dallas, but that he'll have to climb higher as he takes his place as the shepherd at the mission there. When we all see one another at the top of the mountain, we can say to one another, "Thank God we made it."

We at the Sterling Heights Branch will miss Bro. George, Sis. Stella, and Janice very much. We have learned to love them, and have enjoyed their friendship while they were here. We wish them God's blessings, and know that our loss will be the gain of the Dallas Mission.

"God's gift of love must not be suppressed."

## Niles, OH

By Wayne Martorana

On Sunday July 12, we were privileged to have visiting with us Bro. Vince Gibson of Cleveland. Some of his family, as well as other brothers and sisters from various branches were also in our midst. Before the service was opened, many inspiring selections were sung from the *Songs of Zion*. We were blessed to see many in attendance who had been afflicted for the past several weeks.

Bro. Vince's opening remarks reminded us of the need for prayer, support, and dedication to missionary work throughout the Church. He cited numerous examples of works "closer to home," within our district, and noted the opportunities for growth. Our brother stressed God's concern for mankind to the extent that He created us in His image. After making our promise to serve Him, we should have His countenance upon us daily.

Our brother read from II Corinthians 3:17 & 18 and II Nephi 9:20 & 21, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty," and "O how great the holiness of our God! For he knoweth all things, and there is not any thing save he knows it," respectively. He expounded upon the spiritual liberty we now have and enjoy

since our conversion. The weights of sin have been set aside, and we are free to receive both the Spirit and blessings of God.

Bro. Vince also extracted from these scriptures the fact that there is no need to blame God for any of our afflictions, problems, or unfortunate circumstances in life. If we serve God, He will provide for us according to His promises. The work of the Church is God's work. We have been called as ambassadors, to be vessels or instruments in promoting the Gospel.

Before the meeting concluded, there were several beautiful testimonies and an inspired season of prayer and anointing those in our midst who were afflicted. In conclusion, we thank God for His Church, His Spirit and blessings. Truly it was good for us to be there.

Later that day, we fulfilled a previous commitment to service a local care facility for the elderly. Approximately 25 of the saints attended, with nearly 75 of the residents of the home. Together we enjoyed many hymns, a brief sermonette, and each other's fellowship. We felt a fulfillment of the scripture which says, "When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17). The residents were truly appreciative of this visit. We might add that this meeting was made possible by an earlier visit from the sisters and children, during Vacation Bible School, who had gone to the nursing home to encourage the elderly and bring them dessert treats. Through this effort, the invitation for a service was extended and fulfilled.

## Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On May 10, 1987 Bro. Joel Gehly of Erie, PA came to Rochester as per the visitation schedule. He had been ordained an elder the previous Sunday. Bro. Joel chose *Second to God* as an opening hymn, and spoke on the 21st Chapter of Numbers, where the people of Israel murmured against Moses for taking them out of Egypt to die in the wilderness.

The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and many died from the snake bites. God told Moses to make a

(Continued on Page 10)

## ROCHESTER continued . . .

serpent of brass and set it upon a pole. Everyone who looked upon it would live. Bro. Joel drew the parallel that if we would look up to God, we will see the promised land.

Bro. Frank Natoli continued on the same subject. The people of Israel wandered 40 years in the wilderness. Today we are fighting a spiritual battle against sin. We want to build the kingdom of God and be found worthy soldiers of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On June 21, 1987 we were especially happy to have Bro. Vince and Sis. Sevilla Gibson of Cleveland, OH visit us per the schedule, as Bro. Frank Natoli and his family attended the Campout in California, along with Eleanor Locci.

Bro. Gibson read from Proverbs 30, "Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with food convenient to me; lest I be full and deny thee, or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain."

God has a purpose in everything, our brother taught us. Elijah thought he was alone and wished to die, but God told him that He had 7000 who hadn't bowed down to Baal. If we trust in God, He becomes a shield for us.

Bro. Ansel D'Amico verified the words of our Bro. Vince. The meeting opened for testimony, and the Lord's Supper was administered. After singing *Be of Good Cheer*, we formed a circle and were dismissed in prayer.

On June 29, I celebrated 54 years of being baptized in the Church. They have been 54 wonderful years. The more I serve Him, the sweeter He grows. It is very sweet to serve the Lord. May God bless all of you is my prayer.

## Youngstown, OH

By Karen Pezzenti

April and May were busy months for the sisters of our branch. Sis. Sandy D'Orazio planned a "Baby Shower," inviting all of our sisters to attend. Gifts were being accepted for the needy infants and children throughout the Lord's vineyard. It was such a great success that we hope to carry this event out each year. The evening was filled with fellowship among the sisters. Sis.

Betty Gennaro felt inspired to play the piano, and we all joined together joyfully and sang the *Songs of Zion*. We are all thankful to God to be able to reap so many blessings, and especially to share such a love with one another in our homes.

In April, Sis. Annabelle Santilli, our Ladies' Circle president, arranged an evening out for the women to celebrate our annual Mother-Daughter Banquet. We had a delicious dinner and another beautiful evening of fellowship. Sis. Annabelle spoke to us of the importance of God in our daily lives, and of fasting and prayer.

GOD TOUCHES AND TOUCHES  
DAY AFTER DAY

On Mother's Day, May 10, the grown children of the saints rose on their feet during the testimony meeting and thanked God for their mothers, stating how they truly love them and realize the important part their mothers play in their lives. Many shed tears as they thanked God, and a beautiful and humble spirit was felt throughout the congregation as God once again blessed His people. Oh, the joy that these mothers felt!

Sunday May 24 was also a day of joy for us. The tender Spirit of our Lord was in our midst as four were ordained to labor toward God's kingdom.

Sis. Florence Pezzenti was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Don Pandone after having her feet washed by her niece, Sis. Betty Gennaro.

Bro. Adam Costarella had his feet washed by Bro. Phil Jackson, and was ordained a teacher by Bro. Richard Santilli, his uncle.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone washed Bro. Michael Italiano's feet, and Bro. Michael was later ordained an elder by Bro. Henry Cardillo.

Bro. Paul Pezzenti was ordained into the priesthood by Bro. Ralph Berardino, after his feet were washed by Bro. Fred Olexa.

Our prayers are with all of these brothers and sisters as they begin this new aspect of their service to the Lord. May God bless them, and may they each grow stronger in faith, hope, and love in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We are grateful that the Lord watches over us each day of our lives,

and that we have His guidance. We need Him every hour. We pray that the Lord will continue to grow with all of you as He so kindly leads, guides, and directs us. May God bless you.

Please remember Sis. Minnie DePiero in prayer, as her body is much afflicted.

## Ft. Pierce, FL

By David Checci

On June 14, 1987 we were blessed to have Bro. Gene Perri visiting us with his family from the Lake Worth Branch. Bro. Gene opened the service by reading from Acts 19, and reminded us of our duty and service to God after we've made our covenant with Him.

Bro. Sam Costarella followed Bro. Gene by reading from Hebrews 11, and then turned the meeting over to testimony.

Mrs. Susie Perry, who started attending meetings recently with her family, stood up to glorify God. She said that she knows she is with the right people now, and then she asked for her baptism.

Bro. Frank Rogolino took our new sister to the water and baptized her. She was later confirmed by Bro. Gene Perri. We also had set this day aside for the blessed ordinance of feet washing.

We welcome our new sister to the Branch. She is a widow, 71 years old, and cares for seven children, some are adopted, some are foster children, and three are her great-grandchildren.

## Miami, FL

By George Kovacic

The Lord recently showered us with some extra special blessings. On May 8 Bro. Isidro and Sis. Marisela Dominguez arrived in Miami from Santa Ana, California and we shared many wonderful experiences with them for almost three weeks.

Bro. Isidro came to Miami through the beckoning of the Lord to help in establishing a work among the thousands of Spanish-speaking people in our area. This was the same desire that

the members of the Miami Mission have had for a long while.

Time was not wasted while Bro. Isidro was here. He immediately began looking for a portion of the vineyard in which to labor. This endeavor first took him to the migrant workers' camp in Homestead. This area is about 20 miles south of Miami, but the saints of the Miami Mission were eager to help in any way possible.

On Saturday, May 16 we held a very special meeting. It was an open presentation of the Church to the citizens of Miami, but it was given totally in Spanish. We made an effort to have the meeting advertised around town, and we had wonderful results. There were several visitors, and the Spirit of the Lord was prevalent. Not only was the preaching in Spanish, but we also sang the *Songs of Zion* in Spanish. After the meeting, we enjoyed some snacks and a period of fellowship.

Bro. Isidro and Sis. Marisela had an opportunity to visit several of the branches in the Florida District. They spent time in Cape Coral, Hollywood, Lake Worth, and Fort Pierce. Bro. Isidro sought every chance to speak to those who understood only Spanish.

It was hard to say good-bye to our brother and sister from Santa Ana, but we hope they will visit before going to Guatemala.

## Detroit Branch 4

*By Jonathan Marinetti*

On Sunday June 21, the Detroit Branch 4 was pleased to have Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Vitto visiting from Branch 1, as well as Sis. Santina Mercuri from the Santa Ana Mission in California.

Bro. Paul spoke on Luke 16:19-31, the account of the rich man and Lazarus, and then on John 12:9-11 where the chief priests consulted together to put Lazarus to death after Jesus had raised him up.

Bro. Vitto spoke about his conversion 53 years ago through the testimony of his aunt and his father, and through a dream he had where he was in line like a calf going to slaughter, and then saw himself in the grave, about to be buried. In his dream a voice cried out, "Don't

do that, he doesn't belong there," after which he found himself out of the grave.

A few Sundays later, the sermon was on Jesus commanding Lazarus to come forth. It was then that Bro. Paul arose and asked for his baptism.

Bro. Tullio LaCivita followed, speaking of the life to come, and how every man and woman will spend eternity in one of two places. He told how after his mother passed away, she appeared to him in a dream looking absolutely beautiful, much different from the way she looked just before her death.

As we prepared for the Lord's Supper, Bro. Frank Vitto admonished us to pray for one another, that we may be healed. Our prayers and concern for each other can be one of the ways that The Church of Jesus Christ can stand out from all other churches.

After sacrament was administered, Sister Santina Mercuri, who was originally from Branch 4, was invited up to the rostrum to express herself. She mentioned that she had had a desire to see Bro. Paul and Sis. Mary Vitto because they had not seen each other since she had stood up at their wedding 48 years ago! Through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, her prayer was answered and her desire was fulfilled.

Our Sister Mercuri testified of her work among the Mexican people in the Santa Ana area. She learned to read and write Spanish so she could teach elementary school in the area, and she began bringing her school children to Sunday School. She related how Bro. Lupe Rodriguez decided to investigate the Church after his children started coming home from Sunday School so happy all the time. After being anointed by the priesthood of the Church and receiving a healing, he was baptized. Long before they had known anything about the Church, his wife had a dream where he was meeting in a building with "Anglos." The Rodriguez family was the first in Santa Ana to come into the Church, and as of this date 30 more members have followed.

We heard several experiences from Sis. Santina which strengthened and sustained her in her efforts to work for the Lord. We praise God for the opportunity He gives each of us to be used by Him to do great things, according to our desire and our efforts. We closed our meeting by singing *En la Viña del Señor*.

## CONFERENCE continued . . .

tunities for us to reap the blessing of God, like the saints of old did, if we can show that same dedication and steadfastness that they showed.

Our next speaker was Bro. John Ross, Jr., who delivered an inspired exhortation for us to love one another, as brothers and sisters in Christ, and as natural family members as well. Bro. Dick Christman followed, stating how his memory was stirred up this morning to recall an experience that took place when he was doing missionary work in South Dakota.

He told how he ran out of kerosene (their only source of heat) one morning at 3:00 when the temperature outside was -20°F. There were no stores open at that hour, and out in the country with no telephone, Bro. Dick began to wonder how he, his wife, and their three small children were going to keep warm through the night. For an hour, they just huddled together, shivering and praying. At 4:00 a.m. Bro. Dick heard a knock at the door. It was a brother stopping by with some kerosene. He told Bro. Dick that he thought they might be needing some, and he decided to come out to their house and deliver it. Truly we must trust in the Lord, and not concern ourselves with *how* He is going to take care of us.

Bro. Bill Colangelo told how his granddaughter's husband fell about 25 feet to the ground from a tall ladder while working outside the McKees Rocks Branch. Truly if the Lord had not heard the prayers of the saints and intervened, it is doubtful that this young man would be walking today. We praise God for showing His mercy unto us as we call upon His name.

Bro. Ike Smith spoke to us also, saying how we cannot do anything to erase our unpleasant memories, but it is within our power to create good memories from today onward, so that we may have something good to look back upon. We should all make that effort to see the good in things, and use that good to its fullest advantage.

Bro. Leonard Lovalvo of Modesto, CA was also in our midst, and he gave some concluding remarks before closing our beautiful meeting in prayer. We all left that afternoon filled to overflowing with the beautiful thoughts the Lord brought to us that day.

**\* WEDDINGS \***

VERSTRAETE—GARCIA

Brother Roy Verstraete and Sister Esperanza Lopez Garcia were married on June 27, 1987 at the Santa Ana, CA Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was performed by Brothers Joseph Ciarolla and Anthony Cardinale. Musical selections were played by Sis. Florence Lombardo.

The couple is residing in Anaheim, CA. We pray that God will bless their life together.

SANISLO—VITTO

Brother Kevin Sanislo and Sister Karyn Kay Vitto were united in holy matrimony on August 1, 1987 at the Sterling Heights Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Paul Vitto of Branch 1 officiated at the ceremony, following a sermon by Bro. Leonard Lovalvo of Modesto, CA. Bro. Frank Vitto of Branch 4 offered the opening prayer and made the introductory remarks.

Musical selections were provided by Bro. Steve Champine and Sis. Tracey Francione, accompanied by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

Our brother and sister will reside in Anaheim, California. We pray that God will be uppermost in their life, and that they will have happiness always.

**New Arrivals**

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

Jarod Daniel to Matthew and Martha Picciuto of Riverbank, California.

Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Jessica Lynn to Edgar and Christine Gonzalez of Lorain, Ohio.

**Children Blessed**

On February 1, 1987 Mindy Icedo was blessed by Bro. Joseph Lovalvo at the Riverbank, CA Mission.

Laura Rodriguez was blessed on May 24, 1987 by Bro. Matthew Picciuto at the Riverbank, CA Mission.

Brother Joe Calabrese blessed Edgar Gonzalez II at Lorain, Ohio on July 12, 1987.

**OBITUARIES**

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

STELLA PLUMMER

Sister Stella Ann Plummer of the Yucaipa, CA Branch passed on to her eternal reward on June 7, 1987. She was born on October 5, 1894. Our loving sister was baptized on October 4, 1964 at the San Fernando Valley Branch.

Sis. Stella was a pillar in the Yucaipa Branch, being largely responsible for the establishment of the Yucaipa Mission. Her help in the early years of our mission will always be remembered by our brothers and sisters.

Her strides toward her reward were firm and straight, and we are warmed with the thought that she is in the presence of our living God.

HELEN FICOCELLI

Sister Helen H. Ficocelli passed from this life on June 10, 1987. A member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, she was born on January 13, 1912.

Our sister is survived by her husband Joseph, a daughter, Elaine, and two sisters, Betty Schrom of St. Petersburg, FL and Sis. Rose DiFabio of Youngstown, OH.

LUCILLE BLANC

Sister Lucille Blanc of the Dallas, Texas Mission passed away on June 21, 1987 after a lengthy illness. She was born on January 6, 1907 in Pikeville, KY. She and her husband lived in Weatherford, Texas. She was baptized by Bro. Joe Calabrese in October of 1986.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Joe Calabrese, who flew in from the Campout in California. She is survived by her husband, Bro. Sam Blanc, one son, and one grandson.



# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

October, 1987

Volume 43, No. 10

## GMBA Campout 1987: Keeping Step

*By Anthony J. Scolaro*

A record number of brothers, sisters, young people, and friends from all seven districts of The Church of Jesus Christ in the United States, as well as a large group from Mexico, met for six glorious days, June 20-26, 1987, at Scripps College in Claremont, California for the twenty-first GMBA Campout. Over the years, we have enjoyed the opportunity Campouts have afforded us to make new friends in the Church, fellowship with old ones, and most of all, to share in the blessings and the love of God with our brothers and sisters in Christ for an extended period of time, leaving the distractions of the world behind for a few days.

That the saints of God truly long for this kind of experience was shown this year by the fact that over six hundred people were registered for the camp before it officially began on Saturday afternoon, June 20. This unanticipated response in registration necessitated the rental of additional housing and meeting facilities at the last minute, but we all benefited by the even greater opportunity it gave us to meet brothers and sisters from every part of the Church in North America. For many of us, it was the first time we had a chance to meet many of the brothers and sisters from across the nation. Nearly a third of those registered were from the eastern part of the nation, and had traveled many miles to experience the joy of meeting with the saints in the west.

The large group which came to this year's Campout was also privileged to

enjoy what has to be one of the most beautiful campsites ever in the history of GMBA Campouts. Designated as one of the ten most beautiful college campuses in the United States, Scripps College was established by a private endowment in 1927. The Spanish Mission-style buildings and the landscaping created an atmosphere of opulence for the Campout; there was no hint of "roughing it," as the name "Campout" may suggest, in the college dormitories. And to make things perfect, we were blessed with beautiful weather throughout the week. So, from a natural standpoint, we had the makings of a wonderful time.

More important than all the natural beauty and creature comforts provided at this year's Campout, however, was the evidence of the Spirit of God in all that took place, even the things that we might usually consider to be "non-spiritual" in nature, such as registration, recreation, and the general administration of the Campout. Every aspect of this year's Campout was truly seasoned with that spirit, from beginning to end. It was evident that much prayer, as well as natural preparation, had gone into the planning and execution of the various activities at the Campout, and the Lord truly blessed the results of those efforts.

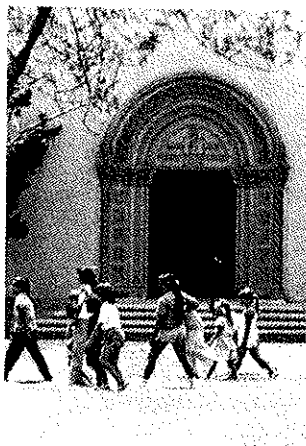
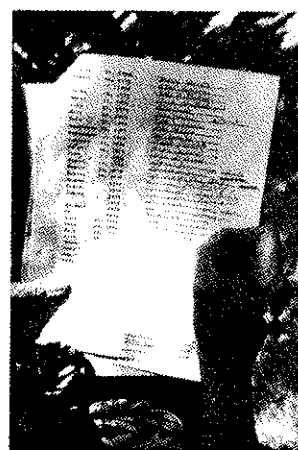
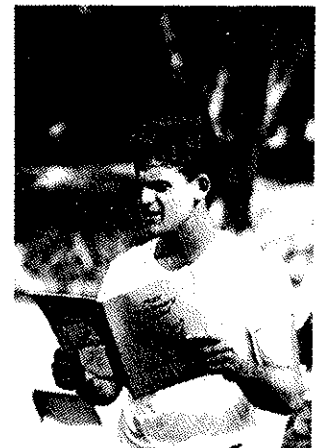
The spirit carried by Camp Director Randy Ciccatti and his committee chairmen was one and the same—they all showed a genuine desire to make the saints of God as comfortable as possible, to provide every opportunity for us

to enjoy ourselves, and to keep things running smoothly, eliminating any distractions which might keep the Spirit of God from having free reign in the camp. Throughout the week we could see these brothers and sisters running (and sometimes bicycling) around, getting things set up ahead of time, taking care of all the little details necessary to make the Campout enjoyable for all of us. It would be impossible to mention by name, without missing some, everyone involved in the success of this year's camp, but we thank God for the energy He gave the many brothers and sisters who worked behind the scenes before, during, and after Campout, to assure that those of us who attended would enjoy God's blessings to the fullest, for truly *that* is the reason why so many of us traveled so many miles: to be together with the saints and share in the blessings of God.

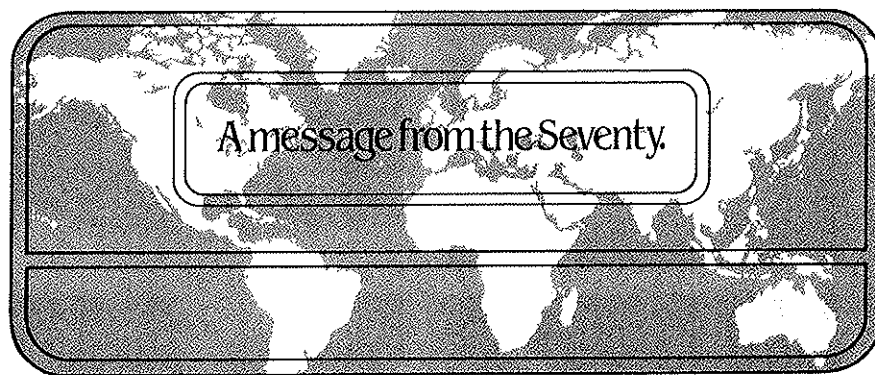
As those at the Campout congregated together for worship services on Sunday and throughout the week, the Spirit of God came into our midst and directed our meetings. We heard inspired preaching, singing, and testimonies, in English and Spanish, and enjoyed the manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Ghost in our meetings. These blessings literally came to fruition on Wednesday evening, when five young people, all children of the saints, requested baptism.

Early that morning, Bro. Herb Hemmings was awakened from a deep sleep

(Continued on Page 6)







## The Role of the Church Presented by Quorum of Seventy President

By Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor

Before the official start of the General Church Conference on Thursday, October 8, the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists will be in sessions to review the advancements that have been made and to consider plans which may be proposed for implementation in the future.

In convening the Seventy, Evangelist President Paul J. Benyola will be once again reaffirming the goals and objectives of the quorum and will be leading the group in a positive mode for further activities. Recently, he presented the perspective and the stance which will be taken, as he addressed the question of "The Role of the Church in 1987," particularly as it applies to this quorum. His comments are as follows:

"Fact or fiction, real or imagined? It all started with 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth' (Genesis 1:1).

"Some people find this opening verse in the Bible to be fiction. Many diverse thoughts such as those on evolution, the 'Big Bang' theory of the beginning, and Ezekiel's 'space ship sighting' have been expounded to explain the provenance of mankind. These man-made theories are gaining momentum.

"Biblical quotation and prayer, silent or vocal, have been successfully eliminated from our schools in the United States; this was accomplished in a nation that was founded on principles which included our recognition of God. Verification of this is found by looking at the inscription on all of our currency and coinage."

### OUR CALLING

"Our calling to become members of The Church of Jesus Christ, our commission as a Church, and our responsibilities to spread the Gospel cannot be easily laid aside by any of us, least of all by those of us who are in the Priesthood, and less still by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists.

"It takes faith to believe in the creation, the fall of Adam, the birth of Jesus Christ the Son of God, the apostasy and restoration of the Gospel, the record of the Nephites and Jaredites, the return of the Seed of Joseph, the Choice Seer, the restoration of the House of Israel, the establishment of Zion, and the end of the last dispensation of time.

"The Bible and Book of Mormon teach and verify that God has never destroyed a people without warning them to change their ways. What, then, is our responsibility in 1987? Is it not to preach the everlasting Gospel to every nation, every tongue, every kindred, and every people according to the very basic scripture of Revelation 14:6 & 7? Should we not be warning mankind to 'fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountain of waters'?"

### OVER FIVE BILLION PEOPLE

"The harvest is truly great today—probably the greatest amount ever at one time in the history of mankind. There are over five billion people in the world. As the harvest is great, sadly the laborers are few. Insight into our role is given in Romans 10:14-17.

How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?

and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

"The Church is gaining momentum in Mexico, India, and Africa. Evangelists have started programs in each district to preach the Gospel and to let others hear and see what there is in the Gospel of Christ: Truth, not fiction.

"The General Church Development Committee, with Evangelist Elmer Santilli as chairman, along with many others, has contributed time and money to tell thousands of people in the Independence, Missouri area in word and in song about our beliefs and expectations. We have started dialogue with various Restoration groups with the hope that one day 'Thy watchman shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion' (Isaiah 52:8).

"The task is great, but with God's help it is possible to reach the thousands who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness. We, the Quorum of Seventy, are asking each member to support us in this work by utilizing the talents that God has given each of us. We need the unity, prayers, and cooperation of everyone to accomplish the great work of the Lord.

"My opening comments centered on the question, 'Fact or fiction, real or imagined?' My closing comment is that we have the faith to believe that we are engaged in a work that is not only factual and real, but is of such importance that it occupies our central role in life. It permeates our entire existence and makes our reason for being on the earth so essential and pointed: **The authority and responsibility of preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all mankind.**

"May God bless each of us in performing our particular task successfully in the overall role of the Church, in 1987 and throughout our lives on earth."

## The Gospel News

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

### CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovatino

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
5904 N.W. 88th Ave.  
Tamarac, FL 33321

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

#### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

#### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

#### FLORIDA

Joseph Graziosi  
601 S. Indian River Dr.  
Apt. #3  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

#### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

#### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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### BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Over the years we in the Church have come to depend upon spiritual leaders to direct the workings of the Church and oversee the efforts put forth by its members. We have been blessed to have some of these brothers and sisters guiding us in Spirit and truth at the branch, district, and General Church levels for many years. We thank God for the dedication of these leaders, and for the things they have done as instruments in God's hands.

Each time that someone passes from this life, however, we're awakened to the fact that none of us can be depended upon to live forever on this earth. No matter how mighty a tool we may become in the hand of God, there comes a time when the Lord calls us home, and because the work of the Lord must continue, He must seek out others who are willing to work for Him. Who will be our spiritual leaders in the next generation? Who will be among us then to make certain that The Church of Jesus Christ continues as The Church of Jesus Christ?

As members of the Church, we must all make that effort to grow spiritually, and be willing to contribute our strength and energy for the welfare of the Church. We who rejoice in the strength and the blessings we have gained from the Church should be doing our part to make the Church a source of spiritual fortitude for others in their time of need. We must be eager to use the health the Lord has given us, while we yet have it, to make the Church an orderly place, filled with the power and the blessings of God, so that the souls of men might be drawn unto Christ for their salvation. The strength of the Church lies in the effort we as members put forth, and the progress of the Church lies in our desire to grow closer to God. As the Lord calls replacements for those who have gone on before, we must each be ready and willing to say, "Here am I, Lord, send me."

In the fast-paced world we live in today, when more and more of the things of life demand our attention and tempt us to put our service to God second or third in priority, it is difficult for us to maintain that perfect walk before God. Not only do we suffer by not putting the Lord first, but our branches and missions also suffer, and if our involvement in the Church at that level dwindles, District and General Church activities will surely appear only as a distant blur to us. So we as individual members must make a greater effort to become involved and stay involved in the Church, or the Lord will not be able to depend upon us when He is seeking for laborers in His vineyard.

In order for God's will to be done through us, we must show that we are ready to be used by Him for whatever purpose He sees fit. We must be aware of how His Church is set up, and keep in mind that each unit of the Church, whether it be member, branch, or district, is part of, and subordinate to, the unit above it. We are all ultimately a part of the General Church, the one Bride of Christ. As each of us as members put our hearts and minds toward the perfecting of that one bride, we will all find ourselves being used of God, doing what He has enabled us to do best, to honor and glorify His name, and to establish His kingdom here on earth.



# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## Great Joy

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you ever wonder why people were created by God? The Book of Mormon tells us that man (all people) is, that he might have joy. Joy! Joy is that wonderful feeling of happiness you have when you feel loved and so happy and close with God and others. That is how we are supposed to feel.

A long time ago, one of God's special angels decided to go against God. His name was Lucifer, and he became Satan. God was too smart and wonderful to make someone or something stronger than Himself; He was stronger than that old devil. So, God made the devil leave Him, and that mean old devil has been trying to make people be mean and unhappy, like he is, ever since that day.

Now the scriptures tell us that God will protect His children. We who love and serve God are His children. But Satan is always trying to get us away from serving God and feeling joy. Satan is called the father of lies. He always tries to trick us, but *God* is stronger.

Jesus talked with the devil several times in the Bible. He told us, "Resist (stand up to) the devil and he will flee (run away) from you." This goes for people of every age.

So the first time that Satan puts bad thoughts in your mind, or the first time you think them, you need to stop those thoughts. Maybe you are angry, or coveting. Coveting means wishing something that doesn't belong to you was yours. Even grown-ups have to watch their thoughts so they don't start to covet their friend's house, or pretty car, or nice family, or the way someone sings or can think real well. Each one of us is supposed to be thankful to God for what He has given us. It wastes our lives and our time for joy if we're sit-

ting around mad or jealous about other people's blessings.

Jesus told us that when we feel this way, to ask Him for help to change our thoughts. If we are angry or afraid, we need to call out His name; He will be there with us.

Today at work I had to stay late; everybody was gone but me. I had to be there alone, walk out alone through big dark rooms, go down the elevator alone. I became scared. In my thoughts I imagined, "What if someone is in here who is mean?" Then I realized that this was just the old devil trying to scare me. God does not want us to fear. I said out loud, "Satan, in the name of Jesus, leave me alone," and I thought again, "What if someone sneaked in here?"

But this time I was not afraid. I told myself, "If someone is in here, I'll just act surprised and pleased and ask them to go with me awhile, and we'll walk out of the building together." God and Jesus had taken away my big fear.

Fear doesn't come from God. Joy, and bravery and courage and love come from God. We are supposed to love and cherish each other, not fear people or the things that a new day brings. Our job is to love one another and love our wonderful Lord.

When you're afraid, tell Jesus. Talk to Him out loud, or in your mind and heart. He already knows your every thought, so tell Him about those mean feelings, or scary worries. Ask Him to help you change, or be willing to change. Talk to the Lord the same way you talk to anyone. He will hear you. He loves you already; He wants *you* to feel great joy, too.

Your friend,  
Sister Jan

## WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

WE	PRAY
HAVE	AND
GREAT	CALL
JOY	TO
FOR	JESUS
GOD	HE
LOVES	LOVES
ALL	US
OF	EACH
HIS	WILL
CHILDREN	HEAR
	YOU

W	L	G	R	E	A	T	C
I	L	O	F	E	S	I	H
L	A	D	V	W	O	F	I
L	C	A	S	E	V	O	L
O	H	Y	O	U	S	R	D
T	C	O	A	H	E	A	R
J	A	J	S	R	J	N	E
J	E	S	U	S	P	D	N

## CAMPOUT continued . . .

by the Lord telling him, "Today it is time to plant." Arriving early to the 7:30 prayer service that same morning, Bro. Jim Lovalvo had a vision of a being dressed white listening to and accepting the prayers that were being offered by the group of brothers who had also gathered early. During the evening meeting, Bro. Ike Smith felt inspired to ask all who felt the need to repent to come forward. As the elders encircled the large group of brothers, sisters, and young people who gathered at the front of the auditorium, Bro. Paul Liberto offered a mighty prayer unto the Lord. Not long afterward, Rhoda Jumper of Aliquippa, PA, Larry Carlini of Saline, MI, Yvonne and Diann Champagne of Sterling Heights, MI, and Nancy Lombardo of Phoenix, AZ made their wishes known to go to the water's edge. Many were given to understand that "the time to plant" in our Brother Hemmings' experience represented the prayers offered on behalf of those who had yet to make a covenant with the Lord. We had planted that morning, and by evening we were able to rejoice in the harvest.

(Continued on Page 11)



## Our Women Today

### First Circle in Mexico Established

The first Ladies' Uplift Circle in Mexico was organized May 30, 1987. At the request for a Circle from the sisters in Mexicali, Sister Mabel Bickerton, president of the General Laides' Uplift Circle, and Sister Fannie Casasanta of the McKees Rocks Circle accepted the invitation to organize. Others that attended were Circle sisters from Anaheim and the Valley. Sis. Joyce Azzinaro, president of the California District Circle, organized the new group with Sister Bickerton's assistance.

English and Spanish were spoken at this meeting, with Sisters Lydia Knowles and Julia Pacheco interpreting. Officers were elected, and twenty sisters became members of the first Ladies' Circle in Mexico. It was a day of blessings.

While visiting in California, Sisters Bickerton and Casasanta were able to attend a service at the Santa Ana Mission as well as a meeting with the Anaheim Circle. One afternoon Sis. Elizabeth Simpson held an open house for the visiting sisters to meet others of the branch. Isn't the Love of Sisters something wonderful?

### Poison Ivy

During the warmer months of every year there is a common three-leaved vine known as poison ivy that grows very heartily in all locations. The vine climbs and clings to anything it can for its advancement. It's a difficult weed to eliminate because of its heartiness. Most of all, it poses an irritating health threat to anyone who touches it.

If any part of our skin touches the leaves, poison ivy begins its work. We first feel an itching sensation, which logically causes us to scratch. As scratching continues, the disease takes hold upon our skin's surface. Soon the poison ivy rash appears, bringing us to the realization that we have contracted something. In most situations we realize too late that we have poison ivy, because our scratching has caused its spread. Even after we realize we have

poison ivy, the itching sensation continually gnaws at us, causing us to scratch; thus the disease worsens.

Poison ivy in its full stage causes the skin to swell and puff. Scratching causes the skin to break open, to ooze, and to bleed. On the face it can puff the lips or swell the eyes shut. It can distort facial features grotesquely, as if one had been beaten. On the limbs the swelling can immobilize. Poison ivy can even spread internally into the nose, ears, or mouth.

During poison ivy's attack upon the body the temptation to scratch is relentless. This is the most difficult symptom to deal with, because scratching yields a gratification to those infected, which only serves to spread the disease over the entire body.

In examining this disease, we see the type and shadow of a more life-threatening disease—that of sin. While some may have a natural immunity to poison ivy, there is no such protection against sin.

Sin has a facet known as temptation, with which everyone comes in contact: Temptation is the drawing power of sin which makes it attractive. As we are drawn to sin by temptation, it stirs within us a false promise to be very pleasurable—lust. Indulging in sin yields its pleasure, even as one may be gratified by scratching the itch of poison ivy. After one's lust is temporarily satisfied, temptation returns again with its lie to satisfy. Again and again the vicious cycle of temptation, lust, and sin repeats itself until the victim is fully consumed by the disease. While poison ivy and scratching succeeds in spreading its rash, the cycle of sin ruins lives, breaks hearts, splits families, kills, and destroys. Poison ivy may change the outward appearance, but sin in its fullness distorts both the inside and outside of its victims.

Dead unto righteousness, alive unto sin, led by the insatiable desire to satisfy one's lust; a servant of sin. While it is unlikely that poison ivy would cause death, yet sin is the cause of both our temporal and spiritual death. There are many topical ointments and medications to relieve the itching and spreading of poison ivy; there is only *one* cure for the disease of sin—Jesus Christ the righteous.

Only the atoning blood of Jesus Christ can remove the disease of sin. Only the indwelling of the Holy Ghost can give the strength to resist the temptation of

sin. And only by a repentant broken heart, a contrite spirit, can we receive the prescription of life to resurrect us from the death of sin.

God bless you,  
Brother David Nolfi  
Glassport, PA

### The Morning Breaks

"The morning breaks, the shadows flee,  
Lo! Zion's standard is unfurled!  
The dawning of a brighter day  
Majestic rises o'er the world.

The clouds of error disappear  
Before the rays of truth divine;  
The glory bursting from afar,  
Wide o'er the nations soon will shine."

Are we talking past, present, or future?

In the 1820's an angel appeared to a young Joseph Smith, revealing the whereabouts of some buried scripture, along with the means of translating them. This record was to be used in conjunction with the Bible, thus the two books together became the "fullness of the Gospel," for the laying down of contentions and the confounding of false doctrines. This event signaled the end of 1260 years of apostasy. Zion's standard was unfurled, and the dawning of a brighter day did rise majestically o'er the world.

The problem was that the majority of the people did not comprehend the Restoration of the Gospel, so they considered it an enemy and actively fought against it, thinking that they were doing God a service.

Let me at this time point out a similarity to the past. When Jesus came to His people, the Bible says, "The light shone in the darkness, but the darkness comprehended it not." The majority of the people considered Jesus as an impostor and an enemy, so they crucified Him, thinking they were doing God a service. Just as the religious leaders of that day called for the crucifixion of Christ, the religious leaders in the world today are calling for the eradication of the Book of Mormon, seeking to wipe out the Restoration of the Gospel.

Christ spent the days of His ministry

(Continued on Page 11)

## Branch and Mission News

### Riverbank, CA

*By Martha Picciuto  
and Barbara Parravano*

There's a lot of excitement in Riverbank, California! For several years, meetings have been held for the Spanish-speaking people—in homes and in rented buildings—on Sunday evenings. On February 28, 1987, we became an Established Mission! We are now known (officially) as the "Riverbank Spanish Mission."

Bro. Louis Parravano is our presiding elder, with Bro. Matthew Picciuto assisting. Everyone is involved, holding an office, or two, and happy to be doing the work of the Lord. We are now meeting on Sunday mornings for Sunday School and preaching services in a rented building. We have also begun midweek study nights in the home of one of our brothers in Riverbank.

We have 14 baptized members. Our first baptism as an established mission took place on June 16, when Sister Claesa Icedo went down into the waters of baptism, with our visiting Mexican Brother Daniel Mora officiating. It was an exciting day for everyone—for Bro. Mora, who came to do missionary work in our mission for about six months and was now seeing some of the fruit of his labor here, for Sis. Claesa, and for all the members and visitors who were there to witness this joyful and historic occasion.

There were many people picnicking in the park who witnessed this unusual (to them) sight also. The weather was beautiful—it couldn't have been better. It was a perfect day in every way. The angels in heaven must have been rejoicing, too. Sis. Claesa came out of the waters crying tears of joy, and everyone sang hymns in Spanish to the honor and glory of God. It was truly a glorious day, and we thank God for another soul coming to Him.

We feel especially blessed in the mission, not only because of this baptism, but also because we are now in the process of converting an old house into our own building! Every Saturday is a work day, and some evenings during the week as well—after a hard day's work. Because we are few, even the women and children come to help. Sometimes

it looks like too big a task for us to finish. But we have faith that God will help us, because we know that those who seek to bring forth His kingdom will be truly blessed.

### San Diego, CA

*By Tom P. Liberto*

The Spirit of God was truly felt in the San Diego Branch on Sunday, February 15, 1987. The day started with an ordinary Sunday School service, but for one young brother, it will be a Sunday he will never forget.

Paul O'Sullivan had been attending our branch with his wife, Sis. Dina, for quite some time, and we all knew God was working in his life. Bro. Paul was born and raised in another faith, and he had a tough time getting used to our beliefs. He had been asking God to direct him, and he often prayed about his baptism. On this particular Sunday, God answered our brother's prayer.

Paul was sitting in a Sunday School class being taught by Bro. Bob Womack. The lesson being brought forth really touched Paul's heart. His heart started to pound very hard, and he thought that God was calling him. But he just wanted to be sure, so he waited.

After a few minutes went by, his heart kept beating harder and harder. Bro. Paul knew the Lord was calling him to get baptized, but he had to be absolutely positive, so he prayed to the Lord. He prayed that if the Lord was truly calling him to become a member of His Church, He would show Paul a sign by putting it upon the heart of Bro. Ray Saczko (our Sunday School superintendent) to ask Paul to close the Sunday School service in prayer.

After we reconvened for the closing of our meeting, who do you think Bro. Ray asked to close? That's right, Bro. Paul O'Sullivan. He asked for his baptism that week, and we went to the water's edge the following Sunday. Bro. Paul was baptized by Bro. Bob Womack, and confirmed by his father-in-law, Bro. Ken Surdock.

We thank God for answering our brother's prayer. Bro. Paul is already

a great asset to the San Diego Branch. We pray that the Lord will continue to bless him. We also pray that God will continue to bless our branch, along with all the other branches and missions in the Church.

### Phoenix, AZ

*By Frances J. Capone*

On Sunday, July 5, 1987 Nancy Lombardo, daughter of Bro. Nunzio and Sis. Mary Lombardo and granddaughter of Sis. Nancy Morone, was baptized in the Verde River with Bro. Barry Mazzeo officiating. She was later confirmed by Bro. Peter Capone.

The family was originally from the New Brunswick, NJ Branch.

Nancy called for her baptism at the recent GMBA Campout held in California. Upon being questioned about her feelings about the Church, Nancy glowingly replied, "It feels wonderful to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ."

May her commitment remain true all the days of her life, for she has chosen the better part.

### Sterling Hts., MI

*By Hazel Zoltek*

Sunday, July 12 marked the rebirth of two of our young people, Yvonne and Diann Champine. The two cousins called for their baptism at the GMBA Campout in California, but wanted to be baptized at home so that their parents could be present. Yvonne responded to the invitation of Bro. Ike Smith, who was inspired to ask those who wanted to be prayed on at the Campout to come forth. Bro. Joe Calabrese laid hands on her, and as he did so, a brother from the San Diego Branch saw a cloud over her float away. As Yvonne was asking for her baptism, Diann stood on her feet and gave her life to the Lord as well.

At our meeting today Bro. Dick Christman of Phoenix, AZ spoke to us from II Peter, the book of Alma, and finally the book of Revelation. He spoke to us of the many beautiful places and things in the natural world, and how men endeavor to put on impressive events and pageants. But as we envision

this bride arrayed in white spoken of by John, everything else fades away. Nothing can touch the glories of God; the true majesty belongs to Him.

Bro. Frank Natoli of Rochester, NY followed, stating that the pictures painted by Bro. Christman set us to thinking of the grandeur we will behold. We can go to our God at any time, without waiting to be invited. He is our friend. He laid down His life for us. Unlike any natural leader, God is always there to listen to us, and to help us.

We met at our District baptismal site at 6:00 p.m. Sis. Yvonne was immersed by Bro. Frank Natoli, and Sis. Diann was baptized by her father, Bro. Gary. There was a tornado watch in effect at the time, but the skies remained clear as Jesus looked down on this happy event.

We returned to church where Sis. Yvonne was confirmed by Bro. John Straccia, and Sis. Diann was confirmed by Bro. Lou Vitto. We sang *A New Name in Glory*, and the girls gave their testimonies. We also heard the testimonies of family members, who were grateful to God for calling these two young sisters into the Church.

Thus ended another beautiful day to be long remembered by the two sisters. Let us give something positive to that God who dwells within us, and in whom we live. A stranger is a friend you haven't met yet.

## Santa Ana, CA

*By Mary Ann Nicosia*

Brother Jim Scalise from the Bell, CA Branch opened our Evangelical Service on May 24, 1987 by reading from Romans 12:1. His theme was "Your Reasonable Service." He spoke inspiringly about the necessity and importance of giving God our reasonable service. He reminded us about the sacrifice that Christ made for us, and specified how little it is for us to offer our lives to Him. He gave some examples of how our reasonable service could be offered. He also told us of the rich rewards that we receive by serving God.

Baptized in the Church 44 years ago, our brother elaborated on how the Lord has influenced his life and how he felt he was very fortunate to work for the Lord. He said that on many occasions

it was necessary for him to identify himself as a minister of God, and regardless of how difficult it might be, that would not change. He also indicated how important it is for us to impress all of our acquaintances with our love for God and the Gospel.

Evangelist Mark Randy from Modesto, CA followed Bro. Jim and reflected on his many years in the Gospel of Christ, having been baptized in the Gospel over 50 years ago. He told how the Lord has influenced his life, starting at the age of 19. Bro. Randy elaborated on how the Lord had accompanied him on missionary work in Port Huron, Michigan over 40 years ago, and he brought to our attention how God had enlightened his mind on many occasions.

We praise God for our visiting brothers, and hope that through their words souls might be brought unto Christ.

## Detroit, Branch 4

*By Kerry Carlini*

Sunday, August 2, 1987 the Lord filled our hearts with glad tidings and much joy—glad tidings from the wonderful sermon preached, and overflowing joy from the calling of another soul into the wonderful Gospel of Jesus Christ. We were blessed to have in our midst Brother Nephi and Sis. Lorraine DeMercurio and their two sons from Detroit Branch 3, and Bro. John and Sis. Leona Buffa and their son from the Saline Mission.

Bro. Nephi opened our service reading from the 34th Psalm, relating God's deliverance. "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles . . . (and) redeemeth the soul of his servants: and none of them that trust in him shall be desolated." Bro. Nephi stated that we must not trust in our own selfish nature; rather, we must allow God to be in control of our lives. Only then will God bless us with His holy righteousness, which may or may not be noticeable to us, but is highly noticeable to those in the world who are searching for the love of God.

Earlier in the day, towards the end of Sunday School, Eli LaCivita (who was raised in the Church, yet, after many years of attending, had not rendered obedience to the Gospel) had come into Church and sat in one of the back pews.

Bro. Jonathan Marinetti turned and noticed how unusually sober-minded and serious Eli appeared. The Spirit of God, speaking in a still, small voice, told Bro. Jonathan, "Today is Eli's day."

Later, during the morning service, Eli wanted to stand and request his baptism, but he felt that Satan was holding him down. Therefore, when Bro. Tullio LaCivita (Eli's brother) was passing sacrament, Eli whispered to Tullio as he walked by that he wanted to be baptized.

Years ago, Eli's father, Bro. Anthony LaCivita, told Eli that if he desired to see his late mother again, he must join the Church and be baptized. Finally, shortly before his father's death in 1972, Eli promised to his father that he would do so. Now today, Eli's promise to his father was kept by promising to his Heavenly Father to serve Him to the best of his ability all the remaining days of his life. Praise God!

The saints reconvened at Edison Lake, where Bro. Eli was baptized by Bro. Tullio. With the saints meeting again at the branch, Bro. Eli was confirmed by Bro. Nephi. Truly a resounding praise is expressed by all the saints this day to the glory of God for His calling another soul into His fold. It is our prayer that Bro. Eli will steadily grow in faith and in good works.

## Omaha-Bedford

*By Dorothy Miller*

"The morning shone bright when it came, and Jesus was there, praise His name." After seventeen years of prayer and perseverance, the labor of love in this part of the vineyard has taken shape and form. We have a church building, and the sign of The Church of Jesus Christ is up and drawing the honest of heart to its doors. Through our desires and prayers, and the revelation of God, the first phase of our building's remodeling needs have been completed and we want to thank the saints who assisted us in this effort.

We held our 1987 Annual Mini-Conference gathering the weekend of July 25 & 26. Our hearts were filled with excitement and anticipation as visiting saints from Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Kansas began arriving on Friday. What a blessing it was to see all of them!

(Continued on Page 10)

**OMAHA—BEDFORD continued . . .**

The theme of all our meetings was missionary work, and the natural and spiritual growth of the Church. On Friday evening we held an informal meeting with discussions on "Creating a Clean Heart," which is one of the main requirements for doing missionary work.

Saturday morning we paired off in teams and went out two by two to evangelize the area around the Church building. We passed out flyers and invited the people to attend our services. This afforded us an opportunity to talk with many people, and we learned that a number of them were already aware of the Church's presence in the area.

Saturday afternoon the mission members presented a program entitled, "The Characteristics of a Missionary—Back to the Basics." Bro. Clifton Wells, our presiding elder, introduced the program using examples from the lives of Apostle Paul and Jonah to depict the necessary traits of a missionary. The subject was presented under the following categories: The Calling, The Fruits of the Spirit, The Full Armor of God, and The Fulfillment. The mission members took each category and referenced it to scripture, showing how God supplies the missionary with necessary traits to accomplish His work. The program was then opened to those present and a lively discussion ensued.

Saturday evening God blessed the fruits of our labor. We had a visitor who said she came after reading the flyer she found in her mailbox. She later told us that she found the flyer after praying to God concerning which Church she should attend. We also had another visitor, Thelma Booker, from Birmingham, Alabama. She became acquainted with the Church through the missionary efforts being made in Evergreen, Alabama. She testified concerning the love she felt among us and her desire to be a part of the family of God.

On Sunday morning we truly tasted the grass on the summit. Visitors poured in and the building was filled to overflowing. Praise God, many from the Omaha area were exposed to the Church. Many of the visitors were relatives of the mission members; this was the answer to some seventeen years of faithful prayers.

Our service began with the blessing of three children. They were presented

by their parents, and as Bro. Clifton received the children, the Spirit of God came down and laid a blessing on each of them.

The elders preached, introducing the angel that flew in the midst of heaven to our many visitors. They preached the love of God and His plan of Zion for all who will love and serve Him. They admonished all to "arise and eat, for the journey is too great." Now is the acceptable year of the Lord, and all should seek the will of God in Spirit and in Truth.

According to the testimony of many of our visitors, the Gospel was preached clearly and plainly. Many of the hymns we sang during the service were selected from *The Songs of Zion*. Our visitors were most impressed with *Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*. They felt that the words of the song held a personal message for them and many of the people they come in contact with.

A young man, Todd Allen Wright, stood and requested baptism. Todd is the brother of our Sister Sherry Rolling. He said he had first heard Sis. Sherry's testimony ten years ago and he loved to hear her speak of the Gospel. He had been praying that God would take control of his life. He lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and he drove all night (over seven hours) just to get here to ask for his baptism. Truly a new name was written down in glory as Todd confessed his sins and made a covenant with God at the water's edge.

Bro. Clifton Wells administered the ordinance of baptism to Todd, and he was later confirmed a member of the Church by Bro. Mitchell Edwards. After the confirmation, the elders passed sacrament for the benefit of our new brother. Bro. Todd is a sensitive, sincere young man. He stood again in testimony, thanking God for the prayers of the saints and professing a desire to prove faithful in all that God would have him to do. Remember him in your prayers.

So the weekend opened and closed with the glory of God shining in our midst. Through the gathering, God opened up doors of opportunity for the further growth of the mission. Remember us and our missionary efforts in this part of the vineyard in your prayers. Our desires continue to be that the Christ in us might shine and direct others to this more excellent way, The Church of Jesus Christ.

**Cape Coral, FL**

*By Bertha Constantine*

On July 19, 1987 Hope Eutsey was ordained a deaconess in the Cape Coral Mission in Cape Coral, Florida. Brother Bert Schaffler read the duties of a deaconess from the Church manual, and then read from Romans 16 regarding the role women have in helping the Church. Sister Shirley Eutsey, Hope's mother-in-law, washed our sister's feet and Bro. Eutsey, Sr., her father-in-law, ordained her. We sang *To the Work* as an appropriate hymn for the occasion.

During the morning service, Sis. Theresa Palermo presented a corsage to her mother, Sis. Philomena Bartuccio, for 51 years in the Gospel, and also one to Sis. Bertha Constantine for 54 years in the Gospel.

We at Cape Coral are also happy to announce that we have finally purchased acreage, and we ask all of the saints to remember us in your prayers as we endeavor to build a meeting place.

**A Letter of Thanks**

I and my children wish to thank the many brothers and sisters and friends who shared our sorrow during Mel's sickness and death. Your remembrances meant much to him.

Mel's life touched many people, one young man especially, named Michael, who is in prison. Although they had never met, he and Mel became very close, communicating by letters and tapes.

A very unusual thing happened between them. One morning Mel was feeling very low, and said he wished someone would come and have prayer with him. I was busy cleaning when suddenly a voice came from the tape player. It was Michael, praying for Mel. He often ended his recorded visits in prayer, but no one was near the tape recorder and it had not been turned on to my knowledge. Yet at that moment, Michael's taped voice came on in prayer. Somehow that morning the sound came on at the end of the tape just in time to bless Mel with the prayer he needed.

We have many memories to be thankful for.

God bless you all,  
Sister Ruth Mountain

\*\*\*\*\*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support during the illness and recent passing of my husband, Bro. Antonio Lombardo.

Please continue to remember me in your prayers, and I will do the same for you as God brings you to mind.

Sis. Nicoletta Lombardo  
Detroit Branch 1

### CAMPOUT continued . . .

The next morning, as many met once more to pray, Bro. Lovalvo again saw the personage dressed in white, but this time he was able to see scars in the hands and feet of the personage, and he recognized Him as Jesus Christ. This is but one of many of the beautiful manifestations of God's presence at the Campout; space does not permit the mention of all that were had.

The topic of the seminars throughout the week was "More Missionary Minded." In our classes we concentrated on ways in which we as individuals can more effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with our fellow man. Through discussion and role-playing, we were able to get a better idea of what it takes to actively promote the Gospel. Again, we enjoyed that same beautiful Spirit of God in the teachings brought forth in the seminars.

Another example of the unity of spirit that was felt throughout the Campout was the unanimity with which we selected the camp's theme song, *Keeping Step*. You could tell that this song was going to be special the first time we sang it on Sunday morning; each time we sang it thereafter it was with the same enthusiasm and exuberance. No one had to campaign for this song, and there were no contenders. When the time came to select a camp theme song, it was with one accord that we shouted, "Keeping Step!" Throughout the week, several brothers were inspired to elaborate on the words of this hymn, admonishing the saints to be consistently righteous in their walk before God.

This year's Recreation Committee, Bro. Doug and Sis. Candace Obradovich, succeeded in their goal to include *everybody*, athletically inclined

or otherwise, in the fun and games. In addition to the usual sports events, teams also participated in such things as a scavenger hunt, a church-related trivia game, a spelling bee using words from the scriptures, and a quiz game, based on television's "Hollywood Squares," using questions relating to the scriptures and the structure of the Church. These and other well-planned activities provided all present with a chance to spend time together laughing and playing.

For those interested in music, this camp had more than enough to offer. A Campout Choir, directed by Bro. Ken Lombardo, as well as other special singing ensembles throughout the week and a special "Talent Show" on Thursday night, kept us edified and entertained as we enjoyed singing, and hearing sung, praises to the Lord in English and in Spanish.

As the time drew near for all of us to part company, the love of God which bound us together became stronger and stronger. We knew that we would miss these brothers and sisters and friends that we had come to know so well in the past week, but we looked forward to the joy of seeing one another again in the future. A Latin inscription above the gate of Scripps College read, "INCIPIT VITA NOVA," which translates into something having to do with the beginning of a new life. For those who had surrendered their lives to the Lord at this Campout, this was especially true. In a way, though, it was true for all of us who attended, as we came away from Campout 1987 with a renewed determination to carry out the wonderful plan of God and establish His kingdom here below.

### MORNING BREAKS continued . . .

in persecution because of the lack of understanding by the so-called religious leaders of His day, but the fact remains that His teachings were all truth. The Book of Mormon likewise is under attack by the so-called religious leaders of our day, notwithstanding the fact that its teachings are all true, even as Jesus Christ is true.

When Jesus hung on the cross, the people thought they were finished with Him. Jesus was not bitter, but brokenhearted that they could be so blind. He cried out, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Following the parallel already drawn, it is possible that as time passes the Book of Mormon will be so maligned, that it may be "given up for dead." However, the message of Christ will still cry out in mercy, "My hand is stretched out still."

As Christ resurrected in power and great glory, so will His word, the Bible and Book of Mormon, burst forth in power and great glory as the Choice Seer emerges, Zion is established, and Israel is gathered back to the lands of their inheritance. The spiritually blind shall see, the spiritually deaf shall hear, and the spiritually lame shall leap as a hart.

"The clouds of error will disappear before the rays of truth divine, and glory bursting from afar wide o'er the nations soon shall shine." All contentions shall be done away, and all false doctrines confounded, as Zion's light bursts forth. They that murmured (enemies of the Book of Mormon) will learn doctrine. If not, then the righteous will be separated from the wicked, even if as by fire.

"And now I say unto you that all these things must come according to the flesh" (1 Nephi 22:27). "For a long time will I lay up of the fruit of my vineyard unto mine own self, against the season that speedily cometh; and for the last time have I nourished my vineyard, and pruned it, and dug about it, and dunged it; wherefore I shall lay up unto myself of the fruit for a long time, according to that which I have spoken. . . . And then cometh the season and the end; and my vineyard will I cause to be burned with fire" (Jacob 5:76 & 77).

"And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write; for these words are true and faithful. . . . I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son" (Revelation 21:5-7). Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

As a reminder for all of you who wish to submit an article to *The Gospel News*, please forward your articles through the Branch and District editors. Do not mail articles to the Business Office (Church Print House); this will only delay the publication of your article.

Thank you,  
Bro. Anthony J. Scolaro, editor

## \* WEDDINGS \*

### DiPRONIO—GALLO

Mr. Rocco DiPronio and Miss Karen Ann Gallo were united in holy matrimony on March 14, 1987 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo officiated at the ceremony. The groom's father, Bro. Ben DiPronio, was soloist at the wedding.

The couple is residing in St. Clair Shores, Michigan. We pray that they will be happy in their new life together.

## New Arrivals

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

Jaclyn Michele to Michael and Robin Owens of Detroit Branch 1.

Fiori Francesco to Kevin and Gloria Conti of Detroit Branch 1.

Michael John to Larry and Rose Ann Skupny of Detroit Branch 1.

Michael Anthony to Daniel and Mary Bertolo of Detroit Branch 1.

Vickie Lynn to Bruce and Mary Jo Jones of Detroit Branch 1.

Mallory Erin to Robert and Ruth (Genaro) Batson of Niles, Ohio.

Charles Duane, Jr. to Chuck and Dianne Maddox of Lake Worth, Florida.

## OBITUARIES

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

### WILLIAM MOELKE

Bro. William Harold Moelke passed on to his eternal reward on July 22, 1986 after a nearly year-long battle with cancer. A member of the Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan, Bro. Bill was born on May 12, 1925 and baptized into the Church on July 18, 1982.

Bro. Louis Pietrangelo officiated at the funeral service.

Bro. Bill is survived by his wife, Sis. Lena, and two sons. He embraced the Gospel with all his heart, and it gave him a peace and a joy which sustained him through his illness.

### MELVIN MOUNTAIN

After a long and painful illness Bro. Melvin Mountain succumbed to the inevitable.

Brother Mel was born June 28, 1905 in West Elizabeth, PA. On September 18, 1928 he and Sis. Ruth Cadman were married. Baptized in 1933 and ordained an elder in 1944, he served the Pennsylvania District faithfully. In 1972 he and his wife moved to Scottsdale, Arizona where they became an important part of the Phoenix Branch.

In Arizona much of his time and energy was devoted to the Indians of the Salt River-Pima Reservation, with whom he established a close rapport.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Peter Capone, assisted by Brothers Barry Mazzeo and Herbert Hemmings.

Bro. Mel is survived by his wife Sis. Ruth; a daughter, Sis. Barbara Ackman; a son, Melvin Jr.; five granddaughters, and eight great-grandchildren, along with four step-grandchildren. Our brother was loved and respected by many people. He will be missed by family and friends alike.

### ANTONIO LOMBARDO

Bro. Antonio Lombardo passed from this life on August 13, 1987. He was born March 9, 1897 and baptized by Bro. Alfred D'Amico on his fiftieth birthday. Bro. Tony was a member of Detroit Branch 1.

Bro. Paul Vitto officiated at the funeral, assisted by Bro. Peter Scolaro.

Our brother leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Sis. Nicoletta Lombardo, and her children and grandchildren. He is also mourned by the saints at Branch 1 as well as several nephews and nieces throughout the Church.

### PIETRO SCOLARO

Brother Pietro Scolaro of Detroit Branch 1 passed on to his eternal reward on August 14, 1987, one day after the death of his brother-in-law, Antonio Lombardo. He was born September 21, 1891 and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on April 24, 1932.

The funeral service was officiated by Brothers Paul Vitto and Louis Pietrangelo.

Our brother's wife, Sis. Rose, passed away ten years earlier. He leaves to mourn three children, Bro. Tony Scolaro, Sis. Angeline Castelli, and Sis. Grace Everett, twelve grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren, as well as many brothers and sisters in Christ.



# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

November, 1987

Volume 43, No. 11

## Greetings from Anadarko

*By Sis. Evelyn Crall*

In 1972-73 we came to Oklahoma on vacation. Brother Bill had many dreams concerning this area. In one, he saw a job waiting for him, in another he saw a house. We took these to mean that we would not have to worry about these natural things of life if we moved here.

When we left Oklahoma after our vacation, it was like we were leaving part of ourselves there, as if we were just an empty shell going back to Ohio.

As we decided to make the move, God provided the way for us. We were able to sell our house, at a loss, but as we took to the road in February of 1974, at a time of year when the roads were usually notoriously icy, God provided clear roads for us. Also at that time, gasoline was being rationed out 10 gallons at a time. Yet every place we stopped on the highway, we were permitted to fill the tanks on both our vehicles.

After we moved here, Bro. Bill had to go back to Ohio and work for four months before he could retire, leaving myself, Louis, and Sara to make a way for ourselves. God provided me with a job in a furniture factory, operating power saws and other machinery.

We had many trials in our first year, as if we were being tested. But God came through with everything that we needed. When my husband finally came down the Lord provided him with the means to earn a living. In the years that we've been here, two songs have always been on our lips: *God Moves in a*

*Mysterious Way*, and more recently, *God's Still on His Throne*. This is just a small part of how God has provided for us.

As you can see, the sign in the picture reads, "Indian Capital of the Nation." Oklahoma has more of the Seed of Joseph living here than in any other state of the union. There are over 200,000 Indians here, representing 30 different tribes. Bro. Bill and I have, over the years, made friends with members of each one of these tribes.

The Indians here live among the Gentiles, not on reservations. Because of this, we are free to visit among them as we please, without having to seek the permission of the authorities. We have had many meetings in our home, and

have never had a problem filling the room with the Seed of Joseph.

There is great potential here in Anadarko for a flourishing Indian mission. We have endeavored to the best of our ability to bear witness of the Gospel to the Indian people here, but have found it difficult to establish a steady congregation without an elder here. Although it has been more than eighteen months since we've had an elder meet with us, God has given us faith and determination to continue to witness for the Church.

Whenever we have had an elder here, we have had as many as 40 Indians meeting with us. Many have asked to be anointed. We never hide the Book of Mormon from them. In fact, we tell them that it is our belief and their

(Continued on Page 3)



## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

### LEST WE FORGET

"O Love the Lord, all you his saints;  
for the Lord preserves the faithful and  
plentifully rewards the proud doer"  
(Psalm 31:23).

By the grace of our Lord, a mission started among the Dutch people in Mt. Brydges, Ontario, Canada; the Ladies' Uplift Circle of Detroit sewed a beautiful set of sacrament linens and presented it to the new mission. As is our manner, the cloth was to be set aside for the sole purpose of the Lord's Supper. It was a beautiful day. There was much snow on the ground, but the sun was shining brightly.

A group of young sisters had come to visit; Bro. Thurman Furnier and Jack Ford were present, along with several visitors. The Holy Spirit was also present, filling each heart with praise.

Thurman addressed us; the subject was the wedding supper of the King's son (Matthew 22:1-14). Testimony followed, during which a woman stood up and said, "Now I understand the story of the Queen of Sheba, for the half was not told me of the glory I am feeling here." She later asked me to come and talk to her husband. "He must hear you, too," she said.

The testimonies of those young people were filled with enthusiasm and the love of God. Among those girls were Elsie and Joanne Paleno, Margaret Heaps, and Dorothy Burgess. When we partook of the Lord's Supper, we felt the presence of Jesus. The Van Brees, in whose house we met, were filled to overflowing with ecstasy. When the meeting was over, the lady who asked me to come to her home was in no mood to give up. I was tired, and we had a

long trip ahead of us, so I suggested that we might go some other time. But she insisted, saying, "Now is the time that you must come. I have four children, and my husband and I have for the past eight years been living in the same house and not speaking to each other. It's only a few miles. Please come!"

But the few miles turned out to be many miles, and it started to snow heavily. "I must go to work tomorrow," I kept telling her. "It is late, Mrs. Hendricks."

"I know, I know," she said, "but tonight is the night." Bro. Furnier could see how sincere she was. "This woman is brokenhearted. Have patience with her," he exhorted.

We finally arrived at her home. Her husband, John, was not at home, but her four children were. I thought that now I could go home. But have you ever tried to convince a determined person whose heart was broken? She had endured a trial for eight long, hard years.

One of the children said their father was at the neighbor's house. We went to the neighbor's, but John wasn't there. They told us he went to church, and his wife suggested, "Let's go there."

"What? Trouble everyone at a church meeting?" I asked.

"Please, Marco, have patience," said Thurman.

"But how much patience?" I said.

Off to the church we went. We were in Cedar Springs, Ontario. A child came out of the church and said that John was in there praying. "Are we going to bother a man while he's praying in his church?" It seemed that everyone in the car except me was on this woman's side.

Finally John came out, along with the minister of that church. Before I could say a word, his wife said to him, "John, this is a man of God, he can bring peace between us." John seemed confused at the sudden change in his wife's attitude.

"John, I said, 'your wife is in love with you, in spite of the eight long years of cruel separation and silence.' After a word of prayer, they both embraced and cried out, asking each other's forgiveness.

The minister invited me to come into the Church and asked me to address the group. "I was once a sinner," I said to them, "I thought I knew God, but I didn't. I would kneel before statues and pictures made by the hands of men.

"One day I heard of a living God who would hear me if I would talk to Him. This I tried, and felt a burning flame enter my soul; that flame is still alive in my life—a flame I cannot quench."

Mankind must find their way through Jesus of Nazareth into a family—the family of God. The purpose of Jesus coming to this earth was and still is to reconcile us to our Creator. A restoration has come. How long must we remain divided? How long must we seek selfish ways, isolating ourselves into groups, thinking we are holier than they? God's love is toward any that works righteousness and keeps His commandments.

We are invited by Christ to come to Him. Inasmuch as we agree that Jesus is the life, the truth, and the way, why not follow Him—why not obey His statutes?

As a result of this determined woman's persistence, a mission was started in her home. We had several baptisms. The Windsor, Ontario Branch served this mission.

Patience paid off and God's love prevailed. "I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not. I said behold me, unto a nation that is not called by my name" (Isaiah 65:1).

How great is the love of God? Who can measure or even understand it? Had I not listened, could I now write of such a blessing? Think of it: are you patient? Are you listening to the cry of a broken heart? Someone may be waiting for you, waiting to hear you. "Touch someone today."

Grace be with you and peace,

Mark Randy

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*"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy" (James 3:17).*

## MBA Highlights

### Pennsylvania Area MBA Activities

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held their annual picnic on May 30, 1987. It was hosted by the Fredonia MBA local. The day started out with a heavy rainstorm, but by the time everyone had eaten lunch, the sun was shining and everything was dry. The afternoon was spent playing games and socializing. For supper everyone gathered around a bonfire and roasted hot dogs and sang songs to the honor and glory of God. It was a very enjoyable day!

A seminar was held by the Pennsylvania Area MBA at the Aliquippa Branch. To begin the evening everyone brought a casserole and we enjoyed a delicious and plentiful potluck dinner. After having our natural needs filled, we gathered upstairs to have our spiritual needs fulfilled. Bro. Paul Aaron Palmieri and Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti were in charge of the seminar. The subject was "Knowing Your Church."

Classes were assigned according to age. From the remarks, we could gather that discussions in the classes were very lively and enjoyed by all. After the classes, we regrouped for a panel discussion. The panel was composed of four people posing as non-members of the Church. They asked questions concerning the Church and those in the congregation answered them. By the answers they gave, the members showed what they had learned in their classes, and proved themselves to be knowledgeable concerning The Church of Jesus Christ.

#### ANADARKO continued . . .

history. Whenever we know an elder is coming, we print it in the newspaper, and have it announced on the radio, making sure it is broadcast during the Indian program on Saturdays. When we have brought our elders to visit churches with chiefly Indian congregations, our brothers are always asked to speak.

Bro. Bill and I have covered an 80-mile radius, making our presence known at all the Indian Churches in the area, participating in their prayer ser-

vices and sing-alongs, and being of assistance at funerals. In a six-month period we normally travel 3000 miles, trying to spread the message of the Restoration wherever we can. The Lord has supplied everything for us. We have so much more now than we did when we were living in Ohio.

I want to take time to thank the many brothers and sisters who have shown their support through the years. There are so many, but I must mention the Ladies' Circle, the GMBA, and the Audio-Visual Committee, who have kept us supplied with tapes of conferences, campouts, and GMBA meetings. To us, these tapes are our Church. I suppose we have at least 100 cassettes, and we select a different one to listen to every day.

We wish to thank the Anadarko Daily News for supplying the photograph.

May God bless each of you richly, as He has blessed us.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Crall

### 50th Anniversary

On Sunday, August 2, 1987 the saints of Detroit Branch 1 were privileged to honor our beloved Sis. Mary Dichiera on the occasion of her fiftieth anniversary as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

She is the daughter of our late Bro. and Sis. Carmine Campitelle.

Sis. Mary was baptized by Bro. V. James Lovalvo on August 1, 1937 in the Detroit River. She was confirmed by Bro. Anthony Pietrangelo. On April 5, 1970 she was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo.

The branch honored her with a beautiful corsage, which was pinned on by her sister-in-law Rosalie Campitelle, also a deaconess. The Lord blessed them both as they embraced, and the Spirit of God was felt throughout the congregation.

Sis. Mary expressed her thanks to the Lord for the many blessings she received throughout her life. She remembered the covenant she had made with the Lord at the river shore, tha'

she would serve Him all the days of her life. She emphasized very strongly how important this promise was, because it was made to God and not to man. This promise held her firm and faithful throughout the years, and she said that when her days are ended, she hopes she may receive her reward and enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Through her many troubles, and in her most trying moments, she felt the hand of Jesus so soft and tender embrace her and give her much love, peace, and comfort.

Over the years she held many offices in the branch, the Sunday School, and the MBA, as well as in the District and Local Ladies' Uplift Circles.

The greatest gift that God bestowed upon our Sister Mary was teaching the children, which she was very successful in doing. She taught several generations of children in the Church. Sis. Mary praised the Lord and gave Him all the honor and glory, because He was her instructor, leading and guiding her in what manner to teach the children, that they might learn of Him.

The previous weekend of July 25 and 26, our sister had the privilege of attending the 50th anniversary of the Six Nations Indian Mission in Oshweken, Ontario, Canada.

Sis. Dichiera went faithfully to this mission every other weekend for 18 years to teach the Indian children in Sunday School and to assist the brother elders with many duties, both natural and spiritual.

The saints of the Six Nations Reservation honored her with a corsage,

(Continued on Page 6)



Sis. Mary Dichiera



## A message from the Seventy.

# Further Organizational Growth Made by The Church of Jesus Christ

*By Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor*

Under the direction of God's hand, further organizational growth in The Church of Jesus Christ will be recorded when Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Paul Palmieri travel to India in January of 1988 to more firmly implant Church bases in that part of the world. To accomplish this, they will hold Conferences in the two main areas where the Church is currently established and set up the necessary framework for the usual functional processes involved. They will also secure into place the capacity for future expansion.

The prospect of administrative procedures being installed in still another country is, of course, exciting and promising. The work in India, which has been accomplished through the General Church Board of Missions, has been difficult, but the laborers have dedicated themselves to the task of spreading the Gospel.

Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri will indeed have a busy schedule, just as they did when they visited India in the latter part of 1985. Their itinerary involves much travel between the two established church locations, which are approximately 350 miles apart. These are the central bases of the present Church in India, from whence great outward progress is being made.

In each area, a conference will be held to formally organize the region along Church guidelines. The ministry will meet as they do in other parts of the world, and will be oriented toward a program of reporting, auditing, and practical administration—essential attributes for spiritual leaders to possess.

Further direction will follow on a continued basis through correspondence with Evangelist Calabrese, who is the chairman of the General Board's Foreign Missions Committee.

### EVALUATION TO BE MADE

An important part of the trip for Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri will be an evaluation of the entire undertaking in India. Plans will be made so that future expansion can be implemented more readily, as more souls come into the fold and the outreach activities need to be extended. Facilities will also be an important consideration of the analysis. While the brothers are there, a new building will be dedicated to the Lord in Nallamadu.

It is expected that there will be baptisms performed and communion served at both conferences. There are over 300 members in India; the Church is now functioning in nine villages, and plans are being made to begin services in two more. Although the growth has not been sudden or dramatic, it has been steady. There are signs that the entire field could quickly grow in numbers. Recently, 44 souls were baptized into the Gospel of Christ in a village that was just reached by the Church.

As the message of salvation is given in testimony from one community to the next, there undoubtedly will be greater manifestations of the Holy Spirit. The Lord has continued to bless our brothers and sisters in India. Total dependence upon the Lord is important for them, even to their basic need for their daily bread and other provisions. Many spiritual experiences, gifts of the Spirit, and healings have been reported by the ministry there.

### IN CHARGE

The two resident Indian elders who are in charge are a medical professional, B. David Livingston, and A. Devanandam. They had both visited the Church in the United States before being baptized and ordained into the priesthood of the Church. Both brothers had become familiar with the Church through correspondence at different times.

In America, Elders Livingston and Devanandam traveled to many branches and missions throughout the Church, becoming acquainted with many American brothers and sisters as well as learning about the structure of the entire Church.

Pictured below is the gathering at Gopalapuram. Brother Livingston, at right, is instructing and questioning this group in preparation for their baptisms.



A child care program and sewing vocational school (above) has been started in Ayular. It is funded by free-will offerings and is on the Church property. The General Ladies' Uplift Circle provided the funds for the sewing machines.

Other works have been pursued in India in the area of health care. One of these was independently undertaken by a member of the Church, Sister Darlene Large of the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch, who started an orphanage

(Continued on Page 12)

# The Gospel News

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

## ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

## CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovalvo

## OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

## GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
5904 N.W. 88th Ave.  
Tamarac, FL 33321

## GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Alliquippa, PA 15001

## DISTRICT EDITORS

### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

### FLORIDA

Joseph Graziosi  
601 S. Indian River Dr.  
Apt. #3  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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## BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

There is much to be afraid of in the world these days. From nuclear warfare to toxic substances all around us, from increasing crime rates to incurable diseases plaguing the land. Without the peace that Jesus gives us, it would be an easy thing for us to live our lives surrounded by fear.

As the saints of God, however, it is our privilege, and to some extent our duty, to be free of these fears. Psalm 91, a beautiful passage of scripture, lays to rest many of the things that the people of God might otherwise be afraid of:

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.

They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.

Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honor him.

With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.

We know from reading the Bible and Book of Mormon that destruction will come upon the face of the earth, and that there will be a separation of the righteous from the wicked. In order for us not to fear these things, we must truly be servants of the most high God. It is to *saints* that the promises in the scripture above apply, and to none else.

Rather than trying to think of all the natural precautions we could take to protect ourselves from the perils of the world, we should put our energies into walking uprightly and steadfastly in the sight of God. When we have been made perfect in His love, the words of the Psalmist will ring true in our hearts.

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## Jesus Hears Our Prayers

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you ever pray and wonder if God really hears you? He *does*, but Satan would like to trick you into thinking that God isn't there; or one of his favorite tricks is to tell us that we're such bad people that God hates us and that is not *one bit* true. God always loves us. He does hate our sin, but the Lord always loves His children.

One Sunday I was feeling sad and wondering why some of my prayers hadn't been answered the way *I* wanted them to be. Satan started trying to trick me in my thoughts. Usually I see what's happening and say, "Satan, in the name of Jesus Christ, leave me alone!" and he has to obey.

For some reason, though, I was just feeling sorry for myself and even mad at some other people, and so I told the Lord, "God, please give me a sign that You hear my prayers. Forgive me for my sins and the things that I do wrong, forgive me if it's wrong to ask for a sign, but please, could I just have one?"

That day at church went by, and a beautiful sister mentioned faith, how we need to remember all the good things God has already done for us, and how we must then have faith that He always will take care of us. So I told myself to be like that and have faith, and I did begin to feel better.

But God knew I was still feeling a bit troubled inside. At dinner with some of the saints, we began telling about our lives and what God does for us.

One visitor, a brother in the Church, told us a true experience about prayer that hapened when he was a young man in the Navy. This brother was living on a big ship, far away from home, with a lot of strangers. He hadn't let God into

his life yet, and was lonely and sad a lot of the time.

Sometimes he would try to forget his troubles by mixing in with people of the world and doing the things they do, but his uncle in the Church told him to try praying about his troubles instead. This young man knew that his father and mother and the people in the Church were praying for him because they had told him so.

One afternoon, he was on a small boat returning to his ship when a huge aircraft carrier pulled in front of them. As his boat crashed, bodies flew into the air and grown men were crying and screaming.

A voice spoke to this brother in his right ear and said, "Pray now!" Then he heard a voice in the other ear saying, "You don't usually pray, so how can you pray now?"

As he stood alone, frozen in his spot, he heard above all the screams the loving voice of his mother. She was praying to God to protect her son and guard him day and night, and above all, to bring him safely home to one day serve God. God heard her prayers. Our young brother was fine.

The Book of Mormon tells us, in II Nephi 32:8 & 9, that God wants us to pray and that an evil spirit teaches us not to pray.

This brother heard both spirits speak to him, but then his mother's faith and prayers were answered by God. Today her son is an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Whenever you hear an evil spirit in your thoughts arguing in this way, remember Nephi and this brother; tell Satan to leave you alone in the name of

Jesus. He will. He has to obey Jesus, because Jesus is stronger; and Jesus loves you—each one of you. Jesus knows our thoughts, our hungers, and our fears, and He will help us! He knows the right way to answer our prayers.

Stop and think. Write down how many nights God has protected you while you slept. Write down how many times He was with you on the highway; how many times He has healed someone you loved; how many times He has helped you do something when you were afraid.

God is alive. Jesus hears your cries and tells God to help you; they know how to turn tears into joy. Never forget that the Bible teaches us in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son (Jesus), that all who believeth in him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

With love,  
Sister Jan

### ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

along with many other sisters who labored and worked in this part of the vineyard of the Lord over the years.

Since January of 1987, our Sister Mary has been living in Anaheim, California and is now a member of the Anaheim Branch. The saints in Anaheim received her with open arms, and she is very grateful for their kindness and the great love they displayed towards her.

She greatly misses and loves the saints of the Michigan-Ontario District, where she worshipped for many years.

She will always remember Branch 1 for the precious memories, as a child and a sister in Christ, that she holds so dear to her heart. These memories will never be forgotten.

The article *The Morning Breaks* on page 7 of the October, 1987 *Gospel News* was written by Bro. Ether Furnier of the San Carlos, Arizona Indian Mission. This information was inadvertently omitted when the article was published.

The Editor



## Branch and Mission News

### Hollywood, FL

*By Sharon Staley*

Sunday July 26, 1987 was a day filled with blessings and great joy for the saints of the Hollywood Branch as they witnessed the baptism of Brother Nick Persico, Jr.

The day began with a beautiful Sunday School lesson taught by Bro. Joe Catone, Jr. from The Book of Mormon concerning Alma and his fellow-laborers preaching to the Zoramites. The class discussed what it means to be lowly in heart.

After community singing, the morning service was introduced. Bro. Ken Staley spoke from III Nephi 9, describing the terrible destruction upon the land of America at the time of Christ's death, and also concerning the voice of Jesus Christ heard by the more righteous, whose lives had been spared. "And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit. And whoso cometh unto me with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, him will I baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost. . ." Bro. Joe Catone, Jr. followed, continuing the theme of the need for a repentant spirit and baptism for the remission of sins.

Bro. Joe Catone, Sr. introduced the afternoon service by relating his conversion to the Gospel and God's dealings in his life. The meeting was then opened for testimony, and many expressions of thankfulness to God were heard. During this time, Nick Persico, Jr. stood and gave thanks to God, stating that he wanted to "sing a new song" and be baptized into the Church. As the service continued, many of the saints testified that they had felt so blessed throughout the day, that had they not already been baptized, they would have asked for their baptism today.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned, and the saints and visitors in attendance travelled to the shore of the Atlantic Ocean to witness the baptism of Brother Nick by Bro. Ken Staley. It was interesting to note the curiosity of those at the beach as they saw the saints gather at the shore, sing, pray, and watch the baptism. Many stopped to observe and listen. One woman ap-

proached one of the sisters and asked what was happening. As the sister explained this ordinance, the woman stated that she had never seen anything like this before, and that she felt affected by it.

When everyone had returned to the church building, Bro. Dennis Moraco offered prayer as the priesthood knelt around the new convert. Bro. Nick was then confirmed by Bro. Joe Catone, Jr. The Lord's Supper was administered, and this glorious day was brought to a close.

One of the many happy events of the day occurred when Bro. Nick's mother, Sister Mary Persico, telephoned the Hopelawn, NJ Branch, where many of the Persicos' family attend church, to tell them that Nick had just requested baptism. Nick's sister, Sis. Debra Leone, was attending Hopelawn that day and had just finished testifying during their afternoon service, asking the saints to pray for her brother Nick, who was drawing closer to the Church. As she sat down, the phone call came from her mother, Sister Mary, that the Hollywood Branch was just leaving for the waterfront to witness Nick's baptism.

All in attendance could attest to the outpouring of God's Spirit throughout this particular Sabbath Day. The Hollywood Branch is grateful to God for the many blessings and the growth their group is experiencing. We hope to enjoy many more Sundays like July 26, 1987!

### Miami, FL

*By George Kovacic*

#### FIRST SERVICE IN HOMESTEAD

On Sunday evening, August 9, 1987, the first service of The Church of Jesus Christ in Homestead, Florida was held and was conducted in the Spanish language.

About three months ago, some contacts were made in a migrant workers' camp outside of Homestead and since then the members in Miami have been visiting four homes in that area, singing hymns, teaching the word of God, and bearing testimonies.

The evening meeting was conducted by Brother George A. Kovacic, chairman of the Florida District Mission Board, with one of the brothers translating. After we sang a few hymns with a guitar, George spoke concerning salvation through Christ, the covenant of God to Abraham, the coming forth of The Book of Mormon, and the restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Joe Catone from Hollywood, Florida then spoke on the goodness of God and how wonderful it was for the Church to be able to meet here. He summarized what had been spoken, capping off the evening with words of encouragement.

After several testimonies in the Spanish language, the meeting was brought to a close.

The attendance of our friends from the Homestead area, along with the saints from Miami and their families, made this an eventful evening and has given us spiritual encouragement and expectations of what may be starting in this part of the Lord's vineyard. We solicit your prayers, so that through God this work may proceed.

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On August 23, 1987 the Church's second meeting was held in Homestead, with many of the same people attending, but with the addition of a family from Vero Beach, Florida, attending as well. Bro. Frank Rogolino of the Lake Worth Branch brought them to the meeting.

After several hymns with the guitar, Bro. George Kovacic welcomed everyone present and then began to speak from the gospels concerning Jesus' teaching on prayer and its importance. Bro. Frank followed, reading the prayer of the Brother of Jared from the Book of Ether. He also related some personal experiences from his own life and from his father's life. Bro. Mark Kovacic then related the account of Joseph Smith seeking God's aid in deciding what church to join. He also stated how God answered him, and then reminded everyone present of the words of Moroni, that they should ask God if these things were true, and that by the power of the Holy Spirit His word would be confirmed.

As in the first meeting, all present enjoyed themselves and felt the Spirit of God.

## San Diego, CA

*"I want to work each day and liberate the slaves of sin; to guide them to Jesus, Our Guide and Our Light, in the vineyard of the Lord."*

This is the English translation of part of a song dedicated by the Mexican brothers and sisters to Bro. Stacey Light, as he was set aside to be ordained into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Tom Liberto opened the August 9, 1987 service, welcoming those gathered from various parts of the California District, as well as those from Mexico, New York state, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. In his opening prayer, Bro. Tony DeCaro requested God's guidance and inspiration in all that would take place on that day. The Lord heard the prayers of His people, for all that was done was confirmed by the revelation of God.

*If You Would Labor in Zion* was sung by a group of young people, and Bro. Bob Womack addressed the congregation, stressing the obligation of the ministry toward the people in their charge. He added that their concern for men's souls must be like unto God's, and that Bro. Stacey would now enter the quorum responsible for feeding and caring for the souls of mankind. Bro. Luis Pacheco then related an experience that took place in the Mexican Conference in Tijuana on July 11. It was there that God revealed unto various members of the priesthood that Bro. Stacey was to be called into the ministry. He admonished our Brother to be an ambassador for Christ, and encouraged him in his work among the Seed of Joseph. Bro. Tom Liberto also read several dreams and experiences pertaining to Bro. Stacey's calling, and spoke from Alma 13, concerning this holy calling prepared from the foundation of the world.

As the brothers prepared for the ordination, waiting upon the Spirit to move them, Bro. Frank Natoli of Rochester, NY stepped forward to wash Bro. Stacey's feet, and Bro. Russell Martorana of Niles, OH ordained him into the priesthood. Bro. Stacey then addressed the congregation, expressing his love for God and a desire to work for Him. He read a passage of scripture that has had an impact on his life in the gospel. As Paul advises, "Let no man despise thy youth, but be thou an example . . . neglect not the gift that is in thee. . . ." He encouraged all to serve God with faith, and stated that his

prayer has been that the Spirit of God would prevail among us.

It was during the testimony portion of the service that we found the prayers of the saints had touched the heart of God. Sis. Maria Aguilar related a dream she had had earlier that week, in which she saw this service taking place. In her dream, she saw Bro. Frank washing Bro. Stacey's feet and confessed that this had confused her because she knew that he lived many miles away and had no idea Bro. Frank would be attending. And while our sister's understanding of English is limited, she understood all of Bro. Bob's words this day. Others confirmed in their testimonies that they had been given to know who would take part in the ordination. Earlier in the service, while the sacrament table was being prepared, God placed upon the heart of one of the brothers that Bro. Stacey and Bro. Joel Gehly of Erie, PA would administer the Lord's Supper that day. These brothers had worked together as ordained teachers in the Ohio District in the past. Indeed, when the time came, Bro. Tom (not knowing of the experience) asked Bro. Joel and Bro. Stacey to take part in the administering of the Lord's Supper. We praise God for the confirmations and the Spirit that was manifested in this calling.

Our meeting soon came to a close, and we met for lunch and fellowship. Our prayers are that God would bless His newly-ordained servant.

## Harrison, MI

*By Nancy Criscuolo*

Sunday August 30, 1987 was both a joyous and a sad occasion, one of rejoicing and of memories of past experiences. On this day the saints of Harrison, Michigan held their last meeting in the Church building we had erected in 1982. Because of the building being on private property and the sale of that property, the use of the building for our meetings was no longer to be.

At our invitation to all the saints in the District, we were privileged to have brothers and sisters present from Branches 1, 3, and 4, from the Sterling Heights and Inner City Branches, as well as from the Saline Mission. Brothers Paul Whitton, Joe Furnari, Peter H. Capone, Mario Coppa, and Reno Bologna were present to minister to us.

The day's activities made for a beautiful experience to be shared by all present, as our love for God and one another was overwhelming. All present counted it an honor and a privilege to be a part of God's family and Church. The fellowship and love during preaching, testimony, and the lunch following can only be attributed to the grace of God and the love and mercy He bestows upon us.

We want to thank all the saints that have supported us in their visits and prayers, for we realize the spreading of God's word is only possible if it is done in a unified spirit.

Until a building is found for services, we will hold our regularly scheduled services in the homes of the saints, and our invitation is still extended to all to come and visit the mission.

## Anaheim, CA

*By Carl Huttenberger*

The pure love of God is a subject we as saints never tire of hearing about and never tire of practicing. On March 9, our Sunday began with the baptism of Claudia Gamache. The sun broke through the clouds at the baptismal site as we witnessed another soul responding to the beckoning of God's love.

Bro. Jim Huttenberger baptized Claudia and she was confirmed by Bro. George Heaps. Bro. Heaps opened the service on the love of God. He told us that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, not just for the saints of God, but for the whole world.

God drenched us with His blessings that day, with beautiful testimonies of healed offenses and of a miracle of birth that doctors had said could not happen. Bro. Jim Huttenberger told us that while back east on business, he prayed for a little girl with a brain tumor that was sure to take her life. A while later, a friend of the family called to let us know that shortly afterward this child was healed of the tumor, stunning the medical doctors.

God told this Church a while back that as we increased in love, He would increase us in numbers. The visitors and the baptism on Sunday were just further confirmation of that promise being kept. Pray for God's love to abound

within your lives, within your branches, and throughout this Church.

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On Saturday June 27, we had a post-Campout gathering at the Anaheim Branch for all those who were at the Campout the week before. After a pizza dinner in the dining area, we entered the auditorium portion of our building for an evening of singing, preaching, and testimony. The building was filled to capacity. Brothers and sisters from every district of the Church attended. The Spirit of God and the power of praise nearly lifted the roof from the building. We were so excited to be able to meet so many new people we had never met before and have them stay at our homes before and after camp. The fellowship of the saints is so important and necessary for the growth and unification of the Church.

Sunday, June 28 we were privileged to hear from Brothers Jim and Sam Sgro from New Brunswick, New Jersey, as well as from Bro. Jesse Carr of Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The Spirit of God was again poured out upon us that day. Young and old alike were revived after camp to be more missionary minded. Pray for us as we continue our missionary work in Mexicali and the Orange County Indian Center. Truly the prophets of old dreamed of living in our day and age. How exciting it is to watch the Lord gathering His people home!

## Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise

Sunday, March 22, 1987 was a very special day at our branch. We rejoice to announce that on this day a new name was written down in glory as Hector Martinez asked for his baptism and therefore received Christ as his Redeemer.

Our morning service began with congregational singing, after which Brother Harry Marshall opened our service. He took his text from Colossians 3, exhorting the congregation to be kindly and affectionate toward one another, putting on the Spirit of Christ to protect us against the lusts of the world and the flesh.

Presiding Elder Vincent Scalise then left the meeting open for testimony.

Bro. Hector arose and asked to be prayed for because he had been suffering with a severe back problem. After the elders anointed him, he stood up and asked for his baptism, confessing that he had no idea he would be doing so today.

Bro. Hector was baptized by Bro. Harry Marshall and confirmed by Bro. Robert McDonnell. We are so happy to receive Bro. Hector Martinez into the fold of God. May the Spirit of God abide with him always.

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On April 1, 1987 Western Airlines merged with Delta Airlines. Delta's headquarters is based in Atlanta, Georgia, and many Western employees were faced with the decision to move to Atlanta or lose their jobs.

One of those who was working for Western Airlines was Bro. Tom Jones of the Bell, CA Branch. Starting part-time at the age of 16, he had put 34 years in with Western and was now in charge of parts purchasing. The decision he made was to move with his company to Atlanta.

The move is a loss for the Bell Branch. Our Bro. Tom and his family have been an asset to the branch. Bro. Tom serving over the years as an ordained teacher and as an elder. He was a very active member of the branch and served in the California District as secretary, second counselor, and Mission Board member.

On March 14, 1987 a farewell buffet was given for Brother Tom and Sister Tava Jones. Many brothers and sisters from all over our district were present to bid them farewell and wish them God's blessings. There are not sufficient words to say how much we love them. We pray that God's blessings will be with them always. May God prosper the work in Atlanta, GA with the brothers and sisters that are there with Bro. Tom and Sis. Tava.

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On April 5, 1987 many saints witnessed a very special occasion. Bro. Ramon Zamora was ordained into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our service began with singing, as many brothers and sisters from various parts of the district began to enter the

Bell Branch. Santa Ana, San Diego, the Valley, Riverside, Anaheim, and even Riverbank, CA were represented here today. We were especially privileged to have with us District President Paul Liberto. He opened our meeting in prayer, after which Bro. Frank Ciotti was inspired to speak concerning many aspects of the priesthood of the Church.

Speaking from Jacob 5:50, Bro. Carl Frammolino followed, commenting on the many needs of the congregation, how it must be fed in a way that will inspire, uplift, and edify it. All these needs must be met. Bro. Luis Pacheco followed, speaking in Spanish and touching on the theme brought out this morning.

Many of our brothers and sisters were inspired to testify and praise God at this juncture, after which Presiding Elder Vincent Scalise called Bro. Ramon to come forward and have his feet washed. Bro. Pacheco performed this ordinance, and the brothers then gathered around Bro. Ramon as he was ordained into the priesthood by Bro. George Heaps.

Sis. Bennie Jones testified of a vision she had of Christ laying His hands upon the head of our Bro. Ramon. Later our new elder's daughter Vivian testified of a dream she had in which she saw Bro. Luis Pacheco washing her father's feet. The Zamora family offered one of their father's favorite hymns, *In the Garden*.

Our meeting ended with the ordinance of the Lord's Supper. We had a beautiful luncheon afterward, which had been prepared by the sisters. We thank God for all of his blessings.

During our service on April 5, a young man who has been attending our branch for quite some time, Ricardo Carrero, asked if he could sing a hymn which he had composed. While explaining the song, the Spirit of God fell upon him and he asked for his baptism.

On April 12 we gathered at the edge of the Pacific to baptize our Brother Ricardo Carrero. We postponed our Sunday School so we could meet early at the oceanside. Many of our brothers and sisters came to witness the baptism. Bro. Ricardo was baptized by Bro. Vincent Scalise. As our brother came back to the shore, many tears of joy were falling down his face. Later our brother was confirmed by Bro. Harry Marshall. This day also ended with much joy and thanksgiving to God.

## Saline, MI Mission

By Virginia Carlini

Greetings from the Saline Mission. On July 5, 1987 for our Sunday service we were privileged to have visitors from various parts of the country. Visiting with us were Brother Dick and Sister Pat Christman from Phoenix, Arizona; Brother Tom and Sis. Cindy Everett and family, and Bro. Anthony J. Scolaro from Detroit Branch 1; and Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti, Bro. David DeLuca, and Sis. Carol Lynn Jumper from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. Also here for his first Sunday home as a Brother in Christ was our own Larry Carlini, who recently was baptized at the GMBA Campout in California.

The spirit of joy and happiness radiated as we had a very large group of young people in attendance. Many of them had attended the GMBA Campout. With much enthusiasm the group of young people sang the camp theme song, *Keeping Step*.

Keeping in step with the July 4th Holiday, Bro. Dick Christman opened our meeting by expressing how our land of America is a blessed land, that from the very first Fourth of July God had a hand in the events of the early history of our country. The signers of the Declaration of Independence believed in the principles for which they stood so boldly, and many suffered at the hands of the British. Another time, in World War II, our nation again fought for liberty—everyone was involved in the war effort. There was a clear-cut choice to be made.

Bro. Dick suggested that changes are taking place in this nation that may require us one day to again take a stand for liberty. He read from I Nephi 13:16-24, and spoke concerning the abuse of liberty, particularly the spiritual liberty that we enjoy.

"Blessed are they that seek to bring forth my Zion."

There comes a day for us to make a decision, a clear-cut decision, of what we are going to do. We have to stand up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Not necessarily for "Christianity" as the world knows it today, but for serving God in a dedicated manner, involving our sweat, our hard work, and our tears.

Our brother likened the time of struggle to bring forth Zion to the time of

struggle during World War II. The time has come for us to draw a line between right and wrong. Our friends and neighbors have to be made aware of the choice we have made. It's up to The Church of Jesus Christ to present this choice to the world.

Bro. Tom Everett followed, saying that we are all in a battle every day. Those that obey the Gospel are all soldiers of Christ, like Paul the apostle. Every day we are faced with battles, in which we must make a choice. Bro. Tom then read from Genesis 39, concerning Joseph and his brothers. God was with Joseph as he refused the advances of his master's wife. He was falsely accused and put in prison. Because Joseph had principles and values, and because he said "No," he was ultimately used to save a whole nation. He, Joseph, had to make a decision.

God has a special place for the young people of the Church. We can read of how God has used young people in the Bible and the Book of Mormon. We all have to make a choice of what General we are going to serve. We may not be in a natural war, but there is a spiritual war going on all around us. The real war of today is the battle for our souls. Who is going to be our General? Who will be our Leader? The choice is up to each of us.

## Valley Branch, CA

On Saturday June 13, we had a potluck picnic for Sis. Mary and Bro. Robby Duncan. They left our branch to do God's work in Africa. After we ate we watched the men and the children play a game of baseball, had a white elephant sale which raised \$75 for IMA, and then ate again, this time a dessert potluck. We had a wonderful time visiting and laughing with one another. And we enjoyed being able to talk with Mary and Robby, letting them know just how much we love them and will miss them.

On Sunday we met again, wishing the Duncans God's blessings in our testimonies. We have seen how God has been directing them and helping them in their move. We know how God will continue to do so. We sang *He'll Take Care of Me*, changing the "me" to "you," and dedicating it to the Duncans. There was a beautiful spirit in our meeting.

After our service we presented Robby and Mary with an easel and board with markers and an eraser to aid them in the teaching of their three boys' studies. We formed a large circle and sang *God Be With You Till We Meet Again*. We held hands as we closed in prayer.

This was the last Sunday they would be in the Valley Branch for a while. It will be a long time before we see them and have them in our midst again. We ask for your prayers on their behalf, on a continued basis, as they have this new way of life ahead in their service to God, that He will watch over them. May God bless the Duncan family.



**The Duncan Family: Bro. Robby, Sis. Mary, and their three sons.**

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The Valley Branch has completed all of the grading for our building. We are so excited to finally see construction under way. Please keep us in your prayers, that all will go speedily and smoothly, so we may soon be in our own building again.

## Detroit, Branch 1

The saints of Branch 1, along with many from the Michigan-Ontario District, had reason to rejoice on Sunday, September 6, 1987 when Aaron John Dix asked for his baptism.

Our new Brother Aaron has been attending church regularly with his wife, Sis. Rosalinda, for over thirty years. He was always a supporter of church and MBA activities, attending a number of GMBA Campouts with his family. As the years passed, however, we didn't know if he'd ever make that all-important commitment to God at the water's edge.

But on this particular Sunday, as he was having breakfast with his wife, he suddenly began to cry and told her he wanted to be baptized. When they arrived at the Branch, he took Bro. Louis Pietrangelo aside and made his wishes known before the service began. Bro. Louie then told our presiding elder, Bro. Peter Scolaro.

Nobody else knew about the good news, not Bro. Aaron's three daughters, nor even his 102-year old father-in-law, Bro. Antonio Molisani, until Bro. Peter announced it at the beginning of the service. Everyone was so surprised and so pleased; it was a blessed way to start out the service. Our brothers preached a powerful message on repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins being the only way to start out on that straight and narrow pathway that leads to eternal life.

We gathered at the shore of Lake St. Clair that afternoon and Bro. Peter Scolaro baptized our new Brother Aaron. After we went back to the church building, our brother was confirmed by Bro. Lou Pietrangelo. We met again at the branch that evening to enjoy refreshments and the fellowship of the brothers and sisters throughout the district who have known Bro. Aaron for the many years he has been in our midst.

Our prayer is that our brother would grasp hold of the Gospel and grow in the ways of the Lord, that he might be a fruitful servant.

## Spartanburg, SC

To my dear Brothers and Sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ:

I am very happy and thankful to write this article to let my brothers and sisters know how much I appreciate those of you who have come to visit with me here in Spartanburg, SC.

Just this past week, one of the youngest apostles of the Church, Bro. Paul Palmieri, spent a couple of hours with me. I pray that God will bless our brother, that he will be greatly used throughout the General Church.

Bro. Dick Lawson and his family, and Bro. John Manes and his family were here on August 8. It was a joy to see them, as it had been a while since I had last seen these brothers. I knew their

father-in-law, Bro. Dan Casasanta, very well. We were very close.

God has blessed me to see so many of my brothers and sisters. This summer we were blessed to have someone visiting with us almost every weekend. Among those visiting us at the Spartanburg, SC Mission were:

Bro. Julius and Sis. Helen Kovacs, Bro. Dominick Rose, Bro. Mitchell and Sis. Vera Edwards, Bro. Tony and Sis. Elsie Ensana and their granddaughter, Bro. Willie and Sis. Emma Brown, Bro. Tom and Sis. Kat Gamble, Bro. Jan Veltman, Bro. Jon and Sis. Virginia Molinatto, and Sis. Margaret Iorio.

We wish to thank all of you who have visited with us, and there are still quite a few we have not mentioned, but who are appreciated just as much as these.

I am still broadcasting every Sunday morning from 8:00 to 8:30 on WASC Radio (1530 AM). The studio is located at 840 Wofford St., Spartanburg, SC. It has been more than seven and a half years now that I've been broadcasting, and it's a blessing in this part of the vineyard. I humbly request your prayers in support of this effort.

May God bless our brothers as they continue working in His vineyard. And may God continue to bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Bro. Nathan Peterkin

## Hopelawn, NJ

By Michele Davella

"But when Jesus saw it, he was much displeased, and said unto them, suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God.

"Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them" (Mark 10:14-16).

With these powerful words, our Sunday meeting of July 19, 1987 began.

Indeed, the Lord has been very gracious to the saints of the Hopelawn Branch. Week after week, there are

blessings upon blessings, experiences upon experiences, and tears of joy upon tears of joy.

The Lord blessed our branch a year ago with a beautiful family from Mexico, the Murillos. Now, we have just been blessed with another family from Guatemala, the Morales'—Olga, Mario, Michael, and Tracey. Like the Murillos, the Morales family has taken an active interest in the teachings of our Church.

The Atlantic Coast District is now having Spanish lessons, and we of the Hopelawn Branch are very thankful for this privilege. We now feel even closer to the Seed of Joseph, because of the work that has been brought to us.

As Brothers Joseph Faragasso and Joseph Perri spoke on the blessing of little children that day, we had five children blessed. In the morning meeting, Bro. Faragasso started off by blessing his newborn niece, Michele Janine Davella, daughter of Nicholas and Susan Davella. In the afternoon meeting, four more blessings took place. They were not newborns, but four young children: Juan, Jr. and Janette Murillo, and Michael and Tracey Morales.

The Spirit of God was like a fire burning that Sunday, July 19. Please join us as we pray for both of these families, that they too will become a part of the family of God.

¡Qué Dios lo bendiga! (May God bless you!)

## McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

The saints of McKees Rocks have been fasting and praying for souls to come to Christ, and also for the return of those who once made their covenant with God, but have drifted away. On March 1, 1987 we witnessed the result of our prayers when Sis. Linda Paulin asked to be renewed as a member of the Church. After hands were laid on our sister, Bro. Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues, confirming her return.

Sis. Mary Clements related an experience she had on February 20. In her dream, she saw an angel of God appear to our Sis. Linda and ask her, "Are you ready to make yourself right with God?"

(Continued on Page 12)

# MCKEES ROCKS continued . . .

Owen and June Michael, friends of Sis. Linda Paulin, have been attending our services since New Year's Eve. Both requested their baptism and were taken into the waters on March 15, 1987. Bro. Owen was baptized by Bro. Paul Ciotti and Sis. June was baptized by Bro. Bill Colangelo. The confirmation of our new members took place that Sunday afternoon. Bro. Owen was confirmed by Bro. Richard Lawson and Sis. June was confirmed by Bro. Paul Ciotti. It is wonderful to see this young couple absorb the Gospel in such a short period of time.

An additional blessing for us on this same day was the ordination of Bro. Robert Joswiak as a deacon. After Presiding Elder Bill Colangelo read several experiences relative to our brother's calling, his feet were washed by Bro. Ralph Ciotti. He was then ordained by Bro. Bill Colangelo. We know our brother will continue to be a blessing as a servant of Jesus Christ and His Church.

# MESSAGE continued . . .

called HOINA. The result of her efforts there has grown and this work has helped numerous unfortunate children.

This will mark the fourth time that Bro. Calabrese has traveled to India. He had made the pioneer trip there for the Church in 1981 with the late Evangelist Alvin Swanson, who had also been instrumental in solidifying the work in Africa in the mid-1950's. As previously noted, Apostle Palmieri, who is also the General Church executive secretary, has also been extremely active in the work in India, and had accompanied Bro. Calabrese on his previous trip there.

Brother Calabrese has shown slides of the Church in India at almost every branch and mission throughout North America. He has remained determined and enthusiastic in seeing the Church reach its present level of achievement in that part of the world. When a missionary endeavor grows to the point where its administrative responsibility

can be delegated to the local level, it proves to us that God is working with many individuals around the world, even in locations not previously anticipated by us.

Both Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri carry our prayers and expectations with them. Certainly, we all share in their reverence to God for making these accomplishments possible, offering hopes for the spreading of the Gospel to all the corners of the earth.

## Children Blessed

Daniel Patrick Michael was blessed in the Church on March 1, 1987 at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch by Bro. Bill Colangelo.

On May 10, 1987 Lauren Wade Benyola was blessed in the Church by her uncle, Bro. James Benyola, at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch.

On July 19, 1987 Michael and Tracey Morales were blessed in the Church by Bro. Leonard Benyola at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch. That same day, Bro. Joseph Perri blessed Janette and Juan Murillo, Jr. in the Church.

## New Arrivals

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

Ann Marie to Angel and Maryann Valenzuela of Anaheim, California.

Michele Janine to Nicholas and Susan Davella of Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Jennifer Rose to Larry and Rosanne Champine of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

## Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## OBITUARY

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

### MICHELE COPPA

Brother Michele (Mike) Coppa, a deacon in the San Diego Branch, passed to his eternal reward on July 28, 1987.

He was born September 29, 1894 in Ponza, Italy, and was baptized in Detroit, Michigan on May 23, 1926 by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico. He moved to San Diego in 1953.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Lou Cicatti. He leaves to mourn one sister, four sons, two daughters, 18 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and many loving saints who will miss him.



# The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

December, 1987

Volume 43, No. 12

## The Prayers of the Saints

By Tami Brown

On April 12, 1987 we received a telephone call from Texas informing us that my brother Bill, a police officer, had been involved in an auto accident and had taken a turn for the worse. He'd been placed in intensive care, on a respirator, and they weren't sure if he would live through the night. They were calling for his family to be there.

From that moment on, the prayers of the saints began. We needed, and felt, every one of your prayers. I'd like to share with you an experience through which God showed me my brother would not die.

Upon receiving the phone call that Sunday night, we started calling others—family, friends, etc.—to let them know what had happened and to request their prayers and support. It was 10:00 p.m. when I called Detroit Branch #2 and spoke with Bro. Lou Vitto, informing him of what had happened. A District choir practice had just ended there, and they all knelt down and offered a special prayer on behalf of my brother.

At home, among the confusion and fear, we prayed as a family. At that time I asked the Lord to give me a sign, to show me whether Bill would be all right. I asked not only for a sign to me, but to all those around Bill—including the

physicians—that *everyone* would see that God had control of this situation.

We arrived in Texas the following morning, and were escorted to the hospital to see Bill. We were taken to a conference room where my sister-in-law, Lori, and several of Bill's co-workers were gathered. George, a friend of Bill's, prepared us for what we were going to see, but most of all he gave me the sign that I had prayed for.

He told us how serious Bill's condition had become during the previous night. My brother had been classified as "clinically dead" due to complications which followed the emergency surgery. Then, between 10:00 and 11:00 p.m., while the doctor and George were at Bill's bedside, he unexpectedly began to show small signs of improvement. The doctor turned to George and said, "I didn't do a thing—someone's prayers are being answered." When George uttered those words, I knew my brother was going to make it.

During the next week, we had numerous ups and downs, but God was holding our hands. My father had an opportunity to pray, in the hospital's stairwell, with another family whose son was in intensive care. George, who had not turned his heart to God in years, was found praying in the hospital chapel on behalf of my brother. We received phone calls from everyone, just to let us know that they were praying for Bill, his wife, and our family.

To say "thank you" just isn't enough.

We thank God for answering our prayers by bringing Bill back to us.

In Christ,

Bro. Kenny and Sis. Mary Brown  
Sis. Tami Brown  
Detroit, Michigan

## Florida Area Campout

On the weekend of February 26-28, 1988 the Florida Area MBA will hold a campout in Avon Park, Florida. We invite one and all to escape the February chills and join us for our camp.

Last year, many wonderful blessings were felt at our camp. The Lord manifested Himself in many ways throughout the weekend. From the privilege of having several apostles in our midst to the many healings received, we felt the presence of the Lord instructing us and blessing us.

If you would like more information regarding the forthcoming camp, write to:

Joe Graziozi  
601 South Indian River Dr.  
Apt. #3  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950  
or call:  
(305) 465-6553

We hope you will join us in enjoying the blessings and warmth of Florida in February.

## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

### PREPARE THE WAY

Grace be unto all of you that believe; the Lord is near.

John the Baptist prepared the way, that grace and truth would come through Jesus Christ.

We are but emptiness and small if compared to our Divine Master. When multitudes attend their ministrations, all must come unto repentance towards God and have faith towards the Lord Jesus Christ. Highly criminal is man's unbelief of the Gospel, which has been attested by concurrent reports of inspired Evangelists, by the sermons of John the Baptist and Jesus, by victories over devils, by the approbation of angels, by the testimony from heaven, by the Spirit's descent on Jesus, by the voice, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased," and by miracles unnumbered.

What do we owe to Christ? If we accepted God, it is in Him; if we receive His Spirit, it is through Him; if we resist the devil and he flee from us, it's through His having been tempted and resisting; if angels minister to us, it is at His command and for His sake; if we are called or qualify as a disciple, it is by Him; if we are delivered from diseases or devils, we owe it all to Him.

When we experience His grace, let us gratefully employ all that we have in His service, and in the service of our fellow men.

Finally, let us employ our voices in praise to His holy name; since to Him belongs all praise, glory, and honor forever more.

Simon Peter learned this lesson by the

most difficult way, and so do some of us. Aggressive and outspoken was he, until the tragic denial and the showing of weakness. We can profit by this sad experience, and go on to witness the new Peter. Never to be pointing to himself again, but to Jesus, his and our Divine Master.

Why look you so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Son Jesus: whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate when he was determined to let Jesus go (Acts 3:12-13).

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

Have you been with Jesus in Spirit? Does His Holy Spirit guide you and inspire you? If so, does not the glory belong to Jesus Christ?

Where is our worthiness, except in Jesus Christ, who loves us and sustains us?

Praise ye the Lord, for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely (Psalm 147:1).

## 60th Anniversary

To all brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, greetings. I am Sister Libertina (Libby) Pandone of Niles, Ohio. I was baptized sixty years ago on November 10, 1927 by Bro. Frank Woolie and confirmed by Bro. Carl Damore.

I was born in Italy on August 4, 1910 and came to America with my parents, Bro. John and Sis. Teresa Giovannone, at the age of three. My parents met the Gospel and were baptized in 1920. I was 17 years old when I made my covenant with the Lord.

For a while we held meetings in our home in Youngstown, Ohio. We met with much opposition from the outside world. Men from the mafia came into our home during one Wednesday night service with drawn revolvers and began shooting. Thank God no one was hurt.

We heard the shots, but no marks were visible on the walls. The next day as my mother was sweeping the floor, she came across the spent shells. The men that tried to destroy us were later destroyed themselves.

I married Bro. Louis (Lou) Pandone in 1930, and we were blessed with two sons, Donald and Richard. Today they are an elder and a teacher in the Church. The Lord has blessed me with four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

I thought at one time that I would never see this day. My life was almost taken from me in 1940 and later in 1948 by a serious illness, but praise the Lord for sparing me. His mercies are the rich blessings that money cannot buy.

I have held the office of a deaconess since 1972 and the Lord has blessed me with steady hands and good vision, so that I have been able to make sacrament linens for various branches of the Church. I am grateful to Him for this privilege, and for the extended life He has given me. I thank Him upon arising to see the dawn of each new day. How can I sufficiently praise Him? As long as He gives me the strength and breath of life I sincerely want to be a shining light unto others.

May God bless you, all my brothers and sisters. I love you with all my heart and the love of God. This is my testimony.

Your sister in Christ,  
Libby Pandone



Sis. Libby Pandone

## It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovaivo

### THE CHRISTOLOGY OF JOHN

Dear readers: Christology means the study of Christ; who He is and what His mission was. It also means how the Apostle John perceived Christ; what he saw in Him, and what He represented (according to the revelation of God given to John). As you read this article, try to visualize Christ; your love for Him and His love for you. See if you can put into focus what John, Christ's beloved apostle, saw and felt about his Lord and Master.

In this article I will concentrate on five themes of Christology in the Johanne (John's) Gospel, namely the Logos (pre-existence), the I AM, the Incarnation, the Oneness, and the Son of God/Son of Man themes.

The central theme of Christology is the task of understanding that Jesus pre-existed, was God, became God incarnate, was humiliated in suffering and death, and was exalted as the Son of God to sit at the right hand of the Father as a divine Prime Minister.

A well-known author writes:

Christology deals with Jesus as the basis of the confession and the faith that He is the Christ of God. There is a Christology "from above" and a Christology "from below." Christology from above is the concept of the divinity of Jesus who as the Son of God descends from heaven and is incarnated, then goes into humiliation by becoming a man and uniting Himself with the man Jesus. The Christology from below is the concept of Jesus' exaltation from humiliation as a

man to His exaltation as the Son of God.

Another writer describes the two schools of thought as follows:

In one type of Christology which is called "descending," or metaphysical, the attributes of Christ, pre-existence as Logos, transcendent divine Sonship, even divinity, are regarded as belonging to Him from the first; while in the "ascending" type of Christology, viewed from below, the reflection begins with the man Jesus of Nazareth, with His experience of faith in God, and His love for the Father and His fellow man. In this Jesus, God spoke to mankind, and bestowed salvation, embodied in the representative resurrection of His Son.

Before proceeding any further, I will insert a few paragraphs relative to the literary form used in the Gospel of John.

Some writers argue that John wrote in the Aramaic language, and some say that John used a Hellenistic (Greek) form of writing. Some theologians argue that the Gospel of John was more for a Greek audience than for a Jewish audience. Whatever the different opinions, the Gospel of John is a beautiful narrative giving a clear insight to who Jesus really was.

A certain theologian, William Van Doren, says, "John goes back before all time, and opens his gospel in eternity. . . . The other evangelists appear to walk on the earth; John soars like an eagle, above the clouds of human infirmity. . . . This is the Gospel of Gospels . . . the heart of Christ, written by the hand of an angel.

#### LOGOS

The prologue of John's Gospel is hymnic in quality; like a song written in heaven and sung by an angelic choir. It strikes the innermost parts of the heart and mind as it begins its opening phrase: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"! In these words, John has delivered a most eloquent sermon; they fall upon the ears as "apples of gold in baskets of silver."

The author's words, "In the beginning" mirror the words of Genesis 1:1. He makes it clear that Christ was the "Logos" who created all things, that He

was the light and life of mankind, that through belief in Him men could become the sons of God as well; that He was superior to all men, that He was incarnate and full of grace and truth.

Only the fourth Gospel uses the term "Logos" (Word). The first to use the term "Logos" was the Greek Heraclitus, who lived in the sixth century BC. He defines it as the fundamental and eternal principle which united all things and mankind.

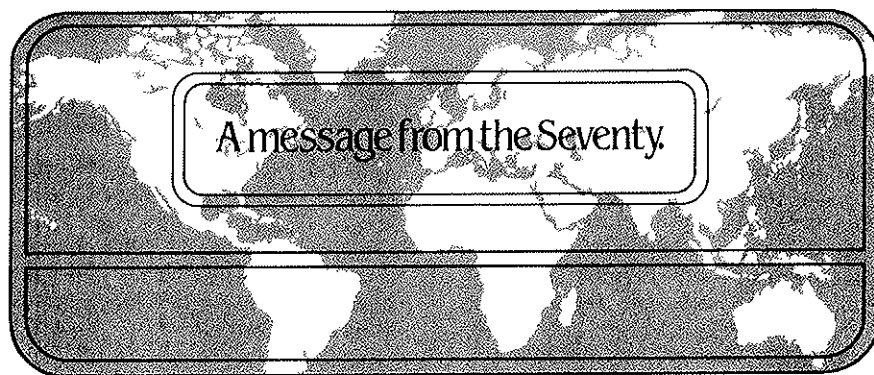
A writer, George E. Ladd, says:

The Logos was a form of divine power. It was the mind at the center of the universe which gave order and structure to that universe. A "bit" of that universe resides in every person. The Stoics believed that the Logos provided a basis for a rational moral life. The Stoics conceived the universe as a never-resting, all-pervading fire or fiery vapor, a tenuous kind of fiery air possessing the power of thought. Logos was "Spermatikos Logos," the Seminal Logos, or generative principle of the world.

It is said by many writers that to the Greek philosophers Logos was the voice of reason, a mere abstraction, but to John Logos (Word) was Our Lord Himself.

*Continued in next month's issue.*

*To leave the old with a burst of song;  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the things that bind you fast  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To have the strength to let go your hold  
Of the not worth while of the days grown old;  
To dare go forth with a purpose true,  
To the unknown task of the year that's new;  
To help your brother along the road,  
To do his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
Is to have and to give a Happy New Year.*



## Five Called to be Evangelists

*By Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor*

Five ministers of The Church of Jesus Christ have been called into the office of an Evangelist. They were recommended to the General Church priesthood by the Quorum of 70 Evangelists, and approved by the General Conference in October.

The five brothers are Paul Carr, Paul Ciotti, Richard Lawson, James Moore, and Joseph Perri. Their inclusion brings the number of active evangelists to 68. They are replacing some long-time and devoted workers who have passed on to their eternal rewards in the recent past, as has been reported in previous issues.

The new evangelists have been laboring to spread the Gospel. Brother Carr has been serving in Africa as a resident missionary for about four years. Brother Perri has been to Africa several times within the last few years, and he will be revisiting there in January, 1988, along with Brother Joseph Ross. The other three brothers have been active in various endeavors in this country.

### ORDINATIONS

Brother Carr, who is from Herndon, VA, will be ordained an evangelist when he returns to America in April. Brothers Ciotti and Lawson were ordained on November 1 at their home branch of McKees Rocks, PA. Brother Moore was ordained at Imperial, PA, his home branch, on November 8, while Brother Perri was ordained the same day at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch, where he is a member.

Their addition is greatly welcomed, as their determination to preach about salvation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ can significantly augment the overall efforts of the Seventies. Quorum

President Paul Benyola indicated this at the session which dealt with recommendations.

### INCREASE IN ACTIVITY

The increase in number of active Evangelists is in line with the increased activity taking place. Review of current and past programs and plans for the future took up most of the balance of the quorum's meetings on October 8.

A report was given on the District Evangelistic services. Two evangelists from different parts of the Church are visiting other districts to hold weekend services. The Michigan-Ontario and Arizona Districts held their meetings in September, while the other five districts were to be holding their services in the near future. Fourteen evangelists are involved in this undertaking, and reports of these meetings will undoubtedly be presented by each district.

The General Church Development Committee, with Evangelist Elmer Santilli as Chairman, has been working diligently to forge ahead into new areas. The combined effort in Independence, Missouri was given as an example of how attempts can be made in areas where the Church is not yet established.

Even though there is no permanent missionary there now, a door has been opened. Efforts will be pursued as far as possible. An evangelist and his wife have indicated a desire to move there; if this materializes, the endeavor can be continued.

As reported by Brother Santilli, "Had the activity not been started, the new contacts and friends would not have been made. Primarily, the Church has created quite an awareness of our beliefs in the community. Follow-up will hopefully be very fruitful."

Another feature of the Independence pilot program has been the training afforded the participants. This learning can be applied to similar future missionary programs.

Other evangelists on the Development Committee are Richard Christman, Sam Dell, Vincent Gibson, Thomas Liberto, Anthony R. Loyalvo, Leonard Loyalvo, John Manes, Eugene Perri, and Matthew Rogolino.

### RADIO AND TELEVISION

The Radio and TV Committee reported on the current status of broadcasts at Tse Bonito, New Mexico begun early this year, and Spanish broadcasts in San Diego, California which were started on August 15. Both have been progressing well and most favorable reports were received.

Expansion to other areas was also discussed. Spanish broadcasts are to be added at Tse Bonito and will also be aired over a Caribbean station which covers parts of Central America, northern South America, and the lower eastern section of the United States. These broadcasts will also service Miami, Florida, where Church activities directed toward Spanish-speaking peoples are increasing.

The possibility of a one-hour talk program in New York City at prime time on Thursday evenings was presented. Live discussions would be followed by calls from listeners.

A 30-second public service tape is also being developed and prepared for broadcast on any station with free air time available. All branches and missions would be able to use this tape at their discretion and convenience.

The brothers approved the radio report and authorized continuation of current broadcasts and expansion into the new areas outlined. Furthermore, they indicated that branches and missions should be encouraged in their efforts and given all the assistance possible through the committee, composed of four evangelists: Vincent Gibson, Dwayne Jordan, Matthew Rogolino, and the writer.

Some branches have, incidentally, approached the committee about broadcasting in their localities. They were given assurances that the committee will work with their resources to

(Continued on Page 11)

## The Gospel News

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

### ASSISTANT EDITOR

Peter A. Scolaro  
36247 Harcourt  
Fraser, MI 48026

### CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio  
Leonard A. Lovaivo

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

### GMBA EDITOR

Jeffrey Giannetti  
5904 N.W. 88th Ave.  
Tamarac, FL 33321

### GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino  
100 Oak Drive  
Aliquippa, PA 15001

### DISTRICT EDITORS

#### ARIZONA

Frances J. Capone  
8725 E. Hubbell  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

#### ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo  
110 Elm Place  
Nutley, NJ 07110

#### CALIFORNIA

Kenneth R. Jones  
24268 Robie Ct.  
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

#### FLORIDA

Joseph Graziosi  
601 S. Indian River Dr.  
Apt. #3  
Ft. Pierce, FL 34950

#### OHIO

James P. Hufnagle  
18900 Abby Ave.  
Euclid, OH 44119

#### MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Anthony J. Scolaro  
15843 Manning  
Detroit, MI 48205

#### PENNSYLVANIA

Jonathan Olexa  
120 Greenridge Dr.  
Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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### BUSINESS OFFICE

8423 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As we look around us at this time of the year, we see people rushing to and fro, taking on a different attitude for a few weeks as they allegedly prepare to celebrate the birth of One who redeemed mankind from eternal death. Over the years, the world's observance of Christ's birth has evolved into little more than a winter festival; the spiritual significance of the event has faded into the background.

As members of the Church, we should direct our thoughts more toward the life Jesus led *after* He was born. Christ lived not for Himself, but for others. He spent the time that was allotted to Him in seeking the spiritual welfare of mankind, doing good works among them and praying diligently on their behalf. He did not seek a following for Himself, but rather He sought men and women who would put their faith and trust in His Heavenly Father and serve God with full purpose of heart.

While we reflect upon the significance of Christ's birth, let us think of how we can put forth a greater effort in spreading the message of peace and good will that Jesus lived and died for.

One of the questions that we as saints of God have to ask ourselves is, just where do God and the Church fit into our life? The ready answer, of course, is that He and It come first and foremost. But when the time comes that we are needed for something, that we are asked to help, are we there, ready, able, and willing? Each of us must answer that question for himself.

One of the marvelous things about the Lord is that as busy as He is with all the cares of those who call upon His name, He has time to be there for you, and to support me, for as long as we reach out to Him. In our endeavor to be more like Him, then, one of the things we can learn to do is to be unconditionally *available* to those who need us.

There is so much to be done in the Church, and few who are willing to do it. As the Lord so succinctly put it, "the harvest is great, the laborers are few."

Looking around us, we often find it is the person who has the most to do that we can depend on to be there when we need something. Have you ever wondered why that is? How are they able to get so much done? If you look closely, you will see that these individuals have succeeded in simply making themselves *available* to help their fellow beings, and have developed a lifestyle that lends itself readily to the service of others. Certainly these people have no more hours in their day than we do, but they have committed themselves to put the time they have to good use.

Let us each think about making ourselves just a little bit more available to the Lord, whether it be in prayer and fasting, in scriptural study, at His house of worship, in doing missionary work, or in seeing to the duties and offices that must be carried out in order for His kingdom to prosper. Each of these and a dozen other ways of serving the Lord will result in blessings for us as individuals, for the Church, and for the world in which we live. As we pull together to do the Father's will, we will be helping to establish the Peace on Earth that the angels sang about nearly two thousand years ago.

# The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

After the days of Noah, people spread out across the face of the earth. God had given the people all new languages at the Tower of Babel and now many new nations began to form. But all people are of the same blood. The Book of Mormon also tells us in II Nephi 26:33, ". . . black and white, male and female, all are the same to God, both Jew and Gentile."

God looks at our hearts and minds, not whether our skin is freckled, or brown or black, and God judges our hearts.

The Bible tells us how God saw the heart of a man named Abraham in those long ago years. He saw that Abraham was trying to learn how to serve God. So God worked with Abraham and tested him and finally was so pleased by Abraham's faith that He promised Abraham that He would make a special people from his grandchildren and great-great grandchildren until even the Messiah of the world would be one of his descendants.

Abraham's son Isaac married and had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Jacob changed his name to Israel, and was the father of twelve sons, each of whom became a special tribe, or group of people; these are God's chosen people. Both Jews and Native American Indians are part of Israel's sons and Abraham's grandchildren.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, we are looking forward to having more books come forth from the tribes of Israel that are scattered and lost throughout the world today. We have the record from Israel's son Judah, called the Bible. Judah's people are called Jews by the world today. We also have the record from Abraham's great grandson Joseph, called the Book of Mormon.

We know this to be true because when



Lehi and Mulek first came to settle the Americas, they brought their history and memories with them. Lehi had a list of all of his grandfathers and the laws of God for his people, written down on special metal sheets called plates. They were made of the metal brass.

Have you ever seen a piece of paper that got left out in the rain? What happened to it? Did you notice how it tears apart easily? The same thing happens to wood that is left outside for a long time; the rains or snows come and the wood decays and falls apart. That is why God's followers kept their records written on sheets of brass or gold, metals that wouldn't decay even after years and years.

Somewhere in the world today are God's other "lost tribes" of Israel, the people who came from Abraham's grandchildren. Oftentimes when I read *National Geographic Magazine*, I read of strange, brave groups of people who live far above the cities in the jungles of Asia, or of strange peoples who live on tiny islands on the powerful ocean. These little groups have known the explorers of the world, but do not choose to mix with other people or tell their secrets to them.

When will we know who the lost tribes are or where they are? The Book of Mormon tells us that they, too, will have kept beautiful records of God's dealings with them. Their records will hold truth and power. God promised that when we Gentiles are righteously serving Him with all of our hearts, He will bring forth the plates, the records of His dealings with these tribes. In II Nephi 29:11-14, the Lord says, "For I command all men, both in the east and in the west, and in the north and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; . . . and the lost tribes of Israel will have the words of the

Nephites and the Jews, . . . and the Nephites and the Jews shall have the words of the lost tribes of Israel."

God never makes a promise that He does not keep. Our job is to love Him with all of our hearts and trust Him each day to help us shine His love on everyone we meet. Maybe you, or I, will be the messenger of love that God will send to recover the lost tribes we know will come forth.

## Married 50 Years

Congratulations to Bro. Nick and Sis. Pearl Zinzi of the Tampa, FL Branch, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on October 2, 1987.

Their children, Ralph, Nicholas Jr., David, and Gelsa (Risola) hosted a reception in their honor at Yonkers, New York, where 100 relatives and friends helped celebrate this wonderful occasion.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers on my behalf while I was in the hospital. I know that without them I wouldn't be around today. It is through your prayers that God gave me a new chance to live, and He strengthens me each day. Please continue to remember my wife and me in your prayers, so that we can continue to be strong during my long recovery.

Love,

Bill and Lori Brown

\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to thank all of my brothers and sisters for your prayers during my illness five months ago. I was given only two hours to live, but the mind of God is greater than the mind of man.

Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your lovely cards, telephone calls, and visits. May God bless each and every one of you for the love you have shown me.

Love in Christ,

Sister Santina D'Orazio  
Lake Worth, Florida



## Our Women Today

### Michigan-Ontario Uplift Spiritual Meeting

By Cathy Mulla

"I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

"He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

"And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God, many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord" (Psalm 40:1-3).

On Monday evening, September 21, 1987 the Michigan-Ontario Ladies' Uplift Circle held a spiritual meeting at the Windsor, Ontario Branch. Many sisters and friends ventured out in stormy weather to attend and experience a very uplifting and sunshine-filled night.

Sister Cathy Gentile, our area president, devoted the evening to a testimonial service. She suggested, as a topic, that we discuss major problems or conflicts that we have experienced in our lives and how God sufficed our need. Sister Cathy asked several sisters representing each branch to come forward while Sis. Joann Cotellesse, the vice president, read the scripture quoted above. We heard many testimonies of how God answered prayers. Each and every testimony was a sign of God's love. Miracles do exist today—especially in our children, our husbands, our school and work situations, and in ourselves.

After the meeting, the Windsor Circle provided refreshments for everyone. We enjoyed the fellowship of all our sisters and friends from throughout the area.

The evening was uplifting and all who attended felt the presence of God's love. We thank God for sending His Spirit to accompany us and we give Him all the honor and glory. May all Circles continue to grow and dwell in God's love.

### Kinsman and Warren, Ohio Host Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Warren, Ohio on October 3, 1987. The sisters that filled the building to its capacity were from Arizona, Florida, Michigan, South Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The Circles from Warren and Kinsman presented a program on *Faith*. The scripture was read from Proverbs 31:30, and the sisters told of four women mentioned in the bible, Ruth, Hannah, Esther, and Dorcas. One of the songs they sang was *Faith Unlocks the Door*. Circle President Mabel Bickerton advised the congregation that we can all have a little more faith.

There are 54 Circles in the Church, one of which was organized in Mexico this past year. Sis. Mabel encouraged us to make everyone aware of what is taking place in our circles—to do so is not "bragging".

There was a roll call of officers and the minutes of the last conference, held at Vanderbilt, PA were read. Condensed reports were given from the Area and Home Circles. The treasurer's report was given, and balances were reported in the General, Indian Missionary, Cook Book, and Memorial Funds.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of the following: Rocco Biscotti, Edna Bittinger, Josephine Buffa, Albert Cain, Dan Casasanta, Sophie Cervone, Pasquale Ciarolla, Lehi Criscuolo, Silverio Criscuolo, Esther Dyer, John Furnari, Samuel Hernandez, Charles Jumper Sr., Martha Kelly, Joseph Milantoni, Dominic Moraca, August Perlioni, John Romano, Evelyn Reilly, Bridget Ross, Ryan Ross, Joseph Scrave, Phillip Sgatone, Gertrude Smith, Domenica Tamburrino, Paul Vancik, and Janet Warden.

The question assigned at the last conference was: Who asked that he might shake out the appearance of sin? The answer is found in the Book of Mormon in II Nephi 4:31.

Donations were made to the General Church earmarked for American Indian

missionary endeavors, the African work, and the work in India.

General Circle officers elected for the next year are as follows:

President—Mabel Bickerton  
Vice President—Ruth Ackerman  
Secretary—Lucetta Scaglione  
Assistant Secretary—Kathy Smith  
Financial Secretary—Joyceann Jumper  
Treasurer—Dora Rossi  
Assistant Treasurer—Betty Eiler  
Auditors—Joan Gibson  
—Sarah Palmieri  
Librarian—Betty Ann Manes  
Card Sender—Mary Criscuolo  
Gospel News Editor—Mary Tamburrino

A new project will be undertaken by the General Circle. Stationery will be printed that could be used for sympathy, get-well, or all-occasion notes. This will be sold by the Circle, and proceeds will go to the Memorial Fund.

The next Circle conference will be held at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on April 23, 1988. A vote of thanks was given to our host Circles for their hospitality. Before the conference ended, the brothers that were in attendance honored the sisters with two songs, *Wave the Flags of Zion* and *Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*.

## An Indian Prayer

My spirit is one with You, Great Spirit.

You strengthen me day and night to share my very best with my brothers and sisters.

You, whom my people see in all of creation and in all people, show Your love for us.

Help me to know, like the soaring eagle, the heights of knowledge.

From the Four Directions, fill me with the four virtues of Fortitude, Generosity, Respect, and Wisdom; so that I will help my people walk in the path of Understanding and Peace.

Amen.

Author Unknown  
Submitted by Cathy Mulla  
Detroit Branch 3

## Branch and Mission News

### Cleveland, OH

On September 6, 1987, Brother Brad Mellor was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Fred Olexa.

He later had hands laid upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Bill Prentice at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

### McKees Rocks, PA

*By Diane Ciotti*

The weekend of August 15-16, 1987 was a special one for the saints of McKees Rocks. We received a visit from Detroit Branch 2. This was something we had looked forward to for a long time, anticipating God's blessings and sharing with the great family of God.

The brothers and sisters from Branch 2 were received on Saturday afternoon at our church building. A pot luck dinner was served with plenty of food for everyone and a time to enjoy each other's fellowship. After dinner we gathered for a singspiration. Along with community singing, we enjoyed special selections from various groups. We knew this good spirit would carry over to our Sunday service.

As we gathered on Sunday morning, in addition to our visitors from Michigan, we were pleased to have visiting saints from Aliquippa, Imperial, Glassport, Monongahela, and Lorain, Ohio. Also visiting with us were Bro. John and Sis. Connie Ross from Tucson, Arizona, and Bro. Bill and Sis. Flo LaRosa from Gastonia, NC.

Following our Sunday School, during which we held a singspiration, Bro. Dan Parravano opened our morning service. His text was taken from the 8th Chapter of Luke, which records the parable of the sower and the seed. Bro. Dan illustrated the importance of having good soil (one's heart) for the seed (the word of God) to be planted, cultivated, and nourished. We must remove all the weeds to give room for the tree to grow and bear fruit.

The next speaker was Bro. Alex Gentile, who continued on the same subject.

Bro. Alex also referred to his recent missionary trip to Italy, and the need to labor in that country to strengthen the Church and bring the Restored Gospel to others.

We also heard from Brothers John Ross, Jr. and Joel Calabrese. The meeting was then opened for testimony and communion was served. A sweet spirit prevailed.

A lunch was later served for all in attendance. We praise God for such a wonderful weekend.

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The saints of McKees Rocks held a special service on August 26, 1987 to pay tribute to our members who have served God for 50 years or more. These faithful of our branch are sisters Fannie Casasanta (56 years), Velia DiCenzo (54 years), and Mary Clements (50 years.)

After the McKees Rocks quintet sang *In the Service of the King*, Presiding Elder Bill Colangelo made a few opening remarks. Each sister was then given a corsage and the opportunity to testify.

Our sisters expressed their thanksgiving to God for His abundant blessings in their lives.

Sis. Fannie was baptized on November 22, 1931 by Bro. Vincent Clemente and confirmed by Bro. Charles Ashton. Sis. Fannie has held the office of a deaconess for many years and expressed her joy in serving the saints. She had the opportunity to go on several missionary trips with her husband, Bro. Dan Casasanta.

Sis. Velia DiCenzo was baptized on October 8, 1933 by Bro. William Cadman and confirmed by Bro. Tony Corrado. Sis. Velia testified that this evening is an honor, but she awaits the crown that the Lord will grant the faithful. She related several experiences of how the Lord spared her life, and stated that the greatest thing she has found in the Church is the Love of God.

Sis. Mary was baptized on August 22, 1937 by Bro. Frank Welle, and confirmed by Bro. Tony Corrado. Sis. Mary expressed that the Church means more to her than anything in this world. Our

sister stated that she has many fond memories, and her desire is to serve God all the remaining days of her life.

After the testimonies of our sisters, Bro. Bill Colangelo read several verses from Proverbs 31 describing the virtuous woman. We agree with Solomon, "Let her own works praise her in the gates." Our sisters have been true examples, and we praise God for their faithfulness.

Refreshments were served and a blessed time was had by all.

### Detroit Branch 3

*By Cathy Mulla*

On Sunday June 7, 1987 the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 3 were honored and delighted to have Brother Larry Watson and his family visiting us from Tse Bonito, New Mexico; Bro. Dan and Sis. Mary Tamburrino from Aliquippa, PA; and Bro. Rick and Sis. Jane Elzby from Meaford, Ontario as well as all our friends and relatives.

Bro. Peter H. Capone opened in prayer. Bro. Larry then introduced the service, citing the need for prayer for the sick and afflicted who are unable to meet with us. He stressed that *every* family has felt that urgent need for God's presence in their lives. He then read from I Peter 2. Bro. Larry emphasized that we shall *not* be confounded if we would but seek the light—that light being Jesus Christ, our strength and our Rock.

If our Church is not built upon the solid rock, it will not make it; it will not survive. Bro. Larry posed the question: Where in the world can we find that spiritual water to nourish us? He cited Moses' answer, "Let us go to 'the Rock.'" When Moses got to the rock, he smote it. Bro. Larry correlated this smitten rock to the fact that Christ had to be smitten also. Today, we practice the ordinance of the Lord's Supper as a memorial to Jesus Christ's being smitten on the cross for us.

Jesus is viewed today in two general ways. He is our Rock, our Strength, and the Cornerstone of our salvation. But He is also a stumbling block for those who refuse to see Jesus as the Christ.

Bro. Larry caused us to ponder upon the power in the stone, which equates to the power of Christ. That *stone* is in

this Church and, hopefully, in our lives. Where would we go if we did not have the presence of God in our lives?

To elaborate on the importance of God in our lives, Bro. Larry directed our attention to a story of a certain boy at sea:

There was an old man and a boy traveling in a small boat on the treacherous seas. A hurricane interrupted their journey and they were faced with a decision of whether to head for shore or go for the hurricane and, hopefully, ride the crest of the wave. The old man chose to go toward the hurricane. The little boy was sore afraid, and thought the old man a little crazy. Nonetheless, as they went toward the eye of the storm, a giant wave swept the boy overboard, but the rope that was tied around him saved him and helped the old man bring the boy back on board.

Brother Larry compared the rope to the Church. Naturally speaking, we are constantly faced with storms. Bro. Larry posed a penetrating question to us: Are you tied to the boat, where you will be safe? No matter what happens, Christ is there for you because the storms *will* come—you can count on that!

Bro. Larry then related two experiences that his mother and sister had. Each pertained to natural matters that affect our spiritual lives. One ended with the message, "Wo unto those who are outside My will." In his concluding remarks Bro. Larry reminded us that no one can ever take away that feeling of strength that God has given us.

Bro. Nephi DeMercurio elaborated on the theme of the sermon, emphasizing that Jesus Christ is the strength and hope of our lives, and that He is always there to take hold of or draw strength from. Our brother quoted Peter's words, "Leave aside all malice, hypocrisies, envies and evil speakings, and desire the sincere milk of the word—that we may grow by it." The beginning of obtaining that strength is when we break down that old man inside of us, when we forgive and let go as God does for each of us. In spite of ourselves, God forgives us. It is hard for us as humans to forgive, because the enemy of our soul does not want us to forgive or feel the glory of God.

Bro. Nephi then quoted Psalm 27 and

went on to say how the greatest obstacle we have to face is ourselves—our weakness and our flesh. We feel our loneliness and perceive ourselves as being the only ones going through our problems, conflicts, and illnesses. There is a sense of purpose for us, however, in serving God. We become lively stones that fit neatly into a unique structure. We are the building, with Jesus as the cornerstone! We form an object, with a strength of its own, that is tempered, shaped, and designed to bring beauty to the entire structure. We are the stones that bring strength, beauty, and joy, but let us remember that without that cornerstone, the building would fall.

Our brother marvelled at the glory of God, stating that we are important people in His sight. He concluded by pointing out the importance of the Restoration and how knowing about it and believing in it helps us to endure the things we must go through every day.

The message delivered to us this day was powerful and filled with the Spirit of God. We thank Him for all our visitors this day, and pray that God would continue to journey with them. We were all uplifted on this day, and we will never forget the words we heard from our brothers.

## Lorain, Ohio

By Katherine Cocco

Greetings from all the saints in Lorain. We just want everyone to know the great things God has done for the saints here. Praise God and many thanks to our wonderful Savior. He has heard and answered many prayers for us. We continue to have fast and prayer service every Saturday morning, and we feel very rewarded and blessed for these efforts.

Our grandson, Joshua Jenkins, had been suffering from a flu-like illness for several weeks. This was followed by a seizure that caused him to go into a coma for three and a half days. He was airlifted to a children's hospital in Cleveland where he was diagnosed as having encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. We were told that he would not survive the night and if he did, he would suffer brain damage.

His temperature rose to 106° and he was placed on a respirator. Bro. Fred Olexa went and anointed him each of the three days he was in the coma.

Thank God all of our prayers were answered. Today, Joshua is back in school, playing football and doing the things that all 13-year-old boys do. Praise the name of the Lord!

Bro. Richard Portnick has also been blessed of God. Our brother had been diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis. It had advanced to the point where he could not raise his left arm above his shoulder, and he had difficulty walking because his left leg was affected. After suffering for many months in this condition, our brother decided to undergo surgery.

Bro. Richard was anointed by the elders prior to going into the hospital. Now our brother once again has the use of his left arm, and can raise it above his shoulder. His legs have also been strengthened and he can walk without any difficulty. Furthermore, Brother Richard has been told that he doesn't have M.S.

Bro. Jim Alessio has recovered from two operations that he underwent within a week's time. After the second surgery he developed a serious infection that raised his temperature to 104° for quite some time. The doctors were finally able to determine the problem and bring it under control.

The Wednesday night before he went into the hospital, Bro. Jim was anointed. We sang the hymn *Don't Be Afraid*, and Sis. Rose Palacios related that during the prayer she saw the words "Don't Be Afraid" above Bro. Jim. She later related that she was given to understand that this experience was given so that Bro. Jim would have courage to face the unexpected complications he would be going through. Thank God He prepares us for many of the things that we experience in our lives.

Bro. Chaparro, one of our Spanish brothers, has been suffering from a heart condition for several years, during which he has refused to undergo the surgery that was recommended for him. Finally he was admitted to the coronary unit of the hospital with severe chest pains. This time the doctors told him that surgery for him was now out of the question, as he wouldn't be able to survive the operation.

Our brother began to talk to the Lord as he would to a brother. "Lord," he said, "You healed the leper, made the blind to see and caused the lame to

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**LORAIN continued . . .**

walk, and I know that you can heal me of this affliction."

A deep sleep came over him and when he awakened, his pain was gone. He was able to raise his arms and move about. God is so good, we cannot stop praising Him. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Another brother, Leonard Nardozi, injured his back at work and it bothered him to the point where he had to have surgery. The doctors anticipated having to do a lot of cutting and scraping as they prepared to remove a ruptured disc from our brother's spinal column. As they made the incision and moved the delicate nerves aside, however, the disc suddenly just popped right out. All that remained for them to do was close him up. Our Brother Leonard had much to be thankful for, but is still in much pain as he recuperates and still needs our prayers.

There are many others in our branch that have been blessed by God in times of affliction, and we continually remember the needs of these and others throughout the Church as they are brought to our attention.

## Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

We had two baptisms this year at the Inner City Branch in Detroit. Sister Willie Stallworth was baptized on June 14, 1987.

A week later, on June 21, 1987 Brother Charlie Oliver was baptized.

We praise God for His abundant blessings.

## Carolina Mission

By Margaret Iorio

God once again bestowed His blessings on our mission. We procured the conference room at a nearby Howard Johnson's once again as we expected a large crowd for a weekend of blessings.

That Saturday we met at Bro. Bill LaRosa's home, singing hymns and preparing for the morrow.

Sunday we met at the Howard Johnson's. We had visitors from Pennsylvania, Bro. Carmine and Sis. Erma Rossi of Aliquippa, who were here for the ordination of their son, Bro. Darrell, into the office of a teacher. Sis. Flo LaRosa was also being ordained a deaconess that day.

Bro. Jesse Carr of the Greensburg Branch opened our meeting. He spoke on the subject of joy—the joy of the saints. Bro. Jonathan Molinatto followed, speaking on joy, love, and our obligation to the Lord. He read from I Corinthians 12th Chapter. Bro. John Genaro also spoke this morning.

Testimonies followed. We sang *Vessels of Gold* in preparation for the ordinations. Sis. Virginia Molinatto washed Sis. Flo LaRosa's feet, and she was ordained by Bro. Jon Molinatto. Bro. Bob Dyer washed Bro. Darrell's feet and Bro. John Genaro ordained him. Bro. Darrell is the grandson of the late Apostle Ishmael D'Amico. He closed our meeting with prayer.

We then went into the next room where dinner had been prepared for us. May God continue to bless our Mission, as well as all the places where His people meet together.

## Detroit, Branch 2

By Joann Cotellesse

When we walked into church for Sunday School, God's presence could already be felt. This Sunday was special, as Branch 3 would be visiting our branch. A blessing was already anticipated and we knew we wouldn't be denied.

Bro. Joe Furnari opened the meeting, taking his theme from the opening hymn, *Trust and Obey*. He read from Mark 4:35, where the apostles became fearful as a storm came up and the ship they were in rocked to and fro in the sea and began to fill with water.

They awoke the Lord, who was sleeping in the back of the ship. Jesus asked them, "Where is your faith?" We need to trust in the Lord. Bro. Joe said that God will always be with us, no matter what tribulation comes our way. We need to trust in the Lord and labor for the spreading of the Gospel.

We then sang *Faith Is the Victory*. Bro. Peter H. Capone continued, giving

many fine examples on how people have trusted and obeyed the Lord. He further stated that we can't hide from the Lord.

Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo shared an experience he had when he was a young boy. He had a lump on his chest which the doctors thought might be cancerous. Bro. Leonard spoke on the prayer that his father offered, and how an experience was had that a man dressed in white was standing next to the surgeon during Bro. Leonard's operation. The Lord's presence was clearly evident to all in attendance this day.

During our testimony meeting, we shared many beautiful feelings. The love that we felt for each other seemed especially strong.

Al Milantoni made it known that he would be going into the hospital that Tuesday for some tests, and asked to be remembered in our prayers. The brothers invited him to be anointed, and after he was prayed on, he asked if he could express himself.

Al said that he had been away from God's family for 25 years. Ever since his brother, Bro. Joseph Milantoni, had passed away, he knew he wanted and needed to come back to the Church. He asked for God's forgiveness and he asked for ours. Bro. Dominic Thomas offered the prayer to reinstate him into the Church, asking God to be his companion and give him the strength to endure to the end.

We were spiritually fed this day. Everyone was filled to overflowing. The blessing we anticipated was truly received, and we can surely say it was good to be in the House of the Lord.

## Levittown, PA

By Tammy A. Valenti

On the morning of September 27, 1987 the saints of the Levittown Branch were joined by saints from throughout the Atlantic Coast District, as well as other friends, at the river shore to witness the baptisms of Michael J. Schmid and Elizabeth M. Riley. Bro. Michael was baptized by Bro. Gerard Valenti and Sis. Elizabeth was baptized by Bro. Samuel Dell. Following the baptisms, we all returned to the Levittown church building for the meeting.

We opened our meeting by singing *Zion's Border Line*. Following the open-

ing prayer by Bro. Paul Benyola, a small group, which included the Morales family from Guatemala, sang *En la Viña del Señor*.

Bro. Joseph Perri, visiting from the Hopelawn, NJ Branch, opened the meeting, reading from III Nephi 27. He asked the congregation, "What would you ask the Lord if He were to come in today?" Bro. Joe emphasized that we are closer to the Lord when we are in the attitude of fasting and prayer. He gave examples from III Nephi, in addition to relating a personal experience that he had when he was seriously ill. Through fasting and prayer, and the grace of God, Bro. Joe was healed.

Bro. Jerry Valenti followed, adding that when we are baptized, we become part of the body of Jesus Christ, and that when one of us becomes ill or depressed, we all feel it.

Prior to the confirmations of our new brother and sister, Sis. Tammy Valenti sang *The Safety of My Father's Arms*. Bro. Samuel Dell explained the ordinance of laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and then led the priesthood in prayer as they formed a circle around our new brother and sister. The Spirit of God was felt as Brother Jerry Valenti confirmed Sis. Betty and Bro. Paul Benyola confirmed Bro. Mike.

During our testimony meeting, Brother Kenny Lombardo, visiting from the Metuchen, NJ Branch, sang *Each Step I Take*. We concluded our meeting

with *Too Small for Great Things*, and Brother Greg Perri closed in prayer.

The following night, Mike and Betty made another promise, this time to each other, as they became husband and wife. We hope and pray that the Lord will continue to bless Bro. Mike and Sis. Betty as they begin their life together serving Him.

#### EVANGELISTS continued . . .

enhance their ability to carry out their desires.

#### WORKSHOPS AND AIDES

An internal committee responsible for workshops and other aides for the Seventies reported on the progress that is being made. Guidelines, recommendations, and future plans were presented.

Chairman for this group is Evangelist Fred Olexa. Other evangelists on the committee are Richard Christman, Sam Dell, Thomas Liberto, Leonard Lovalvo, and the writer.

The following evangelists were elected General Quorum officers for the coming year:

President — Paul Benyola  
Vice-President — Isaac Smith  
Secretary-Editor — Carl J. Frammolino  
Ass't. Secretary — Eugene Perri

In addition, Vincent Gibson is serving as the Treasurer until 1991.

The Quorum recommended to the General Conference that, starting in 1988, the General Quorum officers be elected for two-year terms, as are most other General Church officers. This recommendation was approved by motion at the conference.

## An Experience

I feel very strongly to relate this experience, only to give honor and glory unto the Lord.

In December of 1986 I dreamed that I was lying on a hospital bed and a doctor was standing over me. I looked at myself and saw that I had been cut and had stitches. The doctor said to me, "Everything turned out all right."

The next night I had another dream. I was telling a sister in the Church that the dream I had was for her, and I told her that everything would be all right. She started crying when she heard this.

I felt to write these dreams down and keep them because I had one dream right after the other.

Nine months later, these dreams came to pass. My sister in Christ went through some tests, and thank God, just like I dreamed, everything was all right.

Sis. Lorraine Thomas  
Detroit, Branch 1

## \* WEDDINGS \*

### PERRI—ZEHER

Brother Gregory Perri and Christina Zeher were united in holy matrimony on August 14, 1987 in Woodbridge, New Jersey.

The ceremony was performed by the father of the groom, Brother J. Joseph Perri. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Florence Lombardo.

The couple is residing in Mt. Laurel, New Jersey. We pray that God will bless their life together.

### DiFALCO—TROMBLEY

David DiFalco and Marie Trombley were united in marriage on Saturday, August 29, 1987 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Louis Vitto officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Brother Steve Champine and Sister Tracey Francione.

The newlyweds are residing in Roseville, Michigan. May God's blessings accompany them in their life together.

### PALACIOS—GRANADOS

Brother Frank (Flip) Palacios, Jr. and Sister Alma Delia Granados were joined in holy wedlock on Saturday, September 26, 1987 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bride's brother-in-law, Brother Isidro Gonzales of Tijuana, Mexico, officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of brothers Eugene Amormino of Detroit Inner City and Joseph Calabrese of Lorain.

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**WEDDINGS continued . . .**

Musical selections were played and sung by Sis. Carla Dziak and Bro. and Sis. Larry and Rosanne Champine.

The ceremony was conducted in both Spanish and English, and there were relatives attending from as far away as Texas, California, and Mexico.

The newlyweds are residing in Detroit, Michigan. Our prayer is that God would bless them with all His good gifts.

**SCHMID—RILEY**

Brother Michael J. Schmid and Sister Elizabeth M. Riley were united in matrimony on September 28, 1987 at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Jerry Valenti officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were played by Sister Tammy Valenti.

The newlyweds are living in Croydon, Pennsylvania. May the Lord 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 Joseph to Joel and Barbara Messina of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Nicole Murray to Michael and Debra Ashe of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

**Children Blessed**

On July 5, 1987, Jessica Lynn Gonzales was blessed at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Fred Olexa.

**Address Change**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Corey Benjamin Naro was blessed by Bro. Joseph Calabrese at the Lorain Branch on October 4, 1987.

Bianca Rose Licata was blessed on September 6, 1987 by Brother Joe Furnari at the Cincinnati, Ohio Mission. She is the daughter of Bro. Charles and Sis. Patricia Licata. On the same day, Lindsley Nichole Kudlack, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Kudlack, was blessed at the Lake Worth, FL Branch.

On September 27, 1987 Amanda Nicole Carradi was blessed at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch by Bro. August D'Orazio.

**OBITUARIES**

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

**SAMUEL HERNANDEZ**

The Santa Ana, CA Mission has a great void in its midst. Missed is Bro. Samuel Hernandez, who was involved in an accident on May 18, 1987. As he was riding his bicycle to work, a driver opened his vehicle door and Bro. Samuel collided into it and was fatally injured.

Samuel was born in the Mexican state of Durango. He was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Lupe and Sis. Flavia Rodriguez, his uncle and aunt. Baptized on July 27, 1986 at the California MBA Campout by Bro. Anthony Cardinale, our brother remained faithful and his love for the Lord increased daily.

He was a dedicated worker for the Church and spent many hours helping with the remodeling of the Santa Ana Mission. Although he was usually quiet and shy, he always walked to the front of the congregation to bear his testimony, as he wanted everyone to hear him express his love for the saints and for the Gospel.

Bro. Samuel kept in touch with his parents in Mexico, continually speaking and writing to them about the Church. His desire was to see them serve God along with him in the Church. It was through his death that they met the Church and felt the love of the saints.

Even though Bro. Samuel has passed on at the young age of 21 years, he left a very powerful and beautiful testimony with all of us.

**VIDI DALFOVO**

Vidi Dalfovo passed from this life on October 4, 1987 in Florida. He was born December 10, 1925.

The funeral was held at Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan with Brothers Louis Vitto and Sam DiFalco officiating.

Vidi is survived by his wife, Sis. Evelyn (Johnson) Dalfovo, and one son.