

The Gospel News

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

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Two Golden Anniversaries

By Frances J. Capone

The dates of December 29, 1936, and August 1, 1937, are closely related, for they represent two important milestones in our lives, Brother Peter Capone and mine. Significant dates then and even more significant today, they constitute our fiftieth wedding anniversary and our fiftieth baptismal anniversary in the Church.

A couple of weeks after our marriage we heard about the Church through Brother Rocco Meo (now deceased), who spent endless hours introducing the Gospel to two people who bombarded him with questions that kept us going until the wee hours of the morning.

These discussions soon led to a visit to Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan. At that time the branch was located at McDougall and Gratiot, where services were held in a rented upper room. Climbing the long stairway must have been difficult for the older members who faithfully trekked those stairs several times a week.

When I questioned Brother Rocco Meo about his statement that The Church of Jesus Christ was the one and only true church, he told me to ask God in sincere prayer. What an amazing answer! "What? The Lord tell me?" I asked in disbelief. He assured me that I would get a reply from the Lord.

I was blessed with several revealing experiences, but the most outstanding one was one that I received the night before our baptism—a dream which remains forever etched in my memory.

I dreamed that I was walking in a vast forest and that I was surrounded by tall, huge trees. I realized that I was lost and knew not where to turn. Apprehension filled my heart. While I walked in utter bewilderment and confusion, I saw a clearing, and I headed in that direction. Before me appeared a long line of closed doors. I knew that behind one of those doors I would find security and refuge. Which door must I choose? While I was thus musing, one door slowly opened, and a tall man dressed in a white robe beckoned to me. I looked into his eyes, dark, beautiful, compassionate. Instant recognition came to me, for He was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All my fears vanished as I followed Him through the open door. Safe at last. Looking about me I noted that many people were lying in beds. These people were sick and this was a hospital. He knew what I was thinking, for He turned to me and said, "Yes, this is a hospital, and I am the chief physician."

After that dream my course was clear—that The Church of Jesus Christ was the true church of God and that I must be baptized. The next morning Pete and I called for our baptisms. We were baptized by Brother Patsy DiBattista. I was confirmed by Brother Silverio Criscuolo and Pete was confirmed by Brother Giuseppe Usai.

We have a son David, who was ordained a deacon, and a daughter, who is a deaconess; son-in-law Steve Saffron and three grandchildren: Stephen, Joanna, and Erin Joy. We all reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Brother Pete is an evangelist, and has

served faithfully throughout the years. At various times he was presiding elder at Branch 3 and Branch 4 in Detroit, Michigan and also of the Phoenix Branch.

We thank God for having given us the privilege of belonging to the family of The Church of Jesus Christ. Throughout the years we have been blessed with warm and lasting fellowship with our brothers and sisters, many of whom have gone on to that beautiful shore.

The first testimony that I gave in 1937 was based on Hymn #8 in the Saints Hymnal. Part of the last verse says: "Whether many or few, all my

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Sis. Frances and Bro. Pete Capone of Phoenix, Arizona

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

LEST WE FORGET

I must live today; I cannot live tomorrow! When tomorrow comes, I shall live it! I shall embrace the miracle of life . . . I will celebrate each moment with the opportunity to help others and to reflect on our Lord that made this splendor possible!

The miracle of intuition is often underrated. It is one of the greatest gifts!

In the late 1930's, Frank and Leata Ford and I went to Grand River Reservation, better known as the Six Nations Reserve, in Ontario, Canada. This trip was one of several days' stay. We would visit several families daily, sharing our joy in Jesus Christ. At this time we had a small number of faithful.

We felt we needed to tell others of Jesus, and were told of a family who might be interested to hear. Upon learning of their name and address, we proceeded to find them. As we were nearing the house, Frank said, "Marco, wait!" Frank moved slowly as he looked into the house through a window. Then he shouted, "Come open this door!" There was a young man sitting facing the door, but he did not move. Frank knocked at the window pane a second and third time, and said, "Unless you open this door, I'll break the glass and come through the window!" The man stood up, and with the assistance of a cane he hobbled toward the door and opened it.

We found that what Joby Hill had planned was to commit suicide, and whosoever would open the door would kill him, as he had a 12-gauge shotgun facing him with a string rigged to the

trigger of a gun and to the front doorknob.

Of course, Frank and I were unaware of this until he looked through the window. But what prompted Frank to peek through the window before going to the front door? Frank said to me afterwards that an intuition seemed to warn him not to open the door.

Some years prior to this, Joby was walking on a road near Buffalo, New York one rainy night. As visibility was poor, a driver struck Joby, breaking his leg. The driver did not stop. Joby lay helpless, bleeding, for hours before someone helped him to a hospital. His leg was amputated.

As time went by Joby was unable to support himself financially, and he moved back to the Indian Reservation and lived in the home of a relative. There he became despondent and sought to end his life.

We took Joby with us to the home of Bro. Hugh Beaver and his wife, and then on to Windsor, Ontario. When the saints heard about Joby's life, they were moved with compassion and an artificial limb was provided for Joby through their generosity.

Joby surrendered his life to the Lord, and Brother Ford found a job for him. Joby became a blessing to all who knew him.

Strange but true, instead of a liability he became a blessing. But the question still prevails, what motivated Brother Frank Ford to say, "Wait, Marco, don't go to that door"?

Was it intuition, imagination, or the Spirit of God? What do you think? Whatever it was, God loved Joby!

Have you ever felt a hesitation or a sudden halt? It could be an inexplicable warning, or a call to action. It pays to listen to that inward small voice.

"I will send the Comforter. He will lead you and show you things to come," said Jesus. Do you believe this? It can become a very real part of our lives.

May the Lord richly bless you.

NOTE: The correct telephone number for Bro. V. James and Sis. Mary Loyalvo is: (209) 431-2960.

Covering One Another's Nakedness

By David Nolfi
Glassport, PA

Noah, obedient to all that God had commanded him, took the profession of an husbandman (farmer) after the ark landed, and planted a vineyard (Genesis 9:20-27). In the process of time he drank of the wine and was drunken, and lay uncovered in his tent.

Ham, one of Noah's three sons, saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brethren outside. Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it upon their shoulders, and went backward into the tent, covering their father without seeing his nakedness.

Certainly there is a valuable lesson for all in this account of Noah and his sons. This nakedness can be likened to the sins of our weakness which, by their temptation, beset our souls from time to time. Like Ham, there are many individuals today who, when they see the nakedness of others, would expose it by scolding, mocking, and ridiculing; making jest of others' faults. With a tongue determined to shame the person or persons involved, they of Ham's nature set on fire the course of hell by talebearing to all they might come in contact with concerning the deeds that the person, such as Noah, had committed.

Who are they in the role of Shem and Japheth, that would cover the nakedness of others? Even they themselves would not look upon Noah, but went in backwards. Those of the nature of Shem and Japheth are compassionate, merciful, and thoughtful of others, and it seems they are few.

There are not many who would see or hear of the nakedness of others and do what they can to cover the shame of it. Why not? Because the nature of the flesh is devilish; it takes pleasure in exposing the shame of others. The reward for this act, just as Ham was cursed by his father Noah, is that we likewise will suffer the anger of our Heavenly Father.

What of the reward of Shem and Japheth? Those who are able to look upon others taken in a fault with mer-

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It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovatvo

THE CHRISTOLOGY OF JOHN

In the prologue to his gospel, John introduces Christ's pre-existence as God, not a second personage, but as the only one. The pre-existence of Christ is alluded to very clearly in the Johannine Gospel by the Lord's own words, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (John 8:58). Amazingly, it reflects the Old Testament usage in the revelation to Moses, "I AM THAT I AM" (Exodus 3:14; Deuteronomy 32:39). In His last prayer Jesus indicated His pre-existence, "Father, glorify thou me with the glory which I had with thee before the world was made" (17:5; 6:62).

"I AM" CHRISTOLOGY

In the Gospel of John the imagery used by Christ in the "I AM" theme describes implicitly and explicitly the revelation of His true being and self-disclosure. The striking images and metaphors used make the mission of Christ stand out clearly and vividly.

The Christ of the Johannine Gospel uses the Greek form of "I am" (*ego eimi*) to indicate relevant titles to Himself in a metaphorical and symbolic sense. I am the bread of life (6:35); I am the good shepherd (10:11); I am the light of the world (8:12); I am the resurrection (11:25); I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6); and, I am the true vine (15:1). The construction *ego eimi* appears in three different ways in the Gospel of John, as follows:

- a) Without a predicate; 8:24, 6:28, 8:58, 13:9
- b) With an implied predicate; 6:20, 18:5

- c) With an explicit predicate; 6:35, 6:51, 8:12, 8:18, 8:23, 9:5, 10:7, 10:9, 10:11, 10:14, 11:25, 14:6, 15:1, 15:5 (Robert Kyser).

Kyser also translates the Greek "I am" construction more literally:

8:24—If you do not believe that "I am," you will die in your sins.

8:28—When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know that "I am."

13:9—I tell you this now, before the event, that when it happens, you may believe that "I am."

6:20—He called out, "I am"; do not be afraid.

18:5—Jesus said, "I am."

8:18—"I am" the one who testifies concerning myself.

8:23—"I am" from above, Your home is in this world, "I am" not from this world.

It does appear that in the Johannine Gospel the Old Testament parallel of the I AM saying is used. In my opinion, Jesus is attempting to emphasize the fact that He is the I AM who revealed Himself to Moses (Exodus 3:14). It is possible that John intends to stir up the reader to recognize that the sacred name for God, Jehovah (or Yahweh in Hebrew) means, literally, I am. In the Old Testament it is written, "And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the Lord: and I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them (Exodus 6:2 & 3).

A writer by the name of F. F. Bruce says that the complete phrase in Exodus 3:14 is translated as *Ego eimi ho on*, which means, "I am the one who is." In Isaiah 41:4 and 43:10-13, "I am he" is translated in Hebrew as *ani hu*. It signifies that Jehovah alone is God! In reading the above scriptures, no one is left in doubt as to the majesty of God, and His rightful use of *ani hu*, I am He!

The Hebrew phrase *ani hu* or its Greek equivalent is no doubt the basis from which the absolute "I am" sayings in the Johannine Gospel are used. One of them is found in 4:26: "I who speak to you *am he*." This was told to the Samaritan woman at the well of Jacob after she had stated her belief that when the Messiah came, everything would be explained.

A certain Raymond E. Brown writes about three types of "I am" statements by illustrations of contrast:

"I am the bread of life" in a context in which the crowd is suggesting that the manna which was given to Israel in the desert was the bread of heaven.

"I am the light of the world" in contrast to the festive lights burning brightly in the court of the women during the Feast of the Tabernacles.

"I am the door" and "I am the Good Shepherd" in contrast to the role assumed by the Pharisees.

Each of these roles reveal the role of Jesus. Not only does the predicate describe who Jesus is but it describes His relationship to mankind. Jesus, as the source of eternal life for all people, is portrayed in the usage of vine, life, and resurrection. Christ as the door is the means through which mankind can find that life.

Continued in next month's issue.

An Experience

By Josephine Noble

On September 2, 1987 a tornado struck the trailer park where we live. It was 4:30 p.m. and I was alone, sitting on my patio under the awning.

Suddenly a bolt of lightning came without warning from the hazy sky above and hit a tree a few yards from our trailer, setting the tree afire.

I became frightened and went into the trailer. In fifteen minutes' time, it grew very dark and windy and started to rain. It was raining heavily, and the wind was blowing strong enough to rock the trailer back and forth.

I immediately got on my knees and prayed, asking God not to let any damage or harm come my way. While I was praying it felt like my trailer was lifted up and put back down; my television and other furniture all fell to the

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A message from the Seventy.

Missionary Work Continues as Year Begins

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

Missionary work in various parts of the world is being pursued as the new year begins. Trips are being made overseas, while efforts are also being increased domestically.

This month, Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Paul Palmieri will be going to India, as reported in the November, 1987 *Gospel News*. Also, Brothers Joseph Perri and Joseph Ross are traveling in the continent of Africa.

The work has commenced in Guatemala, where Brothers Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin, along with their families, moved to in November. In the United States, follow-up activities in Independence, Missouri and among the Indian missions are being planned.

The efforts in India, Guatemala, and Independence, along with the ongoing Church programs in North America, have been reported in the past. At this time we will outline the African trip, which should be well under way as this is being read.

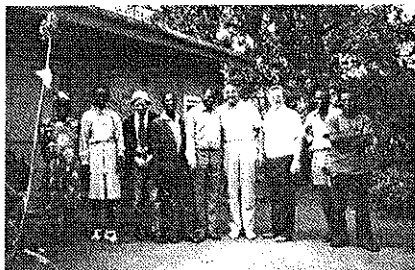
FOURTH TRIP

This is the fourth trip to Africa for newly-ordained Evangelist Joseph Perri. His first trip there was in 1979, when he went with Elder Mike Hildenbrand for five weeks to temporarily replace Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio, who served in Nigeria for six years and who was visiting home in the United States for a brief period. While in Africa Brothers Perri and Hildenbrand spent time in the nation of Ghana, where they were greatly impressed by the sincerity of the hearts of the people who wanted to hear about Christ.

In 1985 Brother Perri, accompanied by his wife Sister Mary, traveled to Africa, visiting in Nigeria for four weeks, in Ghana for one week, and in Kenya for ten days.

During this time, Brother Paul Carr, who is still the resident missionary in Nigeria today, established the Church in Kenya along with Brother Perri. They left their wives in Nairobi and ventured west, into the interior, for 250 miles to find Elizaphan Osaka and his wife, Nina, who had inquired about the Church through the late Evangelist John Ross, who was in charge of the African work for the General Church. As Brothers Carr and Perri have stated, "Only the Lord could have directed us in such a way for us to find them."

Even getting into the area was difficult, and their search seemed hopeless. Then, almost miraculously, a man unknown to them mentioned that he knew the Osakas, and he led them into the bush country where they were greeted by a 6 x 12-inch sign which read, "E. OSAKA, GOD IS LOVE." At the Osaka's home, the two brothers found a small group of people praying,



Missionaries Carr and Perri (third and fourth from right) with the group they encountered in Kenya in 1985. Bro. Osaka is in the center.

as they had been for four years, for a missionary from The Church of Jesus Christ to visit them.

The Osakas were baptized. At the invitation of the Church in America, they came to the October, 1985 General Church Conference where Brother Osaka was ordained an elder and Sister Osaka was ordained a deaconess in the Church.

In 1986, Brother Perri went once again to Kenya with Evangelist Joseph Calabrese. They stayed there almost three weeks in connection with having The Church of Jesus Christ registered with that country's government.

FIRST FOR BROTHER ROSS

The trip is the first one Brother Joseph Ross is making overseas for the Church, and he asked at the October, 1987 General Church Conference that he, along with Brother Perri, be remembered in prayer. As present coordinator of the African work, Brother Ross is very cognizant of missionary activities there and now he has the opportunity to go personally into the field. He has expressed much gratitude to the Lord for this privilege, as he was recently healed of a serious affliction.

The present journey is planned to last a minimum of nine weeks. It will start in Nigeria, where the brothers will visit among the 52 stations (branches) of the Church. Brother Paul Carr, who, along with his wife Sister Thressa and two of their children, is in his sixth year of service there, has planned their itinerary.

Nigeria was the first African country to have The Church of Jesus Christ established in it, an event which took place more than 30 years ago. Brother E. A. U. Arthur, paramount ruler of five million people, is the president of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, and is an evangelist in the Church.

Besides worshipping with the brothers, sisters, and friends at the church locations in Nigeria, Brothers Perri and Ross will visit the orphanage, which was begun about three years ago, the 850-student secondary school, which the Church established many years ago and which has been completely renovated, and the International Medical Assistance (IMA) Clinic, an independent organization begun by three sisters of the Church in America (Tina Sechrist, Shari Ciotti, and Mary Ann

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As The Church of Jesus Christ begins another year, we look forward, as always, to the great things the Lord has in store for us. Having been given the Restored Gospel, we understand that we must do more than simply win individual souls for Christ. As the servants of God, we have been commissioned with the great work of bringing about the restoration of the House of Israel.

The Lord has blessed us, through the Book of Mormon, with the fullness of His Gospel. This great blessing has not only afforded us the divine priesthood authority, without which we could not have the Spirit of God bestowed upon us, but it has also clarified for us many biblical prophecies concerning a condition of peace and godliness upon the earth while men are still in the flesh.

In order for us to bring about this Peaceful Reign, however, the scriptures teach us that we have a tremendous work to do among the Seed of Joseph and among all people. It is important, then, that as we endeavor to bring souls into The Church of Jesus Christ, we should work just as diligently to *teach* our members the full meaning of the Gospel, pointing out to them that their baptism is only the beginning, a first step, toward their salvation. With the knowledge we have been given, we know that our soul's salvation is only reached by committing ourselves to a righteous, sacrificial life of service to God and obedience to the teachings of Christ.

As much as our flesh would be satisfied just to see our buildings filled with worshippers on a Sunday morning, it is to recruiting and training true soldiers of the cross that we must devote our energies. If we can work to achieve a steady rate of spiritual growth among our existing members, if each of us can grow spiritually to a point where the Lord can use us as instruments in His hand, the increase in our *quality* will naturally bring about the increase in quantity that we yearn for.

Because God has bestowed a greater portion of the Truth to His Church in these latter days, each of us must be reconciled to the fact that every member of The Church of Jesus Christ has been commissioned to labor for Zion. It is only through doing what we know to be right, to the best of our ability, that the Lord will exercise His mercy and grace upon us as we stand alone before Him at the last day. If we do not know what specific work He wants us to do as an individual, we have only to ask Him; He will answer.

Let us try, in 1988, to become a church of vital, hard-working members, each laboring diligently for the reign of peace on the face of the earth. Let us make the best use of what we have to offer to the Lord, recognizing that it is God who has given us all that we have, and it is to Him that we owe all things. Above all, let us each work to put aside the natural man and allow the Spirit of God to dwell within us, leading and guiding us, and showing us things to come.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



A Great Mystery

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many thousands of years ago only a very few people on the earth knew God and how to serve Him. There weren't any books, most people could not even read, and darkness was in people's minds concerning spiritual thoughts, those good, happy thoughts about Jesus.

Most people thought that if they prayed to a special statue or held on to a "lucky" stone or feather, they would be safe and have power. When the Children of Israel were living among the Egyptians, they began to forget about God and began praying to statues; they forgot that all things that are good come from God and began to call their blessings "luck" because they didn't know better.

The Children of Israel grew up and had their own children, who grew up and so on. Pretty soon there were thousands and hundreds of thousands of God's chosen people, those Children of Israel, living among the Egyptians and praying to the Egyptian statues. They had forgotten God.

God sent a man named Moses to remind the Children of Israel of the true ways to pray and serve the Lord. God had heard His people cry for help.

Moses loved the Lord; it hurt him to see his people treated like slaves and raised to believe in Egyptian statues. He wanted to see his people freed and serving the One true God. The Lord worked with Moses to guide the thousands of His people to a free land. It took many miracles before the slaves were allowed to leave Egypt.

Moses' first plan was to lead his people straight through the desert to the land God had promised them. But once the people were away from Egypt, they began to forget what it was like to be

a slave and have someone whipping them and always telling them where to go and what to do.

They began rebelling against everything their leader, Moses, said for them to do. God was sending them a special food, called manna, every evening when the dew fell. The people never had to worry about food, but they began to complain that they wanted meat, and other foods they had in Egypt. They cried and moaned, saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

Moses and God were angry to hear the people again, forgetting all the good they had and all the blessings God had given them while they cried for something they didn't even need.

Moses said to God, "Haven't I pleased You, Lord? Is that why I have the burden of all these people? Now all these people cry and say that they have to have meat. Where could I find meat to feed these six hundred thousand people? I am not able to bear the problems of these people alone, because it is too heavy for me. If You deal this way with me, kill me, I beg You, if I've found favor in Your sight, so I don't have to be this wretched."

The Lord answered Moses, "Gather seventy wise men of Israel, and I will come down and talk to you, and I'll take the spirit which is upon you and put it on them also, and you will not have to bear the burden of these people (and this work) alone."

The Lord also knew what to do about the complainers who cried for meat. He told Moses, "Tell the people God has heard their cries for meat. I will send meat, not for one day or two days or five days, or even ten or twenty days, but even for a whole month will I send meat until you will be full of it, and sick of it: because you have not been glad that

God loves you and saved you from slavery, but have cried and complained saying, "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

And God sent thousands and hundreds of thousands of quails into the camp, and the people ate their meat until they were sick. And Moses shared the burden of leading these complaining, spoiled people with the seventy elders who also carried the Spirit of God.

Little by little, God was changing His people to understand His ways and trust Him, and Moses, too, learned and grew. The nation that had grown up as slaves amidst luxury were learning to be a strong and faithful people who served the One true God.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Reasons for Life

I don't know how to say it, but
somehow it seems to me
That maybe we are stationed where
God wants us to be;
That the little place I'm filling is
the reason for my birth,
And just to do the work I do, He
sent me down to earth.
If God had wanted otherwise, I reckon
He'd have made
Me just a little different, of a worse
or better grade;
And, since God knows and understands
all things of land and sea,
I fancy that He placed me here, just
where He wanted me.
Sometimes I get to thinking, as my
labors I review,
That I should like a higher place
with greater things to do;
But I come to the conclusion, when
the envying is stilled,
That the post to which God sent me
is the post He wanted filled.
So, I plod along and struggle in the
hope, when the day is through,
That I'm really necessary to the things
God wants to do;
And there isn't any service I can give,
which I should scorn,
For it may be just the reason God
allowed that I be born.

Author Unknown
Submitted by Cathy Mulla
Detroit Branch 3

Our Women Today

Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

By Dorothy Shaefer

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle met at Aliquippa, PA on November 7, 1987. It was a beautiful day as the sisters traveled to the meeting. There was much anticipation and no one was disappointed from the time the song *Good Morning, God* was sung until the closing prayer was offered.

Sis. Joanne Gibson read the scripture from Psalm 103. There was a short business session, in which we discussed ways in which we could be of more assistance to the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was reported that the Pennsylvania Area Circle had responded to the request of the PA District Mission Board and provided sacrament furnishings for the Elkins, West Virginia Mission. Layette items were brought to this meeting and will be forwarded to the Indian missions as needed. Through the ongoing layette distribution program many have been introduced to the Church who otherwise would never have heard of the Gospel.

The Aliquippa Circle presented a beautiful program of praise and thanksgiving. This theme, portrayed

through the reading of scriptures and historical proclamations and the singing of songs, gave us a feeling of gratitude that we have been allowed to enjoy the blessings of America, the Promised Land. During the program, the presidents of the various Circles in the Area were asked to give their testimonies.

To close a very uplifting service, Sister Madelyn Robinson sang a version of Psalm 103, which had set the theme for the day—"Bless the Lord, O my soul."

Bro. Jim Gibson closed the meeting in prayer, after which we enjoyed a delicious pot luck dinner and sweet fellowship with the sisters and a few brothers who also came to the meeting.

Branch and Mission News

Saline, MI

By Virginia Carlini

"There's a sweet, sweet spirit in this place." The voices of the young people rang loud and clear at the close of the meeting on Sunday, October 4, 1987. What a wonderful spirit to go home with as the house of the Lord was filled with brothers, sisters, and friends gathered there to praise and honor their God.

Families gathered at the Saline Mission that day to reflect upon their spiritual life and their relationship to God; today, particularly, the family of Sis. Marion Batalucco. History was being made at the Saline Mission as four generations of the Batalucco family were present to see Wilder Scott Christoferson blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. He is the son of Kimberly (Wood) and Scott Christoferson, currently living in Phoenix, AZ, and the grandson of Sister Roseann and Donald Wood, and the great grandson of Sister Marion and the late Bro. Joseph Batalucco.

We had visiting with us Baldwin Batalucco and his entire family, and Bro. Kerry and Sis. Salina Carlini from Branch 4, which made a total of 33 of the family. Also visiting with us that day was Sis. Michelle Kruggel of the Harrison, MI Mission.

The family went up and sang

Whispering Hope, after which Bro. Jim Cotellesse blessed Wilder. Bro. Jim then introduced the service, speaking of the qualities of Jesus. He read from Mark 10:13, on the blessing of little children, and said how a child is trustworthy. The Lord would have us to be as children—trustworthy, free from pride, unsophisticated, loving. Jesus had these qualities. The Lord had mercy. He healed the sick and fed the hungry with loaves and fishes. Jesus had tenderness. He talked to people individually.

We should read the scriptures, to see the lessons our Creator has given us on how we should live on this earth and endure to the end.

After the congregation sang *Make Me a Blessing*, many beautiful testimonies were given. Bro. Gary Carlini related a dream he had five years ago, in which he saw the entire Batalucco family sitting in church. It was truly a joy for us to see that dream fulfilled on this day.

Bro. Reno Bologna spoke a few words. As the 'patriarch' of our mission, he has watched all the young ones, and even some of the older ones, grow up in the Church. He was our Sunday School teacher and our minister. We pray that God gives all our visitors the privilege to come back into our midst again.

RIDE FOR GLORY

It was back in the spring of 1987 that

the members of the Saline, Michigan Mission, desiring to be "physically as well as top-notch spiritually fit," formed the Team Saline-Mission Bike Club. Bicycles were dusted off, club T-shirts were ordered, and the club's first activity was organized.

On September 5, 1987 the Saline Mission held the first annual Team Saline Bike-A-Thon. It was a beautiful late summer Saturday as riders of all ages gathered at the home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Virginia Carlini, which served as the headquarters for the activity. Bikers were given 5 hours to complete as many laps as possible over the 4-mile course. All proceeds from this event were donated to the Saline Mission's building fund.

After opening prayer by Bro. Harold Batalucco, a short photo session took place and the bikers were off. As they

(Continued on Page 8)



Members and friends of Saline, MI Mission at their 1st annual Bike-A-Thon.

SALINE continued . . .

rode past the check-out desk, they yelled out their numbers to register the lap, and received a drink of water. Bro. Gary Carlini and Duane Loyalvo tied for the most miles ridden.

Following the day's ride, there was a picnic in the Carlinis' courtyard, and later, a hayride was enjoyed by all.

We would especially like to thank all those who pledged and donated money to the riders. Thanks to the riders for their time and effort, and above all, we thank God for the strength and ability He gives us, that we might collectively work toward our goal of someday building our church in this area.

Lake Worth, FL

By James R. Bond

On Sunday October 18, saints from as far away as New Jersey gathered for a beautiful day as we all witnessed the ordination of Brother Ronald Carradi into the priesthood. We also observed the ordinance of feet washing. The Hollywood, Florida Branch enjoyed this glorious day, along with Bro. Lenny and Sis. Jean Benyola of Hopelawn, NJ, Bro. John and Sis. Carolyn Griffith and their family from Tampa, and a group of brothers and sisters from the Miami Mission.

Bro. John Griffith opened the meeting using Ephesians 4:4-16 as his text, speaking on why and how one is called into the ministry. The calling into an ordained office is a revelation from God, and does not come from ourselves or other people.

Bro. John D'Orazio continued, remembering scriptures in the Bible having to do with God's calling individuals to minister unto the people. The scriptures he cited reinforced the order and composition of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Before the ordination took place, Bro. August D'Orazio washed Bro. Ron's feet. After a prayer was offered by Bro. Joe Catone, Sr., Bro. Eugene Perri ordained Bro. Ron with the power and authority to preach the Gospel.

Dreams and experiences were then related which confirmed our brother's calling into the priesthood. We all felt

the Spirit of God as our brothers and sisters testified of God's revelations to them regarding our brother's place in the Church. These experiences are the difference between the Church that Christ set up and the many different denominations and churches of this day and age.

We thank God for allowing us to taste of His blessings, mercies, and goodness in sharing in the ordinances of His Church. We ask for your prayers as our Brother Ron does his work for the Lord and continues to increase in knowledge and wisdom as he feeds the flock.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On September 23, 1987 our presiding elder, Bro. Peter Scolaro, called a special meeting for all the young members of the branch. He didn't specify what the meeting was about, so everyone was feeling a little apprehensive about what the topic would be.

But when Bro. Peter began to speak that Wednesday night, it was a gentle and loving message about helping one another in the service of the Lord, about doing your part, making an effort instead of making an excuse. He included himself, and wasn't pointing a finger at anyone. It was like a spiritual pep rally.

Our brother mentioned how the older brothers and sisters have the wisdom that comes through years of experience, and how they carry much of the load today as they have over the years. But now is the time for those duties to start changing hands—the names on the list of officers and workers must change—because if they don't, we cannot grow as a Church and as the people of God.

The young members can't go on expecting the older brothers and sisters to always be there to work for the Church, because very soon we, the young, will be the Church. If we are not willing to put forth the effort, the Lord will turn and overturn until He finds a people that will serve Him.

The words our brother brought forth that evening were truly a message for all of us. I hope and pray that this article gives you a taste of the inspiration we felt. It has opened my eyes to the importance of *individual effort* among the saints, so that united we will stand strong for the Lord!

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday, October 18, 1987 visitors, friends, and relatives gathered from Windsor, Meaford, Harrison, Branches 1, 2, and 4, and Sterling Heights to witness the ordination of three of our sisters as deaconesses. This day held special meaning for Sisters Mary Coppa, Ilene Coppa, and Arline Whitton.

Opening prayer was offered by Bro. Joe Furnari. Bro. Rick Elzby from Meaford, Ontario introduced the service by reminding us to look forward to the Spirit of God manifesting itself this morning. He then asked us, "What time and season are we living in today?" The latter reign has come upon the earth and we are living in the *latter day!*

Bro. Rick cited several examples in the scriptures where the power of God is made manifest. It is this power that led Joseph Smith to ask the Lord, "Which church shall I join?"

Today we have to have more insight than those around us in the world. We are living in the type of day where soberness and seriousness are left behind; the same type of days as before the flood, when they made merry with wine and strong drink and food. Today the world "parties" for everything, but *real* joy is that which is found in the restoration—found only in our hearts.

In contrast to many churches which may be built up to get gain, we have set aside different ordained offices in order to pass on the word of God. We each have a responsibility to the Church, and it is this desire, perseverance, and endurance we each have that is the foundation of the Church and holds the Church together.

Bro. Rick mentioned that the past weekend was Thanksgiving in Canada. In honor of this day, the Sunday School children presented a program where they read the experience in the Church History of Sis. Campitelle, where God sent a messenger to bring her family much-needed food. Bro. Rick then asked, "Who can you go to today who would help you? What have you got to hang on to if you don't have the Lord?"

He exhorted us to number ourselves among the righteous—not the wicked. If you want to have something badly enough, you must fight for it; this applies both naturally and spiritually. The

lifespan of man passes so quickly that we must strive harder to put temptation out of the way. We can have the blessings of this land very easily—by working for them. Likewise, we must work hard to release the silken cord that hinders the Spirit of God from reigning freely in us.

We must watch and pray and be spiritually-minded. A condition called Zion is going to come upon this land. What is needed for this to happen? A little more faith! We must work at it a little more for a little longer.

The Gentiles are now nearing the fullness of iniquity. We, the Church, have the truth and the fullness of the Gospel in all its purity. Never again will contention or false doctrine wipe the Gospel off the face of the earth.

Bro. Rick then read from Hebrews 4 and Luke 21, stating that *all* of God's word will be fulfilled. There are beautiful changes of season on the earth. This beauty was created for us by God through His plan. Scientists explore space, but there is *nothing* out there. All the planets are barren, with nothing growing on them. But out of God's love, we meet here today. We should consider it an honor and a privilege to be numbered among the saints.

Bro. Rick prompted us to pray for the Gentiles and the House of Israel to be numbered among the saints. We must season each other with our love. Through this love, we are able to labor for the Lord.

Following sacrament, the families and close friends of our three deaconesses-to-be sang *Second to God*.

Bro. Joe Furnari explained how an ordination comes about. God, not man, calls His servants into these offices. His will is made known through much prayer and searching. Those who hold ordained offices have an added responsibility and an added role in their lives, in addition to being a spouse, a parent, a laborer, and a servant of God. These callings are made known through dreams and experiences, and by the Spirit of God's presence. The Lord only calls those who have a sincere desire to do His work.

Bro. Jack Pontillo read the spiritual duties to be performed by a deaconess in the Church, citing Romans 16:1.

Sis. Mary Criscuolo washed Sis.

Arline Whitton's feet and Bro. Joe Furnari ordained her. Sis. Lorraine DeMercurio washed Sis. Ilene Coppa's feet, and she was ordained by Bro. Gary Coppa. Sis. Jane Elzby washed Sis. Mary Coppa's feet, and Bro. Rick Elzby ordained her. Prior to the ordinations, Bro. Jack Pontillo offered a word of prayer as the elders formed a circle around the three sisters.

After Bro. Nephi DeMercurio read from John 13 pertaining to feet washing, the remainder of the congregation participated in that ordinance as well.

During testimony a sister related a dream that she had sixteen years ago which indicated that one of the sisters ordained today would serve the Church as a deaconess. God has a way of revealing all things to us, and in time, these things come to pass.

Presiding elder Paul Whitton reinforced the message brought forward this day, prompting us to be sober and serious-minded. God made the greatest promise to all of us and He never fell back on it. He loves us still. We must try and labor for the Lord. Furthermore, we should reflect more upon the Love of God. Bro. Mario Coppa closed in prayer.

The day held a special beauty for all in attendance. The Spirit of God was fully manifested. We honor and glorify God for the calling of our sisters, and pray for them as they labor for the Lord.

Detroit Inner City

GLORIA A DIOS

"Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the mysteries of him: and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways. And no man knoweth of his ways save it be revealed unto him: wherefore, brethren, despise not the revelations of God" (Jacob 4:8).

We rejoice in the good and marvelous works of God. As servants in the Lord's Church we are to not only bring the Gentiles to the knowledge of the Restored Gospel, but we are also called to gather the "Natural Israel" as well.

For many years the members of Detroit's Inner City Branch had been

trying to find a place where they could minister exclusively to the American Indian and/or Mexican population. Because of different circumstances, however, these meetings always changed locations or had to be cancelled altogether.

This, brothers and sisters, is an account of how the Lord moved *His* hand in order to help us in our sincere desire to do His work.

Not long ago, in his endeavor to expand his knowledge of the Spanish language, the thought came to Brother Mark Mancinelli to go to a Spanish-speaking church. This way he could experience their culture and manner of speaking while learning the language, but first and foremost he could be a missionary.

La Iglesia de Dios (the Church of God) is a small storefront church attended by Mexicans and Puerto Ricans who live in the southwest quarter of Detroit. They are a very warm and loving people.

They held meetings on Thursday nights, and one night Bro. Mark attended. They were very friendly to him, and through their words and actions he could see the love they carried in their hearts.

Bro. Mark continued attending on Thursday nights and eventually he became friends with Daniel, the minister of that church. After a while, Bro. Mark was inspired to speak to Daniel and his wife about the Book of Mormon. They were very receptive, and readily shared their own feelings and beliefs about God.

About this time, our branch began to fast and pray for our work among the Indians and Mexicans. We wanted the Lord to guide us in all that we did, and prayed that He would bless us with a building in which to hold meetings for this part of our missionary work. One day, while seeking God's direction through prayer and fasting, Bro. Mark thought of the small building used by Daniel and his congregation. He thought it would be the perfect location for us to do our missionary work, if only Daniel would allow it. He told the brothers in the ministry what he thought, and they liked the idea.

The next time he met with Daniel, Bro. Mark told him of our Church's desire to be among the Indians, Mex-

(Continued on Page 10)

INNER CITY continued . . .

icans, and Puerto Ricans in order to teach them the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Bro. Mark asked him if he would consider letting us use their building for that purpose.

Daniel was open to the idea. He said he would ask his congregation what they thought about it and let us know what they said. Soon afterward, Daniel told us we had their permission to use the church one evening a week, when they were not using the building.

When we offered to pay rent for the use of the building, Daniel said, "Brother, we are all working for the same purpose: to bring people to the knowledge of Jesus Christ so they will be saved. It would not be right to charge you for doing the work of the Lord."

One night it was suggested that we meet with the Spanish-speaking congregation in order to become better acquainted with one another. Daniel liked the idea, and soon a date was set for a spiritual gathering.

Friday, August 28, 1987 was an exciting evening for the members of the Inner City Branch as we met with the congregation of *La Iglesia de Dios* for the first time.

Over the past year, Pastor Daniel Bermudez and the members of his church had graciously permitted us the use of their building, and now we were happy to share a service of singing, testimony, and praising God with them. This meeting was just one step closer to a better understanding of this part of the Seed of Joseph.

The children opened the meeting by singing a Spanish hymn for us, and Pastor Daniel introduced the service, extending a warm welcome to us and introducing us to his congregation. Daniel then turned the meeting over to Brother Mark Mancinelli, who introduced the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ's Inner City Branch. Presiding Elder Tony Gerace gave a brief introduction.

Bro. Eugene Amormino followed, speaking on unity and the love of God that breaks down all natural barriers. He then related a vision that Sis. Inez Cotellesse received during one of our Monday night meetings. While we were praying for this Mexican work, our sister saw the building fill with grapevines. They were supported by a large white post, and were full of grapes of different sizes and colors; some red, some white, and some green.

"Yes, the vineyards are full, sir. And all nations will be a part of that vineyard. *All Nations*." Bro. Eugene quoted Isaiah 2:2, where it says all nations will flow unto the mountain of the Lord. Not just Gentile, not just Mexican, but *all*. Praise God!

Bro. Gary Champine then followed and related what great hopes and expectations are in store for the children of God in these the latter days. With the power of God upon him, Bro. Gary shared his vision of all men being joined under one Spirit, one mind, and one faith. Everyone said Amen.

Our little band came forward and sang *Sing Hallelujah* in English and Spanish. Then Bro. Oscar Lopez related his testimony in Spanish. During his

testimony, the gift of tongues was spoken. The interpretation was later given to be: "I have gathered these people together tonight. I will gather all My people under one roof as I did tonight."

A number of brothers and sisters from our group then offered songs of praise to the honor and glory of God.

After the closing prayer we gathered to have some refreshments, take some pictures, and enjoy one another's fellowship. We all had an enjoyable time; no one left without making a friend.

We thank God that this won't be the last time we will all be gathered under one roof. Amen . . . Gloria a Dios.

ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .

years are His due . . . may they all be devoted to Him."

Our sentiments remain the same in that regard. The remaining years of our lives may be fewer than they have been, but every moment spent in His service is precious. In the near distance we can hear the heavenly choir and see the hands of our dearly-departed brothers and sisters outstretched in our direction.

Praise His high and holy name!

Frances J. Capone
Phoenix Branch

NAKEDNESS continued . . .

cy, kindness, and love will do whatever they can to shield this soul from the shame that those of Ham's nature would place upon it. Hence, even as Shem and Japheth were blessed by their father, even so shall we be blessed of our Heavenly Father for our efforts in helping a sinner.

This account of moral virtue is important to the children of the Lord. As we have grown in this Gospel, no doubt we have seen a situation such as the one above played out in our lives. Possibly we were in the position of Ham, waiting to expose someone taken in a fault; or, in the position of Shem and Japheth, trying to help some soul fight a weakness; or even in the position of Noah, caught in a shameful situation.



Members of Detroit Inner City meet with Spanish-speaking congregation.

Our remembrance of past deeds will serve as a witness to the truth of the role we played.

It is vital to our continuing salvation that we remember we were once sinners, and that by the blood of Jesus Christ we were washed clean of our shame. Likewise we are dependent daily upon the grace of Jesus Christ (which grace is the unmerited love of God). Therefore, of ourselves we cannot earn His wondrous grace, no matter how much we do or how many years we serve Him. Realizing this, we can further understand the words of Alma to his son, Shiblon: "Do not say: O God, I thank thee that we are better than our brethren; but rather say: O Lord, forgive my unworthiness, and remember my brethren in mercy—yea, acknowledge your unworthiness before God at all times" (Alma 38:14).

We should live close to God, bearing the fruits of His Spirit, that when this condition presents itself to us, we will be as Shem and Japheth, a type and shadow of Jesus Christ who covers the shame and nakedness of our souls. In the trying times that we live in, let us be a cloak of love to our brothers and sisters and any of our fellow beings when their shame is exposed. Let us pray that the fruit of mercy and kindness and love be found on our branches, willing to give to others at all times freely. The Apostle Peter exhorts, "for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." Let us be even as Jesus Christ is.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Nicosia) for birthing mothers and infants.

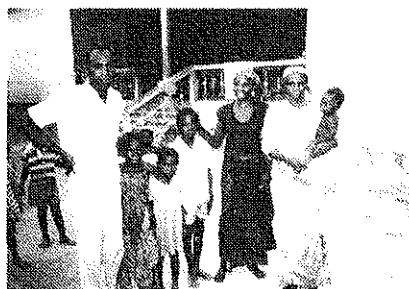
Brother Robby and Sister Mary Duncan of the San Fernando Valley, California Branch are now working at the clinic. Both having medical training, the Duncans are playing both an administrative and a training role during their stay. Their three sons, Troy, Ti, and Trenton, are also with them.

The orphanage was founded as a result of an inspiration had by a Nigerian brother. Sister Carmela Mazzeo of Florida, who spent about six months working at the IMA Clinic in 1986, assisted in setting up a meal program and sewed clothing for the orphaned children. Sister Mazzeo and other sisters from Florida are sending a shipment of clothing, which will be delivered by Brothers Perri and Ross.

GHANA NEXT STOP

The next stop will be in Ghana, located 900 miles west of Nigeria in western Africa, where there are over 550 members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Ford Boadu is president of the Church in Ghana, which has its headquarters in the city of Kumasi.

Over a relatively short period of time, the Church in Ghana has become well-known to the people of that nation, just as it has in Nigeria. This is attested to by the fact that the visiting brothers will be meeting with the king of the Ashanti Tribe, one of the tribes of Ghana. Truly this should prove to be a heartwarming experience.



Bro. Ford Boadu (left) with Ghanaian women and children.

Brother Boadu reported that 50 people were baptized at a recent "Missionary Crusade," and that later 100 more converts were added to the fold in Ghana.

Brothers Perri and Ross, along with Brother Boadu, will also be meeting with five additional groups who have corresponded with Brother Boadu. Very much interested in The Church of Jesus Christ, they contacted us after reading the testimony of William Bickerton.

KENYA TO BE LAST STOP

The last leg of the trip for our two brothers will be to Kenya, about 3800 miles to the east of Nigeria and Ghana, on the extreme east coast of Africa. There the brothers will labor with Brother and Sister Osaka to spread the Gospel further.

The Osakas have been diligent in working for their young people, and they have started a technical school, a clinic, and a nursing home. Their demonstration of love has also been highly exemplary. Although permission to register The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya has been refused, the work of the Lord continues there.

The entire trip will be not only informative, but should be filled with many blessings from the Lord. Brothers Perri and Ross will be preaching to many different people, and the message of Salvation will be spread in many different directions. Our prayers are that God will inspire them as they participate and even lead in many of these evangelistic endeavors in Africa.

Their report will be eagerly awaited, as we anticipate hearing that many people, many miles away and from many backgrounds, are being led, with God's guidance and help, into the glorious Gospel of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

floor. Outside, my 20-foot awning was torn off the trailer and twisted like a pretzel.

The rain was so severe that I could hardly open the door to get over to my neighbor's, where I learned that we would have to evacuate as another tornado was expected to hit our park. As I looked and saw the many demolished trailers and the very little damage done to mine, I knew that the Lord had heard my prayer. Words cannot express the feeling of thanks to my Savior for all He has done for me.

There were 28 trailers destroyed by the tornado. I told the newspaper reporter who interviewed me how the Lord was with me through the storm.

Dear brothers and sisters,

My parents, Brother Concetto and Sister Rose Alessandro, have moved to 2331 Rusk, Rochester Hills, Michigan, 48064. Your prayers and cards are appreciated. The telephone number is (313) 651-5325.

Thanks,
Marianna Cappel
Detroit, Branch 1

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also who shall believe on me through their word (John 17:18-20).

* **WEDDINGS** *

HEMMINGS—CICCATI

On October 24, 1987 Bro. Samuel Hemmings and Sis. Lisa Ciccati were united in marriage in San Diego, California.

Bro. Lou Ciccati, father of the bride, officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Brothers Jim Huttenberger and Herb Hemmings, father of the groom. Musical selections were presented by Sisters Janice Huttenberger and Diane Surdock, and Brother Steve DeCaro.

Our prayers are with them as they begin their new life together.

VAN ITTERSUM—McCRARY

Donald J. Van Ittersum and Deborah L. McCrary were united in holy matrimony on November 14, 1987 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Lou Vitto officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sister Diane Hawkins and Brother Steve Champine.

The newlyweds will reside in Warren, Michigan. Our prayer is that God will take first place in their lives.

New Arrivals

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

Nicholas Joseph to Michael and Danette Pastorelli of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Sean Daniel to Paul and Dina (Surdock) O'Sullivan of San Diego, California.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Jesse Daniel to Dan and Mary (Alaburda) Creager of San Diego, California.

Stefani Marie to Steve and Ruth DeCaro of San Diego, California.

Jonathan David to Tim and Renee Scolaro of Phoenix, Arizona.

Matthew James to James and Celia LaPinta of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

OBITUARIES

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

ALBERT CAIN

Albert George Cain passed away on July 18, 1987. Born on July 19, 1922, he was the husband of Sister Eva (Coppa) Cain of Detroit Branch 4.

The funeral service was officiated by Brothers Norman Campitelle and Silverio Coppa.

Albert is survived by his wife, Sis. Eva, three children, and two grandchildren. He will be missed by family and friends alike.

DOMINICK CALABRO

Bro. Dominick Calabro passed on to his eternal reward on September 6, 1987. He was a member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Dominick was born February 7, 1892 and became a member of the Church on October 4, 1930.

Brothers James Benyola and J. Joseph Perri officiated at the funeral service.

Our brother's wife, Sister Catherine, passed away six years earlier. He leaves to mourn five children: Sis. Grace Kepics, Brothers Frank and Paul Calabro, Sis. Marie Huttenberger, and Sis. Margie Calabro, as well as nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. We will miss his testimony and words of encouragement, but will strive to follow his good example.

JOSEPHINE ALDATZ

Sis. Josephine Aldatz of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed from this life on October 12, 1987. She was born on March 19, 1906 and was baptized in the Church in 1955 with her husband, the late Bro. Jesse Aldatz.

The funeral was officiated by Bro. Harry Marshall, with the assistance of Bro. Ramon Zamora, who delivered his message in the Spanish language.

Our sister is survived by two daughters and four sons, as well as a host of brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

February, 1988

Volume 44, No. 2

November 1987 GMBA

By Jeffrey Giannetti

Throughout the course of time, many things have been written and spoken about the family. Study after study has been conducted to learn more about the family and its role and significance in human life. The conclusion drawn is that the family plays an integral part in all phases of life and is essential to our very survival. How fortunate we, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, should feel, then, for not only do we have our natural families, but also a spiritual family given to us by the Lord. Each time we gather with this spiritual family, whether it be in a large or small group, a tremendous blessing is felt by all.

On the weekend of November 14 and 15, 1987, our spiritual family gathered in Greensburg, PA for the semiannual GMBA Conference. Saints from as far south as Florida and as far west as California gathered for a weekend of fellowship, singing, testimony, seminars, and, of course, a little business.

Our morning was begun with the opening remarks of Bro. Paul Ciotti. Then it was on to the business of the day. A number of issues were discussed, the details of which are available in the GMBA minutes at your local MBA.

The next order of business was election of officers. The following are the newly-elected officers for the coming year: President, Bro. Paul Ciotti; Vice President, Bro. Brian Martorana; Chaplain, Bro. Ken Staley. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless these

brothers as they lead the GMBA. This election also marked the end of Bro. John Griffith's service as GMBA President. On behalf of the GMBA, we would like to extend our gratitude to Bro. John for his five years of service as president. His tireless efforts and enthusiasm for the GMBA were an inspiration to all. Our prayer is that God would richly reward Bro. John and his family for their support of and dedication to the GMBA.

Saturday afternoon began with the selection of a location for the 1988 GMBA Campout. This year's camp will mark another GMBA first, as it will be held in the state of Florida for the first time in the twenty-one year history of GMBA Campouts. Campout will begin on Sunday, June 26, 1988 at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, Florida, and will conclude on Saturday, July 2. Further details about the camp will be forthcoming. Begin making plans now for a trip to the Sunshine State. Florida's on fire!! Come feel the heat!!

The remainder of the Saturday afternoon session was spent enjoying two enlightening seminars presented by Brothers Russell Cadman, Paul Palmieri, and Joseph Calabrese. The seminar topics dealt with increasing our level of righteousness and readying ourselves to be used by the Lord. For all in attendance, the seminars proved to be uplifting and rewarding.

On Saturday evening the Pennsylvania Area Choir honored the congregation with a number of songs they

had recently presented at an evangelistic meeting held in Bridgeport, West Virginia. The mix of old favorites with contemporary was a blessing to all.

During the remainder of the evening, we enjoyed a musical selection from the saints in attendance from the Florida Area, and also a number of beautiful testimonies from our young people. We concluded Saturday's events and looked with anticipation to the coming day.

Our Sunday service was a day filled with the blessings we had anticipated. We started the morning by again enjoying the singing of the Pennsylvania and Florida Areas. Bro. Joseph Perri of Hopelawn, NJ then opened our meeting. He spoke from IV Nephi and related how the Nephites lived in a peaceful condition for the space of many years. Our brother explained that it was the love of God possessed by these people that allowed them to enjoy this peace. Brother Joe expounded upon the impact the love of God can have on the world, and encouraged each of us to live a life that reflects the love of God. Our brother's words were truly inspired of God, and we pray that with the Lord's help, we might attain the same spiritual status as the Nephites of old.

Brothers Jerry Valenti Jr., Ken Staley, Eugene Amormino, Frank Giovannone, and Paul Ciotti also delivered inspired messages. Their words were food to the souls of all in attendance.

Our service was brought to a close, and as is always the case when the family of God gathers, a joyous time was had by all. Until we meet again, may God bless all of you.

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

*Though some will gain earthly attainments,
They may even reach their desired goal,
Yet, their life often doomed to failure,
For lack of character lose their soul.*

More than 25 years ago, a six-year-old black girl braved the taunts, insults, and even death threats of white parents enraged by a federal judge's desegregation order. The girl, whose name was Ruby, was befriended by a young psychiatrist, Dr. Cole.

It took fifty armed federal marshalls to escort Ruby to her new school; the doctor was concerned of her mental well-being.

But Ruby showed no signs of being angry, nor was she ever really scared. She was too busy praying, three times a day, for her attackers. These people, young Ruby told the doctor, didn't know what they were doing.

Ruby had been brought into the world by her great aunt; Dr. Cole was the first doctor she had ever seen. At her young age, she had no formal education or training, but sometimes children which we would classify as culturally disadvantaged exhibit a greater degree of moral sensibility. They show an understanding of the rights and wrongs of this world. They have eyes and ears that work, they have a heart and a soul that works.

Often children who are born without all of life's advantages and reared in adversity are better prepared to face up to whatever comes against them. Ruby went on to earn a college degree, perhaps doing better than some wealthy children who lack moral purpose.

At times it is the affluent and

"secure" children who are truly disadvantaged. The privileged children of this generation are, in their own way, vulnerable to being spoiled. They have intelligence, and everything life has to offer, yet they often grow up seemingly aimless and lost.

What is it that they lack? A sense of moral purpose. A sharing with others, a concern for people outside of their own particular world. Growing up in a world that seems to center around themselves, it is no wonder that our children learn to depend on drugs, becoming selfish and self-indulgent.

Human beings need to be asked of, to be challenged, to be taught to think of others, in order to break out of the self, or the "me." Parents as well as teachers must strive to give our children an ethical framework within which they can grow and develop, and the home is where that first foundation must be based.

Where do you think that six-year-old Ruby acquired the courage and character to endure? Where did she learn to pray thrice daily for her attackers? From her great aunt, and those who surrounded her at home, of course.

The best gift we can give our children is a good example to get them out of thinking only of themselves. This teaching is essential for children to grow up to be good people, people with the ability to stand up against evil, people who have *character*, which, in the words of Emerson, is higher than intellect.

Children learn to think of and care for others first at home, second in church, and thirdly at school. So why not begin now, at home?

We teach our children to compete, not to cooperate; to acquire, not to share; to revere the language of the computer more than the language of character. It is important for us that they learn how to get ahead in the world, but what they really need to know most is how to *contribute* to the world around them, how to lead a more useful life, one that is filled with purpose and achievement. We need to follow little Ruby's great aunt, and walk in her footsteps.

I once employed Penny Catalano, a young girl out of high school who had been stricken with polio. The disease had left her without the use of her legs; she wore metal braces to help her get around.

Like Ruby, though, Penny had a purpose in life. She learned quickly and became a very good secretary. Her personality was such that one soon forgot that she had problems walking.

One day she fell to the floor. I went to help her, but she shouted to me, "Don't—the doctor has taught me not to depend on others. I must get up by myself." It was an awful sight to see how she struggled to get up, but she did it.

One day, she decided to return to school since she had earned a scholar-

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Note of Thanks

I would like to thank the saints throughout the Church for their prayers and cards during my recent, sudden illness.

I especially want to extend my appreciation to the brothers and sisters of the San Diego, California Branch for honoring the doctors' request that no one visit me during the critical stages of my recovery.

May the Lord continue to bless you in all things.

Sincerely,
Apostle Gorie Ciaravino

Dear brothers and sisters,

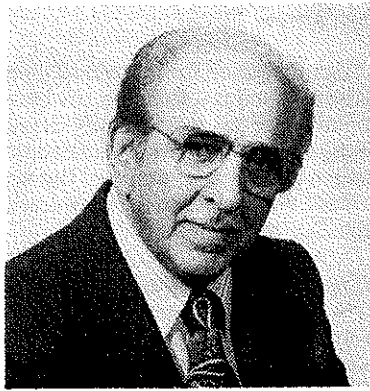
My family and I would like to take this time to express our thanks to you all for the many prayers and for the deep concern you showed for me. Brothers and sisters, I knew that we loved each other in the Church, but I never realized how much until now. Thank you for your cards and your prayers.

I thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ and my life in it. There were about 600 people at the Campout praying for me, along with the Church throughout the land.

Also, I want to thank my family and convey my love to them for all their tender loving care and help. I sincerely love you all.

God bless you,
Sis. Peggy Benyola

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovaalvo

The Christology of John

INCARNATION

The Johannine Gospel identifies Jesus (the Word) as God incarnate. "... and the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us" (1:14). Flesh is the Jewish term for a human personality in its totality. The Word did not acquire personality, for He already possessed it. But as one writer says, "He identified His pre-existent personality with real human nature. . . ." John, in one of his letters, writes, "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus is come in the flesh is of God; and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God" (1 John 4:2 & 3).

Christ's incarnation did not demean His divinity, nor did His divinity negate His humanity. He became flesh to indicate that He would be subject to the same infirmities of mankind without relinquishing His divine nature. John establishes the fact that the pre-existent Word was, in God's own due time, incarnated to give mankind life and the way to eternal salvation. The Word (Christ) was not only the incarnation of God, but also the Revealer of life to men. By Him mankind would have access to that eternal life promised to mankind from the beginning of the world.

One of the great prophets recorded in the Book of Mormon, Abinadi by name, prophesied:

God himself shall come down among the children of men, and shall redeem his people. And because he dwelleth in the flesh he shall be called the Son of God, and having subjected the flesh to the will of the Father, being the

Father and the Son; the Father, because he was conceived by the power of God, and the Son because of the flesh; thus becoming the Father and the Son. And they are one God, yea, the very Eternal Father of heaven and of earth (Alma 15:1-4).

As the incarnate Word of God, Jesus exemplifies His relationship with the Father (and also to mankind). It is eloquently expressed in His own words, "I and the Father are one" (10:30); and in His prayer, "... that they may be one, even as we are one" (17:22). He is the center of authentic relations between man and God because He and the Father are one. Thus Jesus Christ can say that if anyone had known Him, they would have known the Father also.

Tertullian, an historian, once wrote, "The rules God made He Himself observes. A father must have a son to be a father; and a son must have a father to be a son."

In His incarnation the human qualities of Jesus are clearly manifested. No other writer describes the human qualities of Christ as vividly as John. The Christology of His humanness is portrayed with a feeling of the intimate relationship he shared with the master. It is as though John experienced the emotions that ran through Jesus Christ from time to time. He saw Christ as a being that could be touched by human emotions. He must have witnessed the anger of Jesus kindled when He saw the money changers in the temple brazenly plying their trade. Overthrowing their tables, He cried out, "Make not my Father's house an house of merchandise" (2:16). He saw Jesus weep at the tomb of Lazarus (11:35). No other book of the New Testament, in my opinion, conveys the true humanity and deity of Jesus Christ as clearly as John. John writes of the human passions and emotions of Jesus without taking anything away from His Lordship. John Knox, in one of his dissertations, wrote:

Nowhere is it suggested that He brought with Him any of the glory of His earlier status or that he enjoyed any freedom from the limitations of the human lot. There is a divine and human ingredient in the concrete reality of Christ. The Church's memory of Jesus is the memory of a man, a human being; its knowledge of the risen, living Lord is the knowledge of a divine being. He was fully subject to the limitations

which define and restrict men's lives.

Jesus' mind was the mind of God; He walked and talked and could be touched, and because He came in the flesh, He was nailed to the cross. Christ took on the human qualities to experience the emotions of created mankind. He showed that it was possible to live a sinless life. He took on humanity to answer the demands of a just God, and became a pure and spotless sacrificial lamb. He spilled His blood and died as a man, but He conquered the grave and arose a triumphant divine Being.

During Christ's incarnation a singular attribute made itself manifest, and that was love! Love, to John, transcends all other emotions. His gospel and his letters abound with love. It is his foremost theme. John, more than the other synoptic writers, dwells on love as the motivating force behind the advent of Christ. He wrote, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (3:16). Also, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (15:3).

John's gospel is replete with the emotion of love, displayed and taught by Jesus Christ and His disciples. The early apostolic church was imbued with love for many years after Christ's ascension. When they departed from this love, apostasy resulted. Love was to be, and must be, the standard by which the world would know, and shall know, who the followers of Jesus Christ were and are. The early Church was characterized by a common love that made the interests of one member the concern of all members. It was clear to the disciples that Jesus' love of men was not merely an illustration of universal benevolence but an act of divine love. There is no other way to adequately describe His love than to just say definitely that His love was that of the Son of God. In His dying admonition to John while on the cross, Jesus revealed the great depth of affection He had for His "beloved disciple": "John, behold thy mother." The dying Lord bequeaths to John the greatest of legacies—the reward of love stronger than death. Richard Niebbuhr writes:

The remainder of the New Testament and the witness of Christians in all ages confirm the affirmation that love is one of Christ's

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A message from the Seventy.

Evangelist Visits Many Branches and Missions

By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor

He is six feet, five inches tall and he is broad-shouldered. He speaks with a powerful voice, and no matter where he goes, his presence is felt. This has always been the way for Evangelist George R. Heaps and today it is even more noteworthy, as he is traveling and speaking to many of our Church congregations.

Throughout his 30 years in the priesthood, Evangelist Heaps has wanted to visit the branches and missions of The Church of Jesus Christ. Until last year, it was impossible for him to do so. With God's help and direction, however, this desire became a reality, as He provided the means to relieve Brother Heaps and his wife, Sister Barbara, of their duties in California. They have been able to travel to be with brothers, sisters, and friends in many different places.

During the last half of 1987, Evangelist Heaps (known as Brother Rusty to just about everyone) spoke before 18 different congregations in the United States. They ranged from the west coast to the east coast, and from the south to the north. Everywhere Bro. Rusty and his wife went, they stated they felt the love of the saints, and they have also endeavored to meet many new souls.

"We can honestly say that we have been received very well. This is especially important to us, because we arrive unannounced," Brother Rusty emphasized. "Wherever we went, the Lord gave the message which we delivered. Each time, the saints commented that it was 'just what we needed.' The beautiful part is being invited back,

which has been the case just about everywhere we visited."

HONOR AND GLORY TO GOD

When Brother Heaps speaks about these visits, he gives honor and glory to God for what has transpired. Afflicted for many years with heart and respiratory problems, he did not think that he would be able to travel so extensively. Also, Sister Barbara has had various illnesses, which as recently as last year made it difficult for her to leave her home. This has changed, however, and they have been cheerfully following up on the wonderful opportunity they have been afforded.

Thus far, the Heaps' have traveled over 24,000 miles and covered 24 states in their 40-foot "fifth wheel" trailer. Their vehicle is self-contained, and has room aboard for a 10-day store of provisions.

Use of this trailer is a fulfillment of a dream Sister Sarah Watson of Tse Bonito, New Mexico had over five years ago. When Brother and Sister Heaps visited Tse Bonito in July, 1987, Sister Watson related that in the dream she had seen the Heaps' driving a truck with a house on the back. In effect, this is what the "fifth wheel" has become for the travelers.

FEELS STRONG CALLING

Brother Heaps feels a strong calling to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all who will listen. Strong on the future expectations of the Church and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, he has been preaching the hope of Zion, as well as the joy of daily living with Christ.

He has stressed the importance of

how "we must accept our callings. We must follow the guidance of the Spirit if we are to be successful in doing the Lord's work."

The inspiration for his overall mission is the admonition, found in the book of Romans, that we must mortify the flesh. He asks, "How can we be married to the Church and do the things of the world as well? We must become more spiritual each day of our lives."

The Heaps' are planning to spend more time at each place they visit in the future. Brother Rusty also carries the sacrament with him, so he can administer communion to the brothers and sisters who may be living a distance from a permanent Church location.

GOOD EXAMPLE

This Evangelistic tour also fulfills a lifetime dream for our brother. The son of legendary Evangelist James Heaps, Brother Rusty can recall the days of his childhood when his father would leave to go on a tour to various church locations. The joy that his father reported in visiting and preaching to the saints inspired him. Throughout the years, Brother Rusty wanted to do the same thing, only on a more organized basis and for a longer period of time. As each year passed, however, involvement in his occupation made the possibility of such a trip appear more and more remote.

At one of the October, 1986 General Church Evangelist Quorum meetings, Bro. Heaps asked to have hands laid upon him that the Lord would free him from his daily responsibilities in his business, and permit him to go on this evangelical tour. The Lord answered this prayer speedily, and within four months his business was placed in the hands of replacements and arrangements were made to allow him to leave his home in California. The speed with which everything fell into place convinced him of the appropriateness and timeliness of pursuing his "spiritual vacation."

Sister Barbara received a dream in which she was told, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven and all other things will be added unto you." She also saw in this dream how their two sons-in-law would play major roles in relieving Brother Heaps of the bulk of his business responsibilities and in dispatching him into the field. This was exactly

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

There are so many ways in which we can improve upon our service to the Lord, as individuals and as a Church, that we could spend a lifetime trying to think of them all. There is one thing, however, which covers all of these areas; in fact, it covers a multitude of sins. Charity, the Love of God, plays an important part in all of our endeavors to serve Him. While we grow in knowledge and in faith over the years, we are also exhorted, through God's word, to increase His love within us.

As we strive to do so, our desire to live righteously in the sight of God will also grow. The thought of doing anything displeasing to the Lord, or to our fellow man, will become abhorrent to us, and we will put forth a greater effort to separate ourselves completely from worldly thoughts, words, and deeds. Being possessed of God's love will cause each of us to look deeply into our own hearts and seek to cleanse ourselves of all iniquity.

The love of God will also unite us as a Church. No matter how far we may be removed from our brothers and sisters, geographically or otherwise, God's love will motivate us to come to terms with the fact that we are all one Church, and we must pull together. If we abandon this divine love and insist on being separate, on doing things "our" way while everyone else does things "their" way, not only will we be dividing the body of Christ, undermining and destroying its strength, but we will also be in danger of hardening our hearts and setting ourselves above others, lifting ourselves up in pride. Greater charity will keep our hearts softened, and help us to overlook each other's human failings.

More of God's love in our midst will bring about a greater outpouring of His Spirit as we meet together in our branches and missions. The kind of blessing we receive when we wash one another's feet can be a part of our regular worship if we meet together with the common desire to share in God's love. As a result of our increased righteousness, our greater unity, and our abundance of genuine love for one another (things all brought about by charity), the gifts and blessings of God will abound in our midst, and our lives will be further blessed.

Another appealing aspect of this increase of God's love in our lives is that its presence will draw others to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Through the love we exercise, along with our example and good works (again, things brought about by greater charity), our fellow man will be moved to ask what it is in our lives that makes us so eternally hopeful and joyful. Faced with more opportunities to tell others of the Gospel, we will enjoy the privilege of bringing souls to Christ.

While it is contrary to human nature for us to put the good of others before our own, more of the love of God within us can make this practice become a way of life. In order for the Church to move forward, we must all be willing to give more of ourselves, in one way or another. God's love will drive us to do so eagerly and willingly.

Ultimately, charity working in and through us will bring about the Zion that we speak, sing, and dream of. Through the many good things that result from the saints' possessing God's love, we will be used to perform the marvelous work and wonder that is set before this Church, the restoration of the House of Israel and the establishment of God's kingdom on the face of the earth.

"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 ye may become the sons of God; 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).

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

One Man's Dream

Dear girls and boys,

Do you have a dream? Is there something special for God that you want to do? Maybe you see something that needs to be done that nobody else seems to see. In the old days of the Bible, Nehemiah was that kind of person; he was a man with a dream.

Nehemiah was Jewish and loved God with all of his heart. He was not living in Jerusalem, but in faraway Babylon, where he was a friend and servant to the king of Persia, who ruled Babylon and owned Jerusalem and all the country around it.

Nehemiah's dream was to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city. Three hundred years before, Jerusalem was a beautiful city filled with people from the twelve tribes of Israel, the people of God. Solomon was the king then, and he had built a marvelous temple of stones, covered with cedar wood and then with sheets of gold. When the people of Israel quit serving God, their enemies had power over them. The city of Jerusalem was attacked and all the people were scattered, and most were taken away.

Nehemiah's people had been taken away to Babylon. But a new time had occurred in Babylon. History tells us that Esther had become queen of Persia in 478 BC, and saved the Jews from massacre five years later. After that, her people were honored by the Persian king. Only about 30 years had passed since Esther and her uncle had brought favor to the Jews.

The Persian king cared about his friend Nehemiah and allowed Nehemiah to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the city. He gave Nehemiah letters and money to build new walls and gates in the city.

But Nehemiah knew he had powerful

enemies; his people, the Jews, also had powerful enemies who wanted to hurt and destroy them. The Bible tells us that Nehemiah prayed and fasted to God for days before he asked the king to let him rebuild Jerusalem.

The king said yes, and Nehemiah journeyed for days to see the land where his people had once lived. In secret he looked over the city and planned which walls and gates he would fix first. He met with the rulers of the city, and told them about his prayers and how God had touched the king's heart. The people believed Nehemiah and began to rebuild. Although their enemies attacked and threatened them, they did not win. The walls went up; the gates (for safety) were put into place. In only 52 days of tremendous work, the city was safe again.

Then Nehemiah continued to pray. He saw how lazy the people had become about serving God. Nehemiah called a special week of prayer and meetings. The chief priest, Ezra, read to the people about the true way to serve God and the people repented—their hearts were broken over their sins.

Nehemiah chased away the people who weren't from Israel and who tried to break the laws of God; the people who tried to come outside the gates and sell things on Sunday were chased away. The Israelites who married people that prayed to statues were not allowed to be priests. God gave Nehemiah courage to rebuild a nation of godly people. The dream came true for a man who loved to pray. The dream of a safe city in their own country came true. God gave power and courage to the people who were sorry for their sins and came back to Him with broken hearts.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan



MESSAGE continued . . .

the way it happened, within a few weeks of her having the dream.

The only delay, which was comparatively slight, was in obtaining the vehicle and making it completely functional. Now it is a point of interest for all who see them travel along the way.

Our collective prayer is that God will continue to direct them and protect them as they travel, so that Evangelist Heaps' presence will continue to be felt as he speaks in his booming, staunch voice proclaiming the message of Salvation.

Sudden Departure of Evangelists

By Carl J. Frammolino

The sudden passing of two evangelists of The Church of Jesus Christ in December has left the entire Quorum saddened and reflective over their losses. Evangelist Ether Furnier, who passed away on December 13, was the permanent missionary at the San Carlos, Arizona Indian Reservation, and Evangelist Nathan Peterkin, who departed on December 19, was well known for his Church radio broadcasts in the Spartanburg, South Carolina area.

The Quorum wishes to send condolences to their wives, Sisters Ella Furnier and Carmella Peterkin, and their families, while it acknowledges the many years of faithful and wonderful service that our brothers contributed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They shall, of course, be sorely missed.

Base Planted in Guatemala

By Carl J. Frammolino

When Evangelists Frank Ciotti and Dwayne Jordan traveled with others to Guatemala in December, 1986, they were on an exploratory trip to determine the feasibility of establishing The Church of Jesus Christ in that country. When they went there this past December, along with Brothers Sam

(Continued on Page 8)

MBA Highlights

PA Area MBA

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held their business meeting on September 11, 1987 in Monongahela. The new officers elected are: President Brian Smith, Vice President Paul Aaron Palmieri, Chaplain Dan Buffington, Secretary Sue Ciotti, Assistant Secretary Diane Ciotti, Treasurer Rick Scaglione, Financial Secretary Jon Olexa, Historian Sandy Bittinger, Editor Lucetta Scaglione, Auditors Bob Beam and Jim Abbot, And Organizers Walter Laird and Chuck Kogler. \$400 was donated to the District Mission Board for the work in West Virginia. The next business meeting will be held on March 25, 1988 in McKees Rocks.

A spiritual meeting was held by the PA Area MBA in Imperial. Bro. Bob Buffington opened in prayer and President Brian Smith welcomed everyone. Bro. Frank Ciotti, visiting from California, opened the meeting. His theme was "God will provide." He said that as children of God we can have joy. If our foundation is built on Jesus Christ, no matter what comes our way, God will provide. We must build our lives around The Church of Jesus Christ, and not fit the Church around our lives. If we do this, God will provide. We must be vessels of gold, and be prepared to be used by the Master. There is nothing more beautiful than to be used by God.

Bro. Art Gehly followed, saying there are vessels of honor and vessels of dishonor. We should be vessels of honor, that Jesus would be glorified.

Bro. Jim Moore thanked God for the Church and for the fact that it is second to none. Bro. Dick Lawson asked, "What kind of vessel are you?" We must each examine ourselves. God will provide, but only to those who are fit vessels. If we are not fit vessels, we must become ready now.

Sisters Karen Progar and Marty Jumper sang *The Sea So Great, Lord, My Boat So Small*. Paul Ciotti was inspired to remind us of the great responsibility we have to feed the whole world—there is enough for all. If we are faithful to God, He will provide and open the doors to do His work.

The key word of "endurance" came to Bro. Dan Buffington. We are going to be tried as vessels of gold, and we must endure.

After the speaking, many beautiful testimonies were given and the sick were anointed. We sang *Take Some Time to Pray* and Apostle Paul Palmieri closed in prayer.

Michigan-Ontario Area MBA Visits Muncey Mission

By Cathy Mulla and Vincent Mulla, Jr.

On Sunday August 23, 1987, several brothers, sisters, and young people from the Michigan-Ontario Area attended a service at the Muncey, Ontario Mission. We experienced beautiful weather on our journey there, but the *real* beauty of the day was yet to be experienced.

As we entered the church building, we were greeted with love by the brothers and sisters in Muncey. The elders present that day were Brothers Peter H. Capone, John Buffa, and Rodney Dyer. After opening prayer, Bro. Pete felt prompted to call upon the young visiting brothers to approach the rostrum and testify.

Brother Dennis Colpitts from the Sterling Heights Branch spoke first, about how he was introduced to the Gospel and what this Church has meant to him and his family. He spoke about the emptiness he experienced prior to his baptism, and encouraged all that this Gospel is free—no monetary value can be put upon it.

Brother Bruce Jones from Branch 1 then testified. He spoke concerning the song *The Valleys Are Green, Sir*, and how the gardens are all in full bloom. The beauty of this song reflects the beauty he has experienced in his life since he was introduced to the Restored Gospel. Prior to his commitment to God, he was out in the world living his life in a worldly fashion, which was the only way he knew at the time. But when God directed him to the Church, his life changed drastically and he began to see the beauty of the Gospel. He expressed that he continues to experience God's blessings now, and today he felt spiritually filled.

Brother Flip Palacios from Sterling Heights then testified about his childhood and how he was brought to the Church. He came from Lorain, Ohio to Michigan in search of employment, all the while seeking the direction of God. Though he knew virtually no one in Michigan, he has an entire family now—the family of God. Bro. Flip reminisced about his mother's desire to teach him and his siblings all about the Gospel and expose them to a life beyond worldly comparison. Prayer was a mighty fortress in his home and was much adhered to. Our brother agreed that no monetary value can be placed upon this Gospel, but it certainly can be considered a heritage to be passed on from parents to children and on down from generation to generation.

Then Brother Keith Lesperance from Branch 1 followed, calling our attention to the ninth chapter of the book of Acts. He pointed out that we are *all* chosen vessels before God, that we bear the name of Jesus before the Gentiles, before kings, and before the Children of Israel. He continued by relating how he was led to the Church. Prior to his joining the Church, he had heard much about it from his wife's grandmother, Sis. Mary Johnson, who was one of the first to be baptized when the Church came to Detroit in 1920. At first he could not understand why our members met for Sunday School, Sunday morning, and Sunday afternoon meetings, why we observed the blessing of children, and held fellowship meetings. He thought it was all very nice, but not for him. When his wife asked for her baptism, however, knowing what he did of our Church, he knew what he had to do and surrendered his life to God.

Following a season of testimony, the administering of the Lord's Supper took place. Bro. Capone then reiterated on the testimonies of our young brothers. He likened them to the four sons of Mosiah in the wilderness, and their earnest desire to serve the Lord. Bro. Rodney Dyer then closed the service in prayer.

The sisters at Muncey prepared a plenteous luncheon for everyone. We thank God for their graciousness.

Our hearts were filled with the Spirit of God this day, and we all received a blessing. We enjoyed what our young brothers testified, and we pray that God will continue to bless the Muncey Mission with His love.

GUATEMALA continued . . .

Randy and John Genaro, the Church was in full operation and services were being held.

What transpired within one year was a beautiful fulfillment of direction, prayer, and commitment, as efforts were directed toward establishing the Church, missionaries ventured from their homes in America, and the small group concentrated all their efforts toward spreading the Gospel in that country.

The permanent missionaries, elders Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin, both formerly of Santa Ana, California, have located in an excellent area of Guatemala City, where they are in a position to hold services.

The two brothers had left Guatemala five years ago to find fame and fortune in the United States, with ambitions to succeed in the field of popular music. Instead, they found the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ and have returned to their homeland with the precious message of Salvation.

Many experiences have been received concerning Guatemala, some of which have already been fulfilled. Also, many visitors have been attending the services there, some indicating a strong interest in the Gospel of Christ.

FLAG OF ZION PLANTED

Before leaving this past December, Evangelist Ciotti, who is chairman of the Pacific Coast District Mission Board, wrote to supporters of this undertaking, "Guatemala is the key to the work in Central America." He went



Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin, our permanent missionaries in Guatemala.

on to describe how the flag of Zion is being planted there.

Relating the joy of this endeavor, he said, "It will be exciting to hear of the first baptism in Guatemala. . . . We walk by faith. God has revealed much concerning the establishment of this work. We thank the Lord for your support and desire to see the growth of the Church. Please pray for this work—our brothers are young but their desire is great. They left Guatemala five years ago and now return with the precious message of Salvation. God is truly marvelous—His wonders to perform."

In recalling the support given by the brothers and sisters, Brother Ciotti reported, "A special appeal was made at the October, 1987 General Church Conference to raise \$15,000 to assist in the establishment of the Church in Guatemala. Because of your assistance and your concern for the welfare of the Church's missionary endeavors, we received in excess of \$16,000 for this cause. Yes—we met the challenge!! Thank you for your gift of love and willingness to be used by God."

BOARD OF MISSIONS SANCTION

The entire project is sanctioned by the General Church Board of Missions and the General Priesthood. The progress made is very significant when it is realized how difficult it is to set up the Church in foreign countries. Just complying with the diversified legal requirements of other nations is almost impossible to understand; but we have been fortunate to have competent and willing assistance. The attorney the Church has engaged in Guatemala has been attending services, along with her husband and their family, and they are very interested in the Gospel. Although there have been procedural delays in having The Church of Jesus Christ registered in that country, she has been laboring diligently to have the Church legally established and just her presence has been most reassuring to the group.

Now that the workers are there and they have become settled, it is important to obtain a permanent meeting place. It is certain that, with God's help and direction, this will be accomplished. The response that the membership of the Church made to the special request at the October Conference indicates the great willingness and generosity the saints possess on behalf of the missionary work of the Gospel.

Property may be rather expensive in

Guatemala City, and there may not be much vacant land in Zone 5, where we hope to establish the first mission, but confidence is being expressed that funds and the location will be forthcoming.

GREETINGS continued . . .

ship. She graduated with honors and married a fine man that she met at the university.

"Moral Purpose." Our children need to acquire a sense of moral purpose.

It is not too late, begin now. Better yet, begin with yourself. Remember, if you do the best you can, God helps you to do what you can't.

Grace be unto you,

Mark Randy

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

greatest virtues. . . if the nature of this virtue is to be understood, some attention must be given to His theology. The tendency to describe Jesus wholly in terms of love is intimately connected with the disposition to identify God with love.

Concluded in next month's issue.

From the Inside Out

Serving God from the inside out;
That, my friend, is what it's all about.
Are you living with pain and fear and doubt?

Try serving God from the inside out.

Serving God from the outside in
Is only a game, and you'll never win.
You ask me what life is all about?
Try serving God from the inside out.

A contrite spirit and a broken heart
Are ingredients needed for God to start.
He guides your footsteps without a doubt
If only you'll serve Him from the inside out.

By Sis. Florence Benyola

Branch and Mission News

Detroit Inner City

By Diana Stigleman

On Sunday, December 6, 1987 Bro. John Genaro visited our branch. We had two visions that day, and twice we were presented with the gift of tongues as well as the interpretations. God's Spirit flowed like a cleansing rain. The testimonies were powerful and touched our hearts. But there was something about Bro. John Genaro that was so full of energy and God's Spirit, as hard as I tried, I couldn't write "just" a regular article. . .

Okay, Lord, not that I'm trying to be pushy, but could You please get Your Spirit going? My battery really needs a recharging. We have a visiting elder today. His name is Bro. John Genaro. I've never heard him preach before, but his words sure are packed with energy and fully charged.

I really liked it when he spoke about how the prophets of old looked at our day with envy. I guess some exciting things are coming up pretty soon. When he read from the eighth chapter of Moroni, he spoke about faith, hope, and being meek. It made me feel good. He said that when we are meek, You can work with us better. I'll try harder, Lord.

I especially liked his experience about learning how to plow a field. Bro. John said he was plowing and thought his furrows were perfectly straight. One of the brothers showed him that his lines ran all over the place. The brother told him to focus his eyes on one object far in the distance.

Bro. John said life is like that. We can't see anything except what's in front of us. We think we're going straight, but we're not. Bro. John said his mother and father saw what was ahead in his life, but "I was the last to know." Bro. John grew up in the 1960's, when it was stylish to cast aside moral restraints and live freely.

Bro. John's mother finally said to You, "I've done everything I can. You have to save his soul." Then You took charge, Lord. John had a bad motorcycle accident and saw the light. Wow! You sure can be tough when You want to straighten out someone's life.

Bro. John said it took him six months after his baptism before he caught up to where all the other sinners were when they were baptized into the Church. I chuckled a little, Lord, because I was a product of the sixties, too. I felt the same way when I surrendered my life to You. I thought Bro. John's warning was right on the mark when he said, "The devil's going around like a roaring lion." Then he begged us to "hang on." I'll do my best, Lord.

Thank You, Lord, I think some of Bro. John's energy has slipped right inside of me. I'm sure glad you sent him today. Okay, Lord, my battery is fully charged again. What work is there for me to do?

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

The Sterling Heights Branch was the scene of three ordinations on Sunday, December 13. It was a beautiful day for rejoicing in the Spirit—Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

We had many visitors, some from out of state, and our biggest surprise was the presence of Bro. George and Sis. Stella Benyola from Dallas, Texas. Bro. George was in Detroit on business and had the opportunity to visit with us.

Our Brother George opened the service, mentioning how the two and a half years he spent worshipping with us was one of the most pleasant experiences of his life. He continued by saying how we have one of the world's greatest organizations when we need prayer.

Through the prayers of the saints, many souls can be saved. Jesus showed mercy on the adulterous woman, telling her to go and sin no more. How many times does the Lord give us a second chance, and sometimes a third and fourth? He shows us His love in spite of our mistakes. Even though we are living in a world where sin is rampant all around us, God will show His compassion and enter into our hearts if we but allow Him.

After lunch, we reconvened to witness the ordinations. The church was filled to capacity, as we were joined in

our afternoon service by visitors from other branches in the district. Many family members of the brothers and the sister who were to be ordained were visiting as well.

Several special selections were heard, and we had opening prayer, after which Bro. Nick Pietrangelo read the duties of a teacher, a deacon, and a deaconess. Bro. Dennis Colpitts' feet were washed by Bro. Keith Lesperance, and he was ordained a deacon by Bro. Richard Thomas. Bro. Claude Champine's feet were washed by Bro. Gary Champine, and he was ordained a teacher by Bro. Spencer Everett. Sis. Pierina DiFalco's feet were washed by Sis. Stella Benyola, and she was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Sam DiFalco.

Many eyes were filled with tears as the three embraced the elders after the ordinations took place. Bro. Lou Vitto called their spouses forward and there were embraces between them as well. The gift of tongues was made manifest and the interpretation was given as follows: "I have called them and have ordained them. Listen to My voice—I will guide you and go with you, whatever you might do."

Several dreams were related which confirmed the callings of the three who were ordained today. We sang *If You Would Labor in Zion*, and were dismissed by Bro. John Straccia.

Santa Ana, CA

By Mary Ann Nicosia

BITTERSWEET MOMENTS AS MISSIONARIES DEPART

There were sad and happy moments in Santa Ana and Anaheim, California, as our missionary brothers and sisters left for Guatemala.

On November 1, 1987, the Pacific Coast District said good-bye and wished godspeed to Bro. Isidro Dominguez and his wife, Sis. Marisela. The service was opened by Bro. David B. Ciccati of San Diego, followed by Bro. Carl Frammolino and District President Paul Liberto. The brothers all talked about how those going on missionary work were fulfilling the words of Jesus when He said to go to all nations. Bro. Dominguez also spoke, saying how he was

(Continued on Page 10)

SANTA ANA continued . . .

looking forward to doing the Lord's work, and how there had been revelations that he and Bro. Luis Marroquin should go.

At this service, hands were laid upon Bro. Isidro and Sis. Marisela for God's protection, help, and guidance. Bro. Isidro Gonzales of Tijuana, Mexico prayed on Bro. Dominguez, and Bro. Paul Liberto offered the prayer on Sis. Dominguez. After the prayers, the ministry, their families, and the brothers and sisters in attendance embraced and greeted them in a very beautiful way. The Spirit felt there was beyond words.

Bro. Walt Jankowski, second counselor of the district, gave the closing remarks.

At the Pacific Coast District's Spiritual Conference held the following Sunday, November 8, 1987 at Anaheim, the District bade a fond farewell to Bro. Luis and Sis. Darlene Marroquin and their children, and Sis. Rose Anderson, who were also going to Guatemala.

In the morning service, the departing ones were prayed upon. Bro. Edmund Buccellato prayed for Bro. Marroquin, Bro. Luis Pacheco prayed for Sis. Darlene, Bro. John Vela for Sis. Anderson, Frank Genaro for Shane Marroquin, Anthony Cardinale for Cerise Marroquin, and Stacey Light for Jared Joseph Marroquin.

Once again, after the priesthood greeted them, family members and all the saints offered their love to those departing. It was sad to say good-bye, but a joy to know that they were going to do the Lord's work, as Bro. Liberto summarized in his remarks.

The other brothers who spoke on this day were: Stacey Light, Ramon Zamora, Carl Frammolino, Luis Marroquin, Anthony Cardinale, and Luis Pacheco. The topic discussed was that if we act on faith, the Lord will reward us. It was also stressed that we can show our love by our works.

Bro. Luis Marroquin expressed his thankfulness to God and said he was ready to go to Guatemala. He said he had felt God's direction in his life, and was now looking forward to working with Bro. Dominguez.

At the Saturday night district meeting, the question asked was, "Do

we have a dream, and if so, are we pursuing it?" Brothers who spoke were: Jim Huttenberger, Walt Jankowski, Luis Pacheco, Ken Jones, and Tom Liberto.

Saturday afternoon there were two presentations, one on HOINA given by Sis. Darlene Large, and the other on IMA given by Sisters Mary Ann Nicosia, Tina Sechrist, and Lynette Huttenberger.

Saturday morning, the brothers met in a seminar at the Bell, CA Branch and the Ladies' Circle met in Anaheim.

Hollywood, FL

By Sharon Staley

The weekend of November 7 and 8 proved to be not only busy, but also full of excitement and blessings for the members and friends of the Hollywood Branch.

Saturday, November 7 had been designated as a general cleanup day at our church building. Early that morning, our group gathered together—the women cleaning, scrubbing, and polishing inside; the men tending to the lawn, shrubbery, and other outdoor tasks; and the children busily playing in the parking lot. As we worked, we also enjoyed conversation and fellowship with one another.

At about 10:30 a.m., much to everyone's surprise and delight, Barbara Persico telephoned the building and asked for her baptism. Presiding Elder Dennis Moraco called our work party together inside the building to announce the wonderful news. He asked us to join hands, and a prayer of thanksgiving was offered to God. As the day progressed, we continued to work happily, anticipating the blessings we knew we would experience the following day.

On Sunday morning, we met at the church at 9:30 a.m., spending a brief time in singing until everyone was assembled for the drive to the Atlantic Ocean. There were visitors from Lake Worth and Miami, and Bro. and Sis. Dominguez en route from California to Guatemala, and Sharon Benyola Sullivan, Barbara Persico's cousin from Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

As our group drove east toward the baptismal site, the sky became overcast.

At the shore, the wind was very strong and the waves very high, causing Barbara and Bro. Ken Staley to almost be thrown off balance twice before the ordinance of baptism was actually performed. Sis. Barbara told Bro. Ken that in a dream she had concerning her baptism earlier in the week, these same weather conditions existed.

The saints and our friends returned to the church for the morning service, which was opened by singing *I Surrender All*. Following prayer, we sang the remaining verses of this hymn as our new sister came forward and the elders encircled her. Bro. Joe Catone, Sr. offered prayer, after which Bro. Dennis Moraco confirmed Sis. Barbara into the Church.

Bro. Isidro Dominguez introduced the speaking, using the theme of surrendering our lives to God. He reminded us that as we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and strive to serve God to the best of our ability, we will eventually reap the reward of eternal life. As our brother spoke, he became so filled with the Spirit of God that he began to speak in his native Spanish tongue. Although there was only one person in the congregation who could understand Spanish, we all felt the power, the blessing, and the love in his message.

Bro. Ken Staley continued on Bro. Isidro's theme, reading from Isaiah 55:1, "*Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*"

Bro. Dennis Moraco dismissed our service, and we shared lunch together. Our afternoon service was highlighted by many beautiful testimonies, the first four being given by our new Sister Barbara, her brother, her sister, and her mother. Our wonderful day did not conclude with this meeting, for everyone met that evening at the home of Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley, where we enjoyed a singspiration, fellowship, and refreshments. We were even able to watch a videotape that Bro. Doug Obradovich had prepared of the three recent baptisms in the Hollywood Branch since July of this year—those of Nick Persico, Jr., Helen Bicelis, and Barbara Persico.

All can testify that the entire weekend was reviving, and we would surely welcome the opportunity to experience another just like it.

Miami, FL

On November 1, 1987 Brothers Skip Swanson and Miguel Bicelis were ordained as teachers at the Miami, Florida Mission, as brothers, sisters, family, and friends from Miami, Homestead, Hollywood, Lake Worth, and Cape Coral came to witness the special event.

After several musical selections, including a duet in the Italian language, Bro. Ron Carradi of the Lake Worth Branch opened the service by speaking from II Timothy 2:1-7. He pointed out how Paul told Timothy to be strong in grace and to commit the things of God to faithful men. Bro. Carradi also noted that we, like Paul, are expected to endure hardships and to yield to the Spirit of God, and that for us to reap the benefits of God, we need to be obedient. "Before we can share the Gospel with others, we must first be partakers of it." He closed by emphasizing Paul's instructions that we should consider what has been said, and that God will give us understanding.

Bro. Dennis Moraco of the Hollywood Branch followed by referring to several experiences that related to teachers. He used these to illustrate how our brothers must be strong in their beliefs as they become exposed to the world, not only as teachers, but as saints. He noted how no fault could be found in Daniel, so that the men of his day attempted to make him compromise his beliefs, but he would not yield. We all must welcome the challenge of being a light to the

world, so that others may see the difference in us and that they may see how beautiful the love of God is.

The duties of a teacher were then read by Bro. Nick Ritz, the mission's presiding teacher, and the fifth article of the Church's faith was read and expounded by Bro. George A. Kovacic. He noted the offices of the Church and the importance of teachers. He related his feelings when he had been ordained a teacher, and asked everyone to joyously accept our brothers when they visit, and that we should assist them as they serve the Church.

Bro. Mark Kovacic then explained the order of the Church and the method of calling brothers into the office of teacher. He also explained anointing with oil and the method of ordaining. Bro. Mark read two passages from the Old Testament concerning anointing, and also read from the third chapter of Moroni concerning the special capacities into which God calls men and women to serve.

Bro. George Kovacic then washed Bro. Miguel's feet and Bro. Nicholas Ritz washed Bro. Skip's feet. After a prayer by Bro. Dennis Moraco, Bro. Bert Sheffler ordained Bro. Skip, asking God to grant him the gift of wisdom. Bro. Joe Catone, Sr. then ordained Bro. Miguel and asked God to grant him the gift of discernment. Our two brothers were asked to express themselves, and a season of testimony followed, with many of the saints relating experiences which confirmed our brothers' callings.

Anaheim, CA

By Carl Huttenberger

As we, the people of God, draw closer to Him, Satan tries to draw closer to us. This spiritual struggle has been increasing over the past few years. The Church is presently travailing in the birth of Zion, and that spiritual struggle is prolonging the labor. However, greater is He that is within me than he that is within the world.

Satan's silken cord was broken within a few who came to the elders for prayer on Sunday, May 24, 1987 here in Anaheim. On this day we were privileged to have visiting with us Brothers Tom Liberto and Lou Ciccatti from San Diego. Their message was simple yet profound. They brought out many many scriptures, examples, and experiences where the hand of God carried His people through trials.

Since we are workers for God, our hands are important in many ways, for physical and spiritual labor for the Lord. In other words, actions speak louder than words.

The Lord was truly with us the entire day as we went to the water's edge. Sandy O'Brien made her decision to follow Christ through baptism. We have much to be thankful for. He has blessed us with so much that it would be impossible for us to write all the beautiful experiences and miracles we hear about consistently every Sunday. Thank you, God.

* WEDDINGS *

MacPIKE—KARR

Kenneth G. MacPike and Donna Lynn Karr were united in marriage on November 7, 1987 at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Bro. Mike Radd officiated at the ceremony, with musical selections provided by Sisters Nancy Difiede and Pam D'Orazio.

May God bless the new bride and groom in their life together.

IMPLIAZZO—McGUIRE

On November 14, 1987 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch, Arta Jean McGuire was wed to Thomas Frank Impliazzo, Jr.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Eugene Perri. Musical selections were provided by Sister Nancy Difiede, Brother Rocco Benyola, and Brother Buddy Perri.

We wish joy and blessings for the newlyweds.

New Arrivals

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

Katherine Laurel to Anthony and Gail Zucco of Youngstown, Ohio.

Allison Rae to David and Cindy Mathews of Bell, California.

Darren James to Jim and Dottie Henderson of Anaheim, California.

Melissa Marie to Mark and Sue Coppa of Anaheim, California.

Children Blessed

Joshua Edward Johnson was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 1, 1987 by Bro. Joel Calabrese at the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

BASIL SARVER

Brother Basil Sarver of the Monongahela Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ died on July 28, 1987 after a long illness. Born June 10, 1910, Bro. Sarver was baptized into the Church on June 9, 1980 at Massanetta Springs, Virginia.

Our brother was the only child of the late Brother Albert and Sister Violet Sarver. He is survived by his wife, Sister Jennie (Ferraro) Sarver, two sons, Roy Paul and Ronald Lee, and three grandchildren.

JENNIE CASTELLI

Sister Jennie Castelli passed away on October 18, 1987. Born September 30, 1907 in Casino, Italy, she was baptized February 12, 1923 in Detroit and later was ordained a deaconess. Sis. Jennie moved to California in 1947, where she was an active member of the San Diego Branch for many years.

Brothers Tom and Paul Liberto officiated at the funeral service.

Sister Jennie is survived by her husband, Bro. Dominic, to whom she was married for 65 years, two sons, one sister, two brothers, seven grandchildren, and twelve great-grandchildren. Our sister will long be remembered for her loving hospitality, her sense of humor, and her concern for others.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

BENEDETTA PERROTTA

Sister Benedetta Perrotta passed on to her eternal reward on October 20, 1987. A member of the Bell, CA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, she was born on February 6, 1899 and was baptized on January 4, 1932 in Detroit, Michigan by Bro. Joseph Ginzante, being confirmed afterward by Bro. Carmine Campitelle.

Bro. Vincent Scalise officiated at the funeral service.

Our sister is survived by her husband and three sons.

ROSE ALDOUS

Sister Rose Mae Aldous departed from this life on October 21, 1987. She was born March 15, 1924 in Roscoe, Pennsylvania and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on March 30, 1958. At the time of her death she was a member of the Quincy, Florida Mission.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Frank Rogolino and John Gray.

Our sister leaves to mourn her husband, Brother Charles Aldous, three sons, and two daughters, along with many of the brothers and sisters in the Church who enjoyed the sweet, quiet spirit she possessed.

GUERINO GALLUCCI

Brother Guerino (Bill) Gallucci, a deacon at the Niles, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to his eternal reward on November 30, 1987.

He was born August 24, 1903 in Benevento, Italy, and was baptized in Niles, Ohio on August 10, 1958 by Bro. Joe Genaro. He was confirmed by Bro. Frank Genaro.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Joe Genaro and Wayne Martorana. He leaves to mourn his wife, Sis. Ann, two sons, three daughters, 21 grandchildren, and 33 great-grandchildren.

He will be greatly missed by the saints and remembered for his zealous testimony, diligent service as a deacon, and love for all people.

WALTER FLAGLE

Walter Franklin Flagle was born in Bedford, PA on August 6, 1906. He passed away on October 14, 1987 at Tempe, Arizona.

Bro. Stephen Saffron officiated at the funeral. Bro. Barry Mazzeo sang *How Great Thou Art* while Sis. Grace King accompanied him on the organ.

He leaves to mourn him his wife, Zelma. Our sympathy goes out to her and to the rest of the family.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

March, 1988

Volume 44, No. 3

Evangelistic Meetings at San Carlos

By David Majoros

The San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation was blessed to host a weekend of evangelistic meetings on September 18, 19, and 20, 1987.

On Friday evening a singspiration was held to properly initiate the joyous weekend with songs of praise. After Bro. Richard Christman, chairman of the Southwest District evangelists, opened in prayer, Bro. David Majoros read the 148th, 149th, and 150th Psalms, which command all of mankind and all of nature to praise the Lord. He then read the second verse of Psalm 107: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so . . ." In other words, if all of creation should praise God for who He is and what He has done, then truly we who are redeemed by the shedding of His own life's blood should most certainly do so as well. We have a song of redeeming love that this helpless, hopeless world needs to hear.

Evidently, the congregation got the idea, because there were songs and testimonies from almost everyone in the building! Our meeting was closed in prayer by Bro. Ether Furnier, who until his recent passing was missionary in charge of the San Carlos Mission.

After the meeting the entire group drove to the wake of a nine-year-old Apache boy who had drowned earlier in the week. We sang several songs and had prayer with the large group of mourners gathered at the family's home.

The next afternoon, Saturday, the

young people of the Southwest District gathered for an outing of volleyball, water balloon tossing, socializing, and a wonderful outdoor barbeque and picnic-style meal hosted by Bro. Vernon and Sis. Ophelia James.

At three o'clock everyone drove to the Shelter Care Home for the Aged, where we sang several hymns and administered to any sick who asked for prayer. Following this a group of young brothers went on a door-to-door expedition in two subdivisions, passing out flyers and personally inviting people to the meetings. We thank God for giving us so many young men and women full of desire to be used of God in any way they can.

Our Saturday evening and Sunday morning meetings were held in a large tent which the Southwest District rented for the weekend. Brothers Ether Furnier and Norman James had set up the tent on the mission grounds.

After a season of singing, District President Isaac Smith introduced our two visiting evangelists, Bro. Carl Frammolino of the Pacific Coast District and Bro. Eugene Perri from the Florida District.

Bro. Perri spoke to us from Psalm 1, emphasizing that the comfort and assurance we find in the word of God is worth more than all that the world can offer us. He also read from Mosiah 5:1 & 2, "Yea, we believe all the words which thou hast spoken unto us. . ."

When individuals give their hearts to Jesus Christ, they receive a new heart.

Their minds are renewed. They find that they have different desires in life now. They are truly "born again." It is now possible for old wounds to heal. Old scars can—by Christ's love, mercy, and grace—completely disappear. They begin living and working in a new way.

When we are doing God's will by His Spirit, we feel fulfilled. We are indeed a light shining in a very dark world. As His ambassadors, God pours out His Spirit upon us and gives us everything we need.

What a blessing it was to see our young ones, the little children, sitting attentively, singing the *Songs of Zion* and other great hymns of the Church with all their strength. May these words and lessons never leave their minds, hearts, and lives.

Bro. Carl Frammolino followed, emphasizing that we *live* this gospel—and what a glorious life it is! He told us how he had been emotionally down after his wife passed away. He did not want her to be taken, but she was. He felt at one point that he could not even read the scriptures, but one day he picked up the Bible and it fell open to the words, "O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt." That blessing encouraged his heart to continue on, to hope, to endure. His testimony is that because of his faith in Christ, he was able to be lifted up and carried by the power and love of Jesus Christ.

We stand out in the world, because through Him we are changed. We *are* different. As we are filled with Him, we *are* the light of the world. We are called

(Continued on Page 10)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

LEST WE FORGET

Nothing is of itself alone, without a God. From the very tiny petal, to the very tiny flower that grows from a very tiny pod. It is a miracle as well as a mystery as we look at creation.

Yes, nothing stands alone that is, or ever was, or that ever will be. Therefore, why not give God the just due praise! Yes, why not glorify Him in life or in death, in joy or sorrow, in disappointment as well as in fulfillment?

During one missionary trip to Italy, it was my blessed destiny to be in the company of one of the most faithful men I have ever met. Frank Wooley of Youngstown, Ohio, was seventy-nine years of age, and I, forty-six at that time. In this life this brother did not get into the pages of history, but in heaven I am certain he received his due. Frank was a man of truth and prayer. He prayed in silence, constantly—I loved it!

We had come to Buccino, province of Salerno, Italy. Buccino was an ancient town, built in early Roman times. We had two missions in this area, one in the town of Buccino and the other in San Gregorio Megno, six kilometers away.

On our second visit to this area, there were nine who requested baptism. We rode to the water's edge, a creek about 18 kilometers away, on the back of a flatbed truck. I ordered the congregation to go home and eat before the long trip, but later learned that only the children had been fed. "If our pastors don't eat, neither do we," they told us. Earlier on, when I insisted that Brother Wooley stay in Buccino and rest, the Spirit of God urged me to go on. Now, upon seeing and hearing these faithful saints, I was glad that I had continued.

My body was weary, but my spirit rejoiced at the love and desire these people showed.

After their baptisms, I laid hands on each of the nine new members for the reception of the Holy Ghost. I do not remember such spirit and glory in my soul before or since. As I finished the last prayer, we raised our arms toward heaven and sang a new song. We truly felt fire in our souls on that day.

The news of the Gospel spread, and many came to witness this manifestation of glory. One of the new members shouted aloud, so that all could hear, "Do not leave us! As sheep without a shepherd, the unbelieving will have no mercy on us and our children!" The words she spoke were true.

I thought of my wife and three children in America, and remembered my responsibility toward them. Yet I felt very heavily the vow I made to serve a living God. What was I to do? I could understand the Apostle Paul's desire when he said, "I would that all men were even as myself" (unmarried, free to come and go). I felt a need to be back with my family, and yet the need was great for these of God's family to have a shepherd leading them.

As I write this my spirit relives the urgent memory of the hurt I felt in my soul. What can I say? "My God, help the Church!"

I would like to express my innermost feelings. It is time for us to "number our days." This much I will say: Let us be armed with the realization that sacrifices must be made if we are to prevail over the forces of unbelief and evil.

As the day drew to an end it started to rain. I had to travel back to Buccino on foot, six kilometers. I was tired. The saints and their families and friends walked with me to the limits of their city. Both men and women wept as they embraced and kissed me. I remembered Paul leaving Ephesus.

As I continued my journey, a young man approached me. He said, "I will show you a shorter way. You will save one kilometer." That seemed a welcome bit of news to me. But as we walked, he told me of his poverty and the misery of his family. I listened with interest, but I could offer no help to him since I had not even one penny in my pocket.

I was not paying any attention to

which way we were going, until all of a sudden a beautiful young woman came riding by on a horse. She was this man's wife. She shouted at him, "What have you in your mind to do with this *Americano*? Where are you taking him?" My mind had been filled with the blessings I had experienced that day, but I suddenly realized that he was not taking me toward the highway, but deeper into the woods.

The young man slapped the horse on the back and told his wife to go, but she shouted, "*Americano*, he has evil in his mind!" I asked him his age. "I am 29 years old," he answered. "Have you any children?" "Yes," he replied. I pulled my pockets inside out and showed him that I had no money. "I am a missionary," I said. "The people in town know that I am on my way to Buccino. If you harm me, what would happen to you?" This young man now knelt down and pleaded with me, saying, "Do not report me to the police." I promised not to do so. He led me back to the highway and said, "I did not wish to harm you, but I am very poor and in need."

Such a strange thing, to go from a remarkably glorious manifestation of God's Spirit and blessing, to a state of

(Continued on Page 11)

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

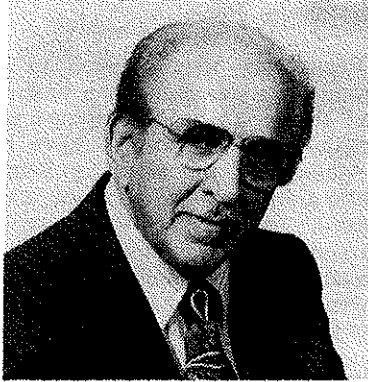
There is so much to be thankful to the Lord for. I thank Him with all of my heart for being kind to me. I praise His name for my brothers and sisters, who played a big role in my recovery. Thanks kindly for your phone calls, cards, and visits.

I mainly want to thank you for your love in taking the time to pray for me. When one is so ill, you can't always pray for yourself, so it was a great feeling to know there were others praying. After my most recent surgery I wasn't fully awake for four days, and was unable to pray. But with your loving prayers I was able to make it.

To say thanks is not enough. I do sincerely pray that God will bless each one of you with His love.

Yours in Christ,
Sister Carmela Mazzeo

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Lovalvo

The Christology of John

SON OF GOD

The first instance recorded of the title, "Son of God" in the New Testament is the proclamation of John the Baptist, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him and saith, Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world. . . and I saw and bare record that this is the Son of God" (1:29-34).

John sees Jesus as the Son of God without any reservations. He wrote, "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God" (20:31). To confirm the Sonship of Christ, John writes, "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do" (5:19); "The Father loveth the Son" (5:20); "All men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father" (5:23); "Him hath the Father sealed" (6:27); and "We believe and are sure that thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (6:69). John's Gospel is filled with proof that Jesus is the Son of God, the Only Begotten of the Father, and therefore divine in nature; exhibiting to the fullest the characteristics of the Father.

Francis Maloney argues that:

The Son of God title is continually used in contexts dealing with the salvation of mankind, which is at once the will of God (the Father) and the task of the Son. . . . The Johannine Son (of God) sayings nearly always express a direct relationship (oneness) between God and Jesus, the Father and the Son. This relationship is proclaimed by Jesus as indicated in John 3:16; 5:19-26; 6:40; 10:35; 11:4; 14:13; and 17:1.

If Jesus is to call God His Father, then His Sonship will be expressed in terms of that relationship. It is important to notice, however, that this relationship is never shown as a static privilege; the Son was sent by the Father to bring life to all those who believe in Him (3:16). The whole point of Jesus being the Son of God is that He may bring salvation to man by revealing God to them.

In John's gospel, Son of God means pre-existent God, Savior of the world (3:16), Giver of life, Shepherd of God's family, Gateway to eternal life, Healer, Suffering Servant, Lamb of God, King of Israel (1:1-49). Throughout the Gospel of John, the fact is predominant that to believe on the Son of God is the condition upon which mankind receives the new birth into eternal life.

John carefully uses the term Son of God as applied only to Jesus Christ. Those who believe in Christ can become the "sons of God," but only Jesus is God's Son. The seriousness of believing that Jesus is the Son of God is portrayed in the words "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (3:18).

SON OF MAN

One of the difficult terms to interpret—in my opinion—is "Son of Man." Son of Man to John is the earthly revealer of a divine relationship with the Father and the means whereby mankind can be saved: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (12:32).

It appears that the title Son of Man was more of a public proclamation. He was not ready to assert Himself as the Son of God. To the public He avowed His "Son of Man" kinship with the Father also. "The Father himself which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice nor seen his shape" (5:37). Also, "As the father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; and hath given him authority to execute judgment also because he is the Son of Man (5:26-27).

Privately, from time to time, He would reveal Himself as the Son of God: "When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of Man

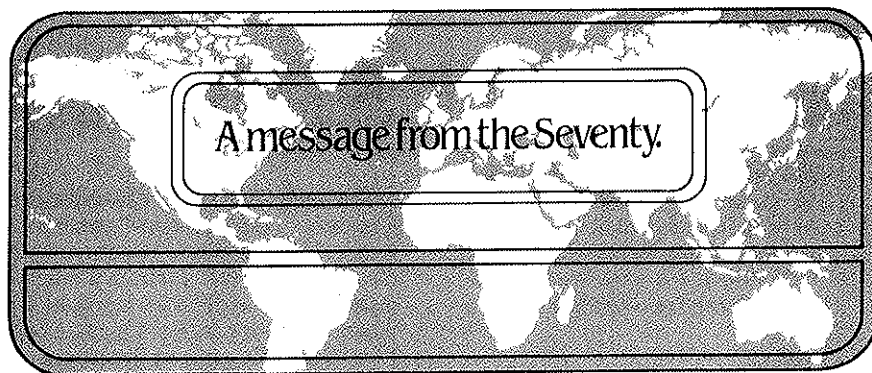
might be glorified thereby" (11:4). In the privacy of prayer to His Father, He would use the term "Son of God": "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son may also glorify thee" (17:1).

The term "Son of Man" also describes Christ's interaction with the public: "My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not. But I know him, for I am from him, and he hath sent me" (7:16-29). The public questioned Him as to His assertion of being a divine personage: "They said unto him, Where is thy Father?" To which He answered, "Ye neither know me, nor my Father: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. . . . When ye have lifted up the Son of Man, then shall ye know that I am he and that I do nothing of myself" (8:16-28).

I believe that the term "Son of Man" describes His discipleship, His obedience to the Father, His acceptance of God's will, His acceptance of His mission on earth. He said, "I can of myself do nothing; as I hear, I judge; and my judgment is just; because I seek not my own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me" (5:30).

The "Son of Man" term indicates also that He shall be the *Vindicated One*. When He would be lifted up on the cross, he would "draw all men" unto Him. He would also be a righteous judge, as He would sit on the right hand of the Father as the Divine Prime Minister. He will also, in the end, be there as the Glorified One and as the Vindicated One; and every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord. In my opinion, the term "Son of Man" is representative of the true ideal of humanity, clothed with the divine essence of God. The same Jesus who called Himself Son of Man and Son of God was crucified on the cross of Calvary; the ideal of humanity and the personification of divinity. As the Son of Man, His mission was to bring mankind to the knowledge of the Father, and to initiate the way to eternal life. He suffered as a man, but was vindicated as the Only Begotten Son of God!

Note: A book of hymns by the late Sis. Esther Dyer is in the process of being printed. Anyone interested in ordering a copy may contact Sis. Florence LaRosa at the upcoming April Spiritual Conference in Greensburg, PA.



Radio Broadcasts Progressing

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

The radio ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ has been progressing because of extremely dedicated individuals who have a strong desire to labor in this field. Perhaps it is not generally known, but there are many hours of anticipation and preparation before a broadcast even gets on the air; these are lost in a few minutes of air time, which pass quickly and then give way to preparation for the next time.

There are schedules and specific segments assigned for each broadcast, and every effort is made to use the time appropriately and efficiently. What may finally be on the broadcast will have thus taken hours of planning, preparation, and implementation before it is actually aired.

ONE EXAMPLE

A good example of the work that is required can be seen in the Spanish broadcasts which emanate from Station KMJC in San Diego, California. These programs, aired for fifteen minutes on



Bro. Bruce Gamache records Spanish-language sermons to be incorporated into radio broadcasts.

Saturday mornings, are prepared in advance.

Brother Bruce Gamache of the Anaheim Branch does the actual taping. To do this, he has been traveling to San Diego to record the sermons delivered on Monday evenings by Elder Luis Pacheco. Next, Bro. Bruce must include the musical selections. These hymns, which have been pre-recorded, are sung by the brothers and sisters of Tijuana, Mexico.

The introductory and ending announcements are then placed on the tape. Brother Victor Dominguez of the Santa Ana Branch is the announcer. He replaced Elder Luis Marroquin, who had been the announcer before he departed to serve in the new Guatemalan mission field.

These broadcasts have been hailed as being rather special, as well as being original. The broadcasts have been widely heard and well received. Amazingly, they have been heard as far away as Ahome, Sinaloa, Mexico, where the Church has a mission, about 1,000 miles south of San Diego.

The beautiful part is that the tapes from this series are now being used in other parts of the world. They are being aired over the Caribbean network from Station KQBN (1610 AM), on the island of St. Thomas. These broadcasts reach Central America, as well as parts of North and South America. The station's 50,000-watt beam also sometimes reaches the Miami, Florida area, where Spanish-speaking services are also being held. Evangelist Vincent Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio has been working to arrange these broadcasts.

ENGLISH BROADCASTS

The same kind of work being done in

San Diego is being performed in places where the Church is on the air in English.

Broadcasts were started in Tse Bonito, New Mexico over a year ago, and they have been continued by a group of ministers who have participated on a regular basis. Brother Peter Genaro is the chairman of that branch's broadcast committee, serving as announcer and coordinator of the broadcasts. Donna Dante is the speaker coordinator, helping Bro. Genaro with the program schedule.

Other ministers who have participated as speakers besides Bro. Genaro are Apostle Robert Watson, Evangelist Dwayne Jordan, and Elders Chuck Curry, John Mancini, Dennis Calabrese, and Larry Watson. Many inspiring sermons have been preached, and there is a small recap of the message in the Navajo language at the end of most broadcasts, which reach many residents of the nearby reservation. The station, KTNN (660 AM), is a 50,000-watt Navajo station which can be heard over most parts of the southwestern United States.

Many church members from Tse Bonito have contributed songs and given of their various talents to enhance the half-hour 8 o'clock Sunday morning program, which has been very well received.

OTHER BROADCASTS

Recently, a series of ten broadcasts were aired in Glassport, Pennsylvania with the opportunity extended for at least another five thereafter. Brother David Nolfi has been taking the lead in this series with Brothers Alma Nolfi, John Ali, and Edward Donkin assisting. The Glassport broadcasts are over Station WEDO (810 AM) for fifteen minutes at 7:45 on Sunday mornings.

Other current series are being offered in New York City at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoons for a half hour over Station WWDJ (970 AM), and in Levittown, Pennsylvania on Sunday mornings over Station WBCB (1490 AM) for a half hour at 7:30.

Evangelists Matthew Rogolino and James R. Link have been speaking in New York. Sister Michele Maguara has been helping them in coordinating and producing these broadcasts.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

We live in a day and age when we are taught to look skeptically upon authority. Where people once followed their doctor's advice unquestioningly, for example, we are encouraged today to get several opinions and carefully make our own educated decisions. Certainly it is wise to weigh the advice and counsel we receive from others, for not everyone in the world has our best interests at heart. But as we walk in the Gospel, which the Lord has promised is on the earth to stay, we must resist the urge to challenge its leaders.

It is the nature of man to rebel against authority. Many years ago Lucifer, the very prince of this world, was cast from God's presence for having similar aspirations. In an age when the world teaches us to rely more on our own "instincts" than on the counsel of others, it is important that we in the Gospel do not trick ourselves into believing that our own relationship with God is of such a caliber that we are not required to submit to those who hold authority in the Church.

"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you" (Hebrews 13:17).

When the Lord set up His Church, He provided shepherds, men of authority, to watch over those who took His name upon them and to direct the affairs of the Church. Today, as The Church of Jesus Christ is organized in the same manner, all of us, on every level, are subject to people called into positions to rule over us.

We read in the scriptures that as God's Spirit increases within us, we bear fruits such as love, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, meekness, and temperance. By possessing these qualities we become submissive and obedient to our spiritual leaders, realizing that these men have only the welfare of the souls of mankind at heart, and that they will ultimately answer to God for their success or failure in leading His people.

In order for The Church of Jesus Christ to move forward as one body, we must all follow those who have been called to lead us, inasmuch as they uphold the doctrine of Jesus Christ. There are many ways in which we can ignore or even rebel against their counsel, individually or in groups, and follow our own "instincts." But the result is the same: We all wander to and fro, bumping into one another and encumbering our leaders with petty disputes, thus hindering the forward progress of the Church.

As we each seek to draw closer to the Lord, let us recognize that such traits as arrogance, boldness, and stubbornness toward authority do not come from the Spirit of God. Spiritual growth will never exempt us from the rule of others; it will only enhance our ability to work, peaceably and submissively, within the framework that the Lord Himself established.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



One Father's Faith in Jesus

Dear boys and girls,

In the days when Jesus walked the earth as a man, not everyone understood and believed that He was the Son of God, the Messiah that all of mankind was waiting for. People did not understand the message of peace and loving kindness that Jesus brought to them.

Many of His disciples hoped He would be an angry, powerful leader who would help make war against the Roman nation that ruled their country. Some people just followed Jesus to eat the bread and fish that He had provided. Miracles were only important because they got something from them.

When Jesus saw someone's faith in Him, He and God were pleased. The story of one of the rulers, a man named Jairus, is the story of one man's faith.

Jairus had only one daughter, a young girl of twelve years of age that he loved dearly. She became seriously ill. In those days there were no hospitals; doctors only knew a little bit about medicine compared to today.

Jairus ran from his sick daughter's bedside; he knew Jesus was in town speaking about God's kingdom. People had no cars in those days so they travelled by walking, in boats, or even on the backs of camels and donkeys. Jesus was walking and a great crowd surrounded Him.

Jairus pushed himself through the crowd, and when he saw Jesus he ran to Him and—in front of everyone—kneeled down and fell at Jesus' feet. "My little daughter lies dying. I beg you, come lay your hands on her, Jesus, that she will be healed and shall live!"

As they went, Jesus and Jairus were stopped by the clinging crowd several

times. All of a sudden, one of Jairus' servants appeared, saying, "Your daughter is dead; you don't need to bother Jesus."

But when Jesus heard this, he answered the servant and said, "Fear not; just believe and she will be made well."

When they finally came to the house, Jesus entered and found people crying and playing sad music and wailing. He told them, "Give this up! The young girl is not dead; she sleeps."

Those people laughed scornfully at Him, but Jesus made them leave. He knew He had power to bring the dead back to life. He asked the parents and three of His disciples to enter the room where she lay. Taking her body by the hand, Jesus said, "Young girl, I say unto you, arise."

Life returned to the girl's body, and she rose up. Then Jesus told her rejoicing parents to give her food, and everyone who heard of this was astonished. Jesus had the power to heal and the power to bring the dead back to life. The father with faith had his reward.

Matthew 9:18
Mark 5:22
Luke 8:41

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

PEOPLE
ASTONISHED
JESUS
HEALS
JAIRUS

SPIRIT
TO
RETURN
LIVING
LIFE

DAUGHTER
FROM
DEAD
CALLED
FOR
HER

LOVE
HIS
CHILDREN
JOY
DISCIPLE

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

Our Women Today

West Coast Circle Conference

By Lydia Knowles

The Pacific Coast District Ladies' Circle Conference was held on November 7, 1987 at Anaheim, California. District Circle President Joyce Azzinaro welcomed the sisters that attended. A special welcome was extended to Sister Darlene Large from Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and to the newly-organized Ladies' Circle from Mexicali.

The devotion was read by Sis. Darlene Large, after some singing and the opening prayer. She read a very moving poem by Ann Whemes entitled *Balloons Belong in Church*. In the poem, the writer tells us to celebrate life in Jesus Christ; to appreciate the joy of God's world. The poetess goes on to tell us to bring balloons, butterflies, and bouquets to church, and celebrate the wonderful world God gave us.

The roll call of officers was taken and the minutes were read and accepted. The local reports were given, and we were pleased to hear that Mexicali is keeping busy and working hard, raising funds for their treasury. Keep up the

(Continued on Page 11)

MBA Highlights

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I've always loved doing puzzles and playing games. How would you like to try one? Match your personal wants or desires with the most suitable solution.

COLUMN A

1. Getting Together With Friends
2. Spiritual Upliftment
3. Enjoying God's Blessings
4. Having a Great Time
5. Learning More About God
6. Meeting New Friends
7. Sharing Experiences
8. Becoming More JOYFULL

COLUMN B

- A. GMBA Campout '88
- B. GMBA Campout '88
- C. GMBA Campout '88
- D. GMBA Campout '88
- E. GMBA Campout '88
- F. GMBA Campout '88
- G. GMBA Campout '88
- H. GMBA Campout '88

I have always found these enjoyable and I hope that you have found this little quiz educational and fun. The place to be in '88 is Leesburg, Florida for the GMBA Campout. Start to save your pennies now and plan to attend a wonderful week of joy. Our theme for the week is one of joy, being the scripture, "... and men are that they might have joy."

So, I invite each and every one of you to "Come On Down" to Florida where we ask all of the saints to "Come Feel the Heat!!!" I look forward to seeing you June 26-July 2, 1988. WE NEED YOU!!

Peace in Jesus Christ,
Brother Doug Obradovich
GMBA Campout '88 Director

GMBA Pen Pal Program

Dear brothers, sisters, and friends,

The GMBA is attempting to make the Pan Pal Program a success. There has been much effort put into the program in the past, nevertheless we have been unsuccessful in getting the program started.

We are trying once again to launch this worthwhile program. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the form below and mail it to Brother John P. Buffa.

GMBA PEN PAL PROGRAM REGISTRATION FORM

Name and Address _____

MBA Local _____ Date of birth _____ Age _____

Male _____ Female _____

Names and ages of brothers and sisters _____

Other than English, I can write (check appropriate language) Spanish _____ Italian _____

Choose area(s) of interest:

American Indian _____ Canada _____ Ghana _____ India _____ Italy _____ Mexico _____ Nigeria _____

Interests (include hobbies, sports, school activities, etc.) _____

Return form to: John P. Buffa
1192 Henlon Circle
Saline, MI 48176

The Hospitality of the Saints

By Richard T. Christman

Recently Bro. Barry Mazzeo and I had the blessing of experiencing the hospitality of the saints as we traveled to Independence, Missouri via St. John, Kansas, and then on to Bedford, Iowa; Omaha, Nebraska; back to Independence, Missouri, and then to Anadarko, Oklahoma.

We had the opportunity to visit with Brothers Alex and David Robinson in St. John, and we toured the grounds and the historic church building which is being restored. We were very impressed with the care and workmanship evidenced at the site. It will certainly be a tribute to God and His Church when it is completed and dedicated this coming summer. After enjoying a nice meal with Brothers Alex and David and spending the night, we rose early to meet Bro. Tom Liberto at the Kansas City Airport, a six-hour drive. We also met Brothers Vince Gibson, Sam Dell, and others in Independence.

Sue and Tom Hairabedian invited us for supper, all ten of us. It was a pleasurable time, during which the Hairabedians related their efforts to have the Book of Mormon translated into Hebrew in time for the 40th anniversary of Israel becoming an independent country in 1948. We felt gratified that very soon the Book of Mormon would be available in the Hebrew language.

That evening we met in a branch of The Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints to present our slide presentation regarding the work and aspirations of The Church of Jesus Christ concerning the Seed of Joseph. Several of our brothers expressed the desires of the Church and our future hopes. We also shared with them in song the *Songs of Zion*, which they enjoyed very much. We were blessed to have Sis. Barb Nuzzi and Sis. Sevilla Gibson along to lead on the piano and in singing.

Several of the folks from Harvest Hills, a community founded by people associated with the Reorganized Church, invited us to their homes. We enjoyed their hospitality and met with them on the Sabbath. We had the opportunity to enjoy a potluck dinner with them and then show our slide presentation and answer their questions re-

garding our program among the Seed of Joseph and the faith of the Church. Several favorites from our *Saints Hymnal* and from the *Songs of Zion* were sung.

After bidding farewell to Brothers Mark Mancinelli, Vince Gibson, Sam Dell, and the rest of the saints from the east, we took Bro. Tom Liberto back to the airport and continued on to Bedford, Iowa, where we stayed with Brother Cal and Sister Dorothy Matthews. We enjoyed their hospitality, Sis. Dorothy's excellent meals, and the peacefulness of country life for two days. We then continued our journey to Omaha.

Upon arriving in Omaha, we met Sister Miller, who treated us very warmly and offered us the hospitality of her home. We then drove to Bro. Clifton Wells' home and enjoyed a visit with him.

The saints in Omaha provided a potluck which we enjoyed very much, and we were pleased to see the work they had accomplished on their building. They are working hard for a small group, and they certainly need our prayers and support. The church service and the warmth of the saints in Omaha were very much enjoyed.

After journeying back to Kansas City, we visited several sites of interest pertaining to the Church in Joseph Smith's time.

Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall were expecting us as we continued on to Anadarko, Oklahoma, and we were blessed to see how Brother Bill had improved physically since we had visited with him just six weeks prior. God has certainly intervened in his behalf, and we felt His blessings as we spent a Friday and Saturday with the Cralls. Sister Evelyn had worked hard to provide us with excellent meals and the comforts of their home.

On Sunday we had a very nice meeting and communion service with Brother and Sister Crall.

We had the opportunity to talk with Brother George Benyola in Dallas, Texas. Brother George was recuperating from successful surgery on his wrist, and we rejoiced that all had gone well and that he would soon be able to resume his work, both naturally and spiritually, in the Dallas area.

A friend of Brother and Sister Crall who often attended when they held

church services, had been ill and undergone surgery. When we arrived at the hospital to visit him, we learned he had gone home. We went there and offered to anoint and pray for him. He was very pleased and responded by singing two hymns and offering a prayer in the Kiowa language. It was a brief visit, but we enjoyed God's Spirit in the home of Ernest Chanate. What a nice conclusion to a trip that was packed down and flowing over with the hospitality of the saints and the love of God.

As a footnote, our thanks for an enjoyable late night refreshment in Gallup, New Mexico provided by Brother Craig Meo on behalf of Brother Dwayne Jordan.

A Dream Fulfilled

Note: I was looking for some music at my sister Esther's home and came upon this article. I thought it interesting because of the reality that has come about, and how simply it was foreseen.—Sis. Florence LaRosa, Gastonia, NC.

(Reprinted from the February, 1970 Gospel News.)

The dream I am about to relate came to me about thirty [now almost fifty] years ago when we lived in Glassport, Pennsylvania. In this revelation, Brother Anthony DiBattista and I were starting out on a trip in his (at that time) very old automobile. We started on a road, neither one of us speaking but just sitting there quietly as he drove. Soon I noticed we were not on the road anymore; that we were flying through the air like in an airplane, going over much strange terrain such as mountains and canyons which I had never seen before. After a long time of this flying through the air, I turned to Bro. DiBattista and said, "Brother Tony, where are we going?" He answered, "Why, don't you know? We are going to Mexico."

I awoke and was very astonished at such a dream, for at that time (1939), California was just a place we had heard about. To us and most people in the east, it was very far away and almost impossible to travel to. I told the dream to Bro. DiBattista because he was in it. He, too, marvelled at it, but he said, "Nothing is impossible with God."

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Branch and Mission News

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

Many exciting events happened to the brothers and sisters in Riverside this past year. We baptized a few and ordained a few, the latest being Bro. Rudy Carrillo to the office of a deacon. God has blessed us with many dreams and visions, answered prayers, and reunited families. We are now renting a building that is available to us twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week if we so desire.

Among all this excitement was two weeks we will never forget, the two weeks Bro. David Majoros spent with us. The many songs he taught us, his exciting preaching, and his warm smile are what the brothers and sisters are still talking about to this day. Thank you, Bro. David, for uplifting us here in Riverside.

The whole year has been a joyous time, even up to the Christmas party we had in our home. It was not the kind of party the world would be accustomed to. I asked all the brothers and sisters to bring a special gift, wrapped like a present, and present it to the Lord.

As we unwrapped the gifts, I was pleased to see that most of the saints wanted to get closer to God, study more, pray more, fast more, spend more time alone with God. I know God was pleased with our meeting together. We pray the coming year will bring even more blessings to God's people.

I have taught the people in Riverside from the very inception of the mission that all are equal in God's eyes, and when you visit us you will see children as young as five and six years old testifying to God's honor and glory. We thank God for the blessings in our mission in Riverside.

Imperial, PA

On November 8, 1987 Bro. Jimmy Moore was added to the Quorum of Evangelists. A good representation from other branches in Pennsylvania were in attendance. Our District Apostles Joe Bittinger, Russell Cadman, and Paul Palmieri, as well as many

evangelists and elders from as far away as Santa Ana, California came to witness this ordination.

A trio sang *Vessels of Gold*—"He says they have to be pure/To do His work here below." Bro. Rey Rangel of Cleveland sang *If You Would Labor in Zion*—"If you want to be blessed, you must labor for Jesus."

Bro. Joe Calabrese introduced scriptures pertaining to the responsibilities of the ministry of the Church. He read Helaman 8:18 and Luke 10:1 & 2. Jesus sent out the seventy two by two, telling them "the harvest truly is great", and, in Matthew 16:19, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven." Bro. Joe spoke of the marvelous work and wonder of the Restoration of the pure Gospel through Joseph Smith.

Bro. Frank Giovannone expressed himself on the greatness of God, and he spoke of the three Hebrew children and their great faith in God. Bro. Frank Ciotti spoke of obedience to God. He said, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve. Repent and be baptized and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Bro. Paul Palmieri related to us his experience concerning Bro. Moore's calling as an evangelist. He encouraged our Brother Jimmy, saying that the responsibilities would be greater but so would the blessings.

After communion was served, Bro. Bob Buffington spoke of Bro. Jimmy's faithfulness to the work of the Lord, and gave some history of the Imperial Branch, which was started by Bro. James Moore, Sr. in 1954. Bro. Moore Sr. is 87 years old and still preaching.

Bro. Joe Genaro added some words of praise to God, and gave the invitation to anyone who would to come follow Jesus. Bro. Russell Martorana washed Bro. Jimmy's feet in the spirit of humility, asking God's great blessings upon him and his future work as an evangelist.

Sis. Barbara Nuzzi sang *If I could Please Thee, Lord, Today* as the brothers made a circle around Bro. Jimmy. Bro. Joe Bittinger offered a prayer asking God to direct one to anoint and ordain Bro. Jimmy into the Quorum. A

powerful spirit of prayer fell upon Bro. Ralph Berardino as he stepped forward and asked God to seal this anointing. In his prayer he said, "This is the last pruning of the vineyard; it will take place soon." Afterward Bro. Jimmy spoke a few words of his great desire to labor for the Lord.

Bro. Russell Cadman related his conviction that our people don't fully understand the things the Lord has in store for His Church. He commended Bro. Calabrese for his discourse on the Holy Order of the Son of God. Bro. Dan Buffington related how he asked God who would ordain Bro. Moore this day. The Spirit revealed to him that it would be Bro. Ralph Berardino, confirming the Lord's direction in what took place this day. Bro. Jerry Giovannone closed this beautiful service with a prayer of thanksgiving and praise to God.

That Sunday evening Bro. Russell Cadman began a series of four meetings, teaching the prophecies yet to be fulfilled. Six tapes of these meetings are available from Sister Arlene Buffington, Moore Rd., Imperial, PA 15126.

Tucson, AZ

By Connie Ross

The brothers and sisters of Tucson, Arizona met on Sunday, January 10, 1988 expecting God's blessings and we were not disappointed. This was a special day, as we prepared for the ordination of Sister Connie Marinetti as a deaconess of the Church. We were very happy and excited to have worshipping with us Bro. Matthew and Sis. Julia Cotellesse of Detroit, MI, and Bro. Phil and Sis. Ann Damore of Phoenix, along with Doris and Jerry Taylor and Marian and Dwayne Marinetti of Tucson. They were all able to witness Sister Connie's ordination with us.

Brother David Majoros presented a very inspiring address, concerning the duties the Lord calls His servants into, taken from God's word. It is a beautiful thing to be called by God into an office; it comes with many responsibilities and the opportunity to do much good.

Sister Connie's feet were then washed by Sister Lydia Francione, and after a prayer by Bro. John Ross, Brother Paul Francione ordained Sister Connie a deaconess.

(Continued on Page 10)

TUCSON continued . . .

After Bro. Paul admonished us that we should be servants even as Jesus became our servant, Sister Connie expressed her thanks to our Lord because He died for her, and spoke of her hope in fulfilling her responsibilities in humility and dedication as she works with her sister deaconesses.

As was sung by Bro. David Majoros, "Jesus never fails." Throughout our service, a beautiful spirit of peace and love filled our souls.

We continued our fellowship in Bro. Paul and Sis. Lydia Francione's home, where we shared a beautiful meal. What a beautiful way to spend the Lord's Day, and we thank and praise Him because of who He is.

God bless each of you, and we invite you to come and worship our wonderful Lord with us in Tucson, Arizona.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

What started as an ordinary meeting on December 13, 1988 turned into an extraordinary Sunday for our new Sister Joyce Trovarelli.

Brother Joe Furnari introduced the service, speaking of the hope and joy we have in Christ, and the promises of God. He read from the third chapter of John's Gospel, emphasizing verse 5, where Christ said, "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Bro. Joe stressed the importance of water in our natural lives. It is an essential component of our life, and *all* life depends on it for survival. Likewise, in the spiritual sense, to be born again one must be converted by living water in order to fulfill the commandments of God. To be "born again" by mere words or by the raising of a hand will not work, and it certainly does not comply with God's commandment.

Bro. Paul Whitton reiterated Bro. Furnari's words, and added that Moroni wrote of two types of birth—one by which everyone is born to know good and evil, and the other by repentance at the waters of regeneration. The meeting was then held open for testimony.

Our new Brother Steve Munger, who

was baptized the week before in Pennsylvania, testified about the events leading up to his baptism and the experiences others had had about it—including (not yet Sister) Joyce.

Joyce Trovarelli was asked to relate her dream to the congregation. She stood on her feet and related it as follows:

Prior to the weekend that Bro. Steve and Sis. Lynne Munger went to the GMBA young married couples' retreat, Joyce saw a group of people gathered together in a room. A brother was in that room officiating at a meeting and asked if anyone wished to be baptized. Bro. Steve was one of those present who asked for his baptism. But what Sis. Joyce had not told anyone until now was that she had also asked to be baptized in the dream.

After revealing her testimony, Sis. Joyce asked for her baptism. All the saints rejoiced to hear these words, and we all felt the beautiful Spirit of God.

Sis. Joyce was baptized that afternoon by her uncle, Bro. Nephi DeMercurio. The brothers and sisters met together again later that evening. Visitors from Branch 1, Sterling Heights, and the Saline Mission joined us.

When the time came for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon Sis. Joyce, Bro. Paul Whitton petitioned the Lord to send His Spirit, and Bro. Joe Furnari laid his hands upon our new sister.

Sis. Joyce testified, mentioning again the dream that she had related this morning. The hymn going through her mind at the time was *Ye Must Be Born Again*. She had also asked God for a sign, that if it was her day to be baptized, then the Lord would direct a brother to ask her to relate her dream. Bro. Paul Whitton had done so.

Bro. Steve Munger also told about the blessing he received today. He had felt that if he could come into The Church of Jesus Christ after knowing it for only a few years, then surely God could touch the heart of Sis. Joyce, who had been born and raised in the Church. The same dream which confirmed his baptism was also Sis. Joyce's calling.

Today was a day of rejoicing for both our new converts. We thank God for the blessings He has bestowed on us, and continually pray for those who have not yet surrendered their hearts to Him.

MEETINGS continued . . .

to a high calling. We have the words of eternal life.

Following the inspiring exhortations of our brothers, we were further blessed to hear Bro. Vernon James and his family sing *He Planted Me Deep*. Bro. Vernon and Sis. Ophelia then told us of God's Spirit and calling in their lives, and of their desires to live for Him.

Bro. Claude Kayson, our dearly beloved Apache elder on the San Carlos Reservation, has been very sick and was anointed. Bro. Ike Smith then called all of the American Indian people to sit up front. The ministry formed a large circle around them and joined hands and hearts as Bro. Bob Watson offered up a mighty prayer for the Seed of Joseph. Many of them were anointed, and some asked to have hands laid on them for strength.

The Sunday morning sun shone warmly and brilliantly through clear skies as we were privileged to hear groups from every branch and mission in Arizona and New Mexico sing to the glory of God.

Bro. Carl Frammolino read from II Timothy 1:1-9, explaining how Paul encouraged Timothy to "stir up" his gift in the gospel. Paul assured him that he was valuable and that he had a message of life for the world. Bro. Carl challenged us with the question, "Do you know what your gift is?"

Bro. Carl told us of how he had refused God's calling on a Sunday morning many years ago. He turned away the Lord because he chose instead to watch a football game in the afternoon. It turned out to be the most miserable afternoon of his life, because he knew that he had not listened to the call of the Master. He should have received the Holy Ghost that day, but he chose instead to continue in emptiness.

Bro. Carl then read Isaiah 52:7-10 and reminded us how beautiful our feet are—because we can publish peace, eternal salvation, and brotherly love by using them. There are countless millions of people dying in sadness and loneliness. We can bring them life and hope if we simply use the gifts God has given us.

Bro. Eugene Perri spoke of his father's last days and of his hope for eternal life. He recounted several experiences of people feeling the touch of

God's Spirit—some atheists and far from God, many not wanting to hear the word of God, not wanting to even enter a church; but by the power of Christ's redeeming love, by the power of the resurrection, their hearts and lives were changed. They had not been looking for Him, but He had been looking for them.

The first and second counselors of the Southwest District, Brothers Larry Watson and David Majoros, officiated in the passing of the Lord's Supper. We were all blessed to have Bro. Tommy Smith play the piano while we partook communion.

In bringing the meeting to a close, Bro. Isaac Smith compared the Church, as the Apostle Paul taught, to our natural body. We have an internal spirit that goes on into eternity, but we also have an outer body—an organization—that needs to be maintained. He expressed his gratitude for our visiting brothers, who had given so much of their own time and resources so that we might be spiritually nourished.

After closing prayer by Bro. Harry (Skip) Smith, we were all treated to a real Apache-style meal, consisting of fry bread, Indian tacos, and (this brother's favorite food) *acorn soup*! Praise God for His natural and spiritual provision!

DREAM continued . . .

I did not tell the dream to very many people because I thought they would laugh at such a dream. I have wished many times that I had submitted it to the Church then, but it just showed me years later how small the mind and understanding of man is, and that no matter how much time elapses (as we count it), God brings to pass all His designs, especially those which seem incredible or impossible to us. How do we know this? In time, God shows us in many ways, as was illustrated to me, for, in 1946, we moved to San Diego, and the following events occurred.

A few years before Bro. DiBattista passed away in 1967, God granted him the opportunity to visit us here in our home in San Diego. My husband, family, and I were very close to him (he baptized me into The Church of Jesus Christ in 1932). While he was here, we took him to visit Tijuana, Mexico. I had not thought for a long time about this dream I had had so many years prior, but Bro. DiBattista evidently had never forgotten it. As we were walking along

the streets in Tijuana, he suddenly stopped, turned to me and my husband, and said, "Sister Lena, part of your dream has been fulfilled today. Here we are, you and I, in Mexico; and I tell you that soon the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be established here, too."

I was astonished and felt the Spirit of God at his words, remembering again the dream very vividly. Truly, Bro. DiBattista prophesied correctly that day, for it was not many years after that that God used and sent Bro. Edward and Sis. Evelyn Perdue to do His work among His chosen people in Tijuana, where the people are so poor and oppressed, and need God so very much. It is our prayer that God will continue to bless them in their untiring efforts.

We feel very happy when we visit our Mexican brothers and sisters. There is always a special blessing for me when I recall how God revealed that the Church of Jesus Christ would come to Mexico and how it came to pass. I am most grateful to God for this wonderful experience.

Lena Liberto

MESSAGE continued . . .

Broadcasts from Levittown have featured Evangelists Paul Benyola and Sam Dell. They have been using the theme "Participating in God's Plan," emphasizing the necessity for becoming a participant and not just a spectator in our service to God.

VALUE OF TAPES

The value of tape-recorded broadcasts cannot be overemphasized. They may be circulated for use throughout the Church, with identification of the local branch or mission added at the end by the announcer.

Another illustration of a worthwhile taped message is the 30-second public service announcement which Sis. Maguara has made, inviting anyone who wants peace in their lives to come to The Church of Jesus Christ. Any branch or mission desiring a copy of this tape, with their location added at the end, may obtain one by writing to P.O. Box 41, Santa Ana, CA 92702. Many radio stations will use this type of short taped message at no charge to fulfill their public service obligations.

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists

has been working to help branches interested in having their own radio programs. If any location wishes to broadcast in its area and desires guidance or assistance, please write to the above address for information.

The radio approach to spreading the Gospel of Christ is a wonderful opportunity to reach those who are interested in salvation. The generosity of those who give their time and resources, financial and otherwise, is most heartwarming and appreciated.

Our united desire is that God will open the hearts of the listeners so that, through the Radio Ministry, they will be able to find refuge in the glorious Gospel of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

GREETINGS continued . . .

bodily peril, and then to being spared from harm. Could it be possible to be so near to God, and yet to be blind to the perils around us? This young man was only trying to draw my sympathy so that I would be willing to give him some money. He was poorly dressed, and his wife was riding in the woods, gathering dry sticks for firewood. Before we parted I knelt with him and prayed for him and his beautiful family.

From a very tiny petal to a very tiny flower that grows from a very tiny pod, can you see beauty, yes, beauty in the smallest things?

Why not try it! God loves you! Return some of His love back to Him!

With love to you,
Marco Randy

OUR WOMEN TODAY continued . . .

good work, sisters! ¡Mantengan el buen trabajo, hermanas!

Money from the District Circle's treasury was disbursed to the General Ladies' Circle, to India, to Sis. Barb Ackman of Phoenix for the Pima Project, to Guatemala, to the Duncan and the Carr families in Africa, to the African orphans, and to Bro. Dev in India.

A lunch was served after the meeting, and a beautiful day was spent in fellowship with the saints.

* WEDDINGS *

BEUSCHER—LINK

George Beuscher and Erika Link were united in holy matrimony on June 27, 1987 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Brooklyn, New York.

Bro. James R. Link, Sr. officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Alice Suska.

We wish Erika and George God's blessings in their life together.

CATONE—BICELIS

Brother John Catone and Sister Helen Bicelis were united in marriage on Saturday, December 5, 1987 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Hollywood, Florida.

Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony. He was assisted by the groom's brother, Bro. Joseph Catone, Jr.

Musical selections were presented by Bro. Ken Staley, vocalist, and Sis. Sharon Staley, pianist.

The newlyweds are residing in Pembroke Pines, FL, and will attend the Hollywood Branch. May God richly bless their new life together as husband and wife.

New Arrivals

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

Gianna Marie to Paul and Barbara (Fleming) DiNardo of Hollywood, Florida.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children Blessed

On October 12, 1987 David Murillo, son of Lucia and Juan Murillo, was blessed in the Church by Bro. James Benyola of the Hopelawn, NJ Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

BALDASSARE POMA

Brother Baldassare Poma passed on to glory August 3, 1987. He was born in Italy on October 26, 1895, and has been an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit Branch 3 for many years.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Peter H. Capone. Our brother is survived by two brothers, one sister, and a daughter. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren, fifteen great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews, as well as a host of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our dear brother had been ill for a long time, but he will now find the peace and rest afforded him through the grace of God.

NICOLINA ZAMPAGLIONE

Sister Nicolina Zampaglione passed on to her heavenly reward on November 14, 1987. She was born in Reggio Calabria, Italy on July 27, 1897, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Detroit, Michigan on March 22, 1931 by Bro. Patsy DiBattista. At the age of 90, Sis. Nicolina was a staunch and devoted member of Branch 3 for more than 56 years.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Paul Vitto with the assistance of Bro. Peter H. Capone. Sis. Nicolina is survived by four sons and one daughter, Sis. Phyllis Miller of the Sterling Heights Branch. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, and a host of brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our dear sister was a faithful member who served God in spirit and in truth until He called her from this life. She endured many hardships, yet gave all praise and glory to God. She will be missed by many.

NANCY ADAMS

Nancy Tripolli Adams passed from this life on January 5, 1988. She was born on May 27, 1951, and was the daughter of Sister Carmella and the late Brother Charles Tripolli of Cleveland, Ohio.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers William Hufnagle and William Prentice of the Cleveland Branch.

Left to mourn her passing are her husband of fourteen years, Richard, a daughter, Ellen, a son, Richard, four sisters, and one brother.

The Gospel News

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

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Volume 44, No. 4

50th Anniversaries

By Rosemary Scalise

On August 9, 1987 Brother Harry A. Marshall celebrated his fiftieth spiritual birthday in The Church of Jesus Christ at the Bell, California Branch. Brother Harry was baptized on August 29, 1937 in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch by Bro. George Mickey.

Our Brother Harry was born in Cumberland, Maryland on February 27, 1916. In his teenage years he aspired to become a boxer. Taking advantage of his large stature, he went into the ring for a few years, feeling sure that he could make a good career for himself. But in 1937, when he was 21 years old, the Lord called him and he rendered obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Harry has been fighting for the Lord ever since.

Brother Harry served in the Army during World War II and after the war he worked for the U.S. Postal Service, from which he is now retired. He and his family came to California in 1951. He transferred his membership to the Bell Branch and he was ordained an elder on April 4, 1954.

Our brother has devoted all of his time and energy working with the Spanish-speaking population, holding meetings in their homes and doing all that he can for the comfort of the people. He is constantly on the go, visiting and praying, reading and teaching, endeavoring always to bring souls to Christ.

The words of King Benjamin in the Book of Mormon fit Brother Harry very well: "... when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God."

By Peter Genaro

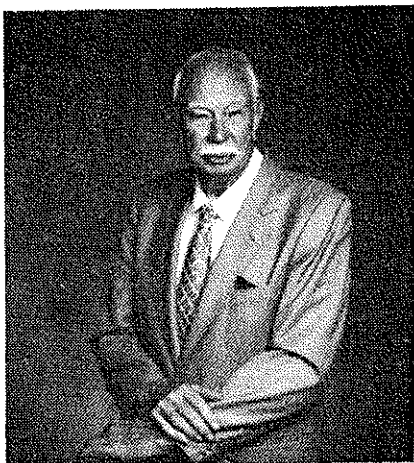
Eighty-six years old, fifty years in the Gospel, and Sister Nancy Watson is still going strong. She was born in England in 1902 and married Robert Watson, Sr. in the year 1920. Two years later, their son Robert A. Watson was born. In 1930 the family left England and came to make their home in Canada, where they resided for nearly 23 years.

Sister Nancy was baptized into the Church in the year 1937 by Brother Thurman Furnier, and was confirmed by Bro. V. James Lovalvo. Sister Nancy says, "I thought I knew the Lord. I knew of Him, but I didn't really *know* Him until I met The Church of Jesus Christ."

The Watsons moved from Canada in 1953 to make San Fernando Valley, California their home, making the United States their third country of residence. In 1974, Sister Nancy moved once again with her son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Sarah Watson, to Phoenix, Arizona and a few years later here to Tse Bonito, New Mexico.

God has given our Sister Nancy very good health through the years to provide for herself and maintain her own home here on the borders of the Navajo Reservation. In Sister Nancy's testimony, she states that it was through the work among the Indian people at the Six Nations Reservation in Ontario, Canada that she and her husband were introduced to the Gospel, and now, in the latter part of her life, she is once again living among God's covenant people and sharing with them the love of Christ.

(Continued on Page 11)



Bro. Harry Marshall



Sis. Nancy Watson

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

There is a glorious love that money cannot buy, a real treasure so rare and true, such is the love of a caring friend standing high. Let this dear, caring friend be you.

It is difficult to assess the needs of the scattered small groups of our people; it still stands true, the harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; pray you therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest (Luke 10:2).

I had the joy of visiting one of these groups in September of 1987, when I spent some time in Gastonia, NC. Elder John Genaro and his wife picked me up in Charlotte and took me to Bro. Bill and Sis. Florence LaRosa's home, where meetings are held. Bro. Bob Dyer, a teacher, is also in North Carolina.

There is a blessing in just meeting the people of God. After a few days Bro. John drove me to Atlanta, Georgia, where we met Elders Tom Jones and Malcolm Paxon. They have a group of members there also. Let's pray for both of their families as they have each recently relocated, Bro. Tom from Los Angeles, CA and Bro. Malcolm from Monongahela, PA. Together they will make a good team on the side of the Lord.

After some time there, Bro. Genaro and some of his family brought me to Evergreen, Alabama, where we found Evangelist Vincent Gibson and Elder Phil Jackson, both of Ohio. Here we visited several families, singing and praying in each house we went to. There is an open door for the Gospel to spread in Evergreen, but, as is the case with so many other places, someone needs to

move there permanently, to be a shepherd to the flock.

While we were there, we had a Saturday night meeting in a community hall, with a good number of visitors. Sis. Barb Nuzzi had brought an electric piano, and with the singing, we had heavenly music in our midst. Brothers Charleton Hester and Keith Baldwin came there from Quincy, Florida, about 150 miles away.

Sunday morning, Brother Vince Gibson and I were invited to speak at the New Jerusalem Church, and Sis. Nuzzi was asked to play the piano. Bro. Gibson read from the seventh chapter of Moroni, about Charity, the Love of God. That afternoon we met once again and held another spirit-filled meeting.

Feeling tired, but overwhelmed with love and joy, I traveled to the Quincy, Florida area where I stayed with Charleston and Rhonda Hester. On Monday morning six of us met in the church building for a beautiful season of prayer. The Lord was with us that day. Tuesday night we met once again at church. What a wonderful meeting this was—like the good wine that Jesus changed at Cana—with full participation.

We joined hands in a circle of love. One by one, they all came to embrace me. My heart was filled with the love of God, but when the little children started to come and lovingly embrace me, it was to the point of overflowing. It reminded me of the time I saluted the Italian churches—in each place, as I was departing, there were cries of love I shall never forget.

Also in Mexico City, at our last meeting the mothers said to me, "Brother Marco, bless our children." Twenty-five of them came forward, and I knelt in the midst of them. My prayer seemed to touch the heart of God, and as I remained on my knees, each one came to embrace me, saying, "*Te amo, Hermano Marco.*" I tried not to cry but my heart was filled with love. I said to them, "I love you too."

While I was on my journey, these wonderful saints saw to it that I got my rest every day. Such love, such wonderful love, yes, it is God's love that floods the soul.

Ever in Christ,
Bro. Marco

An Experience

Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions. And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: And the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

Then said Daniel unto the king, O king live for ever. My God hath sent His angel, and has shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before Him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Then was the king exceedingly glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God.

At 2:00 a.m. on October 10, 1987, while attending General Church Conference, I had a heart attack. We didn't know where the hospital was, but the Lord provided a police officer right at the exact corner where we needed to turn, who guided us straight to the hospital.

Lying in the emergency room, I asked my son to call Bro. Cleveland Baldwin to come and anoint me. Later my son told me I looked as though I was about to pass away right then. As my son was telephoning my family, Bro. Cleve came in to anoint me, and the power of God moved in my behalf. When my son returned, he said the color had returned to my countenance and my spirits had been lifted.

From that point on, I began to recover very quickly. I was flown from Greensburg to West Penn Hospital in Pittsburgh, where the Lord had prepared many people to take excellent care of me.

The first night I was in the hospital my son told me an experience he had. The Lord gave him the aforementioned verses found in Daniel, that as the living God that Daniel served was able to deliver him out of the mouths of the lions, so was He able to deliver me out of the mouth of death. The doctor who was taking care of me stated that I had

(Continued on Page 6)

The Direction of the Lord

By Bro. John Griffith

Feeling motivated and directed to move from Pennsylvania to Florida, our family did so on August 17, 1987. As we have always attempted to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, our relocation had not permitted us sufficient time to investigate employment opportunities in Florida, but it was felt at the time that the Lord would provide.

As in most cases, the excitement of moving was coupled with concern. The thought of fellowshiping with the saints in Florida appealed to us, while the idea of leaving our home branch and our loved ones pulled on our coattails.

We were, however, determined to go, still feeling God's support in the matter.

As our vehicle crossed the Florida state line, thoughts began filling my mind of how we would support ourselves here. Yet the beautiful summer sky warmed my being, and the Holy Spirit filled my mind with the glory of Jesus Christ.

During our first day in New Port Richey, Carolyn picked up a local newspaper, viewed the want ads, and her eyes focused on one particular ad for a receptionist position. She telephoned the number, and I heard her introducing herself and giving her work experiences. As she rested the telephone receiver back into its cradle, she turned to me and stated that she had a job interview set for Monday. (I knew that she was good, but didn't realize that she was *that* good.) Carolyn was offered the position and has since taken an even better job. The Lord provided.

Meanwhile, I began to search out business opportunities in the area. Although I was working through two brokers, I found it very difficult to locate a business having the operational essentials necessary to satisfy me. As time went on, I began to become discouraged, though still feeling the Lord was in the matter.

Enough time had now elapsed to make me begin to consider moving back to Pennsylvania, thinking that possibly I had missed the direction given to me through God's Spirit. Yet I continued to feel the warmth of His protection.

Taking it upon myself and not yet informing Carolyn or the boys, I decided that during our return visit to Pennsylvania over Thanksgiving weekend, I would make the necessary arrangements to move back.

One day early in November, I felt a strong impulse to buy a copy of the *Tampa Tribune*. As I began to view the business opportunities section, my eyes fell upon a small ad in the help wanted section. Feeling motivated to apply for the position, I did so. It was an administrative position at a local community college.

Upon receiving the official application forms, I was told by the executive secretary that although I did not have a copy of my college grade transcripts, which was required for application, I could note on the forms that they were forthcoming.

Within a few days, I learned that a considerable number of applications were being submitted. Not feeling particularly optimistic about my chances, I traveled with my family to the November GMBA Conference in Pennsylvania.

As we were preparing to leave our home in PA that Sunday to return to Florida, Carolyn was looking for some letters in a secretary's desk. While browsing, some papers fell out of one of the little pigeonholes. She noticed that they were copies of my college grade transcripts. I didn't even know that I had them at the house. We packed them in our luggage, realizing that having them in hand would save at least two weeks waiting time for the university to respond to my request for a transcript.

The same day that we arrived back in New Port Richey, a feeling came over me to telephone the college where I had applied for the position. I was told that because of the great number of applications received (over 80) the vice-president reviewing them was discarding any applications that did not have a copy of the applicant's grade transcripts attached. I immediately took mine to the college.

At 10:30 that night I received a call from the college's executive secretary. She explained that although it was not her practice to call people at home at so late an hour, she felt directed to call and inform me that I was one of seven being considered for the position. She

went on to say it was her personal feeling that this position was made for me by God, and that although she did not know me or my religious convictions, she had felt a spirit accompanying me when I presented my application and resume.

I was indeed offered the position, and though it may not be the best position available, or the highest paid, I am satisfied that the Lord had provided sufficiently to allow our family more time to permanently settle in Florida.

A Letter of Thanksgiving

I am so happy that God gave me the privilege of belonging to this blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ, and also to have this beautiful family of God.

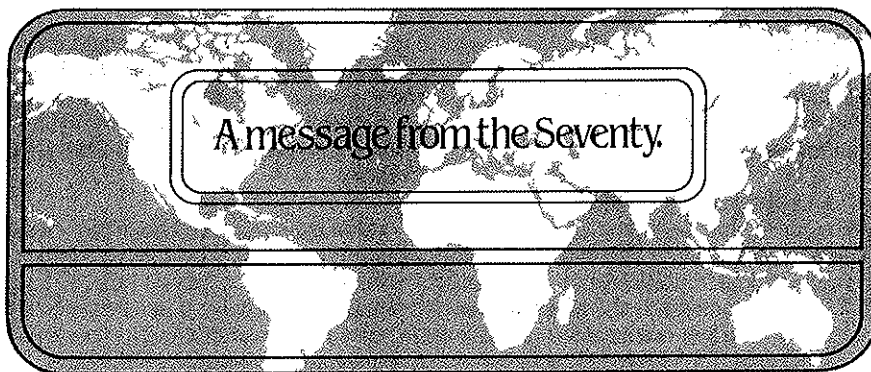
During my illness of these last two years, I want to say thank you, with all my heart and all my love, for all your beautiful cards, flowers, phone calls, food, and visits. Most of all, thank you for all your prayers and fasting in my behalf. Many, many times I would feel someone praying for me, and it gave me the strength to go on. Surely, I know this is the love of God we possess, that He lets us love and care for each other.

I have much to be thankful about. God granted me a little more time to be with my loved ones, considering my doctor told my husband and me that all of his other patients who had the same illness as I did had passed away within three months. The doctor knew that it was not the medication that was keeping me alive, but a higher power. He told us to give thanks to God, and *that* we do every day! Praise God!

Also, I want to thank the many elders who came to anoint me, those from my branch in Metuchen, New Jersey, as well as others such as Brothers Paul D'Amico and Joseph Lovalvo. There were also many others, whom I would love to mention all by name. I pray God will richly bless them for all their efforts.

Please continue to pray for me. I love each and every one of you.

Your sister in Christ,
Julia Scala Mesko
Metuchen, NJ Branch



Helps in Evangelism

By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor

There are many ways in which evangelism may be described. Perhaps the most common view is that of an evangelist preaching to a group of people about the Gospel of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and exhorting them to turn their lives over to Him. The depiction is in keeping with Christ's great commission to the church to "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).

This perception is a very true depiction of the role of an ordained evangelist, but there is much more involved in the entire work of evangelism. Evangelists are often helped in fulfilling their callings.

Helpers and those who labor in a determined way to give their personal testimonies and who are concerned about their fellow beings play a very important part. Many times they introduce people to the Gospel and, in fact, are very instrumental in bringing them to seek their salvation.

In the past, the message was passed primarily by door-to-door personal testimony, and many came to hear the preaching and teaching and ultimately came to the Gospel. This is still perhaps the best approach, as there really is no substitute for personal contact and concern.

Besides working for Christ at home, some members travel many miles to accompany the ministry and offer their talents to supplement the preaching and teaching. This has been especially true recently, during the weekend visits to Independence, Missouri.

On the last trip by Evangelists Vincent Gibson of Cleveland, Ohio; Sam Dell of Levittown, PA; Thomas Liberto of San Diego, CA; and Richard Christman of Phoenix, AZ, volunteers came to help in the services with singing, visitation, and fellowship with the new contacts. They were Elder Barry Mazzeo from Phoenix; Sis. Sevilla Gibson and Bro. Brad Mellor from Cleveland; Bro. Mike and Sis. Barbara Nuzzi from Niles, OH; and Bro. Mark Mancinelli from Detroit, MI.

GENERAL EXAMPLES

Various other examples can illustrate the many helps given in Evangelism. In a general overview, attention can be focused on the Church's auxiliary units, which have been most supportive. The Ladies' Circle, Missionary Benevolent Association, and the Sunday Schools have been both generous and considerate financially, and have physically been in the field as well, in groups or individually, to assist the ministry in various projects to further the Gospel.

Their outreach activities have often been directed toward providing for specific needs. The Ladies' Circle has donated thousands of dollars for missionary efforts and may well have contributed the most among the Church's auxiliaries over the years. In addition, the sisters have given generously of their time and effort on many Church projects, such as supplying clothing and other needs. They have also participated in fund-raising projects to make monies available for the Church's evangelistic needs.

The General Missionary Benevolent Association (GMBA) has also been deeply involved in backing missionary activities, among its many disbursements. A recent analysis of GMBA projects has

disclosed an astounding amount of funds, over \$100,000, having been donated between 1978 and 1987 to the Church, ranging from funds for missionary work, which made up the largest percentage, to the printing of literature and songs.

Local MBA's and Sunday Schools have also supported various endeavors. In addition, they along with the Ladies' Circles conduct spiritual study classes throughout the Church, reinforcing evangelism by increasing the spiritual understanding of our members.

INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS

Although not generally characterized as evangelism, individual efforts of members who have felt God's direction in doing deeds for mankind certainly fall somewhere in this general category. Recent articles in this column have mentioned some of these endeavors which have been started overseas, but there are many kinds of good works being performed in America as well.

Currently, a very beautiful effort is going on in Arizona. There Brother Richard and Sister Barbara Ackman have been actively working, as have others, with the Seed of Joseph on the Pima Reservation, and they have been led into a different kind of project than they ever dreamed they would: They are working with individuals who have been incarcerated because of crimes.

Just hearing the testimony of how the Lord directed the Ackmans into these spheres makes one so happy to know that God is speaking and guiding the efforts of those who seek to do His will. Their testimonies of thankfulness to God for opening doors and for being able to work with them are very touching.

The blessing that Brother and Sister Ackman receive from their work is tremendous; and yet they are giving a living testimony of Jesus Christ, as do all other workers when they work for their fellow man and even help bring them to the knowledge of the Truth.

Perhaps evangelism can be defined as any good works that reach out to others, telling them of the good news that Christ has come and that salvation is available to all who will believe and follow His teachings. In this vein, *The Gospel News* and its editor, Brother An-

(Continued on Page 11)

The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

One of the fundamentals of man's service to God is that it is *voluntary*. The choice that we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ made to be baptized and to dedicate our lives to the Lord was one that we all made of our own free wills. We were able to make that decision because we all knew, to varying degrees, the difference between good and evil (II Nephi 2:5), and had all learned (again, to varying degrees) of His Gospel Restored.

If the Lord had created mankind to serve Him without having a choice in the matter, there would be no such thing as righteousness. God would feel no joy in seeing His children keep His commandments, nor would we find any joy in serving Him if we couldn't *choose* to do it of our own free wills.

We know that as long as we allow the Lord to dwell within us, He will lead us in paths of righteousness. But because of the freedom of choice that we have, we can also choose, at any time, to resist the enticings of the Holy Spirit and cease to prosper spiritually.

Our decision to serve God was not a one-time promise. Each day we are faced with choices to either draw closer to the Lord or farther away from Him, and even with His Holy Spirit dwelling within us, we must decide for ourselves which path we are going to take. Neither God nor Satan nor the Church, nor any man or woman, nor any laws in a book, can force us to do good or evil against our will.

One of the most often repeated revelations that the Lord has given to the Church in recent years is that we must increase our level of righteousness. This is something that only I can do for myself, and only you can do for yourself. No one else can force you or me to draw closer to God, nor can you or I make anyone else live more righteously. When the time comes for the Lord to gather His people together, the only ones eligible to receive His grace will be those who have voluntarily chosen, of their own free will, to live righteously before Him with all their hearts. Simply holding membership in a church, even The Church of Jesus Christ, will not earn us Salvation.

If we are to become the saints whose righteousness will bind Satan for the space of many years (I Nephi 22:26), we must each work to personally eliminate the "gray areas" in our lives—the things we do that aren't "wrong" *per se*, but which do nothing to edify our souls. Until we reach the state of perfection that Jesus Christ exemplified, there will always be room for us to improve our walk with God. The choice, as well as the responsibility, belongs to each of us.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Power of Forgiveness

Dear girls and boys,

Have you ever wondered about forgiving someone? Did you ever yell at someone and say, "I'll never forgive you—ever! I hate you!" and then feel lonely when that person played with someone else and you were left behind feeling angry, left out, and sad?

Jesus knows all about the way we feel when we are hating and hurting inside. He knows that hate is a bad feeling. Hate can make us more sad and sick and miserable-feeling than the person we're angry with. They may go right on without us, acting as happy as they can be, while we go to sleep upset and wake up upset. They go on with life, but instead of being happy and finding joy each day, we only think about them and how bad they are. Then we lose again.

This is Jesus' plan: He said, in Matthew 5:43-48, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you; do good to them that hate you, and pray for them that do wrong to you and try to hurt you."

Jesus said to the people, "If you just love the people that love you, then you're just like everybody else. Even the bad people love their own families. Be perfect, even as our Father in heaven is perfect."

We are the light in the world because of Jesus. We are different and stronger because of Jesus. After Jesus gives us His love and power to forgive others and pray for our enemies and bless those that curse us, other people will see. They will see the power that Jesus has given us and the peace we have after accepting Jesus' power.

Now, no one can hurt you. Because when someone does, you can go in your heart and tell Jesus. Jesus will take care of those mean people and also lift the

hate and fear and anger from your heart.

When Peter, the apostle, asked Jesus "How many times must I forgive someone? Is seven times enough?" Jesus answered, "No, you shall forgive other people seven times seventy times." In other words, it's such a big number because we are going to get the power from Jesus to *always* forgive, over and over.

But, we can protect ourselves too. Jesus told his followers to leave a town where the people were mean to them. He told them to even shake the dust off from their shoes and go on to another place. We can also choose to be by people who are loving and kind to us.

Remember, when you let your forgiveness show and shine, you are showing Jesus' power shining through you. You can be a light in this dark old world.

Every time you forgive, you'll feel better and maybe somebody who doesn't know about the power of Jesus will ask you how you could be that loving to yourself and others.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

an uneventful recovery, which was very unusual for a person who just suffered a heart attack. He also told me, as I was leaving the hospital, that God had been with me.

Some might ask, "Why did this happen? Why didn't the Lord just prevent the heart attack?" This happened that the Lord's name might be glorified, and

to show His mighty power in taking care of every detail from the very start.

I would like to thank God for all the brothers and sisters who visited me while I was in the hospital. I would also like to thank God for all of your prayers in my behalf, as the Lord surely heard them. I also want to thank God for all my family, who were by my side from the start, to comfort me and to pray with me.

But most of all I would like to thank and praise my Savior, Jesus Christ, for not only sparing my life, but also for redeeming my soul.

May God bless each and every one of you.

Love in Christ,
Brother Sam Sgro
New Brunswick, New Jersey

Dear brothers and sisters,

We would like to thank everyone who prayed for our son Michael during his recent accident. How can we sufficiently praise our Lord and Savior for hearing and answering the many prayers offered on his behalf? We would like to share this miracle with all of you and to tell you that the God we serve is alive and hears our prayers.

On January 21, 1988 I had a dream that I was holding the hand of who I thought was my grandson Michael, Jr. In this dream, I said, "I have him, you cannot take him away from me. I have him tightly by the hand." I felt like I was being smothered, and again I said, "I am holding on to his hand and you will never get him away from me!" I became fearful and couldn't breathe, but suddenly I felt a warm and gentle hand on mine, which comforted me. Nonetheless I awoke disturbed by the dream.

That morning my mother, Sister Sally Romano of Ft. Pierce, Florida called me to ask what was going on here in Detroit. She had had a dream where she saw my son Michael crying. Then, on the morning of January 27, before 8:00 a.m., my mother again called and asked what was going on here with my son and his family. I assured her that everything was fine.

On that very same morning, shortly after 8:00 a.m., Michael and a co-worker

were working on a high-power electrical panel board when it exploded in their faces.

When we first saw Michael in the emergency room, his eyes, which were once hazel, were now completely burned and white. The emergency room doctor attending him shook his head and looked away. The eye specialist came in and told us it was too soon to tell the extent of the damage, but if need be they could resort to a cornea transplant. The plastic surgeon came and talked about doing skin grafts on his hand and wrist.

The elders of the Church came and anointed Michael and, as word spread throughout the Church, and everyone began to pray, we could see a healing slowly taking place before our eyes.

Michael has since been released by the eye specialist. His eyes are now lighter in color, but he can see perfectly. He is still being treated by a plastic surgeon, but there is no longer any talk of surgery. This same doctor asked Michael to remove his sunglasses, so he could examine his eyes, and could not believe that Michael had regained his sight. He thought him a lucky man, but we know we have seen the power of prayer and that God has heard our cries, and for this we could never thank Him enough.

We are also grateful that we were shown the danger a week in advance, and prayed for the safety and protection of my son and his family. Both my son and his co-worker are home with their families and are healing nicely. Please continue to pray for Michael and his family, that they will always remember God's mercy, lest they forget this miracle that He has given them.

Sis. Dorothy Pastorelli
Detroit, Branch 3

The Great Teacher

He made me *lonely* . . .

So I would learn to seek Him,
And learn to talk to Him,
And tell Him all about my
heartaches,
And of all my joys!

He made me *weak* . . .

So I would go to Him for strength,

And learn to fully trust Him,
And humbly ask Him for courage,
And, most of all, for forgiveness.

He made me *learn* . . .

Patience, understanding,
compassion,
And the peace "that passeth
understanding,"
And that "Love never faileth,"
And I love Him because I know . . .

HE MADE ME!

By Sis. Pat Gianfermi
Detroit Branch 1

Married 50 Years

Brother Sam and Sister Anne Costarella celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the company of their daughter, Sister JoAnne, and their grandchildren, Brother Joe and Sister Judy Graziosi, on February 19. Brother and Sister Costarella, originally from Youngstown, Ohio, have resided in Fort Pierce, Florida since 1976. The Costarellas have another grandson, Michael, who is stationed in Germany with his wife, Tracy, and the Costarella's only great-grandchild, Ashley.

Note: Effective April 16, 1988, the telephone area code 305, in eastern Florida, will be subdividing into two area codes, 305 and 407. While individual phone numbers will remain the same, cities such as Lake Worth, West Palm Beach, and Fort Pierce (the northern half of old area code 305) will be in area code 407. The southern half, comprising Fort Lauderdale, Hollywood, Miami, and Homestead, will still have the area code 305.

This change in area code, as well as a recent change in ZIP code, has resulted in the following new address and phone number for General Church Trustee Bro. Anthony Ensana:

Anthony Ensana
1921 S.E. Erwin Rd.
Port St. Lucie, FL 34952

(407) 335-4795

Apostles Meet with Florida District

By Joe Graziosi

On the weekend of January 20, 1988 the saints from the Florida District felt many beautiful blessings as we gathered in Lake Worth to meet with Apostles Joseph Bittinger and V. James Lovalvo.

On Saturday morning, the Florida District Mission Board met and heard the reports from various missionary fields throughout the state. Much encouragement was given as we heard of the successful efforts among the Seed of Joseph.

The Saturday afternoon portion was turned over to our visiting apostles. Bro. Lovalvo was assisted by Bro. Bittinger in instructing the elders and teachers on various subjects, including the Holy Ghost and Revelation. Bro. Lovalvo also gave his views of the things to come in these latter times, expounding on the 11th and 13th chapters of the Revelation of John. Much knowledge was passed on to us by our brothers, and I am sure that everyone left with more than they came with.

Saturday evening we were addressed by Bro. Bittinger. He told us his wonderful testimony, how God used poverty to bring him to the Gospel. He told of his many travels in his earlier years in the Church. Bro. Lovalvo followed with a question and answer period in which many pertinent questions were discussed.

Sunday morning Bro. Lovalvo opened the meeting with the third chapter of John's gospel. He asked the question, "How do you see the Church?" All present were blessed by the words of our brother as he expounded the scripture and told many experiences.

We are thankful that our brothers were able to spend this time with us, and we hope that we will see them again soon.

"For behold, the Lord God has led away from time to time from the house of Israel, according to his will and pleasure. And now behold, the Lord remembereth all them who have been broken off, wherefore he remembereth us also" (II Nephi 10:22).

Branch and Mission News

Cape Coral, FL

By Bertha Constantine

On November 8, 1987 we were blessed to have Bro. Charleton and Sis. Rhonda Hester visiting with us from Quincy. Our brother brought forth a beautiful message from Matthew 5, "The Sermon on the Mount."

The next weekend we had Bro. George Timms from Herndon, VA and his daughter, Sis. Linda Walton from Tampa, visiting with us. Bro. Timms exhorted us to resist evil and keep our garments spotless. He expounded on the words of the hymns *He Lifted Me*, and *How Happy Are They*.

The day before, our brother and his family also helped us with our spaghetti dinner which, thank God, was very successful. We greatly appreciated their help as well as the contributions from those who have given toward our building fund.

Our other visitors that Sunday were Sis. Irene Parry and her husband George from Troy, MI.

Sunday December 6 started at 9:00 a.m. with a baptism. Linda Darr had asked for her baptism one week earlier, and it was a beautiful morning with the sun shining bright. During the week we all felt the anticipation of the baptism to come that Sabbath Day. Bro. Milford Eutsey, Sr. performed the baptism and Bro. Bert Sheffler confirmed her.

Our new sister testified that she has gone to many different churches, but she recognized the love of God and felt blessed when she visited The Church of Jesus Christ. We pray that she would always feel this love, and that it would grow within her.

Lake Worth, FL

By James R. Bond

There was a new name written down in glory and another returning to the fold on Sunday, November 22, 1987. Pamela Lynn D'Orazio, who made her wishes known the day before at an MBA gathering at Lake Worth, was baptized

in Lake Osborne by her father, Bro. John D'Orazio. She was later confirmed by her grandfather, Bro. August D'Orazio. After Pamela's confirmation, Bro. Roger Kirshenpfad of Hollywood was reinstated into the Church.

This was a joyous day for all the saints of Lake Worth and for all of our visiting brothers and sisters, as it was the day of a spiritual gathering of the Florida District. There were many visitors from all over Florida and from as far away as Aliquippa, PA. Most of our visiting elders had an opportunity to express themselves, and we even had time for a season of testimony to God's goodness and love in our lives.

A number of experiences were had confirming our Sister Pamela's calling to serve the Lord. Our prayer is that she would take hold of the Gospel and be a blessing to all.

Bowery Report

We would like to give an update of our work here. We have been coming to New York City's Bowery for the last seven years, and we have been enriched in learning the lives of so many men. What they have told us in conversation has made us understand a deeper part of mankind than just the outer shell we see.

Their condition many times has brought them to a place of fear and loneliness in a busy, unconcerned world, a world that has no time to listen to a cry from the street. We have found that these men are important, and we have been able to reach out to them in love and understanding.

We could write volumes on the fascinating stories of each man's life, but we want to report that we have been made to feel welcome and needed in helping these men.

Those of you who have contributed men's used pajamas have helped us to let them know of our concern for them.

I believe that I can say, on behalf of our team, which consists of Brother Julius and Sister Helen Kovacs, Brother Bill Davis, and my wife Sister Joan,

along with myself and the many others who have assisted us, May God bless you. You have enriched our work.

Brother Matthew Rogolino
16 Station Street
Englishtown, NJ 09726

Detroit, Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On November 22, 1987 another soul came to Christ. Our new sister's name is Vickie Roney. We had a beautiful time in the house of the Lord that day. Brother Norman Campitelle opened the service, and several experiences happened in the course of the day which confirmed that God's Spirit was directing the meeting.

Our brother preached with such authority, and at one point said, "If you're not baptized, get baptized!" That statement cut through the congregation like a knife. I felt like getting baptized all over again!

Sis. Vickie had been coming to our meetings for almost a year. She was introduced to the Church by her best friend, Sis. Mary Jo Jones. In the past year she has attended the Sterling Heights Branch as well as Branch 1, and has been getting fed with the word of God. In addition to having several experiences about getting baptized, she has done much reading and has been very prayerful about it.

When she came to church that Sunday, she knew that she would ask for her baptism. We are thrilled to have her in our midst, since she is a close family friend. But regardless of that, we are elated that if she endures to the end, another soul will be with us all in God's paradise. Please pray for our sister to this end.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Michele Davella

"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed" (James 1:25).

Sunday, November 8, 1987 the Lord filled our hearts with much joy to

witness the ordination of Brother J. Joseph Perri as an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Saints, family, and friends gathered together from various parts of the vineyard to witness our brother further dedicating his life to the service of God and His Church.

Brother Eugene Perri of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch opened the morning service on the topic of not being weary in the teachings of God. The message of Bro. Paul Benyola, visiting from Levittown, PA, added to the spirit that was felt that morning.

After the brothers in the priesthood encircled our Brother Joe and offered a prayer, Brother Sam Dell of Levittown washed his feet and Bro. Eugene Perri ordained him into the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. Our cups were surely overflowing that day to see this wonderful event.

The sisters of our branch had prepared a beautiful dinner, which we enjoyed together that afternoon.

Besides being active in the mission field, Brother Joe has worked closely through the years with the young people in our branch, and has been an inspiration to us all.

Our prayer is that God would bless all the future missionary endeavors of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Lindsay, CA

By Jesse Guerrero

March 22, 1987 began with overcast skies, but this did not matter to the many people who arrived at the Lindsay, California Branch early for Sunday School, for all had come to celebrate the ordination of Brother Tony DeCaro into the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of the Lord was certainly in our midst this day. We were privileged to have in our midst District President Paul Liberto and his counselors, Brothers Frank Ciotti and Walt Jankowski.

After we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, Bro. V. James Lovalvo, a member of our branch, opened the service. On this day he gave a kind of

lecture/sermon, which was carefully meditated and pronounced so that no one, especially our beloved Brother DeCaro, would misunderstand the importance of the office of an elder.

Brother Lovalvo went through the entire background of the word *minister*, which was translated from a Greek word which has as its essence the idea of *serving*. Therefore, as we concentrated on Bro. Jim's lecture/sermon, we learned of the things a minister must constantly bear in mind. He was reminding Bro. Tony DeCaro, and the rest of us as well, that a minister must always be an example, a servant to his flock, a person who must continually feed the flock. A minister must also be a physician of sorts, the old-fashioned kind who must make house calls, as his "patients" are not necessarily able to go to his "office."

Bro. Tony was reminded time and time again in this sermon of the many hats he must wear in his role as a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. It is an awesome task, one not to be taken lightly. "After all," Brother Lovalvo concluded, "we are serving the same God today who was the God of old." He is the one who will stand beside our Brother Tony as he begins his new role as an elder.

After Bro. Jim's remarks, Bro. Tony Picciuto read several dreams which confirmed our Brother DeCaro's calling into the priesthood. Then, in between hymns, Brother John Vela, formerly of the Lindsay Branch and now of the Santa Ana Mission, washed Brother Tony's feet. This was followed by a prayer offered by Bro. Frank Ciotti, in which he asked the Lord that Bro. Tony be dedicated to serving Him in his new capacity for the rest of his life. This special prayer was followed by the anointing of Bro. DeCaro by Bro. Edmond Buccellato of the Valley Branch.

Following the ordination, two of our visiting sisters, Iva Fedorka of Glassport, PA and Carolyn Light of San Diego, sang *In Thee Do I Live*.

The Lord confirmed by His revelation all that took place on that day. In his testimony, Bro. Tony DeCaro stated that he was given to know beforehand that Bro. John would wash his feet and that Bro. Edmond would ordain him. Also, Sis. Mary DeCaro (Bro. Tony's mother) had an experience earlier in the week which indicated that Bro. Edmond Buccellato would anoint her son. These

were confirmed as revelations by what came to pass this day.

What a beautiful ordinance it was, one that caused our visiting friends to ask many questions about our church. We've known for some time that the Lord's Spirit was working within Bro. DeCaro. The confirmation of this was continued in the fellowship which we all shared at the Lindsay Memorial Building, where our sisters had prepared a delicious meal for all in attendance.

As our newly ordained brother said, "I pray that you will ask Our Lord that He stand by me, for I will need even more of your prayers as I proceed through the path that I have now taken." Yes, Brother Tony, we add our prayers, too, that Our Lord will be constantly by your side. May God bless you!

By David Koeth

July 19, 1987 was a blessed day in the Lindsay Branch, for we witnessed the calling of another soul to Christ.

Chester Bohannon, a friend and neighbor of our Sisters Gertie and Frieda Webb, was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Tony DeCaro. This particular baptism was especially significant for Brother Tony, as it was his first baptism, having been ordained a minister only a short time ago.

Bro. Chester was confirmed into the faith by Bro. Tony Picciuto. Our new brother is 79 years young. He and his wife Gale had been interested in our church for some time, and on September 6, 1987 Gale Bohannon also joined the army of the Lord as she went down to the waters of baptism. We pray that God's richest blessings will be granted to both of them.

Muncey, Ontario

"And God said to Moses, I AM THAT I AM; and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me" (Exodus 3:14).

On Wednesday February 24, 1988, at 5:45 p.m., Elijah Schuyler was taken into the frozen waters of the Thames

(Continued on Page 10)

MUNCEY continued . . .

River, underneath the bridge that connects the Oneida and Chippewa Indian Reservations. Ice was chopped away, and snowflakes were falling as many saints and friends witnessed the baptism of our dear Brother in Christ by Bro. Sam DiFalco. We sang *I Surrender All* at the water's edge.

We then gathered at the church building. Before the confirmation, the brothers asked everyone to kneel in prayer. We felt the power and authority of the Holy Ghost as it was pronounced upon the head of Brother Eli.

Bro. Eli will be 70 years old in June of this year. He always expressed his desire to serve the Lord, and he was never afraid to stand up for testimony in the previous months.

A beautiful and powerful spirit of calling was prevalent on Sunday, February 21. The Lord used Bro. Norman Campitelle to bring the message "I AM THAT I AM." Our elders had a strong feeling that someone was to be baptized.

Brother Eli left church that Sabbath day without asking, but he surrendered to the Lord's calling the next day.

After the confirmation we sang *He's Taken My Blindness*, and Bro. Clayton Lunham closed in prayer. Our humble prayer is that we'll all be one in the Lord. Amen.

Note: Please remember Bro. Elston Sturgeon in prayer, as he is going to have cardiac bypass surgery in the near future.

Tse Bonito, NM

By Peter C. Genaro

ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY!

If you haven't already heard, The Tse Bonito Branch has had the opportunity to sponsor a 30-minute weekly radio broadcast entitled "The Corner Stone" on KTNS, a 50,000-watt station in Window Rock, Arizona. The broadcast airs at 8:15 every Sunday morning.

March of this year highlighted our One Year Anniversary, which indeed gave a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment for everyone in our branch. The Lord was surely our in-

spiration for the past year. Our standard introduction song is the chorus from *He's All the World to Me* (written by Sis. Arlene Buffington). As the song is being sung in the background, Ephesians 2:20 is quoted, saying "Ye are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone"—a brief welcome is made as the words from the hymn, "He's the Corner Stone, He's the Rock of Ages. . ." softly fade.

We have had a variety of broadcasts, including sermons, singing programs, testimonies, interviews with college students and professionals, experiences of healing, scripture lessons, and even an Easter play production involving the entire Branch. It hasn't surprised us that experiences and testimonies are a great favorite of our listeners. The response has been exciting and worth all the long hours of hard work. Many of our friends and acquaintances have expressed their enjoyment over the program's content each Sunday, which has in itself been a great source of strength and encouragement.

Of course, our brothers and sisters who listen in Lakeside-Whiteriver and San Carlos have also proved to be a constant support group. Your prayers on our behalf are an essential element to ours and the entire Church's success.

Detroit, Branch 2

By Joann Cotellesse

After Sunday School one recent Sunday we returned to the auditorium to sing a few songs. Additional brothers, sisters, and friends began to arrive for the morning meeting, and our elders were in their places, readying themselves for the Lord's work.

Emil DiMelis entered the building and took his usual seat in the front. He called Bro. Dominic Thomas to his seat, and told our Bro. Dominic that he wanted to give his life to God. The Lord's Spirit filled our souls.

Emil had known the Church for many years, during which he attended periodically. His children, Sis. Vicki Henderson, Sis. Lisa, Joey, and Dino attended church, as did his wife Noreen. Lately Emil realized that he must do more for the Lord, so he began attending more often. He became close with Bro. Dominic Thomas, Bro. Al Milan-

toni, and Elmo Straccia. He also became involved with all the church activities. He knew what the Lord wanted him to do, and couldn't deny it any longer.

We went to the waters, and Bro. Emil was baptized by Bro. Alex Gentile. On returning to the church building, many brothers and sisters from other branches were there to share in the joy. Bro. Emil was confirmed by Bro. Dominic Thomas. We know the Lord will continue to bless him and his family.

Modesto, CA

The Modesto Branch has been blessed with two more baptisms in the past months. Richard Deulus, son of Richard and Rose Deulus, and Christina Dulisse, daughter of James and Lydia Dulisse. We rejoice in seeing our children come to Christ, and rejoice even more in their faithfulness.

Niles, OH

By Wayne Martorana

The transition to a new year has brought a series of blessings and meetings filled with the Spirit of God. During December and January, we received visits from both priesthood and members of other parts of the vineyard.

In December, we were pleasantly surprised with a visit from Bro. Jim and Sis. Lynda Sgro of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch. Our brother delivered an inspiring sermon using types and shadows of how the Old Testament scriptures point to events that came forth in the New Testament.

During January, we received visits from Bro. Phil and Sis. Fran Jackson and family from Kinsman, Ohio, and saints from the San Diego, California; Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; and Warren, Ohio Branches. These gatherings included much inspired preaching, enthusiastic singing including many of the more recent *Songs of Zion*, and sincere testimonies filled with God's Spirit.

Typically, our branch has been one which has enjoyed singing, and during the testimony meetings, near one hundred percent participation is not uncommon. We are certainly appreciative and thankful to God for these blessings.

Also during the recent months, after

a fasting and prayer service, Sis. Gloria Keeley expressed her wishes to be renewed into fellowship. This took place on the following Sunday. We welcome our sister back to the fold of the Good Shepherd.

We feel that our monthly branch fasting and prayer services, and our elders' and teachers' fasting and prayer meetings, have been a springboard to our receiving greater blessings from God and a spirit of love, unity, and harmony from within. We welcome the visits of the brothers and sisters, and request that you remember us in prayer, that together we may reach greater spiritual heights and receive those blessings that God has promised from His storehouse.

Evergreen, AL

By Vera Edwards

On September 7, 1987 Sis. Thelma Booker of Birmingham, AL was baptized, the first member in the Evergreen work. Sister Thelma learned about the Church through her natural sister, Emma Grooms of the Omaha/Bedford Mission.

In this you can see how far one's testimony can travel. Through one testimony coming out of Clairton, Pennsylvania, many have come to see the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Many saints traveled to Evergreen on this weekend. The elders have born down in preaching the Gospel in this part of the vineyard. Those in attendance this weekend were: Brothers Vince Gibson, Mitchell Edwards, Joe

Genaro, Eugene Perri, Charleston Hester, John Gray, and Lawrence King. We were privileged to have almost all these brothers' companions with us as well.

The saints who journeyed to Evergreen were overwhelmed by the love that the Lord extended to us. The elders and the brothers and sisters visited many friends whom they had become acquainted with on their visits there in the last few years.

After visiting house to house with new friends and old, anointing and praying in about 35 homes, we met at the Carver Recreation Center for our Saturday evening service, as scheduled. This service consisted of preaching and testimony. In the course of the service, nine of our friends asked for prayer. The priesthood laid hands on these people for spiritual strength and sickness.

On Sunday, after splitting into two groups to sing and preach in two local churches in the morning, we met again in the afternoon at the Carver center with about 25 of our friends and some of the saints from the Quincy, Florida Mission. We looked forward with great anticipation to see what the Lord had in store for His people.

Bro. Vince, Bro. Mike Nuzzi, and Sis. Thelma herself had already been given experiences concerning the baptismal site. The Lord had already prepared the place.

This was indeed a glorious weekend. It rained on and off both days, but the Lord made the sun to shine at the right times, and it was always shining bright within our hearts, as they were filled with joy.

Bro. Mitchell Edwards baptized our new sister, and she rejoiced upon coming up from being immersed, leaping straight out of the water and saying in praise, "Thank You Jesus, Thank You Jesus." She was later confirmed by Bro. Eugene Perri. We praise the Lord for this wonderful trip to Evergreen.

ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .

At the beginning of this year, we had the privilege of having Sister Nancy on "The Corner Stone" radio broadcast sponsored by the Tse Bonito Branch. She was interviewed on the air, and related many of her experiences of the past and present. Keep up the good work, Sister Nancy, the Church needs you!

EVANGELISM continued . . .

thony J. Scolaro, along with all those who contribute in print or production, can be given a special mention for the opportunity it gives to help spread the Gospel. The same is true for the radio ministry, as reported in this column last month.

As the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists meets at this April Conference and continues to plan ways and means to further evangelistic efforts, it will be cognizant, and is most appreciative, of the wonderful backing and support it receives from the many individuals who give their time, effort, and finances, whether it be through the General Church, its auxiliary units, or individual efforts. Our united prayer is that God will continue to lead and help us—oh, yes—and continue to open doors.

New Arrivals

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

Jacob Richard to Raymond and Regina Neuman of Lindsay, California.

Jocelyn Rose to Gary and Boni Sue Lombardo of Cleveland, Ohio.

Nicole Marie to Bill and Rita Gamache of Anaheim, California.

Steven James to Jim and Debbie Kyriakakos of Anaheim, California.

Cameron Donald to Don and Vicki Henderson of Anaheim, California.

Travis Matthew to Kevin and Dawn (Francione) Powell of Saline, Michigan.

Children Blessed

On September 6, 1987 James Michael Shane Jackson, grandson of Sis. Gale Bohannon, was blessed in the Church at Lindsay, California.

On January 31, 1988 Lauren Marie Foster was blessed in the Church at the Brooklyn, New York Branch by Brother Dominick Rose.

OBITUARIES

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

LILLIAN DOLSON

Sister Lillian Dolson of the Muncey, Ontario Indian Mission passed on to her eternal reward on October 19, 1987. She was born April 18, 1918 and was baptized by Bro. Alex Gentile on June 29, 1980. She was confirmed by Bro. Rodney Dyer.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Rodney Dyer, with the assistance of Brothers Peter H. Capone and Anthony Scolaro.

Our sister is survived by a brother and a sister, George and Kaye Beeswax, along with many nieces and nephews. Sis. Lillian was a dedicated servant of God, and was very active in the Salvation Army for many years before she met the Gospel.

ROSE ROGOLINO

Sister Rose Rogolino, born on June 1, 1902 in West Virginia, died in New Brunswick, New Jersey on November 14, 1987. She was 85 years old.

The wife of the late Brother Patrick Rogolino and sister of the late Sis. Stella Arcure, she is survived by one sister, Sis. Betty Perri; six sons, Antonio, Frank, Matthew, Bill, John, and Patrick; and four daughters, Geneva Renda, Frances Endrizzi, Joan Longuillo, and Ruth Rose Giovannone. She also leaves 22 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren.

She was a beloved sister, one who always had a kind word for everyone and loved the young people of the Church. She was a tireless worker in her office as a deaconess, and was often blessed with the gift of tongues. She was a member of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch.

All of us in the Atlantic Coast District will miss her.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

NANCY WILSON

Sister Nancy Jeanette Wilson, a member of the Detroit Inner City Branch, passed away from this life on December 25, 1987. She was an American Indian, born in Watervillet, Michigan on June 10, 1926. Sis. Nancy became a member of the Church on November 19, 1978.

She was a social worker among her people, and while she was able, she worked diligently to help them.

Our sister is survived by her husband, Brother Donald, a daughter and granddaughter, a sister, and a brother.

Let's keep Bro. Don in our prayers, as he needs the strength and courage of the Lord at this time.

ISMAEL VALEZ

Brother Ismael "Manuel" Valez, Sr. passed on to his eternal reward on February 16, 1988. A member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, he was born in Lares, Puerto Rico on March 28, 1912 and was baptized on October 17, 1965 by Bro. Frank Calabrese.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Joseph and Joel Calabrese, and Brother Frank Altomare.

He leaves to mourn his wife, Maria Luisa Gonzales, two sons, and five daughters, as well as two brothers, three sisters, and ten grandchildren. He remained a faithful member of the Church, and was a well-known orator among Lorain's Hispanic community. May God bless and comfort the family.

ELVIRA MANESS

Elvira Velma Maness passed away on March 4, 1988. She was born January 5, 1912 and became a member of the Church on November 11, 1949. She was baptized by Bro. Joe Lovalvo and was confirmed by Bro. Mark Randy in Sarnia, Ontario, Canada. A member of the Muncey Indian Mission, she was the wife of the late Brother Arthur Wellington Maness, who died in 1979.

Services were conducted by Brother Anthony Scolaro, with the assistance of Brother Anthony Gerace.

Sis. Maness is survived by a brother and a sister, three children, five grandchildren, four great grandchildren, and a number of nieces and nephews. She died a faithful member of Muncey, one who loved and served the Lord to the best of her ability, and who no doubt has received that crown of everlasting life which is promised to all those who do His will.

The Gospel News

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

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May, 1988

Volume 44, No. 5

Spiritual Conference '88: "If You Would Labor in Zion"

By Anthony J. Scolaro,
Editor-in-Chief

The Spiritual Conference of The Church of Jesus Christ met from Thursday, April 14 to Sunday, April 17, 1988 at the World Conference Center (formerly, the Greensburg Auditorium) in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. Brothers, sisters, friends, and young people representing the seven districts of the Church in North America traveled many miles to share in the blessings, the peace, and the love of God under one roof, and the Lord rewarded the effort we made to be gathered together.

As is becoming the case when we meet together at Conference, four days almost weren't enough to get through the busy agenda. The concept that set the theme of the Conference, *If You Would Labor in Zion*, was launched on Thursday, when the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists met to review their activities and assess the progress being made in spreading the Gospel. For a detailed account of the evangelists' sessions, see the article beginning on Page 4 of this issue.

Friday's morning and afternoon meetings, which were restricted to the priesthood and ordained teachers of the Church, consisted of addresses by the apostles and seminars centering around four different aspects of the Love of God. It was stressed in these seminars what an essential place this basic element of the Gospel holds in fulfilling the commission with which the Lord has charged His Church.

Open to all, Friday evening's meeting was turned over to the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. A number of brothers addressed the crowd, speaking on a variety of missionary endeavors the evangelists are involved in. New works just taking shape were discussed along with established works showing steady growth. The evening proved to be educational and uplifting.

SATURDAY

On Saturday morning, the auditorium was filled nearly to capacity with worshippers anticipating the blessings of God. The day's activities began with the ordination of Bro. Paul Carr into the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. Bro. Dominick Rose of The Bronx, NY Branch washed Bro. Paul's feet, offering a beautiful, sincere prayer on behalf of Bro. Carr and the challenging work he is involved with overseas. After our brother was set aside by the washing of feet, Bro. Ike Smith of Pinetop, AZ ordained him an evangelist.

At this juncture, Apostle Paul D'Amico was anointed for the relief of his illness. In witnessing this anointing we were reminded to continue remembering not only Bro. Paul, but all ten of our Brother apostles in prayer. They have a tremendous burden to carry as they fulfill their calling as the spiritual leaders of the Church.

Also, as there are currently two vacancies in the Quorum of Twelve, let us pray that the Lord would make known unto the Church whom He would call to share in this awesome respon-

sibility. Our united prayer must be simply that the Lord's will would be carried out in filling this important office. We must all resist the temptation to think, even for a moment, that we are the least bit qualified to judge any man worthy, or fit, for this or any other calling in The Church of Jesus Christ.

As the morning meeting continued, we prepared to partake of the Lord's Supper. Apostle Robert A. Watson addressed us, touching briefly upon his early childhood in England and his boyhood journey across the Atlantic to America aboard a steamer. As he held tightly to his mother's skirt, saying good-bye for the last time to his aunt and uncle on the dock, Bro. Bob said he had no idea what lay ahead—what work the Lord had in store for him.

Bro. Bob admonished us to fully understand the purpose and meaning

(Continued on Page 3)

Atlantic Coast Area Campout

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout will be held from September 23-25, 1988 at Camp Mason in Blairstown, New Jersey. For more information, contact:

Len Benyola, Camp Director
8 Sheephill Court
Branchburg, NJ 08876

Greetings in Christ



MOTHER'S DAY

How much do you love your mother? I plead with you not to be like this individual, and have to live with regret:

"I had a marvelous mother who loved, sacrificed for, and helped me in every way possible. All my years of growing up, through college and eventually marriage, my mother was at my side.

"Today we buried that wonderful mother. Can you imagine how I felt when I returned from the services and found this poem in her desk drawer?

The Time Is Now

If you are ever going to love me,
love me now while I can know
The sweet and tender feelings
from which true affection flow.
Love me now, while I am living,
do not wait until I'm gone
And then have it chiseled in marble,
sweet words on ice cold stone.
If you have tender thoughts of me,
please tell me now.
If you wait until I am sleeping,
never to awaken,
There will be death between us
and I won't hear you then.
So, if you love me,
even a little bit,
Let me know while I am living,
so I can treasure it.

—Author Unknown

"Now she is gone, and I am sick with guilt because I never told her what she meant to me. Worse yet, I didn't treat her as she deserved to be treated. I found time for everyone and everything, but I never made time for her. When I called mom on the phone, I was always in a hurry. I feel ashamed when I think of the times I cut her off."

Don't wait; call your mother and tell her you love her *now*. Don't take her for granted anymore. If she is far away from you, take time to write her *now*.

Timothy was reminded to remember his faithful grandmother, Lois, and his faithful mother, Eunice, in II Timothy 1:5.

Do you profess Christ? Then that much greater is your responsibility to love. The Lord Jesus gave us an example as He remembered His mother in His dying moments on the cross. Though in tremendous pain, he looked on his broken-hearted mother and said, "Woman, behold thy son," pointing to His beloved disciple, and then said to John, "Behold your mother." They both understood. "From that hour on, John took her unto his house" (John 19:27).

This is a powerful example, indeed, of Jesus' love for His mother! And there is no gift any of us can give our parents greater than letting them know you love them. Let your mother know your love for her now! No matter how many times you have told her before, tell her again *now*!

Happy Mother's Day to all mothers!
We your children love you! *A house is not a home without you!*

Mark Randy

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank each of my brothers and sisters for your prayers during my recent illness.

God has certainly been with me, not only during the operation but He has also continued to give me strength and comfort, and I am recuperating nicely.

I also want to thank you for the cards and phone calls I received. It was such a pleasure to hear from all of you.

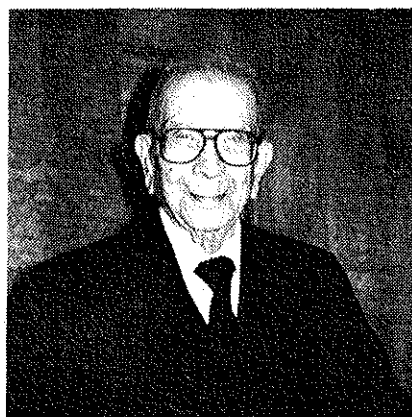
It would be remiss of me if I did not mention the fact that Bro. George Benyola postponed a business trip so that he could come to the hospital to pray on me. Where else could you find devotion like that toward your brothers and sisters but in The Church of Jesus Christ?

May God bless each of you,
Sister Jane Ardinger
Dallas, TX Mission

103rd Birthday

Brother Antonio Molisani celebrated his 103rd birthday on March 4, 1988. He is still in good health, very alert and active. He attends church every Sunday at Detroit, Branch 1. Having had a very sad and unfortunate childhood, his testimony today is that when he met up with The Church of Jesus Christ 67 years ago his life was completely transformed. He never ceases to praise God for having rescued him.

Bro. Molisani lives with his daughter, Sis. Lydia Lombardo, and still does some cooking and other chores around the house, maintaining himself completely.



Bro. Antonio Molisani

An Experience

I was told a few weeks ago that I needed surgery. One Monday night at a meeting of the Inner City Branch, I was inspired to be anointed by the elders. Bro. Mike LaSala anointed me, and while he was praying, I felt a warmth in the area where I was to have surgery. When I took my seat again, something within me said, "I have been healed."

As this and other anointings took place that evening, one sister saw Jesus Christ in a white robe standing by all those who had come forward for prayer. Another sister saw lightning flashing all around us. It was truly a spirit-filled meeting.

I kept praying and believing that I was healed, but Satan was in there try-

(Continued on Page 11)

CONFERENCE continued . . .

behind the partaking of the bread and wine. He read from I Corinthians 11, where the Apostle Paul gives an inspired discourse on the significance of the Lord's Table. Every time we partake, we as individuals and as a congregation should bring ourselves to a remembrance of the agonizing death that Christ suffered for our salvation.

Bro. Bob went on to explain the original meaning of the word "sacrament" and extended it to signify our separation from the things of the past and our willingness to give ourselves completely over to the service of the Lord. Bro. Watson pointed out that as we attempt this complete surrender to God, we must not make the mistake of interpreting our *own* thoughts to be the will of God. If we err in this manner, Bro. Bob said, we are treading on very dangerous ground.

We were also reminded how important it is that we examine ourselves as we prepare to partake of the Lord's Supper. It's an easy thing for us, our brother pointed out, to look at one another and list one another's shortcomings and faults, but the Lord wants us to take that difficult look inward, and examine whether or not we are truly doing the best we can to live for the cause of Christ. Some may believe they're not hurting anyone else when they're not doing their utmost to serve the Lord, but Bro. Watson pointed out that we're all in this Gospel *together*. Any individual's incomplete surrender to Christ draws upon and drains the Spirit, the love, and the unity that we as the body of Christ endeavor to establish in our midst. That is why, when we give our lives to Christ at the waters of baptism, we have to give our *all*, just as Jesus gave His all for us.

We enjoyed a sweet spirit as the brothers administered Communion to each of the brothers and sisters gathered there that day.

After lunch we gathered for the Saturday afternoon session of the conference, which was devoted to presentations by the Southwest (formerly, Arizona) and Ohio Districts concerning their past, present, and future. The theme *If You Would Labor in Zion* continued as we enjoyed selections from the choirs that both of these districts had prepared for Conference, as well as a number of other musical presentations. In addition, reports and testimonies

were given from the branches and missions of these two very missionary-minded districts of the Church.

The Southwest District reported on branches and missions in Arizona, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, while the Ohio District told how they have worked to establish branches and/or missionary outposts in Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, as well as in the state of Ohio. Truly the Gospel is beginning to spread across the face of the land: Fully one quarter of the 48 contiguous states were represented in this afternoon's program! How great the harvest is, and how truly few the laborers are, was brought to our attention in a very graphic manner. As Jesus commanded, we must pray for the Lord to send forth laborers.

On Saturday evening, we heard the last of the reports from the Ohio District and went into the musical portion of the day's program, hearing entertaining selections from Sis. Beatrice Parker of Detroit, MI; Brothers Pete and Jeffrey Giannetti of Aliquippa, PA and Hollywood, FL; and Brother Barry Mazzeo of Phoenix, AZ. We also heard the voices of the General Church Choir lifted in praise to God, which was truly an uplifting experience.

This is the second year that we've had a General Church Choir, and judging by its success we can anticipate its being around for a long time. We had all done our best to learn the music at home, in our missions, our branches, and our districts during the weeks before Conference. When we came together, because we all knew the music, and because we were all following the same leader, wonderful things happened! It was a glorious sound, and we pray it was acceptable praise unto the Lord.

Bro. Eugene Amormino of Detroit led us in new arrangements of three songs, *If You Would Labor in Zion*, *Soaring Over Caanan (Like a Bird)*, and *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*. Each of these songs pointed to the hope we have, as The Church of Jesus Christ, in God's Kingdom being established on the face of the earth.

Taken consecutively, the songs dealt with different aspects of Zion, starting with the inescapable need for us to labor diligently *before* we can start receiving the blessings God has promised us. In the second song, we sang of how our knowledge of the peaceful reign affords

us with the means to be lifted up during times of despair and tribulation. Finally we sang of that glorious day in which every tongue will confess the omnipotence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

SUNDAY

A record crowd arrived early at the Conference Center on Sunday morning to wait upon the Lord and feast upon His bounty. All the good things that the Gospel offers were there for the taking this morning. As the General Church Choir sang once again, we were privileged to look out upon the congregation of our brothers and sisters and, engulfed in the sound of praises unto God, could not help but rejoice in His goodness and mercy for bringing us, undeserving creatures that we are, to the knowledge of the Gospel Restored.

After brief opening remarks by General Church President Dominic Thomas and the anointing of Bro. Joseph Micallef of Windsor, Ontario, Brother Reno Bologna of the Saline, Michigan Mission exhorted us, as "Twentieth Century Saints," to keep our lives free from sin and transgression. In a day and age when all that is devilish and sinful is presented to us in such an appealing manner, our brother stated, the onus, or burden, is upon each of us to be pure and holy vessels for the Spirit of God to dwell in.

Bro. Joseph Ross of Aliquippa, PA followed, commenting on the words of the hymn, *Follow Me*. "How are we following Jesus?" he asked. If we're doing it only part-time, or if we're allowing part of the world to dwell within us, we cannot expect the Lord to be quick in hearing and answering our prayers.

Bro. Joe touched briefly upon his visit to Africa earlier this year. A person who normally is bothered by even moderate summer weather, Bro. Joe was able by the grace of God to endure the humid, stifling heat of the African jungle with no problem. One day Bro. Joe was plagued with severe abdominal pain, to the point where he could go no further. He asked Brothers Paul Carr and Joe Perri to anoint him, which they did, and immediately the pain left him. "The Lord certainly works fast over here in Africa," Bro. Joe commented to Bro. Carr. "The Lord is all we *have* over here," was Bro. Paul's quick reply.

Our Brother Ross was inspired to ex-

(Continued on Page 6)



A message from the Seventy.

All Evangelists Speak at Quorum Meetings in April

By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor

All evangelists in attendance spoke about their activities at the Quorum of Seventy meetings the day before the General Church Conference last month. God's blessings were felt as the brothers reported how the Lord had accompanied them in their labors. More information will be presented regarding the domestic projects in the coming issues. This month's column will deal with foreign reports.

Evangelists who had visited fields in India, Africa, Italy, and Guatemala presented some of their experiences. They covered journeys that had been made by Bro. Joseph Calabrese, who had visited India with Apostle Paul Palmieri in January; Joseph Perri, who had been in Africa for ten weeks and in Italy for almost a week earlier this year with Elder Joseph Ross; and Frank Ciotti and Dwayne Jordan, who had been to Guatemala in December with Elder John Genaro and Bro. Sam Randy.

OVERSEAS NEWS

In both *Africa* and *India*, the established work has been progressing and some new locations have been added to the Church. Many souls were also baptized during the time when the visiting ministers were there. Some of the highlights of their visits are as follows:

The Gospel has been extended to a new state, *Kanada, India*, with Brother Babu in charge. The other two areas are *Tamil Nadu*, where elder A. Devanadam is responsible, and *Andra Pradesh*, where elder B. David Livingston presides. Conferences were held in

Tamil Nadu and *Andra Pradesh* by Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri.

There were 42 baptisms, ten ordinations, a new building dedicated in Nallamadu, and officers' meetings held in each area to instruct and review the progress made. One elder, four teachers, a deacon, and four deaconesses were ordained.

The Ladies' Circle continues to function well in *India*, and the sisters correspond with Sister Mabel Bickerton, president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle.

The *African* report revealed that Brothers Perri and Ross visited many locations over their ten-week stay. They started in *Nigeria*, where they visited 52 branches of the Church under the guidance of Brother Paul Carr. During their five weeks in *Nigeria*, they attended meetings at two to three different locations each day, participated in the opening of two new missions, and performed many baptisms. They also spent time at other Church-affiliated facilities.

SAD LOSS

Sadly, when they first arrived, they found that Elder Malachi, the brother who was instrumental in starting the orphanage, had been killed while cutting down a tree when he became entangled and suspended in mid-air. Brother Malachi had been very faithful in his labors for the Church, and was a strong worker alongside Brother Carr. Brother Perri officiated at the funeral.

A very memorable occasion occurred the last Sunday the brothers were in *Nigeria*, when Evangelist E.A.U. Arthur and his wife, Sister Rachael,

celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Brother Arthur, who is 106 years old, is King and Paramount Ruler of over five million people in *Nigeria*, and he is the president of The Church of Jesus Christ there. The event was televised, and excerpts of the sermon and the choir selections were also shown.

The other *African* evangelist, also in *Nigeria*, is Brother Edom Ebong. A pillar in the Church, as is Evangelist Arthur, Evangelist Ebong accompanied the visiting brothers wherever they went, and was extremely active with Brother Carr, as he has been all along.

Brothers Perri and Ross went next to *Ghana* for ten days, where they labored with Brother Ford Boadu, president of The Church of Jesus Christ there. They visited all the branches and missions, and many people requested their baptism.

The last *African* stop was in *Kenya*, where the brothers stayed for about ten days with Brother Elizaphan and Sister Nina Osaka, who are laboring very diligently on behalf of the Gospel. Brothers Perri and Ross devoted much effort toward having the Church registered officially in *Kenya*. Two prior requests have been denied. On this trip, they were advised to appeal to the Attorney General in Nairobi, *Kenya*, which they did. It is unknown at this time how long it will be before a decision will be rendered.

The brothers also stopped in *Italy* during their last week overseas. They were joined by Elder Mike LaSala from Detroit, Michigan. The three of them met with various church members and other groups of people who are interested in the Church. Very sincere inquiries have been made and many encouraging reactions have been received.

Guatemala, the newest field, which was highlighted in this column in February, holds great promise, as do the others. The necessity for a permanent meeting place is still present. One has been located and has been submitted for General Church approval. Meanwhile, the Lord's blessings have been very pronounced there.

Many visits are being made to the homes of interested people, and additions to the flock in *Guatemala* are be-

(Continued on Page 11)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When we take the time to weigh and consider the thoughts of others, it sharpens our own point of view. This is as true concerning the things of God as it is with anything else. In The Church of Jesus Christ we have the opportunity to gain a great deal of spiritual wisdom and understanding from brothers and sisters who have spent many years in the Gospel. As we attend classes held by the Church's auxiliaries, meet together to study the word of God, or enjoy one another's fellowship, we hear the viewpoints of our brothers and sisters and are often uplifted by their spiritual strength.

It would be folly for us not to tap the spiritual resources available to us through our seasoned brothers and sisters in Christ, and unwise for us not to seek their guidance and counsel in matters we haven't faced before. We can also gain a vast amount of scriptural knowledge from those who have spent years studying the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* together in their hands.

As necessary as it is for us to be nurtured spiritually by those with whom we worship and serve God, there comes a point in our spiritual lives when each one of us must learn to walk by ourselves, with only God to hold on to. The brother whose wisdom and discernment we learned to depend on, or the sister whose comfort and understanding upheld us so many times, will one day no longer be there for us to lean upon. It will ultimately be up to us, as individuals, as to whether or not we survive spiritually.

In order for us to be firmly rooted and grounded in the Gospel, we must each have an understanding of the Word of God. With both the *Bible* and *The Book of Mormon*, we have been given the Word of God to a greater degree than most who believe in Him. By understanding that these books contain the inspired words of the Lord, we are given the key to a full understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is up to each of us to use that key to develop our own relationship with the Lord and to work out our own salvation. While having our brothers and sisters around us certainly makes it easier, nothing but our own spiritual roots will hold us firm when the rains come.

While the importance of our individual spiritual growth cannot be overemphasized, it is equally important that we continue to support one another, consult with one another, and, as it is written, submit ourselves to one another as we labor in God's vineyard. To do otherwise will divide us, making us easy targets for the enemy no matter how strong we are individually. However, if we can each grow spiritually to the point where we can stand alone with God's help, and still cling *together*, we will form an invincible army, fighting with one accord for the cause of Christ.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Dear boys and girls,

Do you know that there are some people in this world that pretend to love God and really are trying to trick you? With their lips they say they serve God and know the right way, but in their lives, in secret, they do not serve God the way He told us to.

Some men and women want power; they choose churches where they can boss other people around. Some want money, and will only preach or serve God when the members pay them. This is called priestcraft.

In the Book of Mormon, priestcraft started up. Some men who wanted power started preaching and slightly changed the words of God. They told the people that it really wasn't that bad to change some of God's laws. The people were tricked; they even began paying these men. But the saints in those days, just like us today, stayed firm. They did not swear (taking God's name in vain), they did not buy things on Sunday, or steal, or break any of the Ten Commandments. They did not pay their ministry. They loved one another.

In the days of Alma the chief judge, a man was brought before him to be judged, a man who was large and famous for his great strength. This man had gone among the Nephite people, preaching to them what he *said* was the word of God; he told the people that ministers should not have to labor with their own hands, but should be supported by the people.

This large man said that people could do anything they wanted and still go to heaven, and many mixed-up people believed him. He began to wear very expensive clothes and started his own church.

And it came to pass that as this man was going to go preach to those he'd

tricked into believing, he met an old man, named Gideon, who belonged to God's true church. As a young man, God had used Gideon to rescue the people of Limhi who were captured. Gideon was a teacher in the church, and he recognized priestcraft and lies when he heard them. Gideon stood up to this evil man, and the man was so angry that he pulled out his sword and hit Gideon over and over.

This good servant of God was murdered, and the people brought the murderer to Alma, chief judge of the land, to be judged.

Alma told the popular preacher, "This is the first time priestcraft has been practiced among the people. And not only are you guilty of priestcraft, but you used your sword to enforce it and killed someone who wouldn't do as you preached. If priestcraft is enforced among this people, all would be destroyed."

By the laws of the land, murder was punished by death. Before he died, this evil man told others that what he had taught the people was against the word of God. He knew this all along, but led people the wrong way so he could enjoy money and power.

How can you tell if someone is trying to trick you? First, really read your Bible and Book of Mormon. God's true servants will keep God's ways pure, as they did in these books. A true servant of God will also carry the Spirit of God. And those who have God's Holy Spirit will show it. In Galatians 5:22 the Apostle Paul tells us, "The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, [and] temperance. . ."

Watch for these things, and you will find the true servants of God.

Sister Jan

Alma, Chapter 1
Galatians 5:22

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

GOD	GOODNESS
FRUIT	PEACE
OF	MEEK
SPIRIT	FAITH
LONG	LOVE
SUFFERING	JOY
GENTLE	

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

CONFERENCE continued . . .

hort us to unity this morning, stressing the need for us as a Church to form a broad base of support for each and every missionary endeavor. He compared the building of Zion to a child's building blocks; you can only stack one atop another for so long before the tower topples to the floor. Only if the base covers a larger area can you build a tower that will stand. And so it is with our work in the Church: In any endeavor we pursue, missionary or otherwise, we must tie in to the mainstream of the Church if we expect that work to endure after we ourselves are gone. No matter how well we may do on our own, our "tower" will not stand if we haven't based its foundation firmly in the Church.

Through the course of the morning we also heard from newly-ordained Evangelist Paul Carr and Brother Ron Genaro of Niles, Ohio, before Apostle Russell Cadman left us with an admonishment to love the Church, not in part, but wholly.

With our cups filled to overflowing, we were dismissed in prayer from this Spiritual Conference by Bro. Frank Ciotti of Santa Ana, California. All of us came away with a heightened awareness of the necessity to give our *all* to the Lord.

Branch and Mission News

Lindsay, CA

Sunday September 13, 1987 marks a most important point in the life of our Brother David Koeth, for on that day he was ordained a teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ.

At the conclusion of a recent Sunday service, a tremendous spirit came over Brother Tony Picciuto when he shook hands with Bro. David. At that time Bro. Tony felt that Bro. David was being called as a teacher.

After he was asked if he would consider accepting this office, Bro. David, in a wise and prudent manner, asked God for a revelation that He had indeed called him. Bro. David desired to have his own personal experience.

Prior to this eventful day, Bro. David's wife, Sis. Diana, had an experience which told her that her husband was going to be ordained. She told her husband of this only after the elders had approached him about accepting the calling of a teacher. This most revealing message was confirmation enough, although there was more to come.

The morning of the ordination, Bro. David requested a sister to sing the hymn *Without Him*. Unknown to our brother, she and two other sisters had practiced it the night before, and were planning to sing it for the ordination. Confirming experiences were also given to Brothers Jesse Guerrero and Tony DeCaro, who respectively washed Bro. David's feet and ordained him.

Brother David testified and thanked God for all these confirmations, and explained to us how important they were to him. He told of his self-doubt, and how he was glad he had stepped out on faith and no longer doubted his ability to fulfill the role of a teacher (with God's help!). He commented that he had a feeling that the brothers who participated in the ordination would be doing so. He had prayed for one experience and there were several!

Afterward one of our sisters testified that during the ordination she saw a big chain, which was hanging over Bro. David, break apart. This was a confirmation of the "breaking" of Bro.

David's self-doubt. Several other testimonies were heard confirming those who participated in this ordination.

How good our Lord is! We ask for one experience and He blesses us with many! As our brother sets out in this new direction in his service to God, we pray that our Lord will bless him and remove any stumbling blocks from his paths.

Bronx, NY

By Lydia Link

Sunday, October 4, 1987 was a day of multiple blessings for the brothers and sisters of the Bronx, New York Branch.

We gathered in anticipation, not only of the message that would be given by our elders, but also looking forward to the blessing of Allison Katherine Lebowitz, our 'miracle baby.'

On July 4, 1987 Allison came into the world three months prematurely, weighing only two pounds. Her parents, Barry and Lori, and the hospital staff realized that her chances of survival were very slim, but everything medically possible was being done to sustain this fragile life. At the same time, their grandmother, Sister Katherine Laperuta, and her family, and the members of the Bronx Branch petitioned the Lord on Allison's behalf. Weekly reports showed agonizingly slow improvements, but we never ceased praying. At three months, the baby weighed eight beautiful pounds and was brought to church by her parents to be blessed. An inspired prayer was offered by Bro. James Link.

Gathering with us that day, in addition to Allison's grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, were her great-uncle and great-aunt, Bro. Nick and Sis. Pearl Zinzi, their daughter Sis. Gelsa, and Bro. Dominic Risola and their sons, all of the Tampa, Florida Branch. Since their move from the Bronx to Florida, they have been missed by all. Their visit was a blessing to us, and we thank God for this and all things.

Cape Coral, FL

By Bertha Constantine

On December 13, 1987 we went to the waters to baptize Peter Darr, the husband of Sister Linda Darr, who had just been baptized the week before. It was a glorious day. Brother Milford Eutsey, Sr. led our Brother into the water and baptized him. Bro. Peter was confirmed by Brother Bert Sheffler. He testified of how happy he was that the Lord had called him into His Gospel.

On December 20, 1987 Brother and Sister Darr had their two sons blessed. We thank God that we have had many blessings bestowed upon our branch in the last three weeks, and we pray that the Lord will continue to give us many more new brothers and sisters and increase our membership.

We also welcome Bro. Raymond and Sis. Mary Cosetti from Ohio back to spend the winter months in our midst. It is good to serve the Lord and praise His holy name. Remember us in prayer as we endeavor to start work on our own church building.

Santa Ana, CA

By Mary Ann Nicosia

LAST SONGS AND PRAISES

On Sunday, December 27, 1987 the Santa Ana Mission was honored by a visit from Sister Guadalupe Alcaraz and her children. The mission was blessed with her beautiful singing, her praises unto the Lord, her sincere testimony, and her cheerful personality.

Upon her return to Tijuana, Mexico the next day, she lost her life in a tragic way. She dropped an item when leaving the bus she had taken home, and she began to cross in front of the vehicle to retrieve the item. As she bent down to pick up the object, the bus driver, no longer seeing her, began to drive on. Sister Guadalupe was crushed and lived only for a few days. She was 44 years old.

Her departure has affected all those who have known and loved Sister

(Continued on Page 8)

SANTA ANA continued . . .

Alcaraz. Mourning her loss most are her 45-year old husband, David, and their six children, aged 22, 19, 18, 15, 7, and 4 years.

The night after the tragedy occurred, a brother in the Church, a teacher, had a dream. He saw Sister Alcaraz in church, dressed in a beautiful white garment. He asked her, "Sister, weren't you in an accident?" She replied, "Yes, I was, but now I am well and happy, and I feel no pain." As we miss her and mourn her loss, we rejoice in knowing that she is in the hands of Our Lord.

Niles, OH

By Wayne Martorana

Sunday, February 29, 1988 was set aside as the date that Bro. Mike Nuzzi would be ordained a deacon. For this occasion, visitors came from Michigan, North Carolina, New York, Youngstown, Warren, and Kent, Ohio.

The opening speaker, Bro. Mike LaSala, read from John 17 and elaborated on the theme of 'Prayer.' He cited the prayer of Christ for His apostles and followers, which He offered up realizing that His time on earth was short. Bro. Mike emphasized the need for fasting and prayer for spiritual results, progress, and blessings.

Bro. John Genaro continued, thanking God for the faithful who have already passed on to their reward. He stated that we all need the prayers of others, that we may fulfill our callings. As Elisha picked up the mantle of Elijah, so must we pick up the spiritual mantle of our forefathers.

Bro. Frank Natoli followed, saying that he was glad to be in the place of his origin, but that we long for the day when we can all call Zion our home. Bro. Frank elaborated on the need for perfection. He used examples of pearls and diamonds, which God has created. As they lie buried in the earth or beneath the sea, they are not valuable. Likewise it is with God's working with us, that we may be perfect in His sight, but not necessarily so in the eyes of the world.

During the morning service, two ex-

periences were given. One sister saw a vision of a personage carrying a staff which bore the message, "We must depend on God." Another sister heard the fluttering of wings and saw a white eagle land on the inscription of the name of the church behind the rostrum, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone introduced the fellowship service using Hebrews 6:10, explaining how God will not forsake our labors in the Gospel. He related the parable of the laborers in the vineyard who each received a penny, regardless of the length of their service. This is God's eternal reward for His children. Bro. Jerry concluded by relating the experiences surrounding his own calling as a deacon.

Bro. Joe Genaro washed Bro. Mike Nuzzi's feet and he was ordained by Bro. Mike LaSala as a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. A good spirit was enjoyed by all. Many beautiful testimonies followed, including many confirming experiences which supported Bro. Mike's calling. These were very encouraging. We ask that you support our brother with your prayers as he endeavors to fulfill the responsibilities of this office.

Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

Lord, give us awareness of our daily blessings,
Blessings that come in disguise,
Blessings we fail to recognize,
Though they are there in front of our eyes,
Sometimes they come with great surprise!

Do you believe in miracles? Miracles are a part of our lives, even though sometimes we do not recognize them as such. The following account is a miracle.

After the fall of Vietnam to the communist regime, many of the people in that country and in neighboring countries fled for their lives. Some became known as "boat people."

The Modesto Branch of the Church became acquainted with Soy and Mo Vongsay, formerly of Laos. Mrs. Vongsay, Mo, called our Greenoak Christian Preschool on behalf of a

neighbor who wanted to enroll a child. Upon learning of this inquiry, I immediately called Mrs. Vongsay and made an appointment with her and the neighbor. As a result of this meeting, I soon found myself driving five children and two ladies to Sunday School. Since that time, Mrs. Vongsay has become Sister Mo, as she was baptized by Bro. Leonard Lovalvo.

And now here is the miracle! The United Nations formed a refugee camp in the nation of Thailand. A river divides Laos from Thailand. The Vongsays lived only six miles from this river, but the camp was another ten miles beyond it.

One extremely rainy day, Soy and Mo and their one-year-old daughter fled

(Continued on Page 10)

Campout '88

This year's GMBA Campout will be held at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, Florida from noon Sunday, June 26 to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, July 2, 1988. Camp fees (including lodging and meals) are \$29 per day for adults (\$174 for the week), \$15 per day (\$90 for the week) for children 10-14 years old staying in their parents' rooms (you provide their bedding), and \$10 per day for children aged 3-9 years (\$60 for the week). Children 10-14 years old rooming separately from their parents pay the full adult fee of \$29 per day.

RV sites are available at the camp. Hook-up fee is \$10 per day per vehicle.

For those lodging at nearby motels and taking meals at camp, fees are \$15 per day for people 10 years of age and older and \$10 per day for children aged 3-9 years.

There are no fees for children aged 2 and under.

All camp facilities are air conditioned.

Detailed information regarding camp location, accommodations, etc. is printed in Campout Registration Forms available from your branch or local MBA.

The theme for this year's Campout is ". . . men are that they might have joy." It'll be worth your while to attend!

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME _____ ARRIVAL _____
 ADDRESS _____ DEPARTURE _____
 PHONE NO. () _____ BRANCH _____
 ORDAINED OFFICE (S) _____
 MEDICAL TRAINING _____
 PARENT OR GUARDIAN (UNDER 18 ONLY) _____

	NAME	SEX	AGE	CAMP LODGE	MOTEL	RECREATION	CRAFTS
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							

List number of persons on this form who will be eating each meal:

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Breakfast	XXXXXXX						
Lunch	XXXXXXX						XXXXXXX
Dinner							XXXXXXX

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE
ADULT REGISTRATION FEE(S) 15 AND OLDER		\$
CHILDREN REGISTRATION FEE(S) 10-14 (IN PARENTS ROOM)		\$
CHILDREN REGISTRATION FEE(S) 10-14 (NOT IN PARENTS ROOM)		\$
CHILDREN 3-9		\$
RV HOOK UP FEE		\$
SONG BOOKS (\$2.50 PER BOOK)		\$
TOTAL CAMP FEES		\$

If you wish to lodge near someone special please indicate below:

NAME	PERSON TO LODGE NEAR
1	
2	
3	
4	

SEND FORMS TO:

CHUCK & DIANNE MADDOX
 1055 W. FERNLEA DRIVE
 WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA 33417

Due to problems we have experienced in the past we must have registration forms in no later than June 1st. there will be a \$10.00 late entry charge on all forms received after the above date. Please be prompt in sending your forms in so we will not be forced into charging this fee.

MODESTO continued . . .

from their home on foot. Mo was expecting their second child at the time. It must have been a dreadfully fearful experience. They were able to cross the river on a small boat for a fee. Then there were more miles on foot in the constant downpour. They finally arrived at the refugee camp, where they were placed in prison for two months.

By a miracle they were set free. After spending one more month in Thailand, they were taken to the Philippines by Americans. There they spent another five months. By another miracle, they were led to benevolent Americans who sponsored them to come to Seattle, Washington, where they spent the next six months.

Mo has a brother who lives in Redwood City, California. Since a job was provided there for Soy, they relocated and lived for the next four years in that area.

All during their time here they studied English. Soy had a friend who moved to Modesto. This opened another door of opportunity, so he moved his family to Modesto, where he is now attending a job training program.

These people are so appreciative of everything, in spite of what they have gone through. They count their blessings and lay aside the agony. God has truly performed a miracle in these people's lives. Some of us take our blessings for granted, while others such as Soy and Mo do not. America is still a land of the free! *America! America! God shed His grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!*

These beautiful people have lived in Modesto for one year. They speak good English, they are eager to make friends, and we love them as they love us. They now have a girl and a boy, and their two children took part in our Christmas program at the preschool last year.

Have miracles ceased? No! The greater miracles are yet to come! Lord, give us awareness of our daily blessings . . . blessings that come in disguise, blessings we sometimes fail to recognize!

In God we live and move and have our being. Do you desire to serve the Lord? One telephone call made us realize the worth of having a preschool available to

our community to serve them. And through this service, we have come to see more of His miracles through people like the Vongsays.

Many Vietnamese, Laotians, and Cambodians lost their lives trying to escape, but some, like the Vongsays, miraculously found new lives in America. We as God's children should and do expect miracles to happen, because they do—you are a miracle!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Detroit, Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on Sunday March 13, 1988 was Ken Green. Ken had frequently visited the Sterling Heights and Inner City Branches since 1984.

Bro. Eugene Amormino baptized him in the Detroit River, and he was later confirmed by Bro. Joe Genaro of Niles, Ohio.

During testimony Ken related an experience he had on the night that he asked for his baptism. He saw the golden gates of heaven open up and the Lord stood before Ken with outstretched hands. In his experience, Ken floated upward to Him.

Our young new brother glowed with the joy of the Lord today, and we hope the Lord will use him as a mighty instrument in the gathering of His people.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

We at the Sterling Heights Branch were the recipients of three delightful surprises on Sunday April 10. Bro. Sam DiFalco was with us for the first time in several weeks, as he has been ministering to the Seed of Joseph at the Muncey Indian Mission. Bro. Sam spoke to us this morning on Alma 37:38 concerning the Liahona, the compass of the Nephites. As long as God's people followed the direction of the Liahona, they did not become lost.

Jesus is our compass, and we must keep our eye on Him at all times if we want to keep a straight course. Similarly Peter, as he attempted to walk on the water, was able to do so as long as he had faith and kept his eyes on Jesus.

Bro. Lou Vitto shortened the testimony meeting, as many of us wanted to attend the Inner City Branch this afternoon where Bro. Steve Champagne was to be ordained a teacher. Bro. Lou asked if anyone had something in their heart to express before he closed the meeting, and Sis. Sarah DiFalco got up and testified of the blessings received in working at Muncey.

Sis. Lillian Frendo testified and told us that the doctor had pronounced her son healed of cancer, and that she knew it before the doctor called. Her son was anointed before the surgery, and Sis. Lillian had faith that he would be healed. We thank God for this wonderful healing, which is the second time this has happened at our branch this year. My own granddaughter, Deborah Van Ittersum, was anointed for cancer before her surgery and her doctor announced she was healed.

We have much to be thankful for in this Church. As soon as Sis. Lillian sat down, her husband Carmel stood and asked for his baptism. He told this writer it was not because of the healing of his son, but since he has been attending this Church, he could feel the love of God here and knew that he would become a member some day. He was waiting for the right time, and today was that day.

We met at the baptismal site on Sunday evening, and Bro. John Straccia performed his first baptism on Bro. Carmel Frendo. We met back at the church building for the confirmation, and had our third surprise of the day as Bro. Carl Frammolino was in our midst and spoke to us about his work for the Church in California, especially with the Spanish-speaking children. He told how he felt he was coming home as he boarded the plane for Detroit.

We were very happy to see Bro. Carl, as he was one of the elders when we first met in a school gymnasium before acquiring our building in Sterling Heights.

We sang *Ready* and Bro. Carl prayed as the brothers knelt around our new Brother Carmel. Bro. Lou Vitto then confirmed him. Later Bro. Carmel

thanked God for opening his eyes and said he was happy for this day.

Wednesday night, April 13 was our MBA night. We welcomed our visitor, Bro. Norman James from San Carlos, Arizona. He is a Navajo Indian and an elder in the Church.

Bro. Norman spoke to us on how he came to the Church, how he had known about Jesus all his life, but it took the death of his beloved daughter to bring Him to realize how he needed God. He lived a few feet from the Church, and his daughter attended all the time and was always thanking the Lord.

Our Bro. James has seen many miracles and is a firm believer in the healing power of the Lord. He gave an astounding account of how his nephew had his tongue severed, and how he (Bro. Norman) was not able to go anoint him right away. All that night he prayed for his nephew from where he was, and finally the next day, as he lay down exhausted to take a nap, he felt a touch on his arm and heard a voice saying, "Get up, you have work to do." He jumped up and went to the hospital with another brother to see his nephew. They anointed the boy, and three months later the tongue began to grow back. In six months, it had grown back completely. This was truly a miracle of God, as body parts do not normally regenerate themselves in such a manner.

We got an idea of the work that the Lord has for Bro. Norman when he told us that the day he was ordained an elder, he baptized two people and anointed one! We pray that the Lord would continue to use Bro. Norman to bring the Truth of the Gospel forward.

EVANGELISTS continued . . .

ing anticipated, as prayers are being lifted to God that He bless this work.

Pacific Coast members were treated to a video tape from the brothers and sisters in *Guatemala*, in which they sent their love and requested prayers on their behalf. Also, visitors who have been worshipping with the saints there introduced themselves and expressed themselves on the tape.

OVERALL GOAL

The other reports and plans presented by the various Quorum committees on evangelist projects emphasized long-range plans as well as those for short-term periods. The forward-moving measures will be reported in future issues.

There was a spirit of cooperation and dedication portrayed as the Quorum members continue to work together in the overall goal of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ domestically as well as overseas.

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

ing to put doubt in my mind and discourage me while I was waiting to go to the doctor to be examined.

The time finally came for me to return to the doctor. Before I was examined, the doctor was explaining the surgical procedure I was to undergo. I kept saying to myself, "I've been healed, I don't need the surgery." After I was examined, the doctor told me that everything looked good, and that there was no need for surgery. I said, "Thank God," and told the doctor I was anointed at church and was healed by God.

I thank the Lord for having mercy upon me and healing me of the affliction that I had.

Sister Betty Ashenhurst
Detroit, MI Branch 4

Correction

The zip code for sending used pajamas, etc. for the work in New York's Bowery was reported incorrectly last month. The correct address is:

Matthew Rogolino
16 Station St.
Englishtown, NJ 07726

* WEDDINGS *

SENFT—MESKO

Fred Senft and Sister Cindy Mesko were united in marriage on August 22, 1987 at the Metuchen, NJ Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Tony Vadasz officiated at the ceremony, with musical selections by Brother Ken Lombardo.

May God bless Cindy and Fred as they begin their new life together.

Nicholas James to Jack and Sharon Church of the Valley Branch, California.

Kristen Nicole to Michael and Josephine McLennan of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Amber Kathleen to Andy and Kelly Lewandowski of Lorain, Ohio.

Kristina Lynn to Joseph D. and Demetra Arcuri of Metuchen, New Jersey.

John Richard to Joe and Angeline Soto of the Valley Branch, California.

New Arrivals

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

Sydney Michelle to Peter and Vicky DeBear of the Valley Branch, California.

Children Blessed

On August 2, 1987 Jessica Ann Genaro was blessed in the Church by her grandfather, Bro. Frank Genaro, in Simi Valley, California.

(Continued on Page 12)

CHILDREN BLESSED continued . . .

Marissa Lynn Szumigale was blessed in the Church by Bro. Joel Gehly in Erie, Pennsylvania on March 6, 1988.

On April 3, 1988 Lisa Chapot, daughter of Kimberly (Korotney) and George Chapot and great-granddaughter of Sis. Chiara Gentile, was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Alex Gentile at Detroit, MI Branch 2.

OBITUARIES

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

LETHA KUNKLE

Sister Letha L. Kunkle, a member of the St. John, Kansas Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ since 1956, died at her home in Lincoln, Kansas on December 25, 1987, after a long illness.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Alex Robinson, assisted by Bro. David Robinson.

Survivors include her husband, W. Harold Kunkle, two sisters, two daughters, five grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, and nieces and nephews.

DOLORES SGRO

Sister Dolores Sgro passed away on January 23, 1988. She worshipped God in the Edison, NJ Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was born on June 23, 1944 and was baptized just last year on October 25.

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Phil Arcuri and Arthur Searcy. Their words were an encouragement to all.

Our sister is survived by her father, Brother Vincent Sgro, and stepmother, Claire. Her cheery disposition will be missed by many family members, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends.

SAM CAMARDA

Brother Sam Camarda passed on to his eternal reward on February 21, 1988 at Modesto, California. He was born on April 25, 1904 in Italy. His membership in the Church spanned over 50 years.

Evangelist Leonard Lovalvo officiated at the funeral. Sis. Rose Lovalvo sang three of our departed brother's favorite hymns.

Bro. Sam is survived by his wife, Frances, and three children, Rose Randazzo of Sacramento, CA, Rosalie Salerno of Detroit, MI, and Vincent Camarda of Modesto.

Departures are always sad, but our hope of eternity with God comforts the bereaved.

JACK LAVERIE

Brother Jack Laverie, Sr. passed away on April 12, 1988. Born August 19, 1921, he was baptized by Bro. Mark Randy on July 26, 1959. He was ordained a deacon in the Church by Bro. A. A. Corrado on March 21, 1964, and served in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

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

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Lydia, a son, Jack, Jr., two daughters, Sis. Sandra Murray and Bonnie Laverie, a brother, a sister, and four grandchildren.

Bro. Jack truly displayed his love for Christ by his eagerness to help his brothers and sisters in need. He will be greatly missed by all the saints of Youngstown.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

June, 1988

Volume 44, No. 6

First Evangelist Trip

By Bro. Jimmy Moore

In February and March of 1988, my wife and I made a trip through the southern and western parts of the United States, taking in as many of the branches and missions as we could. We traveled for a period of seven weeks, covering a total of 7,000 miles.

We thank God for a beautiful and blessed trip. The love and hospitality of the saints was truly wonderful. We visited a total of 14 branches and missions, and our hope is that we moved the Church a little further along in doing so.

Our first stop was an overnight stay in Campton, Kentucky, where we have one member. We spent an evening of singing and testimony, then moved on to Atlanta, Georgia where I blessed a baby, Joshua Aaron Rogers, in the little mission there. We felt a good spirit as we heard many testimonies from the 25 or so that were gathered there.

En route to Anadarko, Oklahoma, at a rest stop, a young man came over to our car. He said that his car was old and had broken down. He had got it fixed, and now had no money or food. He and his family had no way of getting to their destination, and he asked if we could help him.

We gave him all of the food we had, along with some money. As we went into the building and looked out the window, we saw him going back to his car rejoicing. My wife and I just broke down and cried, filled with the blessing of being able to help this young man and his family.

When we arrived in Anadarko, Brother and Sister Crall met us and took us to their home. Brother Bill couldn't shake hands with his right hand when we first arrived, so afflicted was he. But after he was anointed he received the use of his right hand again.

We held meetings in Oklahoma and enjoyed our stay very much. We observed communion and feet washing with the Cralls, and I also blessed two of their grandchildren, Paul Daniel and Amber Marie Crall. We felt a blessing in the Cralls' diligence toward the Seed of Joseph.

Our next stop was St. John Kansas. We spent the first night at Bro. Roger and Sis. Marietta Schroeder's home, where we held a meeting. Bro. Steve Robinson told an experience of seeing me in a dream years ago. When he saw me this evening, it had an effect on him. He asked for prayer, that the Lord would give him the strength to make his way back to the Church. We finished the evening singing the *Songs of Zion*.

The next day, Saturday, we had a tour of St. John—the town square and the historic church building which is being beautifully restored in preparation for its rededication this month. We also saw Zion's Valley, where Bro. William Bickerton pronounced a blessing on the land, that no tornado would come through this valley as long as the saints were there. To this day, no tornado has hit there.

Sunday was a spiritually full day, and we left Kansas Monday morning for Tse

Bonito, New Mexico, where we met in the home of Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Elaine Jordan. We felt a beautiful spirit in the fellowship, testimonies, and experiences shared.

The next morning we toured their beautiful church building and departed for Whiteriver, Arizona, where we stayed at Bro. Ike and Sis. Bonnie Smith's home. We attended the Pinetop Branch's Wednesday evening meeting and enjoyed the fellowship of the saints there.

We left the following morning for San Carlos, Arizona, where we stayed for one week, holding meetings every evening. Sister Sarah Vancik came in a half hour after we arrived and stayed with us for four days. She played the piano and helped us to get acquainted in San Carlos.

Bro. Norman James is doing a wonderful job at this mission. We enjoyed the Spirit of God there among the Indian people. Bro. Norman showed us around the reservation, and told us of the plight of the American Indian in the past. He is trying to make things better for them in this day and time.

We endeavored to encourage the brothers and sisters to hold firmly to this precious Gospel. We heard many of their testimonies and experiences, and the last day they had a farewell cake for us as we said our good-byes.

We left San Carlos on a Thursday morning, stopping in Apache Junction, AZ to visit Sis. Dorothy Ondrasik, and then traveled on to Phoenix, where we

(Continued on Page 2)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

"My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother: For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck" (Proverbs 1:8 & 9).

I first came to know my father when I was seventeen years old, though I had seen him when I was five, and later at age nine, for brief periods—periods so brief that I had very little recollection of him.

My mother played the role of father and mother; her instructions and corrections were my guide. She believed in discipline and spared me not. She would often remind me of my father's good name. At times I would rebel, because I saw other boys do things I was not allowed to do. However, my mother had a persuasive way of convincing me what was right and what was wrong. I learned to appreciate and love my mother.

God instructed the children of Israel, but sometimes they ignored His counsel and His rebukes. The Lord laughed at their disaster, and mocked them when calamity overtook them. "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me. . . . For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil" (Proverbs 1:28, 32 & 33).

Since we love our children, we discipline them with love, and delight in their progress in life.

"Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from

the hand of the fowler. Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest. How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man" (Proverbs 6:5-11).

These teachings are *a propos* of our society today. I remember in our childhood we were taught, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

Listen to this from Proverbs 12: "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish. . . . The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise" (Verses 1 & 15).

Discipline need not be abusive. A loving parent knows how to instruct a child by explaining the difference between right and wrong.

Chapter 13 comes across in stronger language: "The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat. . . . Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction. . . . He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [early]" (Verses 4, 18 & 24).

Our children may sometimes say to us, in rebellion against our teachings, "Everybody else is doing this," or "You did this." Perhaps this is so, but these others may only be fulfilling Paul's words, "lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents** . . ." (II Timothy 3:2). More simply put, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

I am truly grateful that I was brought up by godly parents. Though I didn't meet my father until I was 17 years old, we became close friends. Even as a minister, I would go to him for counsel.

As I grew older, I began to realize the benefits of discipline and the dear price of wrongdoing. I also found that behind the parental chastisement was an abundance of love and caring. This motivated us, their children, to become achievers,

and gave us a sense of dignity, an understanding of the difference between right and wrong.

Our parents' blessings have followed us, as we have heeded the words, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Ephesians 6:1).

And finally I want to state, The family that works and plays together are of one heart!

TRIP continued . . .

stayed with Bro. Dick and Sis. Pat Christman. While we were there, they took us to see the ruins of some cliff-dwelling Indians. It was amazing to see how these people lived and survived many generations ago.

We attended Sunday services in the Phoenix Branch, and enjoyed visiting with Bro. George and Sis. Sarah Neill, whom we've known for years. We also got to meet with some new converts who were baptized just two weeks prior, and heard their testimonies. While in Phoenix we had the opportunity to share our testimonies with some of the brothers and sisters from Tucson as well.

We left Phoenix for Santa Ana, California and had the pleasure of greeting our four-day-old grandson. In California we had the opportunity of visiting with Sister Shirley and Lou Pershin. We stayed there for a week with our son and his wife, Tim and Louann Moore. We attended the Santa Ana Mission and the Anaheim Branch, where I blessed my grandson, Jesse James Moore. We sought to bring words of uplift and encouragement to the young people there.

We departed from California and stopped again at Bro. Dick Christman's, attending the Wednesday evening prayer meeting at the Phoenix Branch. From here we traveled across the country to Quincy, Florida to visit with Brother Cleveland and Sister Margaret Baldwin and the saints in that part of the vineyard.

Bro. Cleve was very sick (from food poisoning) when we first arrived. He called out, "Bro. Jim, I've been waiting for you. Two days ago I saw you in a dream." After he was anointed he steadily improved, and we rejoiced in it.

(Continued on Page 11)

Sinaloa, Mexico

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:19 & 20).

Enthusiasm ran high, very high, among our brothers and sisters in Sinaloa. Plans had been announced to them that Bro. Joe Ciarolla and Bro. Jesse Guerrero would be giving them a formal lesson of importance concerning The Church of Jesus Christ. At the same time, questions were being asked over and over again whether these two brothers would come, as they had written they would, on Saturday, November 14, 1987.

For those of us in the United States it would have been very simple to pick up the telephone, dial a number, and learn whether these two brothers were, in fact, arriving as scheduled. But after several visits now to the towns of Ahome and San Isidro, located in the middle of a rich, fertile valley about twenty and thirty miles from the thriving city of Los Mochis, we have seen no phones in either city, though some are certain to exist among the wealthy, or in government offices.

But arrive they did, to glad faces crowned by beautiful smiles. Almost immediately, our brothers were asked what type of lesson had been planned for them. When they learned that we would be studying the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ, they were surprised, almost amazed, that we should consider such a basic subject.

Shortly before the lesson began, we were reminded of the above scripture when we learned that Bro. Ventura's oldest daughter, Yanet, had asked for her baptism. She was asking that on the following day (Sunday), Bro. Ciarolla baptize her. You see, beloved brethren, when we follow the instructions of these two beautiful verses of scripture, we never really know when we will see results.

As for the lessons, we barely got into the discussion of Articles 1 and 2, for this was the first time that our Mexican

brothers and sisters here had been asked to actively participate in the lesson. After two hours, we called a halt, leaving them with enough material for a brief review on Sunday morning before we went further in the lesson.

We are not dealing with a backward people in Sinaloa. We are dealing with a loving, lovable, courageous people who are intent in studying the Word of God, to understand it to the best of their ability, without consideration of the extent of their formal education. With this in mind, we can appreciate Bro. Jose-Maria Ochoa's comments: "I've been teaching lessons in our church for ten years. I was surprised when I learned the subject of these lessons; however, I quickly came to realize that we were taking too much for granted. Here we have spent two hours on a subject that we all thought we knew from front to back—and we've just begun! What is really important, though, is that we are all studying *together*. We are developing the means to answer our friends when they ask us questions about our doctrine."

THE NUMBERS GROW

The interest is there. Approximately three years ago, Bro. Ciarolla and Bro. Guerrero went to Ahome and San Isidro. They had noticed a small but significant number of saints in the latter, and had wondered what it would take to see the numbers grow. There was really no need to wonder, as the list of dutiful members is now almost dou-

ble what it was three years ago, with a large group of visitors attending services throughout the week.

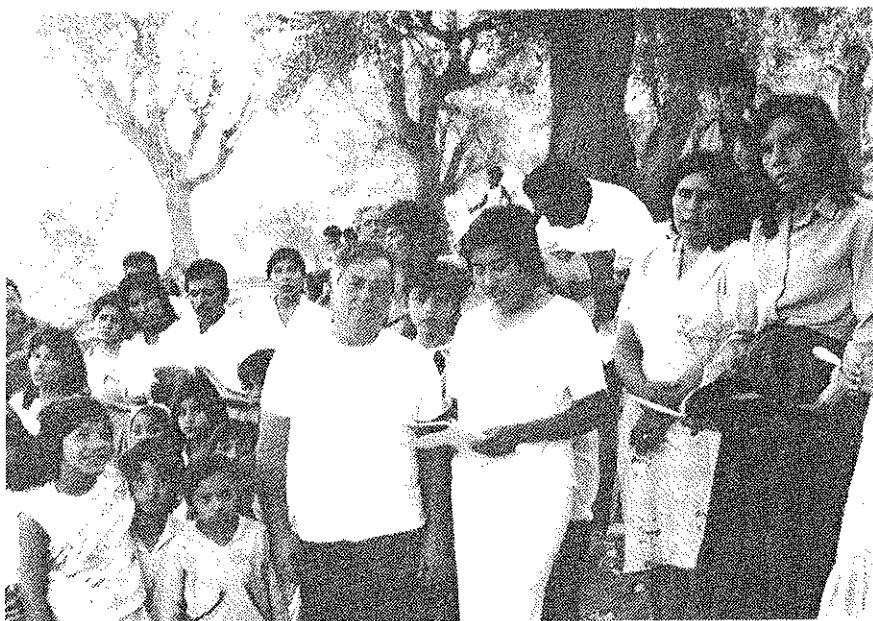
This increase in visitors can also be seen in the larger mission in Ahome, particularly in the family of about six adults who came to see what the Restored Gospel is all about. They came for Sunday School at 9:00 a.m., went to the baptism at 10:00 a.m., and stayed for the services, which lasted from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.!

GOD'S SPIRIT PRESENT

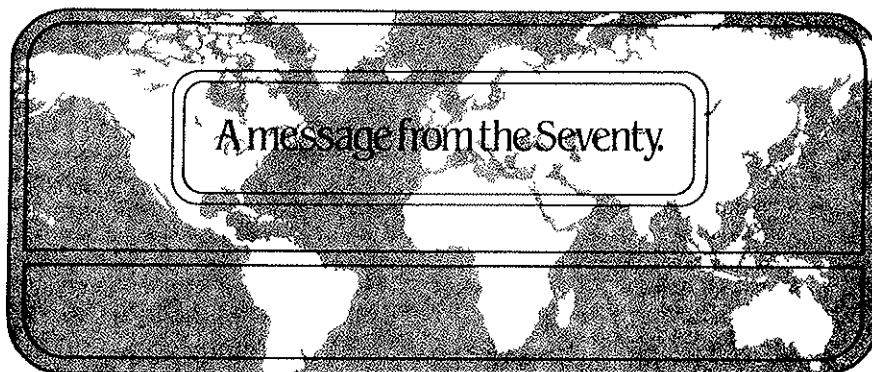
Talk about spirit! The Lord's Spirit was so strong in all of the services on Sunday that some young people who were at the river's edge witnessed the baptism that day, and decided to find out more about the church and came to the service. Even before they left the baptismal site, they gave the food they had to others who were enjoying the day there—and did all of this on their own.

The preaching that day was outstanding. Bro. Ciarolla opened, speaking with great inspiration from the book of Acts and reminding us all why we were doing what we were doing. He encapsulated our Faith and Doctrine into a message which all could enjoy. "... Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you . . ." (Matthew 28:20). He reminded the congregation that our Lord, in His creation of this earth and the peo-

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Saints gather at the river in Sinaloa, Mexico.



Big Change at Age 75

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

A new way of life in a new location will be beginning for a 75-year-old evangelist and his wife, as Charles (Chuck) and Ilene Smith move from Ft. Pierce, Florida to Oak Grove, Missouri. The reason for the change scheduled for this month is that they feel the Lord has directed them to work in a new missionary field of The Church of Jesus Christ.

"At my age, I never thought we would be doing anything like this. When I retired because of disability and we moved to Florida 18 years ago, I thought there is where we'd spend the rest of our lives. Now I feel very strongly that the Independence, MO area is where God wants us to be."

As he spoke these words at the April Quorum of Seventy meetings, his determination and desire were very pronounced. A faithful worker in the Church for many years, Bro. Smith captured the very essence of evangelism as he portrayed his need to now become a fervent domestic missionary. His remarks were made amid touching and illuminating statements from the evangelists present, all of whom detailed their activities for the last year.

"When the Church began to explore the possibilities of going to Independence, I did not think that I would be the one moving there on a kind of permanent basis. My thought was to help the Branch Development Committee start to hold meetings there. Shortly thereafter, it became obvious through our desires, and through the direction of God, that my wife and I should go there, so we sold our home in Florida and we are purchasing one in Oak Grove.

"The reception we have received is really very good and has given us much hope that things will materialize in and around nearby Independence. Many people who have talked to us, and to the other brothers and sisters who have gone there, have shown a genuine interest in our Church and have sought to find out more about our beliefs."

EXPERIENCES RECEIVED

Evangelist Smith cites several dreams he and Sister Ilene received which have directed them in this move. Thinking back, he stated that the first one he received actually dates back about 20 years, when the two of them were members of the Fairless Hills, Pennsylvania Mission. That dream pointed out his role in presenting the Restored Gospel to the people in and around Missouri. It also deeply impressed upon him the need to talk to those of other factions of the Restoration Movement.

While in Missouri recently, he received a dream which satisfied him that his desire to go was well-founded. In the dream, he was working underneath a car, putting all the parts back together. His father, the late Apostle Isaac Smith, was alongside the car instructing him how to insert the pieces so that the vehicle would run properly.

On one of their trips to Independence, Sister Ilene also received an experience which removed all doubt on her part that they should go.

An avid student of history and of the Restoration, Evangelist Smith brings respected credentials to the community. He has researched the events which have taken place in connection with the establishment, apostasy, and restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. A

working knowledge of this information is, of course, crucial in carrying on any discussion with individuals who are familiar with Church history, particularly Restoration history. There are many such knowledgeable people in the Independence, Missouri area.

OVER 50 YEARS

Brother Smith has been in the Gospel for over 50 years, having been baptized in 1937. He was ordained into the priesthood in 1964, and was ordained an evangelist in 1973.

The couple was married in 1945. They were members of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch before they went to Fairless Hills.

Brother Smith was born in Coal Valley, Pennsylvania, and Sister Ilene was born just outside Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

What makes the move even more amazing is that Evangelist Smith has been ill for many years. Beautifully, however, the Lord has healed him from many afflictions. He has had over ten major operations in his life, including three serious intestinal surgeries. He also has a chronic arthritic condition which makes it almost impossible for him to walk at times. At the April Conference, he appeared to be well, not requiring any cane or crutch to get around. Those familiar with his life were astounded at his ambulatory condition.

SACRIFICE AND FAITH

Sacrifice and faith appear to accompany this move. The need to tend to du-

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Sis. Ilene and Evangelist Chuck Smith, our "new" missionaries in the Independence, MO area.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, and tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be" (I Nephi 13:37).

The above scripture should be familiar and precious to us in The Church of Jesus Christ, for truly it sums up, in a few words, the entire purpose of the Gospel's restoration upon the face of the earth. A wonderful promise is held out to us as we labor for Zion. But how do we go about bringing it forth?

Our labor toward Zion begins in our hearts. As our daily lives are affected by the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and as our service to God and constant trust in Him shine forth in our attitudes and our actions, we are laboring to be Saints of the Most High God. It takes an effort to subject our human natures to the Spirit and the love of God, but if we can surrender our wills to that Spirit, the Lord will use us to carry out His plans; He will use us to build Zion.

As we endeavor to open ourselves to the direction of the Lord, we will find that He has a place in the Church for each one of us to occupy, a work for each of us to do. Whatever and wherever that work may be, we must labor diligently at it, with the knowledge that the Lord has placed us there. We may not all become missionaries in foreign lands, but the Lord knows who among us will, and who among us are assigned to different jobs. There are as many important jobs to be done in the Church (perhaps more) as there are members of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Lord has a labor for each of us, and as long as we are where the Lord wants us, we are *all* laboring for Zion.

Regardless of how blessed, or, conversely, how forsaken we may feel at times in our labors, it is important that none of us in the Church take on the attitude that we alone are the ones who are laboring for Zion, while our brothers and sisters are not. If we allow ourselves to think this way, we are opening ourselves to pride and resentment, and are keeping the love of God from dwelling in our hearts. Once we've stopped working to be filled with God's love, feelings of superiority and self-righteous indignation toward our brothers and sisters are sure to manifest themselves, causing us to do more harm than good as we labor.

The key, then, to our laboring for Zion is working constantly to possess the Spirit and the love of God. With these two things in our lives, the Lord will use us to our fullest potential, as He sees fit (not the way *we* see fit), to bring forth His Zion. Some of us will be used in the mission fields, others He will use to build strong branches, to supply the missions with seasoned, knowledgeable, spiritually mature laborers. The hardest job we *all* have is to rid ourselves of human ambitions and desires, and to fill ourselves with God's Spirit and His love. Through these two things, we can rest assured, we will be used to bring forth Zion.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



The King Who Disobeyed His Father

Dear Girls and Boys,

The king of the great Lamanite nations had appointed some of his sons to be kings of their own smaller countries. They were, however, supposed to do whatever their father told them to do; they were to rule their countries the way the great king ordered, according to Lamanite beliefs. Now one of the great King's sons, Lamoni, had met the Nephite preacher, Ammon, and began to believe in God and Jesus Christ.

Lamoni, who was also king, realized that there was one, true, living God. He was full of joy and love. But Lamoni was afraid to tell his father, the great king of the Lamanites, about his new religion. The Lamanites hated every Nephite and all the Nephite beliefs, and it was the Nephite prince, Ammon, who had told Lamoni the convincing story of Jesus Christ's love and power.

God spoke to Ammon and told him to go to the next country to rescue his brothers, who were being tortured in prison for talking and preaching about God. Ammon told King Lamoni that he had to go and free his brothers.

King Lamoni said, "I will go with you. The king of that land is my friend. I know that you can do anything with the power of God, but maybe I could talk to the king of that land. But tell me one thing: How do you know they're in prison?"

Ammon answered, "The Lord told me to go and rescue my brothers who are in prison."

So King Lamoni had his servants get the horses and chariots ready, and he and Ammon began their journey.

And it came to pass that as they travelled, they met the father of

Lamoni, the great Lamanite king. The king was angry, and said to his son, "Why didn't you come down on the day when I made a great dinner, a feast, for my sons and my people?"

(King Lamoni hadn't come because he was busy setting up new churches in his own land, with the help of Ammon.) The angry older king insulted his son by demanding, "Where are you going with this Nephite, whose people are all liars?"

When Lamoni started explaining about the love and power of Christ, the older king became furious. He shouted that Ammon was a liar and a thief, and commanded his son to kill Ammon with a sword and to come with him back to the capital, the land where his palace was.

Lamoni quietly refused, and his father then drew his sword to hit his own son. But the man of God, Ammon, stood up and said, "You shall not kill your son! He is an innocent man."

Lamoni's father answered, saying, "I know—it is *you* that has tried to change him!" And the king stretched forth his hand to kill Ammon. But God gave Ammon power, and Ammon struck the king's arm so he could not use it to fight.

When the great king realized that he could be killed, he began to beg Ammon to allow him to live. Ammon raised his sword and said to the great king, "I will kill you unless you agree to let my brothers out of prison."

"Yes, yes!" agreed the great king, "I'll give you anything you ask—even half of my kingdom!"

Ammon continued, "You must also agree to let your son Lamoni keep his kingdom, and give him permission to

rule however he sees fit. Then will I spare you and let you live."

The older king was full of rejoicing. He agreed to everything, and he was astounded, because Ammon hadn't asked for riches or power, but only for religious freedom. The king said to Ammon, "I will give you everything you ask for. But you and your brothers must come to teach me, too—as soon as they're out of prison!"

Ammon's brother did go to the great king of the Lamanites to tell him the story of Christ. The king believed, and thousands followed and were baptized.

The prince who disobeyed his father became a great king who led his people to serve God.

Sincerely,
Sister Janet

Alma 20

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'd like to thank each one of you for your prayers and expressions of love and concern during the illness and recent passing of my daughter, Sis. Elsie Marinetti. The Lord sustained me through her battle with cancer, much as He did three years ago with my other daughter, Sis. Joanne Frammolino.

We don't always understand the Lord's ways, but we live in hope of a day when there are no more tears. In the meantime, we rejoice in knowing that their suffering is ended, and that they are in a better place.

In Christ,

Sister Nicoletta Lombardo
Detroit, Branch 1

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MBA Highlights

PA Area MBA

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held a seminar on February 17, 1988 in Monongahela. It began with a potluck dinner that was enjoyed by all. There were about 60 or 70 people in attendance. The theme of the seminar was "Putting God and the Church First in Our Lives."

There were classes for all ages, for the children, the teenagers, the young adults, and the older adults. Reports were heard from each class, and you

could feel the enthusiasm and the good spirit that everyone had experienced. The evening ended with a feeling of anticipation for the next seminar.

The Pennsylvania Area MBA business conference was held on March 25, 1988 at the McKees Rocks Branch. The meeting was opened with Chaplain Dan Buffington's words about laboring in the vineyard of the Lord, and bringing others to the Gospel. He said that Christ should have the chief seat in our lives.

Area President Brian Smith took charge of the remainder of the meeting. We donated \$200 to the Pennsylvania District Mission Board. Fundraisers will be held throughout the area within the

next few months. Some of the upcoming activities are:

An Area Campout to be held from September 16-18, 1988 at Antiochian Village near Ligonier, PA. The cost will be \$38.00 per person. Camp Director is Bro. Rick Scaglione, and registration forms are available.

On July 16, 1988 a Singspiration will be held at Greensburg.

An evening seminar will be held on August 27, 1988 at Aliquippa. It will begin at 5:00 p.m. with a potluck dinner.

The next Area business conference will be held on September 30, 1988, 7:30 p.m. at the Glassport Branch.

Our Women Today

Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Ladies' Uplift Conference was held at Monongahela, Pennsylvania on April 23, 1988. The sisters that were present were from California, Florida, Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. During the devotions, the Monongahela Circle presented a program entitled, "Because He Lives." A special blessing was felt while the children of the Circle sisters took part in singing.

Sister Mabel Bickerton, president, welcomed everyone and said she enjoyed the program with the children—who will be the Church of tomorrow. What a heritage we can give to them! Our sister reported that a new Circle was organized in Tijuana, Mexico. The Circle is now represented in four foreign countries: Africa, Canada, India, and Mexico.

The business session of the conference started with the roll call of officers and the reading of the minutes of the last conference, held at Warren, Ohio. A condensed report of the home and district Circles was given, as well as the reports of the treasurer and auditors. It was reported that 93 appropriate cards were sent. Communications were read from Sis. Carmela Peterkin, and from Brothers Matthew Rogolino (on the Bowery, NY work), Joseph

Calabrese (on India), and Joseph Ross (on the African work).

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of the following: Rocco Biscotti, Albert Cain, Domenic Calabro, Dan Casasanta, Jenny Castelli, Michael Coppa, Vidi DalFovo, Julia Evans, Helen Ficocelli, Cora Fowler, Domenick Gabriele, Linda Henderson, Martha Kelly, Anthony Lombardo, Batise Mancini, Connie Mannion, Anthony Meru, Melvin Mountain, Judy Palmieri, August Perloni, Frank Progar, Rose Rogolino, and Pietro Scolaro.

Money was donated to the General Church for Africa, India, Guatemala, the Evangelists, the Pre-School Fund, and Indian Missionary Fund, totaling over \$4,000.00.

The project for the coming Circle Conference will be to make sacrament cloths for Africa, and to have a special fund drive for the Evangelist's Radio Ministry program.

Anyone caring to donate men's pajamas, slippers, or socks to the Bowery work can bring them to the next Circle Conference, which will be held at Greensburg, Pennsylvania on October 8, 1988.

A vote of thanks was extended to the Monongahela Circle for their hospitality.

Sister Thressa Carr spoke to the sisters about her stay in Africa. She said that the Lord has truly blessed them, and how much they needed and ap-

preciated the sacrament cloths and feet washing towels that were sent to them from various Circles.

We spent a beautiful day together, and the Lord was with us as the affairs of the Ladies' Circle were taken care of.

SINALOA continued . . .

ple, had given us certain commandments by which we could earn our heavenly reward.

Bro. Joe was followed by Bro. Jesse and then, briefly, by Bro. Ventura Ochoa, presiding elder at Ahome.

HANDS LAID ON

Immediately after the preaching concluded, hands were laid on our new Sister in the Lord Jesus Christ Yanet Ochoa for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This was done by her father, Bro. Ventura Ochoa. In his prayer, our brother gave thanks to God for showing him that perseverance is always needed, since his own natural daughter was now his sister in Christ. We, too, add our thanksgiving, for we had prayed that the work in that part of the vineyard would bear fruit.

BABY BLESSED

The spirit was already strong, palpable; almost immediately after the laying on of hands, a new mother brought her days-old infant daughter

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Anaheim, CA

By Carl Huttenberger

I ponder as I write this article, both over the situations that have beset us, and the miraculous ways that God has moved in our midst. In the last few months, we have seen things happen that I haven't heard of happening in too many other places. We have experienced the rape of a young sister, the kidnapping of a loved one, and Satan's onslaughts upon others.

Just recently, a brother was renewed into the Church after his young wife died of a serious illness. His children were taken from his custody, and he cried out to us not to turn away from God, because if we do, God will take a step back and watch us fall.

Sister Nancy Ciotti testified how in an experience she had, a demon approached her and threatened her family for the damage they had done to his work. Her granddaughter Tracy was kidnapped shortly thereafter. Sister Dottie Henderson related a vision she had of Tracy Ciotti, in which she saw the hand of God touching her with dazzling lights whose beauty she could not describe.

Sis. Mattie Harrington is an older sister who has been hospitalized for quite some time. The ladies' prayer group went to visit her, and while Sis. Mary Dichiera was offering prayer, Sister Mattie spoke in the gift of tongues.

After being anointed by the priesthood, a number of our brothers and sisters received healings and praised God for rewarding our faith in Him.

The ladies were certainly a blessing to us upon returning from their Ladies' Circle Retreat. They told us of healed offenses, visions, and many remarkable experiences that had taken place. We are so thankful for the way that the Lord has brought us through the fire and the ashes, and how His love for us has taken away the pain.

We anticipate a summer filled with the blessings of God, as our calendar is already filled with planned activities. There is a men's retreat, a Fourth of Ju-

ly picnic, the California Campout, and the continuing success of our Brother Bruce Gamache's radio broadcasts, which are reaching millions of people throughout Central America.

We are also forming a "go group," which will be involved in many different types of social activities designed to reach out to nonbelievers and bring us closer together in the love of God. I thank God for the vision He gives us; we can see more clearly each day.

"And it came to pass that there was no contention among all the people, in all the land, but there were mighty miracles wrought among the disciples of Jesus" (IV Nephi, verse 13).

Hollywood, FL

By Sharon Staley

The month of January, 1988 saw a flurry of activity in our branch, as we welcomed many visitors, spent much time in worship and fellowship, and witnessed yet another soul surrender unto God.

The weekend of January 9 and 10, visiting Evangelists Matthew Rogolino of the Atlantic Coast District and Vincent Gibson of the Ohio District, along with their families, came to our area. On Saturday morning, as many of the saints and friends who were able met at the church and spent several hours canvassing the neighborhoods and shopping centers near our building and passed out invitations to a weekend of spiritual meetings at our Church.

That evening we met together and were so happy to see some nearby residents come into our midst. We enjoyed a beautiful season of group singing and solos presented by the Hollywood Branch, after which the evangelists spoke many inspiring words, their theme being "Create in me a clean heart, O God," as written in Psalm 51.

The following morning our building was filled to overflowing, with many visitors from Lake Worth and Miami in attendance. A beautiful spirit was felt

as we witnessed the blessing of Bro. Paul and Sis. Barbara DiNardo's baby daughter, Gianna Marie, by Bro. George Kovacic of Miami. Our visiting evangelists again addressed our group, after which we had a period of testimony and the administering of the Lord's Supper—indeed a fitting conclusion to our weekend.

On January 16 and 17, our branch welcomed Bro. V. James and Sis. Mary Lovalvo. Saturday evening, Bro. Dennis and Sis. Susan Moraco held an open house at their home in honor of our visiting apostle and his wife. The saints and friends of the branch spent time in questions and answers on spiritual topics with Bro. Jim, and also enjoyed singing and fellowship.

The next day, the saints from Miami worshipped with us in a joint meeting as we heard Bro. Lovalvo deliver a powerful sermon which addressed the question, "Is there anything too hard for God?" During the afternoon service we observed the ordinance of feet washing; truly a wonderful outpouring of love and humility was experienced.

Sunday January 24, the saints met early at the church building in a season of singing as we prepared to travel to the Atlantic Ocean to witness Sis. Fay Weil's baptism by Bro. Joe Catone, Sr. Sis. Fay and her husband Rudy live across the street from our building. They were introduced to the Gospel by Bro. Joe Catone, who has been their mailman for several years. We were so blessed to see the message of the Gospel affecting those in the nearby area.

Following the baptism, we returned to the building for our preaching service and the confirmation of our new sister, which was performed by Bro. Joe Catone, Jr. Our afternoon service was highlighted by many inspired testimonies of thankfulness to God to see Sis. Fay numbered among the fold.

On Sunday evening, January 31, following a wonderful District gathering in Lake Worth, the Hollywood Branch met at the home of Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Staley to bid farewell to Bro. Jim and Sis. Mary Lovalvo, who were departing the next day for their home in California. Also visiting was

Apostle Joseph Bittinger, as well as several others from Pennsylvania and Miami. The evening was spent in listening to the apostles teaching and exhorting us, as well as in a season of testimony and singing.

We are truly grateful for the many visitors, blessings, and baptisms in this past month. The Hollywood Branch has started the year off on a high note—all honor and glory to God!

Quincy, FL

By Meredieth Martin

Who are you? What are you? What are you doing? What did you do? What should you do? Have you been born again? Have you received God's Holy Spirit? Have you lost your first love? Can you serve God without His Holy Spirit? Do you see yourself? Are you a saint? ANALYZE. . .

In summarizing the messages from the ministry during the month of January, this thought comes to mind: "How beautiful upon the mountain are the feet of those who are **still** publishing peace."

The above questions were asked of the saints throughout the month, thus creating a search within. . . . Who am I? What am I? What should I be doing? Have I been born again? Have I received God's Spirit? Have I lost my first love? Am I a saint of the most high God?

There are those who are still publishing peace. Bro. Cleveland Baldwin quotes, "And he gave some apostles, and some prophets, and some evangelists, and some pastors, and some teachers," for what? He says, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ," for how long? He says, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and the knowledge of the son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Have you been born again? ANALYZE. . .

Bro. Sam Sgro, visiting from the New Brunswick, NJ Branch on January 3, asked those of us who had not been baptized to analyze themselves and ask why they haven't been baptized. The analyzing process began for a surety, because on January 17, 1988 during a district Sunday service, the question "Why

aren't you baptized?" wrought in the hearts of our young people, and several of them requested baptism.

The next Sunday, Pierre Turner, Kelvin Lowe, and Kiethridge Fraizer were baptized by Bro. Charleston Hester; and Angela Hopkins and Rhonda Fraizer were baptized by Bro. John Gray. All were confirmed in the Church later that day.

On January 31, Bro. Rusty Heaps put us on the top of the mountain, continuing with our theme of self-analysis. He wanted to know: "Who are you? Are you a saint of God? Are you separate from the world? Does Jesus know you?" ANALYZE. . .

We shared in the joy of the Gospel Restored, the message of the angel, with the fellowship of Bro. Joe and Sis. Judy Graziosi of Ft. Pierce, who stirred up the question in our midst, "What are you doing in the Church? Are you a missionary for God?" ANALYZE. . .

The climax of the month is that our new young brothers and sisters did receive the message of the angel. After their self-analysis was completed, a decision was made—the right decision. Therefore, we will say, In all of your abidings, analyze.

We send our love to you, and pray for God's blessings to follow you in the work of the Lord.

Cape Coral, FL

By Bertha Constantine

Most of our branch attended the Florida Area MBA Campout at Lake Byrd Lodge in Avon Park. We thank God for the great blessings bestowed on each and every one who attended that weekend of February 26-28, 1988.

We also have a new brother in Christ, William Gawronski, who asked for his baptism on that Saturday afternoon. On Sunday we all went down to the lake to witness our new brother's baptism. It was a beautiful, glorious day. We could say God's presence could be felt throughout the Campout. Brother Bill was baptized by Bro. Duane Lowe, from the Tampa Branch, and confirmed by Bro. James (Bert) Sheffler of Cape Coral.

Our new brother gave his testimony

the Sunday after his baptism, expressing his happiness to now be in The Church of Jesus Christ, and to be filled with the Spirit of God. It was good to be there as the spirit of testimony flowed through the meeting that day. May God bless our new brother and keep him strong in his calling.

Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

On Sunday, February 21, Bro. Joe Bittinger warned us of the real evils in this world. We all must recognize that Satan has great power over the hearts of men in this day and age, and he is not pleased and rages when we endeavor to do God's will. Bro. Joe spoke further to us on the indisputable fact that this Gospel is the most important and precious thing in our lives.

We were privileged in the month of March to have in our midst Bro. Nick and Sis. Yolanda Pietrangelo from Detroit, MI. Bro. Nick's energetic and loving spirit filled us with excitement and anticipation as he addressed the saints on the two aspects of the Gospel in our lives.

The first aspect is a proclamation of what great things the Lord has done for each of us. The second is what is demanded, or required, of us in our service to the Lord. Bro. Nick went on to say that there is an offer, and a requirement, for us to work out our soul's salvation. The Gospel is not one-sided, it is not always "Give me, God," but rather we must offer something *back* to God. This is the requirement part.

On Sunday March 6 we were again showered with beautiful blessings from above as we observed two ordinations. Bro. Chuck Maddox was ordained a teacher by Bro. Paul D'Amico after his feet were washed by Bro. Ron Carradi. Our Brother Scott Monaghan's feet were washed by Bro. Michael DiFede, and he was ordained a deacon by Bro. Mike Radd. In confirmation of our brothers' callings by God, Sis. Marilyn Carradi was blessed to see two personages in white with our ordained brothers.

It was also a blessing to have Sis. Marie McGuire back in our midst after having serious surgery. We thank God for His bountiful blessings in our lives!

Cleveland, OH

By Anna Hufnagle

On Sunday, April 10 we enjoyed a great blessing in witnessing the baptism of Sis. Barbara Coe. Our sister had been away from the Church for many years, and we praise God to see her return.

We enjoyed a beautiful message about sacrifice and what God requires of us, a fitting topic for today's event. Bro. Bill Hufnagle opened the meeting, speaking from Matthew 19:16-26, the story of the rich young ruler. Our brother told us that Jesus must come first in our lives. Our desire to serve God must not be carried out as a ritual, but we must sincerely desire to be in His service.

Bro. Vince Gibson followed, telling a story about a master who purchased slaves in order to give them their freedom. For one slave, he paid a very high price. When he had purchased the slave, he went through the process of giving him his freedom, but when the slave realized what the master was doing, he could not believe it. The master told him that he was now a free man to do whatever he desired. Upon hearing that, the slave decided that he would stay and work for the master, to show his thankfulness for what he had done. "This is what Jesus Christ has done for us. Do we feel like the slave?"

The Lord had seen fit to bless us with a beautiful spring day, and our sister was baptized by Bro. Bill Hufnagle. We sang *I Surrender All* and had prayer.

We reconvened back at church, where Bro. Bill Prentice laid hands on our Sister Barbara for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We then enjoyed many testimonies in our fellowship service. Sister Barbara testified how good God had been to her, and said now that she is back with the brothers and sisters, it feels like she is home.

We thank God that our sister has made it back home. She related the following dream to us:

"I dreamed I was climbing up a mountain made of large stones, and I was struggling very hard to climb over each stone. I was almost to the top of the mountain when I came to a place where a large stone was missing.

"I was wondering how I was going to

get over this large space, when a white-sleeved arm and hand reached down toward me. Suddenly I was on top of the mountain, and the Lord was there with me. He was on my right side, with His arm around my shoulder. Below us was a green valley with a winding road leading through the valley and up the mountain. The Lord stretched his arm toward the valley and said, 'Barbara, this is the way the old brothers and sisters came.' Then I awoke."

Santa Ana, CA

By Mary Ann Nicosia

CHAINS BROKEN

On Sunday, March 6 the Santa Ana Mission experienced many blessings and enjoyed a beautiful day with the Lord.

Brother Frank Ciotti opened the morning service by reading from Revelations 20:11-13. His message, as the scripture declares, was that all men and women must stand before God and be judged according to their works. He admonished us all to perform good works and to have faith.

Our brother stressed that the Spirit of God was telling him that chains would be broken this day, and that the power of God would prevail. This proved to be true.

Brother John Vela followed, saying that the Lord had given him the same message to speak on this day, using text from the Book of Mormon.

Presiding Elder Frank Ciotti was then inspired to ask anyone who felt the need to come forth for prayer. He said that this was the time to pray for the healing of souls, for the chains to be broken.

The priesthood first knelt in prayer before the laying on of hands for those who responded to this invitation. One individual who was prayed upon was Sergio Martinez Ramos from Acapulco, Mexico; later he asked for his baptism. Sergio has been attending the Santa Ana Mission along with three of his friends for a couple of months.

Another person prayed upon was Petra Facio. She afterward rendered obedience to the Gospel and asked for her baptism. Petra has been attending our mission for several months also, and

has come to know the Gospel through her sister, Sis. Flavia Rodriguez, and her nephew, the late Samuel Hernandez.

Bro. Carl Frammolino was inspired to implore the congregation that, if anyone needed prayer for burdens to be lifted, problems to be solved, or barriers of offense to be removed, now was the time to gain the freedom to serve the Lord. Many came forth for prayer filled with humility and love, and an overwhelming liberty of Spirit was felt by all present that day.

Between prayers, we sang *I Surrender All*. When we came to the words, "Glory, Glory to His Name," the spirit was overpowering and Brother Frank asked the congregation to please share their visions with us, as the Lord had made it known to him that there had been visions given. Sis. Gloria Rivas shared the following with us:

"As we were singing and the brothers in the priesthood stood ready to pray for those sitting in the chairs up front, I saw a light come from behind me. From this light came three personages who stood behind all three of the brothers. In the vision I saw Brother Frank holding his Bible and Book of Mormon in the air, and when he shook them, fire came out of them."

Another vision came to Sis. Maria Dominguez during the preaching service: "While Bro. Frank was preaching, a personage stood next to Bro. John (who was translating for Bro. Frank). This personage had a very strong light glowing from his face, and he reminded me of one of the Three Nephites. I also saw a beam of light which went from one side of the church to the other."

The new converts were baptized the following Sunday morning, March 13, before the Pacific Coast District Conference's Sunday service. They were confirmed in the afternoon meeting. Brother Frank Ciotti baptized Sister Petra and she was confirmed by Bro. Anthony Cardinale, who also baptized Bro. Sergio. He was confirmed by Bro. Luis Pacheco.

At the conclusion of the afternoon conference service, Imelda Hernandez asked for her baptism. She was baptized the following Sunday morning by Bro. Ciotti, and was confirmed by Bro. Cardinale.

That afternoon, Eulojo Hernandez, Sis. Imelda's brother, was overcome by the Spirit during our feet washing service, and asked to be baptized. The following Sunday morning he was baptized by Bro. Anthony Cardinale and was confirmed by Bro. John Vela.

Two weeks later, Alberto Isias Perez asked for his baptism and was baptized by Bro. Vela and confirmed by Bro. Ciotti.

This series of baptisms has greatly blessed the Santa Ana Mission, and the profound blessings and breaking of chains are hoped to continue as the Lord continues to call.

TRIP continued . . .

The saints in Quincy have a special prayer for the welfare of the Church at 10:30 every morning. We attended their mid-week service of preaching, testimonies, and also saw a beautiful play, performed by the small children, about *The Book of Mormon*.

The next day we enjoyed a meeting at the home of Brother and Sister Hester. The testimonies, love, and fellowship were much enjoyed and appreciated. Sister Margaret Baldwin couldn't do enough for us. We felt a beautiful spirit there.

We headed back to Atlanta, GA the next morning, and enjoyed the warmth and fellowship of the saints there. Then we traveled on to Gastonia, North Carolina, where we stayed with Brother John and Sue Genaro.

The Gastonia Mission has just purchased a building to meet in, and they are in the process of remodeling. I had the privilege of working on the building all day Saturday, and we attended their Sunday morning services as well. Their group of about 20 is meeting in homes until the building is finished. We felt the blessings of God in their midst. They have a good start there, and we pray that God will continue to bless them.

The next morning we headed home to Imperial, Pennsylvania. Thank God we had a wonderfully blessed and safe trip. We'd like to thank each one of the brothers and sisters for your prayers, hospitality, fellowship, love, and the help you gave us on the trip.

The Spirit of God is the same clear across this vast United States. We thank God for the opportunity He afforded us in experiencing this trip, and send our love to all.

SINALOA continued . . .

forward to be blessed. What a tremendous opportunity for the assembled visitors to see so much in such a short time! Bro. Ramon Lopez, presiding elder of San Isidro, stepped forward and took the tiny child in his arms, explained to the congregation why the child was not baptized (complete with biblical quotations), and blessed her.

TESTIMONIES

Bro. Ventura then announced that it was time for all who had the desire to publicly utter their testimony. One brother testified that he had been asked that morning where the wedding was taking place, since so many people were gathering together. His reply was that they should come to the "marriage" which took place every Sunday at church. This invitation was what brought the young people at the river to our meeting today.

A sister who was renewed in the Church stated that she had had a dream that she would be doing so this morning. She had seen several of our visitors, whom she did not know at all, in her dream. Thus, when she saw them in church, she knew that she had received a revelation from the Lord.

Another brother testified that when Bro. Ciarolla was laying hands on this sister to renew her in the Church, he had heard Bro. Joe praying entirely in Spanish, even though he knew Bro. Joe spoke no Spanish. He repeated the prayer, which had been offered in English without translation, almost word for word in Spanish, confirming the experience he had been given.

We closed the day with the Lord's Supper. Bro. Juanito called a hymn which was sung in such a moving manner that we all knew the Lord was in our midst. Later, when Bro. Lopez began administering the wine, another hymn was sung, again with such sweetness that it was almost like hearing the singing of angels. We thank God for the heavenly time he gave us among His chosen people.

MESSAGE continued . . .

ty overshadows any personal concern about health, age, or condition. In assessing his reason for going, he said that he felt the Lord was going to perform a mighty work in the Missouri area, and Bro. Chuck said he considers himself very fortunate to be thus used by God. His enthusiasm portrays the conviction that God will take care of them in every respect.

The Branch Development Committee, in initiating the labors in Independence, was well aware of the need for a permanent missionary there. With the Smiths' coming forth, this need has been fulfilled.

Evangelist Elmer Santilli, chairman of the committee, stated that the Church was very grateful to have Brother Smith available to go. "With his knowledge and experience, he will certainly be able to represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ very well.

"Our prayers are with him and Sister Ilene, that the Lord will be with them and accompany them, as He has in the past. Their stepping forth allows us to see how important our older brothers and sisters are in the total work of the Church. They, along with all the other age groups, are needed for the work of the Lord. We shall try to assist them as much as possible, and we have high hopes and expectations that good news will be forthcoming from the Independence area soon."

These sentiments reflect those of all the members of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Smiths are fine examples that working for the Lord continues to the very end of our lives. They are a great inspiration to us!

For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father. (Mosiah 3:19)

New Arrivals

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

Aubrey Ross to Douglas and Candace (Ross) Obradovich of Hollywood, Florida.

Matthew Aaron to John and Kenah (Hatch) Steele of Fort Pierce, Florida.

OBITUARIES

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

ETHER M. FURNIER

Shortly after his mother's death in February of 1987, Brother Ether Furnier dreamed that he found his mother and father together in the paradise of God. His father was Apostle Thurman S. Furnier, and his mother was Sister Birdie Furnier. Bro. Ether interpreted this dream to mean that he would soon be joining them.

On December 13, 1987, Brother Ether was preparing himself for the Sunday morning church service when he was suddenly stricken with a heart attack that proved fatal. His dream had come true.

At the time of his death, he and his wife, Sister Ella, were living on the San Carlos Indian Reservation in Arizona, where they had gone to do missionary work.

Brother Ether had a special love for the Indian people, and he desired very much to work with them. As soon as he retired, he and Sis. Ella moved to San Carlos. He was barely there a year when the Lord called him home.

Though he was plagued with health problems for many years, this did not dampen his enthusiasm for the Gospel work. With true dedication he gave unstintingly of his time and his efforts for the Church he so dearly loved.

Brother Ether was born in Uniontown, PA on March 26, 1924; baptized on February 16, 1958; ordained an elder in April, 1961 and an evangelist in August, 1984.

He is survived by his wife, Sis. Ella of Scottsdale, AZ; son Vincent and family of Scottsdale; daughter Nickie and family of Santa Barbara, CA; brothers Vincent of East Detroit, MI and Clarence of Tennessee; and grandchildren Calico and Dashiell of Scottsdale, AZ.

Our sympathy and prayers go to Sister Ella and to the rest of the family, for they have lost a beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather.

We miss Brother Ether very much—his quick and ready smile, his witticisms, his words of encouragement. Thank God we have that lively hope that one day we shall meet again!

Sis. Frances J. Capone

JOSEPHINE ZANARDELLI

Sister Josephine Zanardelli departed from this life on March 1, 1988. She was born on June 30, 1916 in White County, Indiana.

Funeral services were held in Roscoe, PA by Brothers John Kendall and Matt Laktash.

Our sister is survived by two daughters, Sis. Bonnie Miller of Hollywood, FL and Janice Z. Kline of Monongahela, PA; as well as three grandchildren, Lora Yarke, Sis. Donna Miller, and Brian Miller.

JOHN LaPLENA

John LaPlena passed from this life on April 17, 1988. He was born in Italy on January 21, 1914.

Brothers Louis Vitto and Peter H. Capone officiated at the funeral.

John is survived by his wife, Sister Sarah LaPlena of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch, as well as other family members and a number of friends.

JAMES THOMAS

Brother James R. Thomas of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed away April 17, 1988. He was born November 14, 1915.

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Sam DiFalco and Gary Champine.

Our brother leaves his wife, Sister Grace, two sons, Brothers Richard and Robert, and many friends and relatives.

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The Gospel News

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

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July, 1988

Volume 44, No. 7

First Baptisms in Guatemala

By Carl J. Frammolino

The first six baptisms in The Church of Jesus Christ in the country of Guatemala were performed on Sunday, May 29, in the waters of beautiful Laguna de Pinos (Lake of the Pines), just outside Guatemala City.

The new members are Leonarda de Castillo Dominguez, Julia Gladys Marroquin de Ramirez, Romelia Marroquin Piedra Santa, Ilsa Ester Solis Sandoval, Maria Luisa Subuyuj Lopez de Tuche, and Victor Manuel Rivera Dominguez. The addition of the five new sisters and one brother brings the congregation in Guatemala to eleven. Five had transferred there from California last November.

There were many blessings and manifestations present at this very historic event. A messenger of God was seen by two people at the water's edge. This personage wept at the scene that he witnessed and went forth to assist those coming out of the water. After the baptisms were completed, he disappeared from their midst.

Descriptions and videotape accounts depicted a very serene and picturesque setting as the converts were immersed. Permanent missionaries, Elders Luis Marroquin and Isidro Dominguez, baptized two each, while visiting Evangelist Frank Ciotti and Elder Stacey Light, both from California, each baptized one.

There were between 70 and 80 people in attendance at the services the last

two Sundays in May. Brother Tom Smith and Tracy Ciotti accompanied Brothers Ciotti and Light to Guatemala for their ten-day trip. On May 28, two marriages were also performed.

Papers to officially have The Church of Jesus Christ registered in Guatemala were processed the last week in May.

It was hoped and anticipated that the final documents would be signed on Friday, June 10.

The prayer throughout the Church is that the Spirit of God will continue to work and that many more souls will come into the Gospel of Jesus Christ in Guatemala and throughout the world.



Signing the papers in May to officially register The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala are (left to right) Evangelist Frank Ciotti, Attorney Yolanda Mouldauer de Paiz, Elder Luis Marroquin (signing), and Elder Isidro Dominguez.

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

LEST WE FORGET

"How would you describe courage?" an admirer asked John Wayne. To this Mr. Wayne answered, "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway!"

Abraham Lincoln's description of courage was, "Not being afraid to fail. My great concern is not whether you have failed, but whether you are content with your failure," he said.

Thomas Edison experienced 10,000 failures before he was successful in inventing the incandescent light bulb. Mr. Edison made up his mind that each failure brought him that much closer to success.

"Let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9). And again it is written, "My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as you know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58). Everyone shall receive his own reward according to his own labor.

"Know ye not that they who run in a race run all, but one receives the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we, an incorruptible. I, therefore, so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway" (I Corinthians 9:24-27).

Should we not likewise run to win, as

if winning were everything? How do we describe courage?

How about David, as he faced Goliath, was he afraid? Of course he was, but he had spent many days practicing with his sling, and had two outstanding experiences of overcoming, one with a lion and another with a bear. I am certain that David used his sling, but he also exercised his complete faith in deliverance by his God.

As a youth in Italy I learned to use the sling and became quite an expert with it. But now I have learned to use the arm of the Lord. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in Him. . . ." (Psalm 28:7).

I have also learned to use the arm of the Lord on my missionary endeavors. Jesus has been my guide and my teacher, without whom I would not have succeeded.

In November of 1959, I asked a certain Brother Buonofiglio to accompany me as I visited the churches and members scattered throughout Italy. We traveled by car along the Adriatic Coast, visiting members in a number of small towns.

We then continued on to Firenze, where a young journalist who had been writing to me lived. It was raining on the way, and suddenly I felt a painful blow on the right side of my head. I pulled the car to the side of the road and laid my head on the steering wheel. I could hear Bro. Buonofiglio praying aloud as I lay there quietly. Then I remembered that I had told our people in Ponza that I would be there the next Sunday. My strength seemed to return slowly, and I told Bro. Buonofiglio, "I will be all right." He did not know how to drive, so I had to keep driving. We headed toward Pisa. I do not know how we made it, but there we rested. Bro. Buonofiglio must have prayed all night.

The next day we reached Rome. When my cousin Sarah saw me she started to cry, I looked so ill. I rested there a day and a night, during which Sarah stayed constantly by my bedside. The next morning I insisted upon traveling to Ponza, a three-hour boat ride from Latina. The beautiful saints of God were praying continuously for my health and our safety on the journey.

Two days later we proceeded on to several more small towns. I was somewhat relieved, but the noise in the

right side of my head continued along with an unbearable pain. I praise God that He gave me the strength and the courage to press on!

After Church, the ladies of Buccino had arranged a dinner. We had planned to stay there overnight and leave the following day, but something inside me urged me to depart right away. "Tomorrow you won't make it," my thoughts were saying.

I spoke to the people there, saying, "We must leave now; tomorrow we may not make it." One brother, Leonardo, looked out and said, "A storm is on the way." We looked, and indeed a black cloud was in the western sky. After a quick lunch, we departed in our old Fiat. The wind was picking up; at times the car was lifted off the pavement by the fierce winds. It was a frightful journey, but we kept on until we finally arrived at S. Dimetrio and parked the car.

We still had to travel 3 more kilometers, on foot, before we got to Bro. Buonofiglio's home. He had a flashlight, but it was still very dark and windy. Suddenly the flashlight gave out. Thank God this brother knew every step of the way, even in the dark. I followed closely behind. The next thing I knew, Bro. Buonofiglio dropped from sight. I stood still. Many thoughts prevailed in my mind on this stormy night. I prayed aloud, "My God, please help him." His house was out in the country; the terrain was rough and dangerous.

"Don't move; I am all right. The suitcase saved me; I fell on it," he said. "Now I know where we are." He slowly got back up, unhurt, praise God. This time I placed my suitcase against his as we walked slowly in the wind on this narrow, rocky path. Bro. Buonofiglio began to call his dog by whistling aloud. The dog barked and ran toward us; we could see now that we were almost home.

At the house we found some of the Church people praying for our safe return. During the night, we learned later, the storm took part of the railroad into the Adriatic Sea. Several clay roofing tiles blew away over the part of the house where I slept. Much damage was done in the wide area that was hit by the storm.

How do you describe courage? "Being scared to death, but saddling up

(Continued on Page 12)

Note of Thanks

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of those that extended a helping hand when I had my accident and broke my leg. I was in a cast for ten weeks, so I was unable to get around. However I thank God for this beautiful spiritual family, and my good neighbors and friends who took such good care of me.

A few months after my accident my husband Jerome, who had been very ill and in a nursing home for the past six years, passed away. Again your help and your cards, flowers, and food that was brought to my home was greatly appreciated. Also the phone calls and the visits gave me much comfort, and the strength to go on.

My family and I also want to thank Detroit Branch 4 for the dinner that they held after Jerome's funeral.

Love to you all, and God bless you,
Sis. Providence Palermo and Family

An Experience

By Mary Altomare

TAKE SOME TIME TO PRAY

*Go on world, keep rushing by,
But as for me, for God and I,
There has to be some time today,
I have to take some time to pray.*

Wednesday, April 20, 1988 was set aside by the General Church for fasting and prayer on behalf of Brother Nick Pietrangelo, who was going into the hospital for heart surgery, and Brother Dominic Thomas, who was ill at Conference and hasn't felt well for some time now.

That evening as we gathered together at the Lorain, Ohio Branch and knelt down to pray, the elders led in prayer. Later, Sister Rose Palacios said she saw a graveyard and a casket with a body rising out of it. Then Brother Frank Palacios related the dream he had that morning. In it he saw a dog with its head in the doorway of the church building. It was looking from one side of the room to the other. Before this dog could come into the meeting room, someone quickly closed the door.

Sister Katherine Cocco then testified of an experience she had during the day. In the afternoon, she felt to go once again and offer a prayer on behalf of our brothers. After praying she sat in a reclining chair and elevated her feet to rest. As she rested she closed her eyes and was somewhere between being awake and being asleep when she saw a dark-colored vicious dog run across the room and attack her foot. Its mouth was wide open, ready to close on her foot, but she was able to immediately pull her legs toward her. The dog then disappeared.

As Sister Katherine related this experience, this thought came strongly into my mind: The enemy is attacking the base (the foundation) of our Church, which is the ministry.

May we continue to fast and pray for all the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. Let us all take some time to pray.

An Experience

By Carmella D'Amico

In April I went to the doctor and found that I had small tumors. He told me to have surgery as soon as possible.

I told my husband Sam (Ansel) that I was sick and I had to have surgery. "Who is going to take care of you when I go to the hospital?" I asked him. He said, "You go to church and ask for prayer; God is going to heal you. You will not need an operation!"

That Sunday I was anointed. The elder that prayed said, "Oh God, remove this affliction from her, that she may not need an operation." A beautiful spirit prevailed during that meeting.

The next Friday morning I had a short dream. I dreamed that I was with a group of people. I told them that I was sick and needed an operation. A man stood up, pointed a finger at me, and said, "You do not need an operation." Then I awoke.

That same day I went to the doctor. The doctor looked at the lab report and said, "No sign of cancer, and you do not need an operation!" Praise God!

June 29, 1988 marked 55 wonderful years in the service of God. May He bless you all.

Michigan-Ontario District Conference

By Anthony J. Scolaro

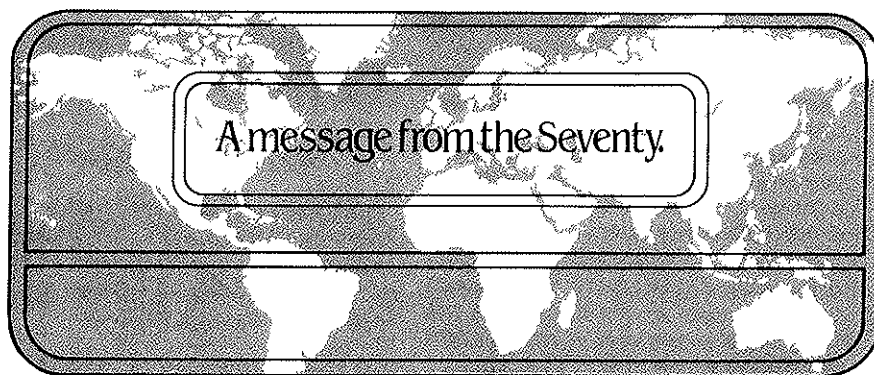
Although we had already taken care of our business in April, the Michigan-Ontario District met together on Sunday, June 5, 1988 at Dearborn High School in Dearborn, Michigan.

We were privileged to have visiting with us this day Brothers V. James Lovalvo and Joseph Calabrese, who were in town for the Foreign Missions Committee meeting that weekend. After Bro. Steve Champine sang *Take Some Time to Pray* from the *Songs of Zion*, Bro. Lovalvo opened the service, reading from Alma 46 about Moroni and the title of liberty.

Bro. Jim explained how just as in Moroni's time his rent coat drew others to join the cause of liberty, we as The Church of Jesus Christ must go forth as a standard to the world. The only way we can stand out from the crowd and draw others to Christ is by our righteousness. Bro. Jim then referred to the Apostle Paul's writings concerning the whole armor of God, emphasizing the need for each of us to be spiritually clad as we go through life.

Brother Joe Calabrese followed, relating how he had looked at the scriptures the night before, and had felt within himself that were he to open the preaching service today, he would speak on the armor of God. Our brother elaborated on the message that Bro. Lovalvo brought forth, and stressed how important it is for us as saints to be careful that the evils of the world do not creep, ever so slowly, into our lives. He related a powerful experience he had, wherein he was shown that even seemingly innocent games often have their roots in things that are contrary to the ways of God. In contrast to this, our brother brought forth the beautiful things that we experience when we live as closely as we can to the Lord.

District President Peter Scolaro made some closing remarks, in which he asked us to examine ourselves, and improve what needs improvement, so that we can be sure to have a place in the first resurrection. Brother Eugene Amorino closed in prayer, and afterward we met in the cafeteria for lunch and fellowship.



District Evangelists Report Activities

By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor

OHIO EVANGELISTS

Many evangelistic activities were discussed at the last General Quorum of Seventy meetings at the April Conference, as reported in May. One of the most significant events was the one covered last month, with the move of Evangelist Charles Smith and his wife, Sister Ilene, to the Independence, Missouri area; but we discovered also that the same kind of move had taken place within the Ohio District.

There, Evangelist Mitchell Edwards and his wife, Sister Vera, relocated in May to the South Bend, Indiana Mission from their home in Warren, Ohio. They set up quarters in a trailer in the vicinity of the church building in South Bend.

Before the installation of the trailer, where the Edwards' reside for five out of every six weeks, Brother Mitchell was traveling there from Ohio for weekend services. For the past two years, he was journeying there every two weeks, with Elder Philip Jackson going the alternate weeks. The round trip is about 600 miles.

Now the Edwards' return home to Ohio every sixth weekend, while an elder from Ohio visits South Bend for that weekend.

Besides the moves, evangelists reported in April on many different kinds of missionary projects. Many have been and are traveling an almost unbelievable number of miles to preach the Gospel. To get an idea of the kinds of evangelistic activities that are taking place in the Districts, we are focusing on Ohio.

There are twelve evangelists in the Ohio District. Officers are Vincent Gibson, Chairman; Ralph Berardino, Assistant Chairman; and Russell Martorana, Secretary. Other Evangelists are Joseph Calabrese, Elmer Santilli, Richard Santilli, Joseph Genaro, Frank Giovannone, Ansel D'Amico, Timothy D. Bucci, Raymond Cosetti, and, of course, Brother Mitchell Edwards.

There are many other places where the Ohio evangelists, in coordination with the elders through the Ohio District Mission Board, travel to spread the Word. They are as follows:

Every second Tuesday and every fourth weekend of the month, services are held in Columbus, Ohio. This is a 300-mile round trip from the Cleveland area.

The second weekend of every month, services are held in Cincinnati, Ohio. This entails a 500-mile round trip from Cleveland. An interesting point is that when services are held in Columbus, the members from Cincinnati come to worship; and when the services are held in Cincinnati, the Columbus group travels to attend. The distance between the two cities is approximately 100 miles.

A beneficial development is occurring this month, as an elder from Youngstown, Ohio, Brother Paul Pezzenti, along with his wife and family, are moving permanently to Cincinnati. This will obviously be most advantageous for the members there.

For many years, Evangelist Joe Genaro of Niles, Ohio has been travel-

ing to Gastonia, North Carolina, where a congregation has been formed and there are now two permanent elders, Jonathon Molinatto and John Genaro. Brother Joseph has been making the 1,200-mile round trip about five times a year, and he has been assigned there even though he still lives in Niles, Ohio.

A more recent location being visited about six times a year is Evergreen, Alabama, a round trip of well over 2,000 miles from Cleveland. Evangelists Gibson, Edwards, Genaro, Calabrese, Mark Randy (from California), and Eugene Perri and Cleveland Baldwin (both from Florida) have been there.

Omaha, Nebraska is also under the Ohio District, and evangelists and Mission Board members have been traveling there for some time. It too is approximately a 2,000-mile round trip from Cleveland. Currently the permanent elder in Omaha is Brother Clifton Wells. There is a congregation in Bedford, Iowa, 100 miles from Omaha, and the two groups interact frequently.

During the last week in July, the Ohio evangelists participate in a kind of mini-conference, with the members from St. John, Kansas and Bedford, Iowa coming to Omaha. At these special times, meetings have been held Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday. Door-to-door canvassing is done to introduce the Gospel to people in that location.

CLOSER TO HOME

Closer to home, Evangelist Richard Santilli is active in domestic missionary work in Canfield, Ohio, which is about ten miles from Youngstown and is under the Youngstown Branch. Brother Richard is also involved in the Seneca Indian Area in Cattaraugus, New York, about a 500-mile round trip from the Youngstown area.

Other contacts and visits are made at the Columbus Indian Center and the Cleveland North American Indian Cultural Centers headquartered in Akron. They cover 78 counties in Ohio.

Elder Wayne Martorana from Niles, assistant chairman of the Ohio District Mission Board, attends the Columbus Center meetings once a month and is on the Indian Board of Directors (NAICC).

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In one of Christ's parables, a Pharisee prayed, "God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess" (Luke 18:11 & 12). If his claims were true, this Pharisee was indeed leading a righteous life. But because he thought himself better than someone else, his prayer was unacceptable in the sight of God.

Certainly it is tempting, as we go through life, to compare ourselves to the people around us, and use them as the standard by which we evaluate our own righteousness. This is not how the Lord judges us, however; nor is it the way He wants us to judge ourselves. Even the worst of sinners, if he wants to badly enough, can find someone whose actions or lifestyle makes him feel very good about the level of righteousness he is maintaining. And in the world we're living in today, where bad seems to be getting worse, it is becoming easier and easier for us to justify our lives, listing, like the Pharisee, all the evils and abominations that we *don't* engage in. If we are constantly looking over our shoulder to see how we are walking in comparison to the rest of the world, if our goal is just to be "not as bad" as somebody else, then we have lost sight of our true target, the standard of Jesus Christ.

As we familiarize ourselves with the scriptures and examine the life that Jesus Christ led, as we ponder over the things he suffered unjustly, we realize how even our greatest efforts pale in comparison to what He accomplished through His heavenly Father. Even the most righteous among us, if he is looking to Christ, will recognize that he is an unprofitable servant; he is only doing that which is his duty to do. If we can always look to the example set by Christ, and measure our righteousness by His standard, we will have to confess our unworthiness before Him; we will not be tempted to use the shortcomings of others as the gauge by which we judge ourselves.

"And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God, be merciful to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13). It was this man whose prayer the Lord found favorable. Though a sinner, his heart was turned to the Lord, and he recognized better than the Pharisee where he stood before Him.

Today our lives overflow with situations wherein we are compared to other people, where our accomplishments and achievements are evaluated on the basis of what those around us have done. How well we carry out our jobs, or do our schoolwork, or even how we spend our leisure hours, is constantly being compared to what other people are doing and how they are living. The only time we really have in our busy lives to ponder upon how well we're following the example set by Jesus is the precious hours we *set aside* to meet together in the house of God, to study the scriptures, to pray, or to fellowship one with another. How much time we set aside for the things of God is up to us. No one can allocate our hours for us, just as no one can force us to always judge ourselves by the standard of Christ. It is up to each one of us to make those choices and, with the help of God, cleave unto that which is good.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Abram's Terrible Mistake

Dear friends,

Did you ever make a mistake that felt so horrible that you didn't want anyone to know about it? Did you ever feel so far from God afterward that you wanted to hide or even give up? When things in life like this happen to you, remember that God always loves you, forgives you, and can make you feel happy, and smarter, and clean inside again.

There is a true story in the Bible about the great man of God Abraham (also called Abram) who made such a mistake. Abram lived a few hundred years after Noah. By this time people had been scattered all over the earth; most had forgotten about serving one true God. They prayed to the wind or to stones or statues. But not Abram.

Abram was different. He believed, loved, and trusted the one true God. God called Abram and told him, "Abram, leave your country, and go unto a land that I will show you. I will make a great nation come from your children. Your name will be great, and whoever curses you, I will curse. And whoever blesses you, I will bless."

God did not say where this land was or how soon Abram would reach it, but Abram believed. There were no cars or planes or motorcycles in those days. Everything was loaded onto donkeys, or camels, or into creaking wagons. Dishes, bedding, medicines, and very little furniture were all carefully packed. The servants of the household and their families joined Abram for the long walk to this new land promised by God.

Abram was joined by his beautiful wife Sarai, who was also his half sister. In those days, people in villages often married a cousin or someone who had the same father (but different mothers).



Sarai was famous for her beauty. She and all of her servants also packed to start the long journey. There were no churches as they traveled, so Abram would take stones and build special altars where he and Sarai and their people knelt to pray and offer sacrifices.

One day the Lord appeared unto Abram saying, "I will give this land to your children." They were near Bethel (about twelve miles north of what is now Jerusalem) when the joyful Abram built an altar and praised God for His appearance.

Shortly after this, as Abram's large group of people and flocks and guards and families were moving south, a terrible famine started. The crops could not grow and the people were starving. Abram took his people into the land of the powerful Egyptians, where there was food.

Abram was frightened of their wealth and power, because he knew that they could take anything of his that they wanted. He was afraid that the king, called Pharaoh, would kill him or have someone kill him if he found out that Abram was Sarai's husband, so that they could take the beautiful Sarai to be a wife in the Pharaoh's palace.

So Abram told his wife, "When the Egyptians see you, tell them that you are my sister, so they won't kill me." And when the Egyptians asked if they could take Sarai, Abram, the leader of his people, the man God spoke to, felt afraid and said that they could, and he told his people to do the same thing, to lie and say she was Abram's sister.

But God was watching. God knew Abram had lied, and God stepped in—not to punish Abram but to solve the terrible problem Abram had caused. God put terrible plagues (sicknesses)

upon the Pharaoh because he had taken Sarai, Abram's wife.

The Pharaoh realized that his sicknesses had started when Sarai had come. He discovered that Sarai was not only Abram's sister but was Abram's wife as well. This time the Pharaoh just wanted them to get out of his country. He commanded Abram to take everything and everyone with him and leave!

Abram had made a terrible mistake. He had been too afraid to trust God and instead trusted his own pitiful plan. Every one of Abram's hundreds of people knew that Abram's plan hadn't worked. Everyone in the Pharaoh's sophisticated city blamed Abram for the plagues. Everyone knew Abram had lied and made a big mistake.

But God loved Abram and saved him from his own pride and fear. Abram left Egypt and returned with his people to the altar near Bethel where God had spoken to him. He prayed and he talked to the Lord there again.

Abram's terrible mistake did not ruin his life, because God's love never failed him. And God's love will never fail us. All we have to do is be still and be sorry and ask for forgiveness in the name of Jesus. The Bible teaches us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He helped Abram and he will help you, too.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Our Women Today

65th Anniversary at Aliquippa, PA

By Mary Tamburrino

The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Ladies' Uplift Circle celebrated its 65th Anniversary at Andiamo's Restaurant on May 24, 1988 with forty Circle sisters and friends in attendance. Each one received a plaque with the Circle Pledge written on it.

The Circle in Aliquippa was organized on May 20, 1923 by the late Sisters Hanna Skillen and Concetta Dentino. The meetings are held at the church building on Wednesday nights at 7:00, and the lessons are taken from the Book of Mormon. There is currently a membership of forty sisters.

Through the years the Circle has done much in supporting the projects of the General Circle and helping the Aliquippa Branch. The latest project was helping in defraying the expenses incurred in remodeling the church building.

"She has done what she could" is a saying that is appropriate of the sisters' activities throughout the years.

Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Retreat

By Judy Coppa

"A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE"

The word "retreat" is defined as withdrawal or the act of withdrawing yourself to a safe place. On the weekend of February 26 and 27, 1988 the sisters and friends of the Michigan-Ontario Ladies' Circle removed themselves from the hectic pace of our world today and spent time listening and learning about the ways in which they could walk closer to God.

The weekend was spent at the Holiday Inn in Windsor, Ontario with 62 ladies in attendance. Activities began on

Saturday with registration, orientation, and a morning fellowship meeting. During this meeting the Area President, Sis. Cathy Gentile, welcomed Sis. Mabel Bickerton, President of the General Ladies' Circle. We were honored and happy to have Sis. Mabel with us. Our sister related how her mother, Sis. Sadie Cadman, had a great desire to learn more of God's word and to be able to walk closer with Him. Through this desire the Ladies' Uplift Circle began. Our sister encouraged the ladies to continue to strive for knowledge of the scriptures and to put forth an effort to draw closer to God.

Sis. Mabel gave us a brief summary of the accomplishments of the Circle in the years since its inception. We were reminded that this weekend was intended to be a time for us to retreat from the world we live in and to consider our walk with the Lord.

Following the morning's activities and lunch, our ladies divided into seminar groups. Each group explored and discussed the following topics:

Part A

- Examine good examples of walking with the Lord in the Bible.
- How do I begin my walk with the Lord?
- What are some of the many ways that I can walk with the Lord?
- What are the benefits of my walk with the Lord?

Part B

- How does sharing with others help me walk with the Lord?
- Serving together
- Studying together
- Praying together
- Fellowship together

These topics were discussed at length and supported by scripture and many personal experiences. The sisters as well as our friends who attended these seminars found themselves actively involved in the discussion. The seminars were well prepared and presented. Everyone felt they had gained some valuable spiritual knowledge and understanding. Many sisters expressed

a renewed desire to serve God more diligently and therefore have a closer walk with Him.

Sunday morning's meeting was held in a conference room in the hotel. Brothers Paul Vitto and Leonard A. Lovalvo conducted the service. The sisters from Canada sang a hymn, and Sister Donna Amormino sang *Walking with Jesus* from the *Songs of Zion*.

Bro. Vitto spoke to us about Daniel and King Nebuchadnezzar. Brother Leonard followed, complimenting the sisters on the strength and influence the Ladies' Uplift Circle has had in the Church.

As the meeting ended it was evident that we truly had retreated from the world and feasted on spiritual pulse. We can retreat from the world and feast on a spiritually high-protein diet only if we desire and work for it. We cannot make it alone. We must say to God, "Let me have just a closer walk with Thee."

Married 50 Years

On Saturday, March 12, 1988 Apostle Gorie and Sis. Antoinette Ciaravino of Detroit Branch 4 celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at a reception hosted by their son, Gordon, and daughter, Carol Hinz.

Relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends from Michigan and as far away as California, Ohio, and Pennsylvania came to honor our brother and sister on this happy occasion.

We were especially happy and thankful to share this day with the Ciaravino's because of the massive heart attack that our Brother Gorie suffered in January, from which he has made a remarkable recovery with the help of God.

In the course of the afternoon's proceedings, we learned, among other things, that Brother Gorie and Sister Antoinette first met at a GMBA conference in Lorain, Ohio (Some things stay the same!).

Our desire and prayers are that the Lord will continue to bless our brother and sister with many more years of happiness and good health.

Branch and Mission News

Aliquippa, PA

By Karen L. Progar

MANY CALLED TO SERVICE

The morning of February 28, 1988 brought much excitement to the Aliquippa Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Even before the meeting began, we enjoyed the blessings of God in singing. Visiting young people from Florida and Ohio joined the young people of our branch and the Glassport and McKees Rocks Branches in presenting the hymn *Wave the Flags of Zion*.

Appropriately, the opening hymn was *I Need Thee Every Hour*. Bro. Bob Ciarrochi, visiting from the Warren, Ohio Branch, opened our service. His topic was that we need the Lord in order to do whatever He has for us to do. He used Ephesians 4 as his text, and instructed us that we must feel the Spirit of God moving within us or we will accomplish nothing. We must strive for lowliness of spirit and meekness of heart. Bro. Bob admonished us to give with all of our strength that which we have been given, and we will be truly blessed.

Bro. John Ali followed, reiterating the idea that without God we can do nothing. We were reminded that each of us is given different gifts, and that through these gifts we can tell the nations and show the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Presiding Elder Paul Palmieri closed our morning service, advising us to be worthy of the vocation into which we are called, chiefly that of being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ and a member of the body of Christ. The Lord is looking for people, like the faithful who have gone before us, to hold up His banner. This Church belongs to Christ, and must be kept pure, holy, and strong. We can accomplish this by giving of the best that we have.

After a lunch that was provided by the branch, we reconvened for the ordination service that afternoon. In preparation for what was to follow, Bro. Paul Ciotti of McKees Rocks spoke on how the Lord does the calling, the

magnifying, and the lifting up. He told us that now is the time to go and do the work of the Lord, and expressed a gladness at being present to witness the ordinations of our brothers and sisters.

The Aliquippa Branch was blessed on this occasion to have ordinations into the offices of deacon, deaconess, and teacher. Those ordained as teachers were Brothers David DeLuca, Pete Giannetti, Jr., Paul Aaron Palmieri, and Lou Ross. Called to the office of deaconess were Sisters Joan Gibson, Joyceann Jumper, Eleanor Palmieri, and Josephine Ross. Bro. Andrew Gula was ordained a deacon.

A wonderful spirit of peace and humility was felt in the meeting. We shared a brief time of testimony, after which our many visitors were acknowledged for their attendance and participation. We sang *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* to close the service. Our days activities did not end here, however, for we all met in the church basement for a social that evening before seeing another beautiful day in the service of the Lord draw to a close.

Detroit, Branch 4

By Marie Fera

Expressions of love and prayers for good health are sent to all of our brothers and sisters throughout the Church. As servants of the Lord our aim and goal is to please Him in every way. "Wherefore we labor, that we may be accepted of Him" (II Corinthians 5:9).

The past year we have enjoyed many blessings. We have participated in several activities, and were delighted to see many visiting brothers and sisters from other branches in the district and from out of town. We had numerous visiting elders in our midst, and their exhilarating sermons were very encouraging and inspiring, edifying and uplifting to our souls. May God continue to bless our ministry.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16).

To summarize the past year, we shared many happy times as well as sorrowful days. Five of our dear members have passed on to their reward and we miss them very much. Our love and sympathy goes out to their families, and we pray the Lord will give them comfort.

In January of 1987 we held a surprise anniversary celebration for Sis. Frances Gerace. It was her 52nd spiritual birthday. After her shock subsided she realized this day was planned for her. Her children were in our midst, along with Bro. and Sis. Don and Adrienne Collison from the Windsor Branch.

As a result of continual fasting and prayer for direction, our brothers in the priesthood felt the calling of Brother Tony and Sister Margaret Cappatuccio into the offices of deacon and deaconess. The two ordinations took place on May 30, 1987, a day we had set aside for our feet washing service. After the ordinations took place, two beautiful experiences were given confirming the calling of our brother and sister into these offices.

One year later we can sincerely say that our brother and sister have been extremely helpful and very dedicated to their duties, and have worked in harmony with the other officers of the branch.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Linda Calabro

Mother's Day was a very special day at the Hopelawn Branch. After a week of rain we were blessed with beautiful, warm sunshine which added to the joy we felt in gathering at the river's shore to witness the baptism of Sister Patricia Ann Benyola by Brother James Benyola. Not only was the sun shining outside, but it shone *inside* our building as well.

Immediately after the baptism, the Sunday School served a Mother's Day breakfast. After being naturally fed, we gathered together for our morning service where we were truly spiritually fed. Saints were visiting from Florida, Levittown, and Metuchen.

At the start of the service, Sister Pat was confirmed by Brother Joseph Perri.

(Continued on Page 9)

HOPELAWN continued . . .

Brother Paul Benyola of the Levittown Branch opened the meeting. He read from Matthew 1:18-23, concerning the birth of Jesus Christ and the joy that Mary must have experienced as the mother of the Son of God. The underlying theme of his sermon was that the Church is our spiritual mother.

Brother Leonard Benyola followed Brother Paul and asked us to reflect upon the day of our baptism. He also made an analogy between the bestowal of the Holy Ghost and the Church—both of which direct, teach, and guide us particularly when we are infants in the Gospel and throughout our lives as well. Brothers Jim Benyola and Joseph Perri touched briefly on the same message.

Brother Jeffrey Giannetti then dedicated *Just As I Am* to our new Sister Pat. In addition, various musical selections were offered by the mothers, the young people, the priesthood, and our Spanish-speaking visitors.

We are thankful that God richly blessed us from the start to the end of the day. Our hearts rejoiced to see another soul enter the fold, and our prayer is that God will bless our new sister in her endeavors to serve the Lord. Not only was it a "Happy Mother's Day" in the natural sense of the term, but in the spiritual sense as well—The Church of Jesus Christ, our spiritual mother, just adopted another child into its spiritual family.

Imperial, PA

By Jan Cornell

On Sunday, April 17, 1988 following our General Church Conference in Greensburg, Laree Larzelere from Whiteriver, Arizona asked for her baptism.

Our sister was staying with Brother and Sister James Moore of Imperial, PA. She was baptized by Bro. Jim Moore and confirmed by Bro. Rusty Heaps of Anaheim, CA. Many brothers and sisters from different branches and missions witnessed the baptism of our sister, one of the Seed of Joseph.

That evening many gathered in our branch for the ordination of Brother Tim Tarbuck as a deacon. There were

26 different branches and missions of the Church represented that evening.

Sister Arlene Buffington and Brother Eugene Amormino introduced a new *Song of Zion*, *They Say the Land Has Milk and Honey*. Wendy Jordan, a sister from Tse Bonito, NM, accompanied with her flute on several selections and Sister Donna Amormino sang for us.

Brother Dwayne Jordan from Tse Bonito opened our meeting, relating experiences of things to come and the preparation being made in his branch. He was followed by brothers from branches and missions throughout the Church.

Brother Ervin Buffington washed our Brother Tim's feet, and Bro. Rusty Heaps ordained him a deacon. Several confirming experiences were related, including one where a sister in our branch saw our brother dressed in white, walking to the front of the church with a silver chalice inscribed with the words, "Living Water."

Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Sunday, April 10, Brother Stephen Champine was ordained a teacher in the Detroit Inner City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Many brothers and sisters were there to show their love and support for Steve.

Before the ordination Brother Tony Gerace told us to aspire for greater work in Christ. We shouldn't be satisfied with what we are currently doing; we have got to do more. God called us into the Church for a reason. He wants everybody to play an active role in the work.

Brother Gerace went on to say that there aren't many laborers, and that's why it's important for us to want to do more for Christ. We are his army; we are not very large in number, but we're strong in the Spirit we received on the day of our baptism. Therefore we can go forth with the assurance that God will help us to fight the battles of this life.

Brother Carl Frammolino, visiting from Santa Ana, California, encouraged us to stir up the gift that is within us. That gift is the Holy Spirit, and it's in everyone who obeys the Word of God.

To stir it up means to get excited for the things of God. To have a readiness of heart, so that when God calls on us to do something we will do it right away with no hesitation. In order to maintain this attitude, we should fast and pray as often as we can, read the scriptures every day, and sing the *Songs of Zion*.

Before the ordination, we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Bro. John Straccia washed Bro. Steve's feet. He was then ordained by Bro. Carl Frammolino.

After the ordination two confirming experiences were given. We then sang *Give Me Understanding, Lord*.

In his testimony Bro. Steve expressed a desire to carry the spirit of Zion in his heart. He said that we need to go out and share our testimony with the Spirit of God, because then people will feel it and they will believe that what we tell them is true.

Our brother humbly confessed to us that this ordination does not suddenly make him a great person, nor does it give him all kinds of power, but it *does* make him a more responsible servant to God and His children. Bro. Steve told us that he is there for those who need uplifting, or exhorting, or instruction. He was very happy that the Lord called him out of the world and brought him into the Church.

After our brother's testimony, Sis. Julia Cotellesse sang the hymn, *Bringing in the Sheaves*, after which we shared testimonies and ended the beautiful day in prayer.

Our hope is that God will use our brother to help gather His people.

Lorain, OH

By Katherine Cocco

Brother Mark Naro was ordained a teacher by Brother Frank Altomare on Sunday, May 15, 1988. It is so special to be called into an office by the Lord Jesus Christ. Bro. Mark first of all had a desire to work for the Lord, but beyond that he was shown in an experience that he was called into this office by our Savior, a spiritual calling. It was also shown many years ago in an experience had by Sis. Josephine Dominico, now living in San Diego.

(Continued on Page 10)

LORAIN continued . . .

Bro. Mark's feet were washed by his father, Bro. Charles Naro, also a teacher. Bro. Chuck has just recuperated from his second heart attack. It was such a blessing to see father and son embracing and enjoying God's Holy Spirit anointing them. May God richly bless Bro. Mark and his wife, Sis. Carey, as they go on in their lives working together to serve our Lord and Master.

We want to thank God for His protection over all His people. Especially, at this time, for preserving the life of Bro. Mike Cocco. Brother Mike works at the B. F. Goodrich plant in Avon Lake, Ohio. There was a big explosion at the building where Mike was working during the evening hours. The third and fourth floors of the building were completely blown up, and fire raged throughout the building. Mike works on the fourth floor, but miraculously the Lord kept him on the first floor at the time of the explosion and spared the lives of all six men in the building.

Erie, PA

By Phyllis V. Kovacic

A SPECIAL DAY

This special Sabbath day started at 9:30 a.m. at the church building with members and friends. After prayer, everyone went to their cars to meet at the water's edge for the baptism of Brother Herman Schez. At the waters, our new brother was baptized by Apostle Russell Cadman, per his request. It was a cool, cloudy day, but all our hearts were warm and happy.

After returning to church, our meeting was opened by Bro. Cadman. He spoke on the theme, "You must be born again of the water and the Spirit." Brother Cadman explained why we believe as we do, and elaborated upon the mode of baptism we observe. All the ordinances we practice are scriptural. Baptism in Christ includes living our lives above reproach.

Brother Cadman was followed by Bro. Russ Martorana of Niles, Ohio. Our brother said that we should rejoice when we become a child of God in the Gospel. He read of Alma's conversion, and then related a dream he had before joining the Church. In it, he was told that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the truth.

Brothers T. Dom Bucci and Harold Burge also spoke a few words of testimony on this day. Our new Brother Schez was then confirmed by Evangelist Bucci. There were other testimonies heard concerning the goodness of God, and the goodness of being in His Gospel.

We dismissed the meeting and enjoyed lunch with our visitors, who came from Fredonia, McKees Rocks, Niles, Ohio, Sis. Carolyn Light from San Diego (originally from Niles and Erie), and Bro. Bob Dyer of Gastonia, NC, also originally from Erie. He had spent a week in Erie visiting with Bob Jr. and his wife, Sally.

Everyone went home this day filled with the overwhelming Love of God.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Sunday May 1 was a beautiful warm day, and the Lord blessed us by calling another soul into His fold.

Brother Lou Vitto had the song *I Surrender All* on his mind Saturday evening, and planned on speaking on that subject today. During community singing before the service, Bro. Lou asked the priesthood to retire to the side room to pray for the service. On returning, he asked that two chairs be set up in front for those who might need prayer. As we sang *Sweet Anointing*, a total of eleven people came forward. One of them was George Parry. Brother John Straccia anointed him, and prayed for a healing of his soul as well as his body. After the prayer, George asked for his baptism. "I am tired of fighting," he said. Bro. Lou commented that when the fruit is ripe, if you shake the tree a little, the fruit will fall.

Numerous other anointings took place, with mighty prayers being offered for natural and spiritual help for our brothers and sisters in Christ. The congregation was united in prayer with the priesthood, and the Lord heard and answered our prayers. One sister testified that she had been delivered from torment by the evil one this morning as hands were laid upon her.

During another prayer, in which Bro. Spencer Everett mentioned, "She is a child of God," Bro. Straccia heard a voice saying, "Indeed she is My child;

I paid a precious price for her, and I will not let any of you go." As soon as this experience was related, Sis. Judy Champagne stood and said she was praying that someone would receive such an experience at the same time these words came to Bro. John.

There was no sermon preached today, but the Lord was truly with us. Brother George said he would rather wait for his baptism until his mother-in-law could come up from Florida. In closing we all joined hands and sang *I Surrender All*, and were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Jerry Chambers.

At 9:30 a.m. on Sunday May 8, a nice group of sisters and brothers met at the baptismal site and Bro. Lou Vitto baptized Bro. George. His mother-in-law, Sister Philomena Bartuccio of Cape Coral, Florida was here, along with other family members from out of town, to witness the baptism. What a glorious and wonderful day when Jesus takes our sins away. We made our way to the branch, and enjoyed coffee and doughnuts before the morning service began.

One of our opening hymns was *Are You Washed in the Blood*, and our new brother could truly testify to that today. Brother George was confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett. Brother Richard Thomas, visiting from Branch 1, spoke on Alma 29:10, which portrays Alma's joy in seeing a repentant soul come to Christ.

The young children sang a tribute to the mothers on this Mother's Day, then they passed out carnations to all the mothers present. Afterward, Sister Rosemary Szufnar sang *First Love*. A beautiful spirit was felt by all present as we were dismissed by Brother John Buffa, each one to go to their homes to further honor their mothers.

*Peace will only come, says the pure
white dove,
When every man's heart is filled with
love.*

* **WEDDINGS** *MAZZEO—WYCOFF

Brother Daniel Frank Mazzeo and Sister Mary Jane Wycoff were united in holy matrimony on May 7, 1988 in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Brother Frank Mazzeo, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony. Attendants were Steven Mazzeo, the brother of the groom, and Gabrielle Vajtay, a friend of the bride.

May the Lord's blessings be upon our brother and sister in their life together.

New Arrivals

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

Desiree Renee to Paul Aaron and Kim Palmieri of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Children Blessed

Echo Leah Winterrowd was blessed by Bro. Thomas Ross in Aliquippa, PA on October 18, 1987. Echo is the daughter of Larry and Judith Winterrowd.

Chelsea Lynn Giannetti, daughter of Bro. Pete and Sis. Wendy Giannetti, was blessed in Aliquippa, PA on December 27, 1988 by Bro. Tony Ross.

On March 20, 1988, Amber Katherine Lewandowski was blessed in the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Fred Olexa.

Joshua James Huff, Bryan Lee Hunt, and Lance Michael Hunt, sons of Paula Hunt, were blessed by Brothers Daniel Parravano, Dominic Thomas, and Leonard A. Lovalvo on May 8, 1988 at Detroit Branch 2.

OBITUARIES

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

LINDA HENDERSON

Linda Henderson passed from this life on October 28, 1987 after an extended illness. She was born on November 3, 1946 and was blessed in the Church by her grandfather, Bro. Carmine Campitelle, in Detroit, Michigan.

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Peter Scolaro and Louis Vitto.

Linda is survived by her husband Allen, four daughters aged ten to fifteen years, her mother, Sis. Mary Dichiera

Campitelle of Detroit Branch 1, and her sister, Judith Renschler. Linda was the type of person who brightened the life of everyone she met, and many friends and relatives feel her loss deeply.

PAULINE DULISSE

Sister Pauline Dulisse, a longtime member of the San Diego, CA Branch, passed away March 17, 1988. Born August 23, 1909, our sister was baptized March 3, 1929.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Joe Bologna.

Sis. Pauline will be missed by her husband John, her son Joe, three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild, as well as many of the saints.

RALPH LEET

Bro. Ralph Leet of Detroit, Michigan Branch 4 passed from this life on April 13, 1988. He was born January 28, 1906 and became a member of the Church on May 30, 1948. Our brother was ordained an elder in 1950 and an evangelist in 1956.

Brothers Frank Vitto and Tullio LaCivita officiated at the funeral.

Brother Ralph is survived by his wife Charlotte, a sister, three daughters, and eight grandchildren.

ELSIE MARINETTI

Sister Elsie Marinetti passed on to her eternal reward on April 13, 1988. A member of the Detroit, Michigan Branch 4, she was born on January 20, 1929 and was baptized on October 15, 1944 by Bro. Carmine Campitelle.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Paul and Frank Vitto.

Left to mourn are her mother, Sis. Nicoletta Lombardo, two brothers, her husband Michael, three daughters, three sons, and two grandchildren.

SARAH LOMBARDO

Sister Sarah Lombardo of Detroit, Branch 4 passed away on April 15, 1988. Born on May 15, 1909 in Saginaw, Michigan, she was baptized by Bro. Carmine Campitelle on June 20, 1937.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Anthony Lovalvo and Frank Vitto. Our departed sister's grandson, Bro. Ken Lombardo of Metuchen, NJ, offered a musical selection.

(Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES continued . . .

Our sister is survived by three brothers, four sisters, four daughters, a son, eighteen grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren. Two sons, Bro. Chester Lombardo and Joseph Lombardo, preceded her in death.

PATSY RENDA

Brother Patsy Renda, born February 27, 1923 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, died April 23, 1988 in New Brunswick. He was baptized October 8, 1939.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Tom Banyascki and Wilbert McNeil.

He leaves to mourn his wife, Sister Geneva Renda, three sisters, two daughters, a son, and four grandchildren.

Our brother will truly be missed by the brothers and sisters of the Atlantic Coast District. May God comfort and bless his family.

MESSAGE continued . . .

BUSY

From what has been detailed, it is easy to see how busy the evangelists have been in Ohio. Also to be considered is that many of the evangelists hold General Church and General Quorum of Seventy offices and committee positions.

While the labors are going on in Ohio, they are also progressing in all districts of the Church. They are, as

presented in the past, supported by other efforts of the ministry, the laity, the Missionary Benevolent Association, and the Ladies' Circles.

Certainly, other districts and other evangelists can be cited as the overall mission of spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being carried out. Hopefully, we may report on them in the future.

The many miles traveled and the many hours of sacrifice are not major concerns when brothers such as those mentioned above speak of their work for the Lord. Rather, they thank God for protecting them and allowing them to perform their work for Him.

GREETINGS continued . . .

anyway." The love of the people in Italy is no different than in America or anywhere else. God's love is so rich and pure, so fathomless and strong; it is higher than the highest star and deeper than the lowest hell.

The love they showed to me in Italy was boundless. One day two sisters came to me with a scarf and gloves, and an ass laden with a mattress. I could not accept the mattress. "When your husbands go up on the mountain to watch their sheep, where do they sleep?" "On the ground," they answered. "You are the Lord's sheep, and I am as your husbands. I have come to be with you in body, mind, and spirit."

They cried, but they understood. As I write this I wish that I could have stayed with them longer. The harvest is still great, but the laborers are few, very few. Lord of the harvest, please send laborers into the field.

How do you describe courage, brothers and sisters?

Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

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August, 1988

Volume 44, No. 8

Mission Dedicated in Riverbank, California

The weekend of July 2, 3, and 4 held special meaning for the brothers and sisters of the Riverbank, California Mission as they dedicated the church building they have been remodeling over the past months.

Those who attended the dedication service in Riverbank, located several miles north of Modesto, CA, also had the opportunity to participate in other activities planned that weekend, including a typically Hispanic meal of tamales, rice, and beans, as well as an Independence Day picnic in the park.

Missionary work in the Riverbank area began in 1976. At that time, meetings were held in different homes in the area. As they grew, the congregation met in several different buildings before finding the present location, which was a condemned home before the brothers and sisters labored diligently to transform it into a church building. About 50 people, members and non-members, regularly attend the services in Riverbank.

Brothers Lou Parravano and Matthew Picciuto are the presiding elder and first counselor at the mission. Sermons preached in English are translated into Spanish for the congregation, most of whom are Spanish-speaking.

Being active in the mission field is nothing short of a miracle for Bro. Parravano, who almost died of a serious heart attack two years ago at the age of 66. The Lord saw fit to spare his life, though, and through his illness Bro. Lou became part of a four-year government funded study to determine if diet and exercise can reduce the trend of hardening of the arteries.

As part of the study, Bro. Lou was placed on a restricted low fat, low calorie diet and is required to exercise three times a week at a cardiac rehabilitation center, in addition to walking three days a week. Today he is in better health than most 68-year old men who have never had a heart attack.

Participating in this study has also helped Bro. Lou take a more active role in the missionary work of the Church. "Before I exercised regularly, I used to have arthritis pains, a sore knee, and a bad back. Now I have no pain. I realize that I have to exercise to stay healthy." Through exercise, the limits that were placed on Bro. Parravano's activity have been removed, and today he is laboring, both naturally and spiritually, to spread the Gospel among the Seed of Joseph in the Riverbank area. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless our brother with continued good health as he endeavors to labor for Him.

The General Church Apostles have requested that each district set aside a special day of fasting and prayer every week until the October, 1988 General Conference. The districts have been assigned as follows:

SUNDAY - Southwest
MONDAY - Michigan-Ontario
TUESDAY - Florida
WEDNESDAY - Ohio
THURSDAY - Pennsylvania
FRIDAY - Atlantic Coast
SATURDAY - Pacific Coast

Notice

The next General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference will be held at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on September 24, 1988 at 10:00 a.m., instead of October 8, 1988 at Greensburg, Pennsylvania as reported earlier.

Sis. Mary Tamburrino
Circle Editor

Branch 3 of Detroit, Michigan is happy to announce its new location at 12500 Plumbrook in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Our dedication service will be held on August 21, 1988. All are welcome to attend.

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

PRIDE OR LOVE?

Of the six things that God hates, a "proud look" is number one. It's above a lying tongue, and the shedding of innocent blood. A proud person can be classified as arrogant, conceited, and haughty. Jesus came to persuade His followers to be gentle, meek, and lowly of heart, but most people seek the opposite—"Who is going to be the greatest?"

It may be possible to compel men to become gentle, even as Jesus demonstrated in life.

The very essence of Jesus was, "Learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:29). Egotism is destructive to the egotist. What glory is there in arrogance? If humans are to survive, they must change to the spirit of acceptance of each other with a degree of understanding, the very nature that gives us life.

Each generation has tried to find a new theory, both in government and manner of living, but the real need of survival has yet to be met. Each generation gives us new things to make life more modern, more scientific, but not more meaningful. Suspicion, fear, and unhappiness are still a part of our daily life.

Voluminous articles of agreements, countless hours and days of talks, but they still have not touched upon the true need of living together free from fear.

As time marches on, man must face up to the reality that every human being has some contribution to make towards the others.

Pride has not served even the proud and haughty; it only isolates the very causes we seek to unify.

All the parliaments, all religions, and all changes of governments have not been able to bring true unity. However, each coming year is bringing us closer to the day of a real awakening, when no one will say, "Come not near me, for I am holier than you," but rather, "Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths."

"Come you together, let us beat our swords into plowshares, and our spears into pruning-hooks, for nation shall not lift sword against nation, neither shall we learn of war anymore. Then every nation and kindred and tongue and people shall say with a loud voice, fear God, and give glory to him that lives forever; for the hour of his judgment is come. Worship him that made the heavens and the earth, and seas." Yes, each year brings mankind closer to the reality that there is one Lord and we are all brothers, "the family of God."

Then; "Peace on earth, and good will toward men," will be no longer a dream, but a fulfillment of truth.

It may be sooner than you think. Happy are they who live with this blessed hope, and labor with all their might for the building of God's everlasting kingdom of righteousness. If you have not started, *start now* even in a small way. Moses started by using his *staff*; what a simple way, but what a great accomplishment resulted.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your outpouring of prayers, cards, flowers, visits, telephone calls, and other expressions of love and concern during my sudden illness and recent surgery.

I was so blessed, and felt so unworthy, to receive so many love-filled greetings from branches, missions, and individuals throughout the Church. It was a beautiful blessing and a truly humbling experience for me.

All through what the doctors had said would be a very painful ordeal, the Lord spared me from feeling any pain at all. The medical experts were amazed when I did not ask for the pain medication they had prescribed for me, and it gave me an opportunity to glorify the name of the Lord.

Through my affliction, God gave me many beautiful blessings and experiences, and allowed me to share His love and His peace with others who do not know what it is to have Christ in their lives. I ask for your continued prayers during my long recovery, that I may be able to carry on in the work that the Lord has given me to do.

In Christ,

Brother Nick Pietrangelo
Detroit Branch 1

I would like to thank all the brothers and sisters for their prayers and cards, and their beautiful words of encouragement in my behalf during my one-week stay in the hospital.

I can surely say that I felt the effect of all the prayers, as each day I feel better. My hope is to hold fast to the Rod of Iron and to stand firm on that solid Rock, which is Jesus Christ.

May God bless all of you. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Sis. Anna Draskovich
R.D. 2, Box 610
Greensburg, PA 15601

On May 6, 1988 the doctors confirmed that our unborn child had not developed a bladder or kidneys, nor was there any fluid surrounding the baby. They told us there would be no chance of survival for the baby.

As we left the doctor's office, our hearts were filled with sorrow, concern, fear, and a great burden. We went for a walk that afternoon and talked about our individual fears and concerns, and reminded ourselves that the only thing we could do was to place our complete faith and trust in God. We agreed that we needed to call upon our brothers and sisters and family, so that the word would be spread that we needed their

(Continued on Page 3)

Our Women Today

PA Circle Retreat

By Dorothy Schaeffer

The Pennsylvania Area Circle held a retreat on May 14 and 15, 1988 at Greentree, PA with twenty-eight sisters present representing seven circles. The Vanderbilt Circle was in charge of the devotional period, which included the reading of I Corinthians 13—the chapter on Charity.

Sister Sara Vancik, chairperson, welcomed the sisters and gave her report on the activities for the past year as well as the goals for the coming year. The circles of the area are increasing their activities to help the missions of

the Church as the needs are becoming greater each year.

Donations were made to the Evangelist Radio Fund and to the Pennsylvania District Mission Board. The project for the next six months is to raise money for the Radio Fund.

In the afternoon, a seminar entitled "Joy" was presented by Sisters Joyce and Marty Jumper. There was a lively discussion on the personal joys in the Gospel, after which a panel discussion was held by six sisters who had spent time in various missionary fields. Sisters Iva Fedorka and Jan Cornell brought the afternoon service to a close by giving a slide presentation of their recent trip to India.

To help the sisters get better acquainted with one another, each sister was introduced in a very unique and

pleasant manner. The remainder of the evening was spent in testimonies, which were very inspiring and uplifting to all.

For the Sunday service, Brothers Bill Colangelo and Raymond Cosetti met with the sisters. The scripture was read from I Thessalonians 4:10-12. In his discourse, Bro. Colangelo praised the work of the sisters in the circle who help to spread the good news of the Gospel. He said, "We have become vessels of honor, ready for the Master's use," and likened the Circle to the scripture found in Matthew 25:34-40, inasmuch as we have fed and clothed the least of these our brethren, we have done it unto the Lord. There were testimonies, and then sacrament was administered, which brought the meeting to a close.

It was a beautiful and inspiring weekend spent in sweet fellowship with the sisters.

THANKS continued . . .

prayers. As we began to telephone loved ones, the burdens grew lighter and lighter with each call. The next evening, God gave us a short dream:

A large chartered bus pulled up to our home, and one by one, brothers and sisters from all over the Church came off, entered our home, embraced us, and told us that they were praying for us. What a comfort to know that we were being lifted up in prayer!

God gave many other experiences telling us that He would take care of us, and through your prayers and the power of God, on June 20, 1988 the doctors stated that they could now see a bladder, two kidneys, and a little bit of fluid! They said that they could not explain why, but we knew that by prayers and faith, and the power of Jesus Christ, we had witnessed a miracle.

We ask for your continued prayers, for us and for others, that we might begin to see greater convincing power upon the Church of the Lamb of God.

May God bless you,

Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Natoli
Rochester, NY Mission

MBA Highlights

Southwest MBA

By Renee Scolaro

The Southwest Area MBA sponsored a weekend retreat in Lakeside, Arizona on June 19 and 20, 1988. About fifty were in attendance, including young children as well as adults.

Saturday morning, everyone met at the Lakeside Branch to organize a review of the day's events. We separated into two groups, one of which went horseback riding while the other group walked the Mogollon Rim, a beautiful trail through pine and oak forest dotted with narrative markers telling how the Indians and settlers used many of the natural resources of the land for survival. We later regrouped at a park and participated in recreation and pleasant conversation.

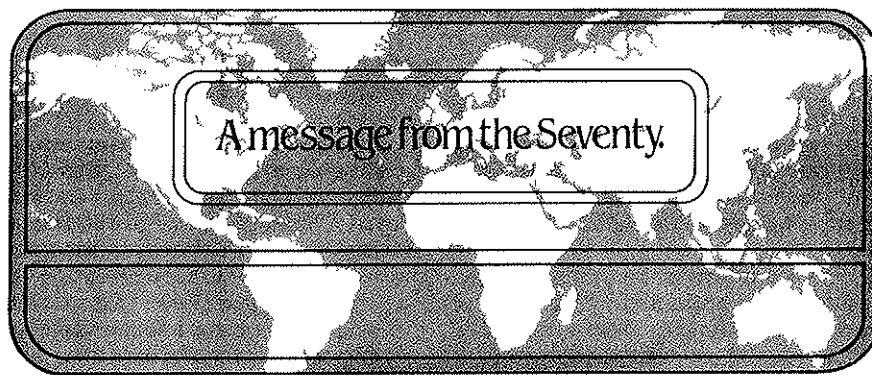
The Lakeside sisters graciously prepared our meals, which were served at the church building. After lunch, the seminar teachers began their classes, which emphasized family life and the important role it plays in our social and spiritual lives. Both children and parents were involved in these seminars.

An Area MBA business/activities committee meeting was held afterward, during which election of officers took place and activities were planned for the coming months. It looks like we can look forward to an exciting year!

After dinner, we held an evening singspiration and testimony meeting. The theme of our testimony meeting was: "Why I Came to Arizona." Looking at the people in our area, we find that only the very young, and the American Indian brothers and sisters, are natives of Arizona. The rest of us are "transplants" from different areas of the country. It was very interesting to listen to the experiences of our members—of how God directed them to move to the Southwest.

Our Sunday meeting was conducted by the Southwest District evangelists. We can comment that the time spent during these two days was refreshing, relaxing, and spiritually uplifting.

We are happy to inform you that Vol. 3 of the Bound Gospel News is now available at the Print House for \$17.00 plus postage. For an additional \$1.00 we will print your name on the cover. When you order your book, please be sure to print your name exactly as you want it to appear on the cover. Send your orders to: Print House Library, 8423 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridge-water, MI 48115.



"Placing All Things In God's Hands"

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

PRAYER ESSENTIAL

"Placing all things in God's hands" is the way that The Church of Jesus Christ's newest evangelist, Paul Carr, has been able to labor for the Gospel. Brother Carr, who was ordained an evangelist at the last April General Church Conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania and who departs next month for his fourth tour of duty in Nigeria, West Africa, has found, as we all have, that God has directed and provided for him and his loved ones.

His desire to work for God started as a child. He recalled recently, "Many years ago, I sat as a child and then as a young man, listening to our brothers of the ministry, such as Apostles Isaac Smith [his maternal grandfather], William Cadman, and Charles Ashton. They told us about the work that would be done in our generation. As a young boy I remember I was excited although I did not know just exactly what they were talking about.

"My parents (Elder Jesse and Ruth Carr) traveled continuously among the saints of God, and I was privileged to listen to many wonderful things. Often we'd sit around the table hearing about God's goodness from brothers like Anthony DiBattista, Charles Curry, and Alvin Swanson. I was enthralled as I listened to their experiences and expectations of the future.

"The desire to work for God continued to grow, but I never thought I'd be called to work in a foreign land. As a youth, I talked to my father about my future and my hopes to work for God, and he explained that this was a 'good desire' and to continue to pray about it."

Brother Paul, who was baptized into the Gospel on January 27, 1957 and was ordained into the priesthood on May 13, 1979, had been taught to pray about all things, "placing all things in God's hands"; and he said he has found this to be essential from his earlier years. Now 47 years old, he reminisced about how he even prayed concerning whom he should marry.

Shortly thereafter, he was shown in a dream the woman who would be his wife. He said that he did not know the young lady, but sometime later he went to Detroit, Michigan to attend a GMBA Conference and saw a girl singing in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania choir whom he recognized to be the young woman wearing a wedding dress in his dream. She was Thressa Seighman, whose maternal grandfather was Apostle James Cowan. Even though they were both from Pennsylvania, their paths had not crossed until this point.

"I left it in the hands of God, and He worked it out for us. We were married five years later and have been very blessed in the 27 years (June 1988) of our life together."

Sister Thressa, as everyone familiar with the couple know, has been a tremendous help to Brother Paul. Her desire to be with her husband in the mission field has allowed him to have great liberty and strength in dealing with life abroad. Also, this has allowed them to have their family with them from the beginning of their time in Africa. Their youngest son, John, will be returning with them again, as will be the adorable Nigerian orphaned child, Penny IMA, now four years old, over whom they have been granted custody by the Nigerian government.

The Carrs have four other children: Paul and Cheryl, who have also lived in Africa, and two married daughters, Tami Price and Annette Whelan. All have been baptized. They also have seven grandchildren.

NO IDEA

Evangelist Carr said that five years ago he had no idea he would stay in Africa so long. He said he only knew that the Lord had ordained the work from before and now He was sending him. He had the following dream the night before he was to appear before the General Church Mission Board.

"A few other brothers and I were sitting in a large brightly lit room. We were called individually by an elderly sister, who was the receptionist, to go into her office. When I went in, the light, which was natural and not artificial, increased. She looked up at me, smiled, told me to pass through the door, and checked my name on the list.

"As I entered the next room, the light increased even more, although I had thought that to be impossible. I sat down alongside some of the brothers in great anticipation.

"Soon Jesus Christ appeared in front of us. The light was so bright that no one could look upon Him. As we bowed our heads, Our Lord approached each one of us, anointing us with oil. It seemed that, as the oil was placed on my head, it covered my entire body, inside and out.

"He then moved back a short distance, and I could see He was not touching the ground; but still we were not able to look upon His face because of the light shining around Him. He then spoke, saying, 'Go ye unto all nations, preaching My Everlasting Gospel, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. I will be with you even to the end of time.'"

CHURCH GROWING

Brother Carr stated that the Church is growing in Nigeria. He said that Brother E. A. U. Arthur, also an evangelist and Paramount Ruler of over five million people in that area, is as strong as when he first took the helm of the Church in Africa. This is a great blessing, considering Brother Arthur is over 106 years old. Brother E. A.

(Continued on Page 6)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The significance of prayer in our lives cannot be overemphasized. Without the ability to call upon the name of God, we could not even *begin* to understand His ways. Without constantly looking to the Lord for strength, we could not hope to attain salvation for our souls. And we have probably experienced times in our lives when, without the prayers of our brothers and sisters and our loved ones, we would not have been able to endure the storms of life.

Each of us has a testimony of a time when God has come to our immediate rescue, perhaps in very tangible ways, when we cried out to Him for help. We can also testify to the constant provision, protection, and deliverance He has bestowed upon us as a result of our calling upon His name daily. And we know of many accounts, some of which have appeared in these pages, where people have moved the hand of God through their diligent fastings and prayers and consistent obedience to His word. Through our own experience, through hearing the testimonies of others, and through reading the Bible and Book of Mormon, we can come to the logical conclusion that prayer does indeed change things.

At this writing, the General Church has called for us to set aside one day a week, a different day for each district, to call upon the name of the Lord in fasting and prayer on behalf of the needs of the entire Church. As we participate in this effort to petition God in fasting and prayer, as we prove to Him, through our steadfastness and our obedience, that we are *serious* about our desire to serve Him, we can be certain that the Lord will answer.

What exactly are the needs that we are praying for? Without attempting to enumerate them, we can simply say that there is a great and marvelous work to be done among the children of men, and we understand The Church of Jesus Christ, *our* Church, to play a crucial role in bringing about the fulfillment of God's plan. But we can see with our own eyes our insufficiencies, and wonder in our minds how, as individuals and as a Church, we are going to get from where we are to where we should be. For the Church to become that bride of Christ we read about, a people whose righteousness is sufficient to render Satan powerless, we must call upon the Lord in mighty prayer.

God's word will come to pass, whether we pray for it or not. But if we want to be on His side when these prophecies are fulfilled, we must become everything that Christ has taught us to be through His word. The smaller, more immediate needs that come to our minds are all part of that "long term" goal. If we can each take on our share of the task, if we can all pray for the needs of the Church, our collective goal will indeed be reached.

For the Lord to answer our prayers and supply the needs of the Church, there must be surrender, labor, and sacrifice by all of us; there's no way around it. But the *desire* to be used of God, and the unspeakable joy that results from it, in this life and in the life to come, comes as the result of much prayer and fasting.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Abraham's Son

Dear friends,

Abraham had reached a good old age before he and Sarah were able to conceive a child. They named their baby Isaac. Now as Isaac grew, Abraham and Sarah knew that they wanted their son to marry a girl that believed in and served the one true God, as they did.

Abraham and Sarah did not want their son to pray to statues or bow down before idols. They knew that clay and stone and wood can't hear people; only God can do that.

Isaac was very close with his parents. They lived in tents and wandered across the great land of Canaan with all of their thousands of sheep and camels. Their family had many servants traveling and living with them too. God blessed Abraham, and he was a rich and powerful leader.

But Abraham was old now, and there were no girls of his religion for his son to marry. But Abraham had faith; he knew God could be trusted to find the right wife for his son.

So Abraham called his most trusted servant and said, "My son needs a good girl of our faith. My family lives far away in the city of Nahor. Perhaps there is a good girl of our faith there who will come and marry Isaac. Do not take Isaac with you, but bring the girl back to us."

The servant asked Abraham, "But what if she won't come? Shall I return and take Isaac to her?"

Abraham replied, "No, God has promised me that Isaac will have children who will inherit all the blessings and promises of God. I trust God will give him a wife. Now go."



marry a man of their faith and live far, far away.

Rebekah said 'yes' and this lovely girl packed up all her belongings and left the home of her parents for a new land and a new husband—but *not* a new religion.

The servant showered her with jewels of silver, jewels of gold, beautiful clothes and precious things, but Rebekah was given something else more precious: the blessings of God and love of a godly man.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

So Abraham's servant took ten camels loaded with food, supplies, tents, and gifts, and left straight for the land of Nahor. When he arrived, he prayed and said, "Oh, God of my master Abraham, I ask you, send me good speed this day and show kindness unto my master Abraham. Behold, I stand by the well of Nahor, where all of the girls from the city come to get water for their families." (In those days there was no running water. People carried big containers of water to their houses to be used for drinking or bathing.)

The servant continued, "Let it come to pass, God, that when I say to one of the girls getting water, 'Let down your pitcher so I may drink, please,' that she will say, 'Drink, and I will pour water for your camels, too.' I will then know who is the right wife for Isaac."

Before Abraham's servant had even finished his prayer, he looked and saw a very pretty girl coming toward him. Faithfully he asked her for a drink, and she replied, "I will draw water for your camels, too."

What joy the servant felt! God had heard his prayers. He asked her, "Who is your father?" and found out that she was of Abraham's people who served the one, true God. The servant bowed down his head and worshipped the Lord.

Giving her a heavy gold earring and two gold bracelets, the servant followed Rebekah (for this was the girl's name) to meet her father and mother, and her brother, Laban. They welcomed him as family and the servant told them about Abraham and about his prayers to God for a wife for Isaac. The family was amazed, and they felt the power of God in his testimony. They were willing to allow Rebekah to go, if she wanted, to

MESSAGE continued . . .

Ebong is the other evangelist in Nigeria.

The brothers there are willing to sacrifice for the Church. Brother Carr reported that every couple of months Brother George Ekpo, the General Church Secretary in Nigeria, with approval from Brother Arthur, assigns each elder on a rotational basis throughout Nigeria. They accept their assignments willingly, even though travel is difficult and expenses are great.

In concluding his observations, Evangelist Carr expressed his feelings about International Medical Assistance (IMA). "I believe that everyone knows I am very supportive of this organization. We see those so near death come to the clinic and receive help, both spiritually and naturally.

"The Church of Jesus Christ holds services every morning at the clinic before we open. People for miles around know that brothers and sisters throughout The Church of Jesus Christ help in supporting IMA."

In summary, Brother Carr, a dynamic, hard, and determined worker, said that he thanks God for all things. He also wanted to thank all the brothers, sisters, and friends who have helped to support all the Church work in Africa, including the secondary school and newly-formed orphanage.

Our prayers go with the Carrs, and we all thank them for their valiant and exemplary work for The Gospel of Jesus Christ, as they continue to "place all things in God's hands."

Branch and Mission News

McKees Rocks, PA

By Diane Ciotti

The "Son" was shining in McKees Rocks on Sunday, October 4, 1987. As we began our Sunday service, the good news was announced that Linda Manes had requested baptism.

Bro. Alma Nolfi of the Glassport Branch, who was visiting with us, felt compelled to speak on that very thing—"Sonshine." In the world, we can find ourselves in desperate situations where it seems impossible for the "sun" to shine. Yet, if the Lord lives within our hearts, the "Son" can shine in any dark, lonely condition. Bro. Alma used the example of when Paul and Silas were cast into the innermost prison, where for most there would seem to be no hope. But Paul and Silas' prayers and songs of praise caused the prison walls to fall and allowed them to be freed.

Our new Sister Linda was then taken into the waters by her father, Bro. John Manes. Bro. Raymond Cosetti offered a beautiful confirmation prayer, asking God to shield our sister from all evils and bless her with the gift of love.

This day had also been set aside for our feet washing service, which provided an opportunity for our new sister to participate in this ordinance for the first time. How we rejoice to witness the drawing power of God!

Many visitors made their way to our branch on Sunday, November 1, 1987 to witness the ordinations of Brothers Dick Lawson and Paul Ciotti as evangelists in the Church. We were especially pleased to have our brothers and sisters from the Bridgeport, West Virginia Mission in attendance.

The speakers for the day, Brothers Frank Ciotti, Paul Palmieri, Russell Cadman, and John Manes, focused on the message of Christ, "Go ye into all the world and preach my Gospel." We must proclaim the restored Gospel and the hope for salvation through Jesus Christ.

Brother Bob Buffington, chairman of

the Pennsylvania District evangelists, spoke on the duties and responsibilities of this office and the importance of this calling, not only for the Church, but for the entire world.

Bro. Paul Palmieri washed the feet of Bro. Dick Lawson and he was ordained by Bro. Fred Olexa. Bro. John Manes washed Bro. Paul Ciotti's feet, and he was ordained by Bro. Russell Cadman.

Our two new evangelists expressed their desires to work for the cause of Christ in the establishment of His kingdom.

How true are the words of the poet, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning"! The saints of the McKees Rocks Branch have witnessed six more souls making a commitment to Jesus Christ. God is so good, and moves in such a mysterious way.

In August of 1987, Mary Joswiak gave her testimony to Thu Ricci. Thu, her husband Dennis, and their four children began to attend our services in McKees Rocks. The Spirit of God was working strongly with this family. Their oldest son, 20-year old Anthony, requested baptism and was taken into the waters by Bro. Paul Ciotti on February 21, 1988 and confirmed by Bro. Dick Lawson. The night before his baptism, Anthony had a vision showing the truth of The Church of Jesus Christ, confirming to him that he had made the right decision.

The Spirit of God continued to work and 11-year old Matthew Ricci requested to be blessed in the Church after receiving a wonderful dream from the Lord.

Several weeks later Dennis and Thu Ricci requested baptism. On March 2, 1988, Sis. Thu was baptized by Bro. Paul Ciotti and confirmed by Bro. John Manes. Bro. Dennis was baptized by Bro. Frank Ciotti and confirmed by Bro. Bill Colangelo. Many glorious experiences were given to confirm their calling into the Church.

As we continued to pray to God for more souls, He responded by touching the hearts of Dennis Manant, Paul

Paulin, and Johnny Manes. Bro. Dennis Manant stated he needed a change in his life and found the answer in The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Paul Paulin testified that God spoke audibly to him several times during church services, revealing the reality of this Church. Bro. Johnny Manes declared he had waited long enough, and now it was time to yield to God's calling.

On May 1, 1988 we visited the baptismal waters. Bro. Dennis Manant was baptized by Bro. Paul Ciotti and confirmed by Bro. John Manes. Bro. Paul was baptized by Bro. John Manes and confirmed by Bro. Bill Colangelo. Bro. John Manes also had the privilege of baptizing his son, Johnny, who was later confirmed by Bro. Raymond Cosetti.

There were many experiences given confirming that these baptisms were the will of God. Come and visit us, and we will share them with you. We feel that God will continue to work with us as we apply ourselves to His word.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Linda Calabro

On May 22, 1988 the Hopelawn Branch was blessed with a double portion of the Lord's Spirit. Two souls, Olga and Mario Morales (husband and wife), rendered obedience unto the Lord.

At the start of our service, we received an added blessing when Olga and Mario's nephew, Kenneth Yanez, was blessed by Brother Joseph Perri. Brother Leonard Benyola then opened our service, relating an experience that is recorded in the *Latter Day Revelations of the Church of Jesus Christ* (dream book). The experience was as follows.

On Saturday, June 23, 1934, during a fasting and prayer meeting, a woman beheld a black book with gold letters that read, "Where is the first love that I have put into your hearts?" Bro. Leonard asked us to delve within our hearts and pose this question to ourselves. He then read from I Corinthians 13:4, concerning the characteristics borne by the love of God. Our brother encouraged us to closely examine ourselves and take an inventory of our spiritual lives.

(Continued on Page 8)

NEW JERSEY continued . . .

Brother Joseph Perri followed, exhorting us to be missionaries wherever we go—at work, home, school, etc. He stated that it is not necessary to travel to a foreign land to do missionary work, and especially admonished us to fulfill the Church's Divine Commission, i.e., to spread the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

At the close of the morning service, Mario expressed his desire to be baptized. His wife, Olga, had requested her baptism the week prior to this meeting.

We all felt a blessing in the message our brothers brought forth, especially since we were about to witness the baptism of Olga and Mario, who are both of the Seed of Joseph. During our break for lunch, we gathered at the river's shore to witness the baptisms. Brother Joseph Perri took both Olga and Mario into the water at the same time and baptized each of them. As they returned to the shore, Sister Olga and Brother Mario beamed with a beautiful glow of happiness and peace.

Brother Mario and Sister Olga, originally from Guatemala, have been attending our branch for approximately one year. They met the Church through the testimony of their neighbors, Brother Frank and Sister Ethel Banyacski. They have truly been a blessing to our branch, and have both expressed a sincere desire to spread the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

We concluded the day with our afternoon service, where we had a beautiful season of testimony. Sister Olga was confirmed by Bro. Leonard Benyola, and Bro. Mario was confirmed by Bro. Walter Cihomsky. We were joined by visiting saints from Metuchen and Levittown.

The Lord has been richly blessing our branch with visitors and new members. Our prayer is that we will see our branch filled to capacity with many more souls who are seeking the first love that we have found in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Saline, MI

On April 29, 1988, history was made in the Saline, Michigan Mission. The membership decided that the time had come to build a church building of their own. Since 1981, when 18 members of

Detroit Branch 2 became an established mission under the Michigan-Ontario District, they have been meeting in the York Township Hall for Sunday services, and in members' homes for weekly and MBA services.

It had been the dream of Bro. Peter Buffa and Bro. Frank Morle to donate land they jointly owned for a church, and this spring, that land became available. Just over 1.5 acres of land facing Willis Road, just east of property owned by Bro. Joe Carlini, will now be used for erecting a building for the saints to meet in.

For the last seven years, the membership has endeavored to raise sufficient funds to accomplish this great undertaking, and many efforts are being made this summer especially to raise funds so that building can start in the fall. Car washes, sausage sales, and the 2nd Annual Saline Bike-A-Thon have all been scheduled to help raise money.

Currently, the fate of the building lies in the hands of local government officials who are reviewing the plans accepted by the Saline members. It is their prayer that God would not only provide natural strength and guidance, but also the spiritual strength needed to complete this project. Your prayers and continued support are greatly appreciated.

Youngstown, OH

By Betty Gennaro

On Wednesday May 11, 1988, Brother Joseph and Sister Vickie Calabrese visited with the saints of Youngstown. Bro. Joe enlightened us on the spiritual work and progress in India. We all felt the excitement and love as we viewed many slides of this missionary frontier. The inter-working with HOINA in India definitely aids the Church, and reassures our Indian family that the Church cares for their total welfare. Following our brother's presentation, we enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments.

On Sunday May 15 we bade farewell to Brother Paul, Sister Karen, and Natalie Pezzenti. Our Bro. Paul accepted a change of responsibility in his work, which involved moving to Cincinnati, Ohio. District President Ron Genaro, along with his family and many other visitors, came to share the day.

Bro. Ralph Berardino spoke what we all were thinking, that we will miss our brother and sister, but we feel joy as well because the Gospel will be furthered in the Cincinnati and Columbus areas. Bro. Ron Genaro spoke on being a "drum major," a leader naturally and spiritually. Bro. Delbert Lockwood of Erie, PA then gave Bro. Paul the commission to go with full confidence, knowing that God is in the matter and that rich blessings await both him and Sis. Karen.

Bro. Pezzenti then reassured us that he is looking forward to this spiritual challenge with great anticipation and no misgivings. We closed our worship service and assembled downstairs for lunch and fellowship.

On Sunday June 19, the saints of Youngstown assembled early for a Father's Day breakfast. We then enjoyed an inspiring sermon by our visiting brother, Paul Palmieri. He read from Mosiah 18 and emphasized our love and care for one another. We are the people of God, and are possessed with His Holy Spirit. By our love for one another shall the world know us.

The Youngstown Quartet then sang *The Family of God*. Bro. Mike Italiano reflected upon the changes in his life, and how the Love of God never leaves us, even though our love for one another sometimes wanes. He stated that once a year we celebrate Father's Day, but every day we honor our Heavenly Father. A beautiful spirit of prayer then prevailed as many came forth to be anointed.

Meaford, Ontario

By Linda Nantais

Our little mission in this part of the vineyard has been greatly blessed. Three years ago we had five people attending the meetings and working among the Seed of Joseph. Now, we have a total of 24 in attendance, including our children.

In September of 1986 Bro. Jim and Sis. Jean Moore of Imperial, PA were visiting us when the Lord moved upon Sis. Marilyn Juniper to arise and ask for baptism.

In October of that same year, Bro. James Mitchell, who had been attending our mission for a couple of months, was

also baptized. He had been visiting the Church in Windsor and felt the calling spirit there, and the following week he felt the same spirit here and was baptized in the waters of Lake Huron's Georgian Bay.

In November, due to a small fire in our building, we had to meet in Bro. Matt and Sis. Pat Collison's home. There was a special closeness there; one could truly feel God's Spirit and love. In the course of the meeting a sister got up and said with conviction that she knew God was truly with us.

Bro. Rick Elzby reluctantly closed the meeting, and as soon as the prayer was over Sis. Kim Cruickshank called for her baptism. As Bro. Rick took her into the waters of regeneration, one of the children saw a glow encircling our brother and sister in the water.

In April of the following year, on Easter Sunday, we had many visitors from Windsor. Our mission was filled to capacity and God's Spirit was truly felt by everyone. After Bro. Rick closed this meeting, Sis. Betty Hewitt asked for her baptism. She had been coming to our mission with her son, Brother James, for just a few months. Being afraid of water, she had originally been reluctant to be baptized, but she put her faith in the Lord and felt no fear as she went into the waters of regeneration. After her baptism, as we were closing, Michelle Peltier of Windsor asked for her baptism right there at the shore. Bro. Rick baptized her on the spot. How the angels in heaven must have rejoiced! What a perfect day to give your life to God, in that He gave His only Son to die for us. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways. Bro. Rick Elzby, the only elder in our mission, performed all of the above-mentioned baptisms.

Our congregation is now growing too large for our small building, and we are praying for the Lord's guidance in finding a place where we have room to grow as we worship and serve the Lord.

We are grateful for the many visitors we have had in the past few years. We also want to thank everyone for their support and the donations they have given us. We ask you to remember us in prayer, and we will remember each and every one of you in our prayers as God strengthens us. May God bless you all.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

While temporarily meeting on a college campus until a new location could be found, the brothers and sisters of Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan have been blessed with the gifts of talented brothers and sisters who have visited us over the past year. There have been memorable sermons and experiences presented that are worth reviewing once more before closing these pages of our memories. The following is a brief synopsis of these most enlightening moments.

In January of 1988 Bro. Dan Paravano and his family from Branch 2 visited us on the first Sunday of the new year. His message was one that we can apply to our everyday lives.

Bro. Dan introduced the service by directing us to review the past year and evaluate what has happened to us. As we approach another year, we have another chance to start over in case things did not go well over the past year. God has blessed us with seasons and cycles to our benefit. The activity we undertake today, as well as our goals in general, are events we all try to plan ahead. By taking "one day at a time," we must implement those things we plan to do.

Bro. Dan then posed these thought-provoking questions to us: Have you ever tried to consider everything you are? Have you ever pondered your potential? Are you considering everything you can do in the world today?

This year, we must probe into ourselves and ask ourselves what it is that I want to accomplish, and what am I going to do to accomplish it? We must endeavor to be everything that is possible for us to be. God wants us *all* to be capable of being *all* we can be—not just half of what we can be. He wants us to be sons and daughters that He can be proud of. In the old testament, Job must have been a good man—one God was proud of in righteousness and goodness, because the Lord bragged about him.

Bro. Dan made us realize that it is easier to coast along and not be all we can be. It is impossible to be everything you are capable of being in your life without God, even though it may appear that great men have done great things without Him.

The principal message today was that Jesus Christ is the way for us to have God in our lives. He makes it possible for us to overcome the lower things in life (sin) and be everything we can be.

After reading from II Corinthians 5:17-21, Bro. Dan pointed out that there is opposition to all things. The question he then asked was: How do you become reconciled with God? Consider reconciling a checkbook, where everything has to balance out. Every day, we must reconcile ourselves to God. We cannot balance off what's not there, and we cannot put in something that's not needed.

God, through Jesus Christ, has reconciled our lives. He has paid our debt. But more is needed. No flesh can dwell in the presence of God except by the blood of Christ.

Bro. Dan asked us to consider the things we do daily to achieve our long-term goal of everlasting life. Is your life consistent with your long-term goals? Is it what you want for the rest of your life, to be closer to God? He has an account with no end. Christ is the way to be reconciled with God.

Let us accept the challenge and opportunity of each day.

On Sunday January 17, 1988 Branch 3 welcomed Sisters Karen and Ann Progar and Marty Jumper, all of Aliquippa, PA, Sis. Robin Cartino of Warren, Ohio, and Sisters Kathy, Angie, Yvonne, and Dianne Champine, all of the Inner City Branch in Detroit,

No sermon was preached this day as the entire meeting was left open for testimony. Our visitors were asked to present us with a couple of hymns, and the visiting sisters testified of the goodness of God, and how He has fulfilled each of their lives. Each testimony was beautiful, and filled our hearts with joy. On this cold January day we were able to part with warmed spirits blessed with love. May the Lord bless our sisters in all their endeavors.

New Arrivals

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

Travis Matthew to Kevin and Dawn Powell of Saline, Michigan.

Samantha Alysse to Eugene and Laurie DeSantis of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Rachel Kathleen to Dennis and Renee Benyola of Metuchen, New Jersey.

David Bradley to Brad and Marilyn Juniper of Meaford, Ontario.

Alyse Amanda to Vito and Melenie Palposi of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

Children Blessed

Jennifer Anne Saliga, daughter of John and Sis. Patti (Wright) Saliga, was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. Ken Wright, on January 24, 1987 in the Windsor, Ontario Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On January 3, 1988, Perry Anthony Bonasso was blessed at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by his grandfather, Bro. Dick Lawson.

On March 13, 1988 Matthew Ricci was blessed at McKees Rocks by Bro. Paul Ciotti.

On May 22, 1988, Kenneth Yanez was blessed at the Hopelawn NJ Branch by Brother Joseph Perri.

On June 5, 1988, Emily Elizabeth D'Orazio was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. Richard Santilli, of the Canfield, Ohio Mission.

Timothy Wayne Redman was blessed on June 19, 1988 at the Canfield Mission by Bro. Richard Santilli.

* WEDDINGS *

LAIRD—LONKERT

Bro. Walter Laird and Sis. Brenda Lonkert were joined in marriage on April 9, 1988 at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Bob Buffington of Imperial, PA officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Bro. Paul Ciotti. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Nina DiCenzo.

The newlyweds are residing in Coraopolis, PA. May the Lord make His face to shine upon them.

MORRIN—MORLE

Mr. Donald Morrin and Sister Mary Bologna-Morle were united in holy matrimony on June 10, 1988 in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Brother Reno Bologna, the bride's brother, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were performed by Tina Morle, accompanied by Brother Jerry Morle.

May the Lord's blessings be upon our sister and her new companion in their life together.

OBITUARIES

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

LINA INFUSINO

Sister Lina Infusino of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her eternal reward on May 29, 1988.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother James Benyola.

Our sister leaves to mourn three sons, one daughter, a sister in Italy, thirteen grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and one great-great-granddaughter.

Sister Lina's constant prayer was that she would receive her final reward. Her presence and encouraging words of testimony will be greatly missed.

JOSEPHINE MANES

Sister Josephine Manes of Youngstown, Ohio passed away on June 8, 1988. She was born on May 15, 1909 and was baptized on June 15, 1930 by Bro. A. A. Corrado.

Brothers Donald Pandone and Ralph Berardino officiated at the funeral.

Our sister is survived by two sons, two brothers, a sister, and four grandchildren. Our Sister Josephine served God quietly and faithfully to the end. She will be missed by her family and the members of the Youngstown Branch.

BALDWIN BATALUCCO

Baldwin Batalucco passed from this life after an extended illness. He was born on February 22, 1927 in Detroit, Michigan, and was blessed in the Church by Bro. Joseph Gianzante.

The graveside service was officiated by Brother Reno Bologna, assisted by Brother Jim Cotellesse.

Baldwin is survived by his wife Janice, two sons, one daughter, and two grandchildren, as well as his mother, Sister Marion Batalucco, a brother, and three sisters.

From the desk of:
ANTHONY SCOLARO

August, 1988

Dear readers,

We need your help in filling
the pages of The Gospel News.

Please share the news of all your
blessings with the rest of the
Church, and help make this paper
a success.

All material to be considered
for publication in The Gospel News
should be submitted to your branch
or auxiliary editor for processing.

--The Editor

The Gospel News

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

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September, 1988

Volume 44, No. 9

Return to Tijuana '88

(Regreso a Tijuana '88)

"We are bound together by a common heritage and strengthened through our aspirations of Zion."

This is truly the theme which penetrated each and every heart present at Tijuana (TJ), Mexico on April 1-3, 1988. All who participated in this unique experience were blessed with a new understanding of our Mexican sisters and brothers, and of the Mexican culture on the whole. Most importantly this experience enlightened the minds of individuals to a conscious awareness of what it means to be a part of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On Friday April 1 at 10:00 a.m., as the sisters and brothers from the U.S. gathered in the Tijuana Branch, an orchestra of trumpeting voices greeted them with powerful sweetness, singing *We're Marching to Zion!* The saints of the U.S. were greeted with gifts and with the true love of our Lord and Savior. Truly the spirit of love was constant throughout the weekend, a love which was unconditional, a love which penetrated to our very souls.

Part of Friday afternoon was spent in seminars. Seminar I, entitled *Social Issues for the Youth*, was conducted by Bro. Stacey Light. This seminar emphasized the importance of effective communication, and the importance of sustaining a "good" spiritual standard in one's service to God.

Seminar II, under the direction of Bro. David Ciccatti, discussed *Becoming*

a Missionary. Two main themes were stressed throughout the seminar: 1) the importance of setting goals in one's life (spiritual and natural), and 2) the importance of planting spiritual seeds in the hearts of men.

These seminars enlightened the participants to the realization that "The nucleus of Zion is found within ourselves." It is important to grasp one's weaknesses, strengths, and talents. It is essential to utilize these strengths and talents in order to mature spiritually, and to be an effective worker for the Lord.

The morning and early afternoon of Saturday, April 2 was filled with fun and festivities; shopping for bargains in downtown TJ on Revolucion Drive and lunch at the beach. As the early part of the day was filled with fun, the evening was spent experiencing JOY! The evening singspiration/testimony meeting was filled with the power and the gifts of God. While a recently baptized brother from TJ was giving his testimony, a brother spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was given as follows: "He who believes in My name and is baptized shall receive the gift of eternal life."

After the interpretation was given, a young man, Samuel Mora, rose to his feet expressing the desire to be baptized. As one old cliché rings, "The world may have fun, but the saints experience joy!" *Gloria a Dios!!*

(Continued on Page 2)

Anniversary Celebration

To All Branches and Missions:

The Church of Jesus Christ of Glassport, PA will be holding a series of meetings during the week of October 10-16, 1988 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the branch. The stone church, built by the hard work of the brothers and sisters, was dedicated in October of 1938.

Sister Eileen Nolfi is chairman of the Activities Committee and will be coordinating the schedule of events. Sister Ruth Akerman, as chairman of the Historical Committee, will be organizing the collection of photographs, facts, and anecdotes about the branch's past. Sister Maryanne Donkin, chairman of the Accommodations Committee, will be arranging housing for our out-of-town visitors.

Throughout the years, the members of the Glassport Branch have been used of God in spreading the Gospel, and we anticipate continued blessings in the years to come.

We look forward to seeing you at our jubilee celebration. May God bless you!

Sister Iva Fedorka
Chairman, Publicity Committee
Home: (412) 422-7698
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Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

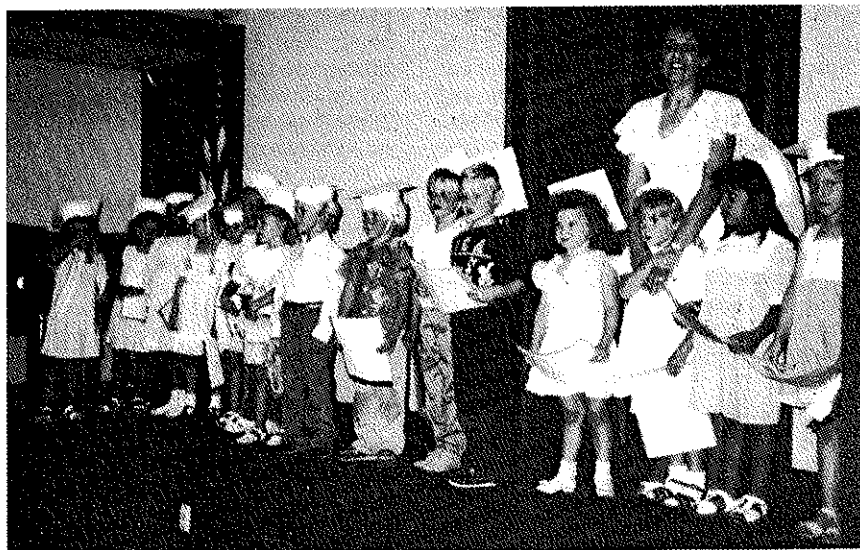
Then said I, "Ah, Lord God! Behold I cannot speak for I am a child."

Then the Lord put forth His hand and touched my mouth and the Lord said unto me, "Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." (Jeremiah)

It was that time of the year to promote some of the little children of the Greenoak Christian Preschool.

I thought you would enjoy looking at the picture of some of the children receiving their diplomas.

I wish there were a way for you to hear these little children singing to their parents and grandparents. What was most outstanding this time was that each child, on receiving their diplomas, kissed the director, except for two boys, who must have felt it was too unmanly for them to kiss Sis. Lydia Dulisse.



Class of '88, Greenoak Christian Preschool, with Director Lydia Dulisse.

As usual, refreshments were provided for all present. The preschool has made a positive contribution to our community.

I was invited to attend a luncheon with some schoolteachers and principals. As I sat with a principal named Wilson, the talk centered around the value of preschool. Mr. Wilson said, "I have two children from the Greenoak Christian School who are well prepared for public school." I was proud to say that it is our preschool. "Give the teachers my congratulations," he said. That I did.

God still teaches through the mouth of little children. I heard a story once of a father who always took his boy to church, prayed with him, and often would say, "Be good, my son, God is always watching over us." One day as they were out for a walk, this father saw a tree full of ripe fruit. Then he whispered to his boy, "Stand here and watch. If you see anyone coming, shout to me."

"I will," said the child, as his father proceeded to climb the tree to pick fruit. Soon afterward, the child shouted and the father jumped from the tree and ran to his boy.

"Where is he?" the father asked his son. The boy pointed his finger upward. His father looked up, but saw no one.

"I don't see anybody," the father said.

"Ah," said the son, "you have told me that God is always watching."

Out of the mouths of babes. Yes, God does touch the mouths of babes. How about yours and mine? Think upon these things.

RETURN continued . . .

The opening discourse of the Sunday morning meeting focused on the importance of Fasting and Prayer. Bro. Mike LaSala of Michigan was inspired to open with this theme, and Brothers Paul Ciotti from Pennsylvania and Matt Picciuto from California followed, expanding and exhorting on this central idea.

There is power in Fasting and Prayer; it will move the hand of God. This is the True Church. The Church of Jesus Christ is the only True Church on the face of the earth. The ministry emphasized that it is vital to our spiritual existence to serve God with an open heart and in the spirit of Truth (II Nephi 3:12, Alma 34:19). Truth is power! "We the people of God, united together in spirit, flesh, and mind, will represent the glorious Kingdom of the Son of God. It is important to dwell together in the love of God and to have vision through the eyes of Jesus." Man will perish without this vision. As stated in Alma 34, we are told to fast and pray for everything in our lives. Nothing will stop the work of the Lord! The essential tools on the path of spiritual success, as individuals or as a Church, are Fasting and Prayer.

Through fasting, prayer, faith, and a vision of hope, the Joshua Era will witness and participate in the great work of the Lord. How glorious to labor for Zion!

Those who participated in this enlightening experience wish to thank the GMBA for the inspiration of developing such an activity, the sisters and brothers of the San Diego Branch for their hospitality and coordination of this function, and the sisters and brothers of Tijuana for their long hours of natural labor and, most importantly, for expressing the sincere love of our Lord.

A taste of Zion was felt in TJ. Thank you, Lord, for bestowing your infinite love and blessings upon the gathering. Won't it be something to someday see ALL of Israel smile!

Sis. Elisa Calabrese
Miami, FL

MBA Highlights

GMBA Campout 1988

WOW!!

"Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy" (II Nephi 2:25).

During the week of June 26 through July 2, 1988 the saints of God gathered at the Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, Florida for the annual GMBA Campout. As GMBA Editor, it is my responsibility to convey to you the events that transpired during that week. I find this task an arduous one, for the Spirit of God was poured out in such abundance that to capture the essence of this camp in words is nearly impossible. Perhaps the best attempt at describing the week of camp is the above-mentioned scripture, which served as the theme for the week. Any who were present for the week's events now have a new understanding of these words. In every activity, from sports and crafts to the evening meetings and the seven baptisms, the joy of the Lord was felt in great abundance. Praise God for His wondrous blessings!

Campout began on Sunday, June 26 with saints arriving from the east, west, north, and south. Every district of the Church was represented, and a total of 366 people attended.

We started our week with a preaching service held on Sunday evening. Brother Paul Ciotti, GMBA president, welcomed all in attendance and made opening comments using Isaiah 35:10 as his text:

"The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

This scripture was not only a blessing on Sunday night, but also describes the feelings and events that permeated the camp all week long. Joy was felt in every event and sorrow and sighing took their flight as those anointed were healed before our eyes. Visions were had, tongues were spoken and inter-

preted, and inspiration was given to the GMBA officers in conducting each meeting according to the direction of the Spirit of God. A spirit of peace pervaded throughout, and even the Rules Committee had an uneventful week, as not one major problem was experienced. (Praise God for even the small miracles.)

Following the Sunday meeting, we were introduced to Camp Director Bro. Doug Obradovich and his committees. On behalf of the GMBA, we would like to thank Bro. Doug, his committees, and the entire Florida Area MBA for the excellent job they did. We thank you for making the saints of God comfortable despite the mosquitoes, the threat of alligators, and an occasional bad joke. Most of all, however, we thank you for the efforts you put forth in prayer and fasting to make this camp a blessing. All in attendance would agree that your efforts were greatly rewarded. From the GMBA and all present at camp, Good job!! And may God bless you for your diligence and love.

The week's activities began on Monday with a chapel service and the start of seminars. Brother Dwayne Jordan, from the Southwest District, chaired the seminars during the week and introduced a new method of attendance and instruction which proved very enjoyable. Each day all age groups had a different teacher (or teachers) and a new topic, all designed to bring greater joy into our service to God.

Topics such as the family, your branch, faith, the workplace, and more were focused upon. Many blessings were enjoyed, and new ideas for bringing joy and enthusiasm to our walk with God were shared. For those not in attendance at camp, we encourage you to converse with those who were present and ask them to share with you the ideas and experiences that were discussed, that you too may feel the joy found in the seminars at camp and increase the amount of joy you experience in your service to God.

Following seminars, one could enjoy a variety of activities including sports, crafts, the camp choir and ensemble, and of course the blessed fellowship of the saints. It should be mentioned that in each of these activities the spirit of joy that prevailed all week was felt. Whether hitting a softball, playing Win, Lose, or Draw Nigh unto God, or tying a T-shirt, the Spirit of God was felt and enjoyed.

"And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave it unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19 & 20).

One of the greatest activities of campout was the administration of the above-
(Continued on Page 6)



WHITE AS SNOW — The seven new converts baptized at the GMBA Campout in Florida stand behind the elders who just performed the baptisms.



A message from the Seventy.

Good News Reported from Church Missions

By Carl J. Frammolino
Evangelist Editor

News of the progress being made in both the domestic and foreign mission fields always brings great encouragement and blessings. Recent developments from one domestic field (South Bend, Indiana) and the two most recently started foreign fields (Guatemala and India's third locale) are therefore most noteworthy and edifying.

In July, it was reported that Brother Mitchell Edwards had moved from Ohio to South Bend and was residing in a trailer near the church location. The Lord has been working beautifully, and four souls have come into the Gospel since Bro. Edwards' move there.

The new members in South Bend and the dates of their baptisms are: Terri Baldwin and Darlas Cook on May 22, Consuella Jackson on June 19, and Don Sizemore on July 3.

That Bro. Edwards has been able to work so diligently is miraculous, because he had been healed from a heart attack. The Monday before this last April conference, he had been hospitalized and three electrocardiograms had verified that he had suffered a heart attack. Two days later, similar examinations disclosed no heart damage. The healing has not only uplifted Bro. Edwards, but has also given him renewed determination to carry on. Being able to baptize the four new members has confirmed his healing.

Incidentally, it had been erroneously reported that Bro. Edwards' wife, Sis. Vera, had moved to South Bend.

Because of her current employment in Ohio, she was unable to do so.

GUATEMALA

Readers will recall that a new field in Guatemala was started last November. In May, the first six baptisms were performed there. Now it has been learned that three more souls have rendered obedience to the Gospel.

The three new members are Cesman Castillo, Bernardo Ramirez, and Felipa Fuentes de Rivera. They were baptized on July 17.



Evangelist Mitchell Edwards baptizing Don Sizemore at South Bend, Indiana on July 3.

There are many households now attending services in Guatemala, and God's blessings are being received. The bringing of some into the Gospel already has allowed the mission to become more solidified.

INDIA'S THIRD FIELD

Last January, when Brothers Paul Palmieri and Joseph Calabrese went to India, they were inspired to form the third mission field there. As Chairman of the Foreign Missions under the General Church Board of Missions, Bro. Calabrese has reported that growth has been taking place. Two have been baptized in that sector, and many others were ready for baptism.

Bro. Calabrese received a testimony from one of the baptized members. It reads as follows:

"I was born into a Hindu family. I have a younger brother and a younger sister. My father was working as a honorary Magistrate. We had a lot of property, but my father had many bad habits which made us lose our property.

"I knew Brother Babu for nearly fifteen years. Very often he used to tell us about our living Lord, Jesus Christ. I believed in Jesus Christ, but I did not offer myself to Jesus because I had the habits of drinking and smoking. I found it very hard to get relief from these habits.

"I used to go with Brother Babu when he went for the work of the Church Ministry. I found some change in my life while doing the church work. I found a new happiness in coming to The Church of Jesus Christ located in Madras.

"More than anything, after I came to the Church and after my prayers when I go out to my job, I find all the work is done well. We had many problems in our family, and I found myself always unhappy. But after joining the Church, whenever I went out, I found Someone coming with me.

"One day I was drunk very badly. I lost my balance and dashed into a lorry [small motor truck]. The lorry driver stopped the lorry and ran away, because he saw my scooter was under the wheel of the lorry. He thought I was dead, so he ran away.

"I was thrown from the scooter. I had only a small wound in my leg. My
(Continued on Page 11)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As our children begin another school year, we are reminded what a valuable investment in the future they represent. Truly our young ones are a blessing bestowed upon us by God, and as a Church we look with a hopeful eye toward their generation. They are indeed blessed to have been born and raised in the Church; those who have been nourished in the Gospel Restored from their infancy number a privileged few among men.

Naturally, we want the best for our sons and daughters. In addition to wanting them to live a rich, full life, it is no doubt the desire of every father and mother in the Church to see their children serve the Lord and acquire that blessed opportunity to win their soul's salvation. Children raised in the Church have an understanding of right and wrong, through learning Bible and Book of Mormon lessons, that not many children are afforded today. By reinforcing these teachings with the examples of their parents, we can teach our children what it means to be a part of God's family while they are still impressionable.

Meanwhile, today's children are faced with pressures from the world around them at perhaps a younger age than ever before. We would like to see them get along with their peers, to not be looked upon as "strange" by their contemporaries, but we in the Church must be careful that their acceptance in a world sinking deeper and deeper in iniquity is not what we're placing first in their lives. We must be ever vigilant in teaching them not to value material goods more than spiritual, nor to regard education more highly than a pure, sincere heart as we train our children in the way that they should go.

If we are indeed raising them to become part of tomorrow's Church of Jesus Christ, our children must learn from us that it is sometimes *necessary* to be different from the crowd. They must learn to distinguish right from wrong and feel good about choosing the right. In addition to this, our children must see in *our* lives the joy and the blessings that belong to those who serve God. If our own lives do not reflect the joy of the Gospel, our children are not likely to see any benefit in serving the Lord. If we are incessantly finding fault, complaining, or becoming discouraged by situations that arise in our lives, or if we are not *consistently* practicing the things our children learn about in Sunday School, can we really expect to find them among the holy band of saints who will ultimately bring about God's great plan?

Unfortunately, there is no failproof method of raising children who will grow up to serve the Lord. In the Book of Mormon, Lehi and Sariah had four obedient sons and two recalcitrant ones, Laman and Lemuel, who, despite repeated encounters with the power of God, insisted on rebelling against the teachings of their parents and the ways of the Lord. While the decision to serve God is a matter of individual choice, we as parents have a great deal of influence in our children's lives while they are young. If they choose to serve other gods when they grow older, let us, as we ask one another to pray for our children, at least know within ourselves that we taught them otherwise.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

I remember when my mother brought us to church so many years ago. I was always glad to see my cousins; I felt closer to my cousins from church than I did to my cousins who didn't go to church.

Sometimes I would complain or try to talk my mother into letting me go to my friend's cabin by the lake instead of going to Church. But my mother was strong inside and had the strength to say "no," and to guide me closer to Jesus.

As I grew older I would sometimes spend the nights over at my friends' homes or even camping. One time a bear came into our campsite and ripped open our backpacks of food. I could see then how much stronger inside I was than my friends were. They screamed; I prayed. They cried; I felt calm. They were terrified; I felt peacefully sure that God would take care of me.

I believed God had something more for me to do in life than to be bit up by a bear. In fact, one of my friends was angry at me for *not* being scared—but I knew that people were already praying for me and I felt safe on that trip far from home.

Over and over in my life, I see how believing in God and trying my best to serve Him has made me a stronger person inside, often stronger than others. If someone asks me to do some job that I'm afraid I'll fail at and get blamed for, I truly do tell myself a verse from Philipians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." Then I go someplace private and I tell God how scared I am, and I ask Him to show me how to do the job and how to think clearly. And the Lord helps me.

In the Book of Mormon, when Lehi's family was struggling to get through

the jungle, Nephi accidentally broke the only bow they had that still worked. There were worse animals than bears in that wilderness. The family also counted on that bow with its arrows to kill meat for them to eat; there were no stores in the jungle to buy food, and they were very hungry.

But when Nephi prayed, God showed him how to make a new bow and arrows out of wood. And God showed Nephi where to hunt, so that he returned carrying meat for all to eat. When Nephi showed his faith in God, and then backed up his faith by taking his wooden bow and arrows and leaving to hunt, God saw. And the Lord rewarded Nephi for his strength and faith.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

BOW	INNER
ARROW	FAITH
STRENGTH	BEAR
GOD	HELP
BLESS	LOVE
NEPHI	INSIDE

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

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to give special thanks to all of you for your prayers during my recent illness. Your visits, telephone calls, and letters of encouragement were so meaningful. Your love and concern will stay in my memory for many years to come.

God Bless You All,

Bro. Paul Vitto
Detroit, Branch 1

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank you all for your cards, phone calls, visits, and most of all your prayers following my recent heart attack. God has seen fit to extend my life, and God willing I hope to continue to work in His service. Continue to remember me in your prayers.

Your Brother in Christ,

Brother Joe Genaro
Niles, Ohio

GMBA CAMPOUT continued . . .

mentioned ordinance. The reality of the suffering of Christ, and the sacredness of this ordinance were made manifest to such a degree that the Spirit of God flooded the room.

Later in the evening three souls rendered obedience to the Gospel. They no doubt wanted to have part in this great ordinance and cast aside those things that would prevent them from enjoying such a great blessing. Through the week, four more individuals would make Jesus their choice, and on Thursday afternoon we felt the thrill of witnessing these seven souls baptized and later confirmed into the Church.

From left to right in the picture on page 3, the seven new converts are: Bro. Alfonso Barreiro, Miami, FL; Bro. Donald Bowler, Cape Coral, FL; Bro. Joseph Giannetti, Aliquippa, PA; Sis. Deana Nuzzi, Niles, OH; Bro. Ralph Cartino, Jr., Warren, OH; Bro. Keven Jasmin, Lake Worth, FL; and Bro. Tom D'Orazio, Lake Worth, FL.

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla
and Joyce Trovarelli

On Sunday February 21, 1988 Branch 3 was delighted to have Bro. Rick Elzby and his family visiting from the Meaford Mission in Ontario, Canada.

After the congregation sang *Passing Over the Perils*, Bro. Rick introduced the service, reading from I Peter 3:8-17. He alerted us to the reality that Satan is threatening each of us today, a fact that has a direct effect on our Church in general. Bro. Rick mentioned that sometimes it takes all the strength we can muster to labor for Christ in our small corner of the world. There is absolutely no sense of discipline in the world today to stabilize it. The discipline we need can only come about by way of the Holy Ghost in our hearts.

How many times have you felt the instantaneous urge to lash back at someone who angered you? The Holy Ghost pleads within each of us to have peace, so that we may obtain and establish Zion, which was promised us by God.

Bro. Rick reminded us that "obedience is greater than sacrifice." Though God promised that the world would end by fire, the righteous need not fear. The unrighteous have pushed discipline to the wayside and allowed instability to take over. The discouragement, hurt, and pain we feel is the devil's attempt in trying to destroy the Church. By rendering our lives to Christ, we can obtain that peace through the gift of the Holy Ghost and start the long preparation for Zion that awaits us.

Bro. Joe Furnari then impressed several points upon our minds. He mentioned that it is the desire, need, and knowledge that we have in understanding the Gospel that carries us through life. He posed these questions to us: Can it make us a better person to know trials and temptations? To know sorrow and affliction? Can we go to our brother or sister and say that we understand their trials if we have not experienced them ourselves?

We must sanctify the Lord God in our hearts. The wisest of men have called

upon God in prayer. Their wisdom is the blessing God has bestowed upon them. If our fellow man has hurt us, God can remove that stain in *one* prayer. We must pray for those who despectfully use us.

Bro. Joe concluded by stating that it is better for us to suffer for well-doing than for evil. The greatest testimony we can give is our life. We are what we are, and the Gospel has caused us to be what we are.

On Sunday March 30, 1988 Tim Capone decided to receive Christ into his life by asking for his baptism. The brothers and sisters of Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan, though always praying for those who have not yet surrendered their lives to the Lord, were at first stunned, but exceedingly glad for our new brother. Bro. Tim's request to be baptized came prior to the start of the service, just after the announcements. Nothing seemed to prepare the congregation for the day's later events. After Bro. Tim's request, few could remain seated or wait for the service to begin as most of us went to greet Bro. Tim and welcome him into the fold.

Visiting with us this day was Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo of Branch 2. He introduced the service with thoughts on how we wrestle against powers and principalities, and exhorted us to put on the full armor of God.

Bro. Leonard then read from Mosiah 18, where Alma re-established the Church. He emphasized verses 8-10, which state, "... as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light . . . if this be the desire of your heart, what have you against being baptized in the name of the Lord. . .?" Our brother continued with III Nephi 12:1 & 2, where Christ gave Nephi *power and authority* to baptize. Without this baptism, there is no salvation.

Bro. Leonard impressed upon our minds several points that bear repeating: First, to stand as witnesses of God at *all* times, until death, is a most

challenging and difficult thing to do, but if you die faithful, the second death will have no power over you. Second, it is the desire of all the priesthood, past and present, that all who would come under the sound of their voices would make their way to the waters of regeneration. Lastly, we must take the time to plan for the future of our souls just as we plan the natural things in our lives.

After several brothers and sisters related their testimonies of how the Lord called them, Presiding Elder Paul Whitton related his own experience of how he fought his first calling. He said that when the Lord called the second time years later, it did not have the same intense feeling or effect as the first time, when he passed it up. Even though we tend to "put God on a shelf" at times, He does not give up on us, and still seeks after us. Bro. Paul invited those who were not yet baptized to join Tim today. Numerous rewards can be reaped in taking this one simple step. Taking on the name of Christ entitles one to liberty, peace, joy, strength, happiness, the healing of a broken spirit, and, most importantly, the opportunity for everlasting life.

Later that afternoon, brothers and sisters from all the branches in the district attended the baptism. Bro. Joe Furnari baptized Tim in the ice-filled waters of Lake St. Clair. Ordained an elder only a short time ago, this was Bro. Joe's first opportunity to perform a baptism.

Branch 1 opened its doors to us for the confirmation service. Bro. Gary Coppa spoke briefly and read from II Nephi 31, and confirmed our Brother Tim after relating that prior to this evening's service, he asked God to touch him if he was to confirm Tim. As the priesthood was led in prayer by Bro. Lou Vitto prior to the confirmation, Bro. Gary felt God's hand touch him, and then knew that this was God's plan.

Many brothers and sisters felt the power of God this day; several testified in confirmation of Tim's calling. Tim's parents, Bro. Peter H. and Sis. Frances Capone, opened their home and their hearts and provided an enjoyable evening for all.

We thank God for our third baptism in the branch within five months, and know that He is preparing us with help badly needed for our new location. Praise God!

Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

On Sunday June 19, 1988, during testimony, Chris Alan DeRue stood up in a spirit of humility and stated with firm conviction that he had found an answer to his prayers. The fiancé of Sis. Rebekah Gerace, Chris said the doctrines of The Church of Jesus Christ are true, and he expressed a desire to become a member of the Church.

While attending college in Houghton, Michigan, Sister Becky told Chris about the Church and the Book of Mormon. She gave him a copy to read, along with other Church literature that she received from the ministry. Chris read through everything; he even went to the library to read other books.

Still unconvinced of the pureness of the Church, he went to God in prayer for an answer to the many unresolved questions he had.

On the day that Chris asked for his baptism, Bro. Eugene Amormino spoke on the things of the heart. He said we must open our hearts to Christ. By doing this, we put our own minds and desires aside, and allow the Spirit of God to penetrate our feelings and thoughts. This is how Christ enters us, through the heart. Thus a change of heart takes place. Jesus said, "Behold, I make all things new," and he begins with the heart.

During this sermon, Chris received the answer to his prayers, and later in the service he testified about how he investigated the things our Church believes in, and spoke of his desire to be a member. Chris was baptized the same day by Bro. Eugene Amormino, and was later confirmed by his future father-in-law, Bro. Tony Gerace.

We spent a beautiful day in the Lord, and we hope Our Heavenly Father will use Bro. Chris and Sis. Becky as a team in the Great Work of the Lord. Amen.

Santa Ana, CA

By Mary Ann Nicosia

A miracle in the Santa Ana Mission began in October of 1987 and is continuing in the life of Humberto Gonzales. He is 21 years of age, and he resides in San Diego, California.

Humberto had the misfortune of becoming associated with friends who were involved with drugs and fighting with deadly weapons. Consequently he, too, became involved in these activities, and on one occasion he had to fight off a person who held a knife to him. Fortunately, he came out of this situation alive; however, the other person apparently didn't forget.

In October of 1987, Humberto had taken some heavy drugs and was supposedly on his way to work. He drove instead to Santa Ana, CA where he parked and dozed off inside his car. While asleep, someone gave him another injection of drugs with the intention of destroying his life. (This was later confirmed through a police report.) He remained unconscious in his car for a period of 18 hours before he was discovered.

Humberto was hospitalized in Santa Ana, and his condition was very grave. The doctors did not expect him to live; even if he did survive the drug overdose, they felt he would definitely suffer brain damage.

Surgery was performed on his throat to insert tubes, without which he was unable to breathe. Complications from this surgery resulted in internal bleeding and in his vital organs not functioning properly. He had nerve damage which left his left arm and hand paralyzed, a fever above 106 degrees, and also developed pneumonia.

Humberto remained in a coma for one month. Brain scans were taken during this time. The first scan appeared normal, but the second one showed evidence of brain damage.

One morning, Bro. Luis Marroquin, an elder in the Church who was living in Santa Ana, had a dream that someone was knocking at his door. He was awakened from his dream by the ringing of the telephone. It was Sister Flavia Rodriguez, calling him to tell him of Humberto's accident. Bro. Luis felt that Christ was in his dream, knocking on the door and attempting to relay a message to him, but instead it was Sis. Flavia that gave him the message. She was Humberto's friend, and had introduced him to The Church of Jesus Christ. He had visited the Santa Ana Mission prior to his accident.

Bro. Luis immediately went to the hospital and anointed Humberto. The Santa Ana elders visited Humberto

routinely and anointed him each time. Even though he could not speak nor respond, he was told that everyone was fasting and praying for him. The hope was that he could hear what was being said, and know it in his heart.

Day by day, there was an improvement in Humberto's health, until the day he awoke from the coma. After three months, he was sent home, PRAISE GOD!

Humberto's vital organs are now functioning well, he has no brain damage, and he can move his left arm and hand. What a blessing it is to witness such a miracle in our midst and to know that God is love, and He takes care of His children. What a blessing it was to see Humberto walk into our branch along with his fiancée, Sonia Rodriguez. Sonia stated that she never doubted that Humberto would live, and that she felt all along that he would be healed. They plan to be married September 17 at the Santa Ana Mission.

Humberto and Sonia attend meetings at the San Diego Branch. Recently, while there, Humberto asked to be anointed. While he was being prayed upon, a sister had a vision where she saw someone pulling on Humberto's arm, trying to destroy it in some kind of trash compactor. Then Humberto appeared to her to be smaller, and was in the middle of a lot of branches covered with red leaves, which she thought resembled blood. He was also tied up, and was trying to escape. In her vision, he managed to free himself from this situation. Then he was seen in mid-air, dressed in white. The Lord had protected him in a crystal sphere. She then saw a pair of hands writing his name in a book.

Both Humberto and Sonia have already expressed their desires to be baptized. They wish to serve God, and honor His name for the great miracle that has occurred in the life of Humberto.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Many of our members met at the baptismal site on Sunday, July 17, 1988 as Dawn Kersey and Keith Chambers were led into the waters of regeneration. Sister Dawn was introduced to the

Church by Bro. Keith. She has been coming to our church for about a year and a half and loves it. She felt for some time that she wanted to be baptized. After she was anointed recently, that desire became much stronger. After meeting with the elders of our branch and speaking to them, she finally felt she was ready to take that first step in serving God.

Sister Dawn was baptized by Bro. John Straccia, and Bro. Keith was baptized by his uncle, Bro. Malcolm Paxton of Atlanta, GA. This was the first baptism Bro. Malcolm ever performed.

Bro. Keith expressed to this writer how he felt a little jealous that Sis. Dawn had made her commitment before him, since he had known the Church much longer and had brought Dawn here. But by nature he was shy in asking, even though he had felt to ask for some time. All week long, after Dawn had asked for her baptism, Keith prayed for the Lord to direct him. Finally, when the morning of the baptism arrived, Keith called his uncle and said that he, too, wanted to be baptized.

Back at the branch, coffee and donuts were served before the service began. Bro. Malcolm opened the preaching service, stating that he had already received a great blessing today. He said that as a child, we sometimes rebel against our parents when they try to teach us. As we get older, we start to reach out for something to fulfill our lives. It is frightening to reach out when there is nothing there, but there comes a time when we find that thing for which we have been searching—that thing that becomes necessary for us. The basis of this church is LOVE. That is the foundation on which it is built; it is the cornerstone. It is our responsibility to help others find this love, and to help them bear their burdens. We must make it our business to attend every meeting at Church; to make God first in our lives. We can't imagine, or put into words, what the Lord is preparing for us; let us now prepare ourselves for eternity. There is no such thing as an unimportant member of the Church; God needs every one of us. We each have to do our part.

Brother Keith was confirmed by Bro. John Straccia, and Sis. Dawn was confirmed by Bro. Sam DiFalco. This day had been set aside for feet washing, and it was wonderful that our two new candidates, on their first day in God's service, could participate in this beautiful ordinance.

On Sunday July 24, Brother Dick Christman of Phoenix, Arizona and Brother John Ross of Tucson visited with us. Our Brother Ross opened by saying he felt a sweet spirit here today, and everyone seemed to be relaxed. His message was taken from I Chronicles 28:20, and was contained in two words: DO IT. Bro. John stated that when we feel the urge to do something for the Lord, we should do it. When we have a desire to pray for someone, or feel that we should call someone, or desire to send a card to a loved one, we ought to do it. We should not put off these things that will help another person.

Jesus did what His father sent Him to do, and those things that He did were not always easy to do. All that the Lord requires of us is that we each do our part. We can't do it *our* way; we have to do it *God's* way. Maybe it isn't for us to do the great things, but it's the little things that count.

Likewise, if we feel that something is wrong, we should do it not. The Spirit of God will direct us if we do everything in His name, and we shall be richly rewarded.

Brother Tom Everett of Branch 1 followed, stating that we should not be just hearers of the word, but let us be doers. He spoke on the 12th chapter of Ether, concerning faith. We must not sit back and wait for things to happen. Let us initiate the move, and then God will react. Let us do what the word of God tells us to do.

Bro. Louis Vitto summarized today's message, saying that there was much food for thought in what we heard today. If we know to do good, let's do it. The Lord is not a God of fear, He is a God of love. Let us exercise our faith, and do more praying. Let us serve Him in all sincerity.

Bro. Dick and Sis. Pat Christman sang *My Lord Can*. We were then dismissed by singing *We're Marching to Zion*.

Niles, OH

By Cathy Genaro

Greetings to all of our brothers and sisters. We have been enjoying the blessings of God to such a great degree and we feel to share one meeting in particular with you in the hope that you will be uplifted in the Lord.

On Sunday July 17, there was a beautiful and humble spirit felt as we gathered with the joy of the saints. We knew that later in the day we would have our feet washing service, which of course always adds to our joy. The Lord really gave us a double portion today, though.

First of all, we were uplifted by the presence of Bro. Joe Genaro, who had suffered from a heart attack on July 2nd. God had answered our prayers and brought him back into our midst. The blessings continued to unfold as the preaching service began. Bro. Ron Genaro opened our meeting by using the scripture found in II Corinthians 3:5, which talks about our sufficiency being only from God.

Bro. Wayne Martorana followed and pointed out that it is better to humble ourselves than to be compelled to be humble. Both of our brothers set the stage for the ordinances which were to follow. As we knelt during the communion prayer, Bro. Brian Martorana mentioned in prayer that Christ had broken the bonds of death. At that moment, Bro. Russell Martorana had a vision of the sepulchre of Christ. He saw the huge stone that sealed the opening of the tomb, and it was guarded by a soldier. Then he saw the stone being rolled away by a supernatural power, and he saw Jesus Christ Himself rising from the dead. What a joy we felt as our brother related the experience to us and reminded us to be forever grateful to our Lord for breaking the bonds of death that we might have life eternal.

Feet washing followed, and the humble spirit that our brothers preached upon was felt by all. Many testified that the Lord's Spirit was upon us and we pray that it will increase not only in our branch, but everywhere the Church is gathered.

New Brunswick, NJ

By Steven J. Mazzeo

The saints of the New Brunswick Branch rejoiced in unison with the angels of heaven when Sister Mary Alice Duckenfield surrendered her soul unto the Lord.

Sister Mary Alice attended The Church of Jesus Christ many years prior to her baptism on June 5, 1988.

(Continued on Page 10)

NEW BRUNSWICK continued . . .

Our sister's testimony confirms the promise to all mankind: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come to him, and will sup with him and he with me" (Revelation 4:20).

Give thanks and praises unto the Lord, for another soul has chosen the path of righteousness.

Hopelawn, NJ

By Linda J. Calabro

On Sunday August 14, 1988, the Spirit of God surely burned and exceeded the hot, sultry climate we've been experiencing.

We witnessed the reunion of the family of Sister Josephine and the late Brother Tony Benyola. Sister Josephine's children have moved to various parts of the vineyard, but their roots all stem from the Hopelawn Branch.

It was a blessing to have her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren visiting from Florida, Texas, Connecticut, and New Brunswick, NJ.

Brother George Benyola of Dallas, Texas opened our service with an inspired sermon taken from Luke 10:39-42. The theme of his sermon was that Mary had chosen the better part by sitting at Jesus' feet and absorbing every word. He asked us to apply this scripture to our own lives as well. Bro. Phil Benyola of Tampa, Florida touched on the same subject in expressing himself. He added that Martha had set priorities, and he encouraged us to set priorities in our lives on a daily basis. Brother Phil also stated that we should live our lives in a *proactive* rather than a *reactive* mode.

We then enjoyed a nice season of testimony. It was a blessing to hear the testimonies of Nick Jr. and Barbara Persico, newly baptized members of the Hollywood, Florida Branch, who have truly chosen the better part. We also enjoyed a musical selection offered by Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola, accompanied on the piano by their daughter Christina.

As we closed in prayer with our hands joined together, we surely felt a bless-

ing of unity and peace that we pray will remain with us until we meet again.

Herndon, VA

By Bud Smith

The Herndon, Virginia Branch has been fasting and praying, and guess what? IT WORKS!!

We've had the special privilege of having one of our apostles, Bro. Joseph Bittinger, with us for two Sunday meetings and a Wednesday MBA meeting. During the MBA service, Bro. Joe spoke on Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and gave his thoughts of what the Miry Clay symbolized. His words gave us all much to think and pray about as we left that evening.

Also, we welcome Bro. Paul and Sis. Thressa Carr and their family home from Africa for the summer. We are enjoying their stay.

The blessings continue to rain on us as they did on Sunday, July 17, 1988. It was a hot, humid day. The temperature was 105 degrees, but this didn't stop the saints from coming to the Herndon Branch to witness the ordination of Bro. Bud and Sis. Sylvia Smith as a deacon and deaconess.

Bro. Bud's feet were washed by Bro. Mike Hildenbrand. Bro. Sam Dell asked God's anointing upon him as a deacon. Sis. Sylvia's feet were washed by Sis. Patty Hildenbrand, and Bro. Lawrence King asked God's anointing upon her as a deaconess. A wonderful spirit was present throughout the meeting. May God direct our brother and sister wherever He desires them to work for Him.

There were saints in attendance from New Jersey and Levittown, PA, visiting with us on this special occasion.

We are now starting a project called "Foster a Family." God willing, and with the aid of your prayers, we will have many more blessings to share with you in the near future.

New Address

Bro. Ken and Sis. Flo Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060
Telephone: (201) 561-5441

Omaha-Bedford Mission

The Omaha-Bedford Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ held its annual gathering and evangelistic services on July 30 and 31, 1988. Saints from Alabama, California, Ohio, Minnesota, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri, as well as a visitor from Mississippi who is very much interested in the Church, gathered at our church building in Omaha to sing the *Songs of Zion* and hear the Restored Gospel preached.

On Saturday afternoon, members canvassed the South Omaha neighborhood and passed out flyers inviting local residents to our services. A spirit of harmony and fellowship prevailed at the Saturday evening services. Brothers Al Maher, Vince Gibson, and Rusty Heaps preached prayer and obedience to the Word of God to those in attendance. Sisters Sevilla Gibson and Elizabeth Simpson played many of the *Songs of Zion* on portable electric organs that the evangelists had brought with them. This is a real treat for us at the Omaha Mission, who sing joyfully but without accompaniment at all of our regular meetings. It was also an opportunity to practice the newest songs that have been added to the *Songs of Zion*.

The Saturday meeting closed with anticipation for the blessings in store for us on the following day. Brother Vince Gibson announced that the entire Church would be fasting and praying for Sister Emma Grooms of Omaha, who would be undergoing brain surgery in the coming week for the removal of a tumor. Sister Emma has been instrumental in the work of the Omaha-Bedford Mission and in taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Evergreen, Alabama. We are all praying for our sister's quick recovery, as she had been ill for several months before the doctors were able to diagnose her condition.

Sunday services began at 10:00 a.m. with over 30 in attendance, filling the little Omaha church building almost to capacity. Brother Alex Robinson of St. John, Kansas opened the meeting. The brothers who followed continued on his theme of the compassion and love of Jesus, and asked how we can ever sufficiently acknowledge these gifts.

Following the preaching service, Christyna Jaclyn Wells was blessed by her father, Bro. Clifton Wells. He asked for God's care and protection over her,

and prayed that she might have the attributes of Phoebe in her work toward the Church.

The meeting was then opened for testimony, and many of those present rose to thank God for His many blessings and to share their experiences in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our visitor from Holly Springs, Mississippi, Rose Thomas, who had been attending our services for the past two Sundays, stood in testimony declaring the love she felt among us. She struggled to tell us how she felt, and the elders called her forth to be prayed upon, that God would give her the strength to make a decision for Him.

Sister Emma Grooms was anointed for her affliction, and a mighty prayer on her behalf was raised by the priesthood and the congregation. Brother Roger Schroeder from Kansas later testified that he felt the same presence of an angel that he had felt, and another sister had seen, at the rededication of the church building in St. John, Kansas in June of this year.

There are now four members of The Church of Jesus Christ in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota area. Three of them have family ties in the Omaha area; most recently baptized in Omaha was Sister Claudia Wright. A prayer was offered for the work in Minnesota, that the elders would be able to visit the saints there and evangelize in that area.

Reluctantly, the meeting was brought to a close late Sunday afternoon. Many planned to leave that evening to travel many miles home, but there was time for dinner and fellowship with the saints before departing.

Remember the Omaha-Bedford Mission in prayer. There is much work to be done in this area, and the laborers are few. The work now is not just in the city of Omaha, but is beginning to dot the whole Midwest with members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

MESSAGE continued . . .

scooter was jammed under the lorry. I could not remove it, so I left it there and went by taxi to my house.

"Next morning I met Brother Babu. I told him that Someone is there with me. Brother Babu told me that Jesus

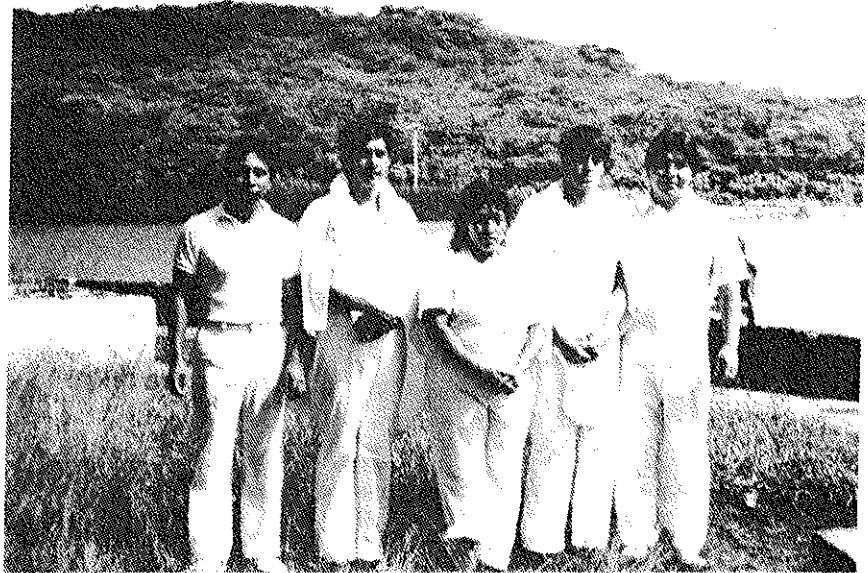
Christ had saved me. Through this, I offered my full heart to Jesus.

"After this incident, I made up my mind to take baptism. Brother Babu baptized me on April 3, 1988, Easter. From that day, the Lord is with me. I have put all my bad habits aside and am leading a new life in Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord.

Your loving Brother in Christ,
Calabs Kumar"

Brother Calabrese has reported that experiences about the third field in India confirmed the spiritual work there. A more complete account of this will hopefully be presented in a later issue.

The baptisms and labors going on in the new missions are proofs that the Lord's Gospel is moving on in different parts of the world. Our prayers are that God will continue to bless all the efforts being expended in all fields, whether domestic or foreign, and that we shall continually hear the kind of good news we received from these three areas.



The three new members in Guatemala on the day of their baptism, July 17, along with the resident missionaries who performed the baptisms. Left to right: Elder Isidro Dominguez, Cesman Castillo, Felipa Fuentes de Rivera, Bernardo Ramirez, and Elder Luis Marroquin.

GMBA CAMPOUT continued . . .

Before each of the candidates were baptized, they expressed a desire to have hands laid on them that they might not only be faithful members of the Church, but that they might be workers for the Lord. We thank God for this desire, and pray that God would use each of these new servants as He sees fit.

As Campout drew to a close, one could only marvel at the events of the week. Many of the evening meetings were devoted to prayer for the sick and burdened, and in nearly all cases, healings were immediate and miraculous. Notes were forwarded to the elders tell-

ing of experiences with such rapidity that it would be impossible to recount all of them to you here. As the old saying goes, "I guess you had to be there."

God's presence was felt from start to finish, and as we prayed for God to stay with us throughout the week, an experience was given in which the Lord spoke and said, "I am still here." And He most certainly was.

We thank God for every moment of this past campout. It was indeed a gift from God! We would also like to encourage all of you to continue your support of the GMBA. If the blessings ex-

(Continued on Page 12)

New Arrivals

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

Brittany Renée to Kenneth and Michelle (Benyola) Nutaitis of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

Kayla Danielle to Daniel and Karla Ciarrola of Riverbank, California.

Children Blessed

On July 31, 1988 Christyna Jaclyn Wells was blessed in the Church at Omaha, Nebraska, by her father, Brother Clifton Wells.

OBITUARIES

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

RACHEL REYES

Sister Rachel R. Reyes of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed from this life on July 18, 1988. She was born in 1921 and was baptized in 1957 near Los Angeles, CA.

The funeral service was officiated by Bro. Vincent Scalise. Left to mourn our sister are her husband, three sons, three daughters, six brothers, four sisters, twenty grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Sister Rachel was a faithful member of the Bell Branch from the time of her baptism, and was loved by all because of the humble spirit she carried. Her presence will surely be missed by all who knew her.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

SANTIAGO CHAPARRO

Brother Santiago Chaparro of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed on to his eternal reward on July 22, 1988. He was born June 3, 1925 and became a member of the Church on May 12, 1968. He was a deacon in the Church since July, 1968.

Brother Joseph Calabrese conducted the funeral service.

Our brother is survived by his wife of 42 years, a son, two daughters, a brother and a sister, and five grandchildren, as well as a host of other relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ. May the Lord continue to give peace and comfort to all those left behind.

ERNEST McLELLAN

Brother Ernie McLellan of Garland, Texas passed on to his eternal reward on July 30, 1988. A member of the Dallas Mission, Bro. Ernie was born January 12, 1900 in Canyon, Wisconsin and was baptized on August 14, 1933.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother George Benyola.

Brother Ernie is survived by his wife, Sister Adeline, his only son Brother Douglas, two grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, a brother, and a sister.

GMBA Campout continued . . .

perienced at this camp are an indication of how the Lord will use the GMBA in the future, you will not want to miss a moment of any event. Just ask anyone who went to camp this year!!!

GMBA-sponsored events will be taking place at different locations of the Church in the coming months, including a second married couples' retreat and the GMBA Conference in November. Keep an eye out for dates and locations, and plan to be there so that you too might experience the joy intended for man. Until we meet again, may God bless and keep you in my prayer.

GMBA Editor,
Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti

Conference Notice

The October, 1988 General Church Conference will be held at the World Conference Center at Greensburg, Pennsylvania beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, October 5 and ending Sunday, October 9.

With the exception of the Sunday morning service, sessions at this conference are restricted to priesthood and ordained teachers of the Church.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

October, 1988

Volume 44, No. 10

Ohio District Spiritual Meeting

By Jim Hufnagle

The Ohio District held a spiritual meeting this summer on a Sunday evening in Perry, Ohio. This service began at 6:30 p.m. with the announcement that those in attendance were to immediately gather at the river's edge for the baptism of Dean Picciuto. Dean had asked for his baptism in Greensburg, PA, but had chosen to journey back home so family and friends could view his vow to God at the water's edge. Dean's uncle, Bro. Tony Picciuto of Lindsay, California performed the baptism.

Several of the brothers and sisters in attendance said they had felt as though God were calling yet another soul earlier in the day.

Reassembling at the branch, Bro. Tony Picciuto led the service. Many songs of rejoicing were sung at the start of the meeting.

Bro. Elmer Santilli laid his hands upon Bro. Dean's head, asking for the Holy Ghost to dwell within our new brother. Two sisters made it known that they were given to know in advance that Bro. Elmer would perform this ordinance, which was also accompanied by the gift of tongues.

Commenting on our new Bro. Dean's decision to serve the Lord, Bro. Tony Picciuto said, "It is difficult to explain what happens when a person is touched by God. . . . Conviction is a strong power of believing. Dean was compelled to be converted and changed."

Bro. Picciuto recalled a time when he was in the military service and asked God what his status was in the Lord's sight. "I need to know," he told Him.

Our brother then related the fashion in which he petitioned God: He fasted and prayed for three days, kneeling and praying in the back seat of his car, and meditating. At one point as he lay perfectly still, with his hands folded on his chest, an kind of electrical sensation grew within him.

"I saw myself cross over a bridge and enter what looked like a telephone booth, but there was no telephone. I heard a voice and it said, 'In the future, be more obedient to the will of God.' " Bro. Picciuto said the message was repeated and the electrical sensation gradually disappeared.

Our visiting Brother Tony then recalled the circumstances leading to his baptism. Once he was at the beach, swimming and surfing, when he got caught in the undertow.

"The more I swam to shore, the further out to sea I found myself," said Bro. Picciuto. "My breath began to wane, and I knew that I wasn't going to make it. The only thing I could say as the waves beat upon me was, 'Oh Lord, have mercy on me.' The Lord caused the waves to carry my body to shore, and as I regained consciousness, bruised and bleeding, I realized that God had extended my life. Without Him, I would have been not only long gone, but

also cast into outer darkness for eternity. He made me willing and said, 'Come to me.' "

But Bro. Tony's desire was changed to commitment when he had to overcome many hurdles in order to be baptized: Buying some leave time from his peers; hitchhiking and surviving an auto accident; hitchhiking through the night with injuries; walking for miles, trying to find the White Plains Branch with nothing but a memory of a picture from the Church History; knowing full well that he was not acquainted with any White Plains member.

But when he entered the building, Bro. Picciuto saw a man with whom his father had worshipped in the Cleveland Branch, Bro. Rocco Biscotti.

"The ocean in which I nearly lost my life was the ocean in which I found my

(Continued on Page 11)

GMBA Conference

The November, 1988 GMBA Conference will commence at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, November 12 at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The Ohio Area will be presenting a program in the evening, and the Michigan-Ontario Area will be helping in the kitchen and dining room. The Sunday morning service will begin at 10:00 a.m. as well.

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

DO YOU CARE?

Sorrow or pain do not conquer, nor does grief turn to despair, when there is someone who truly cares.

When you visit someone because you care, you bring hope for the future and healing for the pain they endure.

Sorrow and hurts need time to heal, as their healing comes from within. You can help people who suffer from these things to heal faster when you call them. In sharing and listening to them with interest, in feeling their anguish, you can help calm the fear and heal the heartache.

When sorrow comes to someone, it is good to know that someone cares enough to understand, support, and strengthen you.

If the wrong approach is taken, the wound can be painfully reopened. Do not seek to satisfy your curiosity by dwelling on what caused the hurt, but take the wise, calm approach of an understanding person who really cares. This is what helps the healing process.

Caring is truly an art. It grows each time you exercise the tender caring of others. Life becomes more meaningful, more fulfilling, as you allow your mind to feel compassion toward others, filling their needs, lifting their burdens, and soothing their sorrows.

Caring, like love, increases within us as we give it away.

How can a man come to know himself? Never by just thinking, but rather by doing. Try to do your duty;

try to serve someone else by caring, and you will know at once what you are worth. Do *you* care?

'Life is complete when we care enough.'

Mark Randy

Florida District Conference

On August 27 & 28, the Fort Pierce Branch hosted the Florida District Spiritual Conference. We were blessed in having Brother Jim and Sister Mary Lovalvo visiting our district, as Brother Jim took charge of the seminars on Saturday. While the elders and teachers took part in Bro. Jim's seminar, Sister Mary was invited to lead the discussion in a seminar for the sisters.

After these seminars were complete, the deacons and deaconesses were asked to join the elders and teachers and Brother Jim instructed them in their duties.

The evening meeting was open to all members. Brother Jim gave further instruction on the duty of members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

ORDINATION AT SUNDAY MEETING

On Sunday the district gathered at a local community hall. The first order of the day was the ordination of Brother Joseph Graziosi into the priesthood. Brother Joseph (Joe) is the grandson of Brother Sam and Sister Anne Costarella, and the son of Sister Joanne Graziosi from Ft. Pierce.

His grandfather, Bro. Sam, washed his feet and Brother Frank Rogolino, also from Ft. Pierce, ordained him.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. On July 18 my husband, Ansel, had a stroke. I knelt down to pray, "Oh, God, if his time has come, take him home; otherwise return him back to health as before."

He was rushed to the hospital. He was anointed by the elders, and the doctors marvelled at his speedy recovery. He was in the hospital for nineteen days, and then was able to come home.

One night I dreamed that we received a big, beautiful basket of assorted flowers. On the card it said, "From the saints." I woke up very happy.

We want to thank you for all your get well cards, telephone calls, and flowers, but most of all for your love and prayers, for they were greatly appreciated.

We want to thank God for performing two great miracles in our home. Bro. Ansel celebrated his 75th birthday recently, and has been in the Church for 55 years. Please continue to remember us; we still need your prayers.

May God bless you all,

Sis. Carmella D'Amico
Rochester, NY Mission

A Miracle

By Denise Ruyle

"And now, O all ye that have imagined up unto yourselves a god who can do no miracles, I would ask of you, have all these things passed, of which I have spoken? Has the end come yet? Behold I say unto you, Nay; and God has not ceased to be a God of miracles" (Mormon 9:15).

For the past couple of years I have been troubled with recurring kidney/bladder infections which were becoming more difficult to clear up. My doctor suggested that I see a specialist to get to the root of the problem. I was hesitant to do this because I was afraid of what might be found.

The symptoms continued, and after a while they became so commonplace that they no longer bothered me. I totally blocked out the fact that I was not well. I refused to acknowledge the seriousness of the warning signals my body was giving me.

Years ago I began on a whirlwind of foolish diets which were "guaranteed" to bring immediate results. For a while I was anorexic, and then later became bulimic, to maintain weight goals.

Bulemics eat and then violently purge themselves, either by vomiting or by abusing laxatives. Both are very dangerous and hazardous to your health, and many young people have become deathly ill and/or have died from these practices.

I did an excellent job of keeping the truth from myself. I never spoke about it, so, I told myself, it would surely go away.

Last winter I had a dream in which I saw myself driving around in my car. I was very happy. I was approaching some railroad tracks, when suddenly the driver of the car in front of me slammed on his brakes. The next thing I knew, I was sandwiched between two cars with my own car on the railroad tracks and no way to get out. There was a train coming very rapidly toward me, and I knew there was going to be an accident and that my chances of survival were very slim. The next thing I knew, I saw myself standing up and testifying in Detroit Branch 1 (my branch) that God had spared my life, because I was not supposed to live. All the brothers and sisters were in awe because they were certain they had witnessed a miracle.

Surprisingly, I did not associate this dream to my physical problems—that's how good I had gotten at not thinking about them. I had come to the point where I had totally forgotten they existed.

On April 21, 1988 my cousin and I decided to visit the Inner City Branch. The meeting was left open for the Spirit to move upon the saints of God, whether to testify or to call a hymn to His honor and glory. It was my desire to be prayed on for spiritual strength as I was going through an emotional struggle at the time. Before this I requested that we sing *Like a Child*, because that's how I see myself before the Lord.

Bro. Gary Champine prayed on me and said the most beautiful prayer. I felt the Spirit of God so strongly moving from his hands to me, it is difficult to put into words. It was as if Christ were hovering over me, shielding and protecting me—there was such a warmth. When I returned to my seat I felt extraordinarily calm.

Within minutes, Sis. Inez Cotellesse jumped to her feet to testify. She related that she had seen a vision while I was being prayed upon. In the vision

the Lord showed her my kidneys, my liver, and my pancreas. She saw that they were all badly damaged, and then she saw the Lord touch each organ and turn them pure white so that they were brand new.

I couldn't believe what I was hearing, but I knew what she saw was true and that the Lord must have told her, because I had never mentioned it to anyone.

Before the meeting closed I confirmed my sister's experience. I was somewhat in a state of shock. The power of God goes beyond human comprehension; it was like living a dream.

Sister Inez approached me privately after the meeting and hesitantly told me why I had all those problems. She said the Lord had told her they were a result of the hazardous manner in which I was dieting.

I can say no more—it is no longer by faith alone but by fact—Jesus lives!

"Behold, are not the things that God hath wrought marvelous in our eyes? Yea, and who can comprehend the marvelous works of God? (Mormon 9:16)

Branch and Mission News

Cleveland, OH

On June 5, 1988 Sister Cindy L. Prentice was ordained a deaconess at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Her feet were washed by Sis. Roberta Hufnagle, and she was ordained by Bro. Jim Hufnagle. We were very glad to welcome Sis. Kim Alaburda, who was visiting us from Tse Bonito, New Mexico. Sis. Kim was introduced to the Church through the testimony of Sister Cindy nearly fourteen years ago. May the grace of our Lord rest upon our sister as she performs her duties as a spiritual helper to the Church.

Frances G. Nemeth was baptized by Bro. Vince Gibson on June 12, 1988. She was later confirmed at the Cleveland Branch by Bro. Bill Prentice. Visitors in attendance were Sister Frances'

family and Brother Mario and Sister Irma Milano.

Bro. Milano spoke on the meaning of baptism, and Bro. Gibson followed with a portion of III Nephi in The Book of Mormon, regarding the administration of the bread and the wine in remembrance of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our prayer is that God would bless and keep our new sister in the straight and narrow way.

Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

On June 19, Lori DiFede from Lake Worth, Florida spoke the words, "I want to be baptized in this Church." She was baptized by Bro. Mike Radd, and confirmed by Bro. Gene Perri.

Thomas James D'Orazio, son of Bro. John and Sis. Linda D'Orazio, was baptized by his father on June 30 at the GMBA Campout in Leesburg, Florida. He was confirmed by Bro. Sam Risola, Sr. of Tampa.

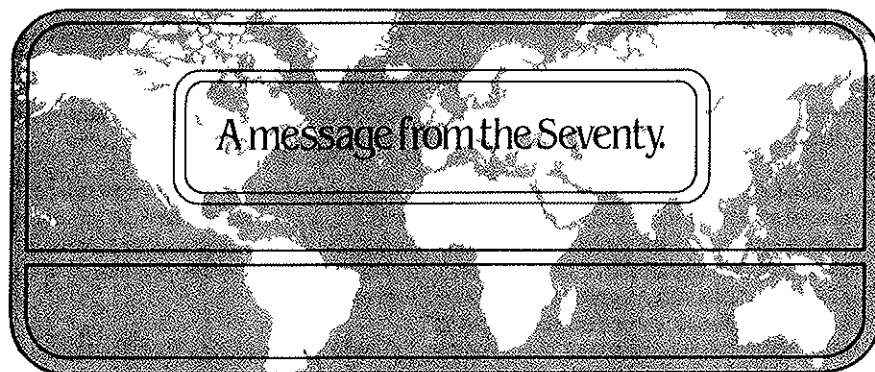
Kevin Everett Jasmin was also baptized on June 30 at the Campout. He is the son of Brother Everett and Sister Josephine Jasmin, and he attends the Lake Worth Branch. He was baptized by Bro. John D'Orazio and confirmed by Bro. Joseph Calabrese.

Miami, FL

The Miami Mission received two gifts in the month of June, which have been joyously received.

Near the latter part of the month, Miami Mission received the membership of Brother Joseph, Jr. and Sister Suzanne Catone, from the Hollywood Branch. The addition of our brother and

(Continued on Page 7)



Quorum of 70 Current Update

(Editor's note: Following is a current update of Evangelist activities by Quorum of Seventy President, Paul J. Benyola.)

Last October, we wrote, "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." We then presented our insight into our role as 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."

Last year, had we also stated that we would present our Church to a listening radio potential of over 50 million people each week in North and South America and the Caribbean, we would have said, "Impossible!" But, thanks to the financial support, talents, dedication, prayer, and hard work of many of you, and the support of the Ladies' Uplift Circle and General Missionary Benevolent Association, we were able to establish seven radio broadcasts which reach over 50 million potential

listeners each week. And this started from nothing but a desire on behalf of the Quorum of Seventy to get the word to those who might hear of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Even if only 1 percent of the potential 50 million are listening, it means there are half a million (500,000) listeners to over two hours of broadcasts each week. Our task is to sow the seed and pray that God will give the increase. Some of the responses received indicate that there are indeed listeners who are interested in hearing about the Gospel, and are desirous to follow up on what they've heard over the radio.

Besides regularly scheduled programs, spot announcements have been readied by the Radio and TV Committee and are available to all branches and missions for use in their localities. Interested branches may write to the Radio Ministry, P.O. Box 40, Santa Ana, CA 92702. Identifications will be made for each location that requests these tapes. It is hoped that in the future, assistance will be available for television announcements as well.

DISTRICT EVANGELIST MEETINGS

Evangelistic meetings were held in each district to introduce our Church to the communities in which we live. These meetings were supported by your God-given talents through singing (individual, small group, and choirs), programs, administrative support, invitations (door-to-door, newspaper, and radio ads), financial support, and many other tasks associated with this kind of program. With God's help and your support, we plan to continue these meetings in 1989.

EVANGELISTS MOVE

Brother Chuck and Sister Ilene Smith moved to Oak Grove, Missouri in July of 1988. They are continuing to maintain the dialogue which has been established by the Quorum of Seventy through the General Church Development Committee.

We have met with several Restoration groups in the Independence area and presented our beliefs. We have faith that God will do the convincing.

Evangelist Mitchell Edwards also moved in May 1988 to the Church's South Bend, Indiana location. The Lord has been blessing the work there, as the four baptisms reported last month will attest.

COMBINED EFFORTS

Each member of the Quorum of Seventy, along with the support of Quorum Vice President Ike Smith, the General Church Development Committee and its Chairman, Elmer Santilli, and the Radio/TV Committee and its Chairman, Carl J. Frammolino, are very active in spreading the Gospel.

We are also working closely with the General Church Board of Missions, as well as District mission boards, to support the work in Africa, Canada, Guatemala, India, Italy, Mexico, South America, and the United States.

Of course, the united efforts, talents, prayers, and support of each member, committees, auxiliary units, and good friends of The Church of Jesus Christ are needed to accomplish this task. Two

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Quorum of Seventy President Paul J. Benyola

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When we embrace the Gospel of Jesus Christ and become a member of His body, we experience an initial outpouring of God's love which, if properly nurtured, provides us with the strength we need to overcome the world. One of the many properties of this love is that it binds the Church together as brothers and sisters in Christ, with a common desire to hold fast to the Gospel and do the Lord's will.

Though we in the Church all strive for the same things spiritually, we as individuals have our own, sometimes differing, thoughts and opinions about the things we encounter in our everyday lives. When, as often happens, we disagree on some small thing, we need only apply a little of God's love to remedy the situation. Through His love working in us, we readily prefer (submit to) our brother or sister, and make a sincere effort to see their point of view, weighing it objectively against our own. We learn from one another, and go forward in the Gospel with a better understanding, and usually a greater love, toward our brothers and sisters.

Occasionally, it happens that we in the Church have difficulty coming to an agreement on something we see as being very important, naturally and spiritually, in our lives. In cases such as this, which tend to involve entire groups of people rather than individuals, it is much more difficult to muster up sufficient love to submit, sometimes to authority, at other times to the majority, and continue on in the Gospel. It may take more of God's love than we possess to rise above the hurt that we feel and press forward in His service, but if we're determined to hold fast to the Gospel Restored, we can go to the Lord for the tenacity which we lack, and He'll gladly supply it.

At this writing, the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ is prayerfully meeting together in Conference, discussing and voting on serious, complicated issues that will have a strong impact on our lives and on the future of the Church. No one among us will remain unaffected, in one way or another, by the decisions they reach. It is an unfortunate fact that, regardless of the outcome of their votes, there will be those whose feelings will be deeply hurt; there will be those who may suddenly see no reason to continue on the path of the Gospel. Yet in order for any of us to gain that crown of eternal life, we must endure unto the end.

This is a time when we need each other's love, support, caring, and compassion more than ever. Let us all try to exercise more of the love of God toward one another, and draw closer together, that we might help each other attain our heavenly reward. It is imperative, in these the last days, that we present a strong, united front against the powers that seek to destroy us.

The enemy of our souls, seeing his time running short, is working in every way possible to divide and separate The Church of Jesus Christ into fragments small enough for him to contend with. At the same time, we are charged with bringing the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, taking part in the restoration of the house of Israel, and carrying the Restored Gospel to the ends of the earth. Who among us will be strong enough to accomplish all this? With the help of God, it can be *all* of us, if we work *together* to allow it.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



The Nephites Turn from God

Dear friends,

In the Book of Mormon, after King Mosiah's sons chose to be preachers instead of kings, judges were picked to rule the land. People began to count years by remembering which year of the judges it was. In the fifty-fourth year of the judges, the Nephite people had spread into the land southward among the Lamanites.

Originally, the Nephites had loved and served God and he had blessed them with peace and power. The people had great riches. But then, they began to be proud; they stopped helping each other. The richer Nephites would not feed or clothe the poor. People began telling little lies and soon lied and cheated on a big scale. These well-blessed, wealthy people began to deny the spirit of prophecy and revelation. The laws became corrupt. People began going with other men's and women's wives and husbands. Great evil filled the land.

As the Nephites bragged about how great they were (instead of thanking God for their great blessings), they crowded the Lord out of their hearts, because the Lord's Spirit cannot live in unclean places, and these people were quickly filling their hearts and lives with ungodly things.

Nephite fought against Nephite for power, and the most rebellious group was driven from the land. This group went to join their Lamanite enemies. Slowly they began to convince the Lamanites to prepare for war against the other Nephites.

In the fifty-seventh year of the judges, they did come down against the Nephites to battle, and they won! The people who bragged about how strong they were could not win when they had

only their own strength. They needed strength from God in order to win battles.

A man named Moronihah, who led the armies, also loved and served God. He joined Helaman's two sons Nephi and Lehi (named after the Nephi and Lehi who came from Jerusalem) to preach to the people that they must change. Now the people could see how much they needed God in their lives. They'd lost their families, their fine homes, and their fancy possessions. They realized how wrong they'd been to trust riches, and they turned their hearts to God.

The Lord began to bless them immediately. Moronihah led them into battle and by the sixty-second year of the judges, they had won back one half of their lands and cities and, with the power of God, were able to protect themselves from their enemies.

This true story has a lesson in it for us, too. It reminds us that when we are rich in possessions, it does not make us better than others who don't have as much. What God wants us to do is to help others less fortunate than we are. He tells us to share with each other, to love one another, to serve one another. "The Lord invites *all* to come unto him and be given his goodness; and he (the Lord) denies none that come to him, black and white, bond and free, male and female; he remembers the heathen; and all are the same to God, both Jew and Gentile" (II Nephi 26:33).

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed:

WRONG	OF
EVIL	THE
LIE	LORD
STEAL	LEFT
LUST	MORONIAH
POWER	LEHI
BRAG	REPENT
OWN	LOVE
STRENGTH	GOD
SPIRIT	

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

MESSAGE continued . . .

of our radio broadcasts are entitled, "Participating in God's Plan—Be a Participant and Not a Spectator in God's Great Plan." This applies not only to those listening to our programs, but also to each member of THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

POSSIBLE TASK

Our belief is that the Gospel will be preached throughout the world—even with a population of five billion and growing. Impossible? NO!! This task was commissioned by Jesus Christ, and will be completed with or without us.

Using conservative figures, 500,000 people listened to each of our broadcasts during the 40-week period in 1988. This would have seemed *impossible* in 1987, but remember, with God, *All things are possible*. **Exciting, isn't it?!**

TALENTS

Thank you for your prayers, your contributions, and for using your talents to support the Church's missionary and Radio/TV efforts.

May God continue to bless us, and may our talents be multiplied, so that many souls can come into the Gospel of Christ.

MIAMI continued . . .

sister and their three beautiful girls was a wonderful surprise, and even at their first Sunday as Miami Mission members, their contribution was felt as Bro. Joe opened the service speaking from Ezekiel 33:10, exhorting us to remember that we must be faithful to the end. Sis. Suzanne played the piano for us, as our regular pianist was away. Since both were originally members of the Miami Mission until the Broward Mission (now Hollywood) was organized, we say to them, "Welcome home!"

On June 30, 1988, Alfonso Barreiro, brother of Bro. Armando Barreiro, Jr., was baptized at the GMBA Campout in Leesburg, Florida by Bro. Joe Catone, Sr. and confirmed by Bro. Frank Rogolino. During his first Sunday home we were able to hear him bear his testimony both in Miami Mission, in English, and at Homestead, in Spanish.

Our new brother is 18 years old and will be going to college this fall in Gainesville, Florida. He brings the Mission's membership to 21, and we look forward to enjoying our new brother's joy and enthusiasm.

Quincy, FL

By Meredith M. Martin

The profoundness of the Restored Gospel sufficiently diffuses itself throughout the heart, invading the smallest orifice, then envelops the empty vessel entirely with a component of heavenly virtue. That component of virtue is *love*.

During the months of June and July, Brothers Anthony Lovalvo, Joseph Calabrese, Cleveland Baldwin, Charleston Hester, and V. James Lovalvo took that heavenly virtue which was delivered by the angel and, after giving a formal introduction to Christ, sealed up instructions for perfection.

On June 26, 1988 Brothers Anthony Lovalvo and Joseph Calabrese spoke from Joel 2:28-32. They expressed vividly the latter day expectations and the manifestation of God's Spirit in The Church of Jesus Christ. Lorenzo Thomas and Harold and Mary Henderson were visiting.

That evening we were entertained with a slide presentation from Bro.

Calabrese. Sheryl Anifowoski and her children were present. We enjoyed the sweet overflowing spirit of our brothers, along with their wives, Sisters Vicki Calabrese and Anne Lovalvo. Their wonderful spirit enhanced the invitation of love to our visitors.

Our blessings continued in the mission on July 3, when we enjoyed the wisdom offered to us by Bro. V. James Lovalvo, one of the Church's apostles. His wife Sis. Mary was also present.

"This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased," Brother Jim preached: God was introducing His beloved Son to the world. Again the voice of God spoke on the mount of transfiguration, saying, "This is my beloved son, hear ye him." A sublime introduction, "Hear Ye Him."

Brother Jim further expressed, as did Moroni, "Come unto Christ and be perfected in Him."

"Did you know that this work of perfection begins with your baptism?" Bro. Jim asked. We die daily, and thus we become perfect in Christ.

The profoundness of the Word of God split our hearts wide open and the pure substance, the heavenly virtue, then penetrated therein. The vessel was now filled with love. The sublime introduction to Christ took place and the invitation was received with joy.

These are the events that transpired as our brother was speaking. Through this Spirit, Harold and Mary Henderson became acquainted with the darling Babe of Bethlehem, God's own Son, through the power of the Restored Gospel. Their vessels were now overflowing with the component of heavenly virtue, pure love. Thus, after the sermon, both of them requested baptism.

A week later, on July 10, 1988, the heavens opened and the saints along with the angels witnessed two souls enter into the path of perfection through the waters of regeneration. Harold and Mary were baptized by Brother Charleston Hester. Both had hands laid on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Cleveland Baldwin.

Now they walk as sons and daughters of God, seeking that perfection in Christ.

Cape Coral, FL

By Bertha Constantine

Most of the members from Cape Coral were able to witness the baptism of Donald Eugene Bowler at the GMBA Campout in Leesburg, Florida. He was baptized by Bro. Milford Eutsey, Sr. and was confirmed by Bro. Jerry Valenti from Levittown, Pennsylvania.

Dallas, TX

By Jane Ardinger

Two new souls rendered obedience unto Christ on August 28, 1988 in Dallas, Texas.

Christine Freberg and her sister, Deborah, became spiritual sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ when they were baptized and confirmed by Brother George Benyola in Dallas. They are the daughters of Sister Virginia Freberg of Houston, Texas, and the granddaughters of Brother Dominick and Sister Belle Rose of Staten Island, New York.

Christine and Deborah were born and raised in the Church and have longed for the day when the Spirit of God would call them, as it did on that Sunday. A beautiful spirit of peace was felt by everyone from the time Sunday School was opened until the close of the fellowship service.

Brother George Benyola introduced the morning service and spoke on the importance of a strong, solid foundation, which is Christ the Son of the living God, in building a strong and solid spiritual life. He spoke of the man who will hear the word of God but will not apply the words of Jesus in his life. He is likened to a man that builds his house on sand. Likewise, the man that hears the word of God and then applies what he learns in his life is likened to a man that builds his house on the solid rock.

Bro. George also referred to the words of Christ when He asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" Peter answered that He was the Son of the living God, and Christ told him that it was upon this rock, this revelation that Christ is the Son of the living God, that He would build His church.

(Continued on Page 8)

DALLAS continued . . .

As Bro. George elaborated on this theme, he emphasized the fact that a strong, solid foundation is a prerequisite to building a strong, solid spiritual life. When our brother finished speaking, Sister Deborah stood upon her feet and expressed her desire to be baptized in the Church. With the wonderful spirit that prevailed, it was no surprise that Sister Christine followed, expressing her desire to be baptized as well.

A special blessing was received by all when Sister Stella Benyola related an experience she had that morning while preparing the basket for Communion. She said, "When I cut a piece of bread to be used for sacrament, the same as I usually do every week, a thought came to me that this wouldn't be enough today. I then cut a larger piece of bread and felt, 'This is better.' " Little did she know that God was revealing unto her that two new souls were going to be added to the Dallas Mission that day.

May God bless Sisters Christine and Deborah with the strength and courage needed to keep the promise they made to God all the days of their lives.

Detroit, Branch 2

By Loretta Lovalvo

The brothers, sisters, young people, and friends of Detroit, Branch 2 have had many reasons to rejoice in the last few months, the greatest being the baptisms of Duane Lovalvo and Almo Straccia.

Duane was blessed in the Church, went to Sunday School, MBA, and all the Church meetings and activities, yet he did not have a desire to really learn more about the Church until his roommate at college asked him about his religion. All of a sudden he realized he did not know enough about The Church of Jesus Christ to give a satisfactory explanation to this young man. Duane decided to make a study of the Church.

He started with Bro. V. James Lovalvo's *Dissertation on the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ*. He found it very interesting and read the whole book in one evening. As he read more and more in the Bible, Book of Mormon, and other literature, he began to realize what a treasure The

Church of Jesus Christ is and how precious the Bible and Book of Mormon are. Duane opened his heart and waited for the Lord to work with him.

On Sunday morning, May 15, after a beautiful sermon delivered by Bro. Dominic Thomas, he rose on his feet, thanked God for giving him the privilege of being born and raised in the Church, and asked for his baptism. Janice Benyola, Duane's fiancée, stood and related that on Saturday night she had a dream in which Duane's mother told her that Duane was going to be baptized. Shortly after Duane entered the room wearing the same clothes in the dream that he wore to church that day. She knew this was going to be his day. Duane was baptized by his father, Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo, and confirmed by Bro. Lou Pietrangelo.



Newly-baptized Duane Lovalvo (left) is brought forth from the Detroit river by his father, Leonard A. Lovalvo.

Almo Straccia attended church when he was young and then did not attend again for many years. He was very ill with arthritis and heart trouble, he could not work, and became very depressed. Brothers Dominic Thomas, Al Milantoni, and Emil DiMelis invited Almo to join them in their weekly get-togethers. Through his association with the brothers, he began to remember what the Church had to offer him and what God could do for him. Almo began attending church every Sunday, and the relief that he started to feel from his physical problems changed his countenance.

On July 17, 1988 during a testimony service, he stood on his feet and testified

that he knew what he had to do; he had to be baptized. Almo requested to be baptized the following week so his whole family could witness the baptism. The following Sunday, on the banks of the river in the beautiful morning sun, Bro. V. James Lovalvo spoke some inspired words about Christ and His Church in the Italian language so that Almo's family could understand. Many had tears in their eyes, even those who could not understand Italian. Almo was baptized by his brother, Bro. John Straccia, assisted by Bro. Alex Gentile, and confirmed by Bro. Dominic Thomas later on in our morning service.

Branch 2 is blessed with many young people and friends who are not baptized. Our prayer is that they will open their hearts and allow God to work with them just as He did with Brothers Duane and Almo. We truly rejoice and thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us.

Detroit, Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On Sunday July 24, 1988, we at Branch 1 had the privilege of having some members of the General Church Board of Missions, along with a few other visiting brothers, in our midst. The meeting began with Bro. Jerry Benyola blessing his first grandchild, Brittany Nutaitis. Bro. Jack Pontillo from Branch 3 was also there to observe the blessing of his grandniece.

Our preaching service was introduced by Bro. Tony DeCaro of Lindsay, California, who gave a beautiful message about our unchanging God. Bro. Tony was born in Detroit, and moved west with his parents when he was still a very small child. He spoke briefly to us about what it was like for him to return "home," to the place of his origins.

Bro. DeCaro spoke of the Church that Jesus Christ set up, how He set up the standards by which we should live. As human beings we strive for excellence in the natural things that we do, but what about our service to God?

The Church of Jesus Christ, according to our brother, is the best-kept secret in the world, and it is our responsibility to change that. Christ has entrusted His Gospel to us, not unlike the master who

gave talents out to his servants. Let us be like the first two servants, who doubled their goods; and not like the third, who was too afraid to try. Do your best, Brother Tony said, don't lower your standards.

We should be so excited and active as saints of latter days, our brother stated. He left us with a wonderful thought: We believe in God; well, God believes in us!

Brother Dwayne Jordan of Tse Bonito, New Mexico also spoke, telling of an experience had by a Navajo Indian woman at his branch. When she entered the building for the first time, she felt as if bands about her were loosening, and she knew that this was where she wanted to be. Brother Dwayne asked her to tell her experience to a few friends and invite them to church.

The very next meeting, thirteen of the people she told came. Bro. Dwayne asked these people to do the same thing and tell others, and the next week there were 65 visitors. All those people came to church from the testimony of one person. Our brother was anxious to learn what happened at his branch on this Sunday, because if the news continued to spread at this rate, there wouldn't be enough room to accommodate all those people!

Brother John Griffith of Tampa, Florida was the last to speak to us this day. He told of the walls of Jericho, and how when the army of the Children of Israel worked together, they were undefeated in battle. But when one among them went against the word of the Lord and took some of the spoils of Jericho, and hid them up for himself, the blessing of God upon them ceased. The very next battle they fought, at the city of Ai, they were defeated.

Joshua went to the Lord in prayer and asked Him why He had forsaken them. The Lord said that someone had broken the commandment that he had laid before them, and told Joshua to search the camp and sanctify it. By the laws of that time, the man who sinned and all his family were burned by fire. Then the children of Israel returned to the city of Ai and were victorious.

Likewise, Bro. John said, the success of the Church stands on its weakest member. It is the responsibility of each and every one of us to mature in the Gospel and be spiritually minded. Contrary to what we may lead ourselves to

believe, what one of us does affects all of us. We should all want to grow in stature before the Lord, and understand His perfect will towards us, that He might shower us with His great blessings.

All of these brothers preached to us today with such inspiration that I felt the need to share it with you. Even though this is just a portion of what we heard, I hope you feel the blessing we received that day.

Riverbank, CA

By Mark Randy

Every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Philippians 2:11). By him were all things created that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities or powers—all things were created by him, and for him: He is before all things and by him all things consist (Colossians 1:16 & 17). So why shouldn't His Church bear His name?

The Riverbank, California church building was finally dedicated July 3. The mission started in the 1970's in a small way, with house meetings being held by Brothers Joseph Lovalvo and Mark Randy. Meetings were held in the homes of Maria Lopez, Miguel Martinez, and Carlos Rodriguez.

Around this time, Bro. Sam Randy brought the late Bro. Eugenio Mora, an elder from Mexico, up to Modesto for medical treatments. While he was here, he had a great influence on the Spanish-speaking friends who were attending

our meetings. Feliciano Patia had shortly before moved to Modesto from Mexico. Strangely, Feliciano knew Bro. Eugenio back in Mexico. Eugenio's father had been stoned to death by some angry persons who had opposed his teaching the Bible.

Often Eugenio and Feliciano relived their childhood memories, but now Feliciano was hearing a new phase, the Restoration, of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Feliciano was the first baptized. By now Bro. Louis and Sis. Barbara Parravano became enthusiastically active in these meetings, and were later joined by Bro. Matthew Picciuto, who married Martha Granados, a sister from Tijuana. Martha was joined by her sisters, Eva and Alma, and Eva's husband Saul Betencourt, all of whom were baptized in Tijuana, Mexico. They became a natural source of strength to the new missionary endeavor.

As more and more were baptized, meetings were held in rented places, but the fervor for building a house of prayer of their own grew. Bro. Samuel David Randy found an abandoned house on a large lot. His testimony is that as he entered this condemned house, an inward voice said to him, "This is My house." The Lord saw both the need and the possibilities of His people, and as has happened before, this house is now "a beautiful house of prayer."

Bro. Sam envisioned a large steel beam constructed across the entire structure to strengthen and hold the building together. Bro. Matthew Picciuto, an able contractor, played a chief part in the labor involved in this project. The mission was officially established at our district conference on February 28,

(Continued on Page 10)



Once an abandoned home, now a beautiful church building in Riverbank, CA.

RIVERBANK continued . . .

1987 with Bro. Lou Parravano presiding.

Shortly thereafter the brothers from Modesto helped to organize the mission, and a permit was issued to convert the abandoned house to a beautiful church. It would be impossible to name all who helped, but we'd like to particularly note the young brothers and sisters of Santa Ana, who drove over 300 miles to help. Thanks also to the General Church Trustees, and to the many others from near and far who contributed financially to this project.

The dedicatory prayer and sermon were offered by Bro. Joe Lovalvo. He spoke of Jesus being the Son of David who built a more enduring temple than Solomon, a temple into which all nations shall flow. This "new" house will be built on love, love for sinners, love for the poor and the outcast. A wonderful spirit of praise prevailed as we dedicated still another building to the honor and glory of God.

Millstone, NJ

By Rick Calabro

At the mission in Millstone, New Jersey, recently established under the Freehold, NJ Branch, the Spirit of God like a fire was burning, hotter than the 97-degree weather we had on Sunday, August 14, 1988.

We started the day with the baptism of Bro. Mauricio Tehran of Mexico City. Bro. Mauricio was introduced to the Church by Juan and Lucy Murillo (originally from Mexico), who have been attending the Church for almost two years.

Brother Mauricio has a great love for the Gospel, and a great desire to tell others of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Hours before Mauricio asked for his baptism, he, along with Brothers Isidro Gonzales, Mario Morales, and Rick Calabro visited many of the Seed of Joseph living in the vicinity of the mission, to introduce them to the Church.

Meetings are held at the farm residence of Juan and Lucy Murillo, and administered by Brothers Joseph Perri and Isidro Gonzales, who is originally from Tijuana, Mexico. Bro. Gonzales performed the baptism on this day, and Bro. Perri bestowed the Holy ghost on our new Brother Mauricio. The Spirit of God was felt amongst the congregation.

Throughout the course of the meeting, many brothers and sisters testified of dreams and experiences they had. At the end of the meeting, Eva Estrada, a friend of Bro. Mario and Sis. Olga Morales (originally from Guatemala), asked for her baptism. The day was not over yet. The congregation returned to the lake where Bro. Isidro baptized Sis. Eva, and then went back to the meeting place where Bro. Joe Perri confirmed her.

We were blessed with visitors on this day from the Freehold and Metuchen Branches. Not only did Israel smile, but the angels in heaven rejoiced! We thank God for the blessing He has given us, and we ask the brothers and sisters to pray for the mission in New Jersey, and for the work of the Seed of Joseph throughout this hemisphere.

Dios lo bendiga!

Ft. Pierce, FL

On August 7, 1988 Sister Judy Graziosi from Fort Pierce, Florida was ordained a deaconess. Sister Elsie Enzana washed her feet and Brother Gene Perri, from Lake Worth, FL ordained her. Our other visitors were Brother Duane and Sister Betty Ann Lowe of Tampa, and Sisters Flo and Betty Perri of Lake Worth.

Youngstown, OH

By Sandra Cardillo

As the commission was given during the time of Peter to fill the office of a deacon with men who desire good work, not greedy, and holding the mystery of the faith in good conscience, the Youngstown, Ohio Branch set aside two such brothers to continue in the footsteps of men such as Stephen and Phillip. Brothers James Fortunato and Michael Pandone were ordained as deacons in The Church of Jesus Christ on Sunday, August 21, 1988.

Many visitors, relatives, and saints came to give respect and support to our brethren. Bro. Jim Hufnagle from Cleveland, Ohio opened the spirit-filled meeting by reading from III Nephi 12:16. Bro. Jim expounded on the theme of what it means to be righteous. He told us to continually hunger and thirst for it. We should take the words of Jesus, test them, and put them to use.

Bro. John Manes of McKees Rocks, PA, an uncle to Bro. Michael Pandone, followed by saying that the goal of the Church is to reach all of those who do hunger and thirst. We should ask God to direct us to be a blessing to others. Though we as a Church are small in number, we *must* strive, so that the Spirit of God can work with us to attain the goal of spreading this Gospel. In



Members and visitors at the Millstone, NJ Mission pose for a picture.

order to accomplish this, we need organization. The Church needs offices and helpers to fill this need, and the office of a deacon is part of this organizational structure.

Our Brothers James and Michael were recognized as helpers to this cause. The calling of a deacon is one of great responsibility. Some of the duties that Bro. Manes listed were: to comfort the saints, to help those in need, and to contribute in ways both seen and unseen to both the natural and spiritual well-being of the branch.

Stephen was cited as a prime example. God blessed Stephen, that through him the people might know there was something different about the followers of Christ. He had to defend his cause. He upheld the truth and would not renege. Though they stoned him, he asked God not to lay this sin against them—he loved his enemies.

The Church of Jesus Christ is based upon this love. Those who are hungry and thirsty will find their needs answered by the Church and those who belong to it. The God we serve today is still the same; He hasn't changed.

As the congregation sang *Take My Life and Let It Be*, our brothers came forward to be set apart and ordained. Bro. Fortunato's feet were washed by Bro. Michael Italiano and he was ordained by Bro. Ralph Berardino. Bro. Pandone's feet were washed by Bro. Henry Cardillo and he was ordained by Bro. John Manes.

Sis. Sandra Cardillo was requested to sing *To the Work*. As she did, Bro. Philip Jackson of Kinsman, Ohio had a vision of Christ telling the multitude that salvation is free.

We thank God for His Spirit and for the privilege of serving Him. After the service we gathered for a dinner and a love-filled season of fellowship which completed our blessed day.

MEETING continued . . .

life," Bro. Picciuto said. "Dean, too, has a mission to accomplish, but it takes total commitment."

Although the day had been filled with

both spoken and sung rejoicing, the Lord was not through with His day's work. Brother Dean's father asked that his two granddaughters, Jana and Erica, be blessed. Before this was done, Sis. Nancy Mayher of Cleveland testified that she heard a voice which said, "I will bring the children in."

At the conclusion of the evening service, Sis. Debbie Kall asked for her baptism. Following the meeting, Bro. Mike Nuzzi of Niles confirmed her calling in an experience he had received at the end of this morning's meeting. While a handkerchief was being anointed for our gravely ill Sister Gladys Riley, Bro. Mike had asked God, "Show me something, some confirmation of Your Spirit."

"I saw her (Debbie) dressed in white, standing over a lake and going down into the water very slowly." Bro. Nuzzi said only when Sis. Debbie asked for her baptism this evening did he understand fully what he had been given. On July 3, Sis. Debbie Kall was baptized by Bro. Bill Prentice of the Cleveland Branch, and confirmed by Bro. Vince Gibson of Cleveland.

* WEDDINGS *

ROTHER—AQUINO

Kevin Rothe and Dolores Aquino were married on Saturday, July 16, 1988 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Brooklyn, New York.

Brother James R. Link, Sr., uncle of the bride, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Bro. James Suska, vocalist, and Sis. Alice Suska, pianist.

The newlyweds are residing in East Meadow, New York. May the Lord bless Dolores and Kevin as they begin their new life together as husband and wife.

LOVALVO—BENYOLA

Brother Duane M. Lovalvo and Janice Benyola were united in holy matrimony on August 20, 1988 at Detroit Branch 2 of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Bro. Larry and Sis. Rosanne Champine, and Bro. Steve Champine and Sis. Diane Hawkins, with Bro. Eugene Amormino accompanying them.

The young couple will reside in Ypsilanti, Michigan. May the Lord bless them in their new life together.

RISSMAN—GENNRICH

Steven Rissman and Debra Gennrich were united in marriage on August 20, 1988 at Detroit Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Roseville, Michigan.

Brothers Richard Thomas and Sam DiFalco officiated at the ceremony.

We pray that the Lord will bless this couple with a long and happy life together.

MYERS—REED

Emerson Ronald Myers and Lisa Carol Reed were joined in marriage at Mill Hollow Park near Lorain, Ohio on August 26, 1988 under the canopy of heaven with beautiful blue skies, sunshine, beautiful trees and hills.

Bro. Joseph Calabrese officiated at the ceremony, with musical selections by Sis. Katherine Cocco.

Certainly one and all in attendance at the outdoor ceremony praised God for the beauty and greatness of His creation. The couple will reside in Lorain, Ohio.

(Continued on Page 12)

WEDDINGS continued . . .

PICCIUTO—CRAWFORD

Brother S. Dean Picciuto and Colleen Bridget Crawford were united in holy matrimony on August 26, 1988 in Mentor, Ohio.

The service was officiated by the groom's uncle, Bro. Tony Picciuto of Lindsay, California. Musical selections were offered by Dino Picciuto, the groom's cousin.

The Picciuto's will reside in Mentor, Ohio. May the Lord's blessings follow them from this day forward.

HOLT—LOVE

Mr. Raymond L. Holt, Jr. and Sis. Beverly A. Love were joined in marriage on August 27, 1988 at The Church of Jesus Christ in South Bend, Indiana.

Bro. Mitchell Edwards officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Tim Codfield, Kenneth Love, and Sharon Love, with a reading by Estelle Husband.

The bride and groom will reside in South Bend. May the Lord's blessing be upon our sister and her companion.

New Arrivals

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

Laura Ann to Lloyd and Karen Elzby of Bell, California.

Danielle Marie to Merle Lynn and Michelle Swanger of Cape Coral, Florida.

Jared Rocco to Rocco and Terri Benyola of Lake Worth, Florida.

Ryan Ross to Norman Gregg and Carolyn Swanger of Cape Coral, Florida.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children Blessed

Denese Rosalyn Kelly was blessed by Bro. James R. Link, Sr. on June 12, 1988 in the Bronx, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Dominic Anthony Picciuto was blessed in the Church at Cleveland, Ohio on July 24, 1988 by Brother Jim Hufnagle.

OBITUARIES

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

BARBARA JAQUES

Sister Barbara Jaques of the Six Nations, Ontario Mission went to her eternal reward on May 5, 1988. She was born on April 5, 1941.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo, Norman Campitelle, Ken Wright, Richard Lobzun, Tom Everett, and Harold Batalucco.

Sis. Barbara is survived by two sons, two daughters, two sisters, seven brothers, nieces and nephews, and brothers and sisters in Christ. She was active with the children at the mission and took charge of the Christmas program every year. Her presence will be greatly missed.

TANYA HILL

Tanya Hill passed tragically from this life in a house fire on June 8, 1988. She was born September 8, 1974.

Her funeral was conducted by Brothers Norman Campitelle and Tom Everett of the Six Nations, Ontario Mission.

She leaves behind her parents, two brothers and a sister, and many friends and brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ, Six Nations Mission. Even at her young age, she was active as our Sunday School secretary for many years, and she will be dearly missed by all of us.

FRANK EMMOLO

Brother Frank Emmolo of Detroit Branch 1 passed on to his eternal reward on July 8, 1988. He was born November 18, 1895 and was baptized by Bro. Antonio Ruzzi on April 1, 1934.

Bro. Emmolo was a quiet brother whose smile always reflected the joy of the Gospel. Though he lived his last years in a nursing home, he will be missed by the brothers and sisters who knew him.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 228-480)

November, 1988

Volume 44, No. 11

General Church President Opens Conference

On Sunday October 9, Bro. Dominic Thomas preached an inspired address, on the love of God and all that it entails, to the crowd gathered at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA. Feeling that his message applies to the entire Church, we've recorded the latter part of his sermon in these pages, hoping it will inspire its readers, as it did its hearers, to reach for greater spiritual heights.—Ed.

"Do you know what happens to us when we're baptized, when we're converted, when we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? There's a certain perception given to us that helps to detect those that have charity and those that don't. . . . Now how many of us think that we have as much charity as we ought to as members of the Church? How many of us think we ought to? We can all have charity.

"Where does charity take us? What's the endpoint of charity? Heaven! Why do you think we're in this? We're in this to go to heaven, and bring as many with us as we can. . . . God has charity. He gave his only begotten Son. Do these characteristics [I Corinthians 13] describe Jesus Christ? I think they do. Do they describe me? I think they don't. I saw a couple of things in here that I fail on. I say to you that I'm working on them. Will you promise me that you'll work on being more like this definition of charity, or the pure love of Christ? Or be like Christ?

"Bro. Cadman used to say, 'Brethren, be ye perfect, even as Christ is perfect.' And I'd say, 'Brother Cadman, how can

anybody be perfect?' And he would say, 'Strive for perfection.' It's an ideal you reach for. It's an ideal you spend your life trying to reach. And on the day that you die, if you haven't reached perfection, what will bring you into the kingdom of God is the grace of God.

"Jesus is a merciful being, and He loves us. Now, we're practical persons. I read in The Book of Mormon, that there are the results of charity. I've been talking like it's all giving one way and not getting anything back. And I know you folks out there are saying, 'Now wait a minute, what do we get out of this?' I'll tell you what: In The Book of Mormon, in the days of their little peaceful reign [IV Nephi v. 10 ff.], . . . *it came to pass that the people of Nephi did wax strong, and did multiply exceeding fast, and became an exceeding fair and delightsome people.* Well, who should be fair and delightsome in our day and time?—Fair and delightsome, spiritually speaking. *And they were married, and given in marriage, and were blessed according to the multitude of the promises which the Lord had made unto them.* Now aren't we to be recipients of the promises of God? Yes! The blessings of God, the manifestations of His Spirit, the glory of His Spirit, the glory of His presence.

"*And they did not walk any more after the performances and ordinances of the law of Moses; but they did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in what? I asked the [district] presidents of this Church to keep the Church in fasting and prayer*

seven days a week. How else do you think we're going to overcome the world? Today's world is so tough, so rough, so mean, so nasty, so corrupt, so destructive, so tempting, that it can destroy people in this Church. And what did they do? They continued in *fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord.*

"And I hear that we sometimes are reluctant to come together often; you want to know the schedule. What's this about a *schedule*? Serving God by *schedule*? I thought when I promised to serve God, that I was going to do it all the days of my life. . . .

"Don't let's get locked into schedule. Let's don't get locked into the idea [that] you can do these things when it's convenient. Don't let's get locked into the notion that we as The Church of Jesus Christ have suddenly become so contemporary that it's only at our *convenience* that we serve God. You know why I say that? Because I know of families, I know of men, I know of women, I know of young people who are working relentlessly and untiringly for the Church, and you know what they're doing? They're carrying the bulk of us on their shoulders. Now you can only carry people for so far and so long, and your legs buckle. Then you have to quit.

"I propose that everybody help carry the Church equally. I don't care what your office is. If you have an office it's even more important, but in this

(Continued on Page 3)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

"Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof."

Ninety-year-old Elodie Armstrong is a special person, full of joy and spiritual faith in a living God. Forty years ago she was diagnosed as having multiple sclerosis. Shortly thereafter, she wrote her "personal commandments:"

1. Thou shalt not worry, for worry is the most unproductive of all human activities.
2. Thou shalt not be fearful, for most of the things we fear never come to pass.
3. Thou shalt not cross bridges before you get to them, for no one yet has succeeded in accomplishing this.
4. Thou shalt face each problem as it comes. You can handle only one at a time anyway.
5. Thou shalt not take problems to bed with you, for they make very poor bedfellows.
6. Thou shalt not borrow other people's problems. They can take better care of them than you can.
7. Thou shalt not try to relive yesterday, for good or for ill; it is gone. Concentrate on what is happening in your life today.
8. Thou shalt count your blessings, never overlooking the small ones, for a lot of small blessings add up to a big one.
9. Thou shalt be a good listener, for only when you listen do you hear ideas

different from your own. It's very hard to learn something new when you're talking.

10. Thou shalt not become bogged down by frustration, for ninety percent of it will only interfere with positive action.

How about you, child of God? Are you allowing the Lord to work within you by sharing the same positive thoughts as this noble ninety-year "young" woman?

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is the only way I can thank all of you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls.

Brother Bill got home one week and one day after surgery on Thursday, October 6. We could not believe when the surgeon told us on September 30 (Bill's birthday) that Bro. Bill would be admitted to the medical center and that the surgery he required would take all of his stomach.

When they heard about the operation, friends asked us what we were going to do. Brother Bill answered them by saying, "If I still have work on earth to do for God, He will bring me through. If my work is finished, He will take me home." When he was being prepared for surgery, one of the assistant doctors asked Bro. Bill if he could have a prayer with him. This amazed Bro. Bill, as it is seldom that a doctor asks his patient this question.

As I was checking in at the Intensive Care Unit lounge, a hospital volunteer was on the phone. After she hung up, she mentioned to all of us in the room that that call came from Arizona. As I wrote my name on the registry, she was amazed, as the caller had asked to talk to me. The volunteer handed me the message that she had written, and I read the name of a sister from Phoenix.

Before Bro. Bill went to the hospital, our Kiowa Indian friend Ernest Chanate phoned, and over the phone he offered a prayer for Bro. Bill. We are thankful for all of the Indian friends we have made from numerous tribes in the area. We have joined them many times in singing hymns in their tribal languages.

May God bless you richly, as He has blessed us richly every day.

Bro. Bill and Sis. Evelyn Crall
Post Office Box 1028
203 West Washington
Anadarko, Oklahoma 73005
(405) 247-7059

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your visits, prayers, cards, calls, and concern during my recent hospitalization for heart surgery. I thank God that I am recovering; please continue to remember me in prayer.

While in the hospital I had an experience, which I'd like to share. One day following the surgery, I was feeling quite poorly. The nurse had come into my room to move the IV tubes; my veins were collapsing and I was in a great deal of pain. The nurse suggested I have a TV or radio playing to help occupy my thoughts. I remembered the advice that Bro. Dan Casasanta had always given: "Keep the line from earth to heaven open; that's the only way God will talk to you."

Remembering this, I refused the TV and radio, and pleaded with God to help me. I closed my eyes, and ten minutes or so passed. I felt a hand on my shoulder and, thinking it was the nurse, kept my eyes shut. After a few minutes, I looked up, expecting to see the nurse. There was no one there. I knew then that it was the Lord's hand to comfort me, and I fell asleep. God does hear our prayers.

Your Brother in Christ,
Chester Nolfi

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank all of you for your cards, your encouraging visits, and especially your prayers during my recent illness. I am now home from the hospital recuperating.

Soon it will be 69 years that I have been in The Church of Jesus Christ. I was baptized on December 14, 1919. I enjoy serving the Lord and thank Him for many beautiful years in His precious Gospel. Please continue to pray for me. May God bless you all.

Sis. Minnie DePiero
Youngstown, Ohio

CONFERENCE continued . . .

Church, offices, I don't believe, count for anything. I think what counts is that you're a *member*. I think it's important that God has given you a blessing that says, 'I am a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, I have received His Holy Spirit, I have promised to serve Him, and I will do everything in my power to see the promises of God received by this Church as He promised to give them. I will do everything in my power to see that the Seed of Joseph is preached to and called into the Church. I will do everything in my power to do what the Lord said to His disciples, "Go ye into all the nations of the earth, teach and preach my gospel, and those that believe shall be baptized, and great signs and wonders shall follow them."'

"I'm not locked into procedure, not locked into traditions or practice. I think it's time for us to show our spiritual ingenuity. I see it in the work of our young people in the Education Committee. I see it in the Mission Board Programs. I see it in the [Ladies' Uplift] Circle. And I see it in the dedication of the extremely old. . . .

"The thing that doesn't cost a penny is the word 'appreciation.' When a missionary goes out, he asks me, 'Why don't we get appreciation?' They want letters, they want attention. Isn't that normal and natural? If the people that go to Italy, to India, to Africa, to Guatemala, to Mexico, if they're left out there alone, without any contact with the rest of the Church, the Body that has the strength to communicate to them their support, *our* support, then they're going to quit, they're going to give up, they're going to die in their efforts.

"Now you say, 'Well, Brother Dominic, our base is being eroded. We're spreading all over the world; we're running beyond our supplies.' Well what do you think the answer to that is? Don't you think we need to increase our membership a little bit? Don't you think it means, as I heard yesterday, those of us that can give more, that are *able* to give more, not press down on those who can't give, but free will those who can give, *give more*? I think it means that.

"And it came to pass that there was no contention in the land, because of the love of God which did dwell in the hearts of the people. And there were no envyings, nor strifes, nor tumults, nor

whoredoms, nor lyings, nor murders, nor any manner of lasciviousness; and surely there could not be a happier people among all the people who had been created by the hand of God.

"And how blessed were they! For the Lord did bless them in all their doings; yea, even they were blessed and prospered until an hundred and ten years had passed away; and the first generation from Christ had passed away, and there was no contention in all the land.

Now, I want to tell you a little bit about contention. You know, it's a word that none of us like. But I can tell you, when I came into the Church at about five years old, . . . I took contention among the brothers at business meetings as part of the Church. I didn't know that that was wrong . . . until I got a little older and thought, 'Boy, that's serious.' . . . I started praying and wishing, 'Lord, let's not have any more contentions. This is Your Church; what are we arguing about?'

"Well, you know, here [in The Book of Mormon] they had the advantage of having the Lord with them for several days. He really laid it out before them, and nobody could argue with the Lord. They did everything the Lord said. . . .

"In our day, there are a lot of things we talk about that might get us into some sort of an argument here and there along the way. We've got to learn a little bit about how to handle arguments—a little bit about how to deal with the problems that confront us in our work as we would labor for the Church. And I ask you this morning, that as we proceed down the road to expand the work of the Church, that we learn how to work out our differences *without contention, all the time*.

"This expression is not unique with me, I did not write it, I will not take credit for it, but I'm talking about the Church this morning, and I'm winding down. The sentence reads: **Nothing is worth saying or doing if the Church through which God is glorified does not profit.** If the Church does not profit by what I say, or what I do, I have no business doing it. Why? Because it's through this Church, the Church of His Son, that He is glorified.

"Now, you say, 'Well, you've talked a lot, maybe you said some things that I liked,' maybe I made you cry and made you laugh. . . . But go back with me to the days of Jesus. The 28th chapter

of Matthew. The Lord's speaking to His disciples, and it reads, *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.*

"This promise, I guarantee you, is as valid today as it was the day He uttered these words. The Lord, I said yesterday, is in our midst. . . . The reason I know He's here is because I am talking about His business. And I speak as president of the Church this morning, that we have no other business than the business of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And the number one thing in His priority is that we first love one another. Will you love one another beyond where you have been before? That's what I need to know.

"There's no point in me continuing to be president of a Church that will not

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An Experience

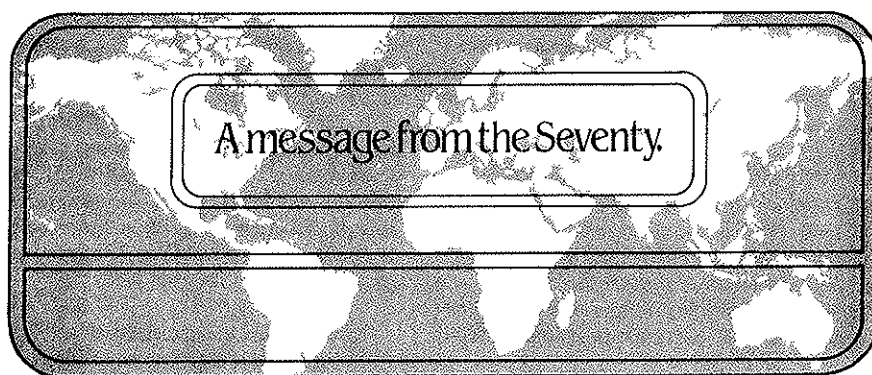
Friday evening, October 7, we had a fasting and prayer meeting on behalf of the General Conference. During this meeting I saw a vision. I was transported to the Auditorium at Greensburg. All the elders were sitting there, and the rostrum was illuminated. Brother Dominic Thomas had a circle of bright light around his face. The heavens opened, and Jesus came down and spoke with a sweet, gentle voice, saying, "The Gospel is pure and the Church must be pure." He blessed the congregation and disappeared. A wonderful spirit prevailed all during our prayer meeting.

Saturday morning I continued in prayer. The same vision came to me and lasted all morning. I felt a blessing upon me all day long.

Thanks be to God that we are serving the true and living God, and that He hears us when we pray.

God bless you all.

Sis. Carmella D'Amico
Rochester, NY Mission



Two Brothers Called to Be Evangelists

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

Two more ministers were called to be evangelists at the October 4 General Quorum of Seventy meetings at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania. They were then both approved by the General Church Conference and were to be scheduled for ordination in their districts.

The two are Dennis Moraco of Hollywood, Florida and Larry Watson of Tse Bonito, New Mexico. Brother Moraco, who is the president of the Florida District, was ordained an elder on May 6, 1979, and Brother Watson, who is chairman of the Southwest District Mission Board, was ordained an elder on November 11, 1973.

Their entry into the Quorum now brings the total to 68.

FAR-REACHING MEASURES

Besides the two callings, important reports were presented, far-reaching measures were adopted, and plans were made for the future.

Among the accounts given were updates on some of the foreign missions. Brothers Dwayne Jordan and Frank Ciotti reported on the work in Guatemala. As of this conference, nine baptisms had been performed and seven more souls were to be baptized.

Also, registration with the government has been completed, and the officially approved name is "The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala." This is in confirmation of a dream received prior to the time the request was submitted, in which this name was given as

becoming the official identity of the Church in that nation.

The president of the Church in Guatemala is Brother Luis Marroquin, and the vice-president is Brother Isidro Dominguez. They are the two missionaries who moved there last November with their families.

The first ordination was also performed in Guatemala. Sister Darlene Marroquin was ordained a deaconess.

Brother Joseph Perri reported on Ghana, Africa, and on Italy. As reported in the May issue, he had visited both places with Brother Joseph Ross earlier this year.

PERMANENT BROADCASTS

The Radio and TV Committee announced that the pilot phase of the Radio Ministry has been completed, and seven permanent broadcasts have been put in place. They are in New York City; Levittown and Glassport, Pennsylvania; Tse Bonito, New Mexico; San Diego, California (one each in Spanish and English); and over the Caribbean network in Spanish from St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. Favorable responses have been received, with some people being brought into the fold after listening to the broadcasts.

The committee, composed of Brothers Matthew Rogolino, Vincent Gibson, Dwayne Jordan, and Carl J. Frammolino, was re-elected and the Radio Ministry was placed on the permanent and production phase. The General Church Conference concurred with the overall program, and authorized funds for its continuance.

WORLDWIDE EVANGELISM PROGRAM

A new Worldwide Evangelism Program was established, in which evangelists were assigned to various parts of the world. Six regions were set up, and Brother Ike Smith, Quorum vice-president, was placed in charge with Brother Jordan as the secretary. The purpose is to study the situations in each of the regions and in as many countries as possible, in order to evaluate the circumstances involved and the feasibility of going there. This kind of preparation, analysis, and implementation are necessary for us to branch out and spread the Gospel of Christ. The regions and the evangelist assignment are as follows; others of the Quorum will be added as they come forth.

Region 1—North, Central, and South America: Dwayne Jordan, Chairman; Frank Ciotti; Paul Liberto; Dick Christman; and Dan Picciuto.

Region 2—Europe: Rusty Heaps, Chairman; Dominick Rose; and Carl J. Frammolino.

Region 3—Africa: Joseph Perri, Chairman; Paul Carr; Cleveland Baldwin; and Mitchell Edwards.

Region 4—India, Pakistan, Arab Nations, and Asia: Joseph Calabrese, Chairman; Paul Ciotti; and Dick Lawson.

Region 5—Australia and Polynesian Islands: Thomas Liberto, Chairman; Leonard Lovalvo; and George Benyola.

Region 6—Israel: Paul Benyola, Chairman; Alexander Robinson; and Anthony R. Lovalvo.

Not officially designated as a region but nonetheless very important in this overall plan is the General Church Development Committee, which is responsible for working with established branches and missions and which is chaired by Brother Elmer Santilli. Under this committee, North America has been divided into its five time zones, and two evangelists will be assigned to each zone. Brother Eugene Perri will head this undertaking.

TEAM VISITS

The team visits, in which two evangelists travel to a specific district for weekend services, will be continued

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By Bro. Jim Huttenberger

As the Church moves closer and closer to the establishment of the Kingdom of Zion and the great work of the Latter Day Church, God is seeking individuals who are willing to work for Him. As more and more of our faithful brothers and sisters are being called home to their reward, the question we must ask ourselves is, Who will fill the shoes of those that have gone before? Have their talents and gifts passed away with them? Are we asking God to bless us so that we can carry on the work they began? Are we sanctified to the degree that we can humbly request that God would grant us the same gifts to edify the Church? It is time that we begin to realize that the great responsibility and commission God has given us is *our* responsibility, and we must be ready to step into the front lines of battle.

It is not wrong to desire the same gifts and blessings of our departed loved ones. In fact, it is necessary in order to keep the Church alive and well. Elisha desired a double portion of his friend Elijah's gifts. He was not satisfied with just an equal amount of the gifts and blessings God gave Elijah, but desired twice as much. Elisha did not want the blessing that rested on Elijah upon earth to end with his miraculous chariot ride into heaven. He wanted to possess even more of that power and Spirit, that he might fulfill the commission from God to spread the Gospel. Elisha asked and God granted his desire. Likewise we too should desire the same gifts and Spirit that were borne by our faithful brothers and sisters who are no longer with us. Who will carry on the great work of the Lord unless we do?

Some say the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not as prevalent as in years past. If this is so, who is to blame? Certainly not God. We must examine ourselves so that God might arm us with that same power. Over the past five to ten years, many of the faithful pillars in the Church, including some of our brother Apostles, have been called home. You can probably remember some who were great laborers for the Lord. Some of these possessed wonderful gifts of the Spirit that edified and blessed the Church. We must, like Elisha, begin to rise up and fill their shoes! We must not allow the gifts and blessings of old to remain just a memory, but ask God, with all humility, to adorn His Church with these same gifts.

The Church of today must be crowned, as never before, with absolute righteousness and holiness. As we enter a new era of time when God will begin to manifest Himself like never before, we must be in possession of these great promises. The world will look to us; we must set the example. The Church must be blessed in the latter days with a double portion of the power of God. Nephi saw our day and said, "I saw the Church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, but in the last days this Church was armed with great power and glory."

It is time to begin to take more seriously our service to God. It is time to sanctify and humble ourselves. It is time to ask God for a double portion of the blessings and gifts that He gave to our fathers and forefathers. It is time to carry on with courage the battle that is raging, as we enter this new age of the "Joshua" movement.

Jesus said, on one occasion, "Greater things shall ye do, even as I have done." Let us claim the promises of God like never before and willingly, courageously step into the shoes of those brothers and sisters who have been called home. Let us walk victoriously into the Peaceful Reign.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



path He walked. *You* follow your faith and our Lord.

And remember, even when Peter feared and failed, Jesus loved him, saved him, and walked by his side. He will do this for you, too, when you have a time when you must walk with your faith.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

When You Walk on the Water

Dear Friends,

Could you walk on the water? Could you walk on the water if Jesus held your hand and walked beside you? Could you keep your eyes on Him and rejoice that you were walking beside Him instead of glancing at the deep water and thinking with fear, "What if I sink in?"

In the new testament of the Bible, three of Jesus' followers wrote about the time the Apostle Peter walked on the water. You can read about this in Matthew 14:22, Mark 6:47, and John 6:17.

The Bible tells us that after Jesus' miracle where He fed a huge crowd of people with only two fish and five loaves of bread, He left the crowd and went alone to the tall hills to pray, telling His disciples to wait for Him in their ship.

In those days, people did not have cars to travel in or motels to stay in; they rode on donkeys or in boats and ships from city to city if at all possible. Jesus' friends were waiting in their ship to take Him to another town the next day.

While they waited for Jesus, a big wind began to blow. Evening came and the little ship rode dark waves. Up and down the little boat bobbed. The disciples were watching fearfully in the dark night, when they saw a man walking on the water towards them. "It's a spirit!" they cried in fear.

But the voice of Jesus called to them, saying, "Be happy, it is Me. Don't be afraid."

Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, if it is You, allow me to come to you on the water." To this Jesus replied, "Come."

Then Peter climbed over the edge of the ship and onto the water to walk to Jesus. But when he realized the terrible wind was blowing, he was afraid, and at that moment he began to sink into the deep sea. Peter cried out, "Lord! Save me!" and immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him.

Jesus asked His friend Peter, "Why did you doubt?" and they walked back to the ship. The wind stopped, and all of the disciples worshipped Jesus, saying, "You *are* the Son of God," and the rejoicing group continued across the sea, safe with Jesus, our Lord.

We, too, are sometimes like Peter. Filled with wonderful faith and trust in Jesus, we are willing to try and do something new. Maybe our walk of faith isn't across dark sea waters; maybe our brave walk is to stand up for something we believe in, even if the other believers don't come with us, just as Peter's friends didn't come with him.

We trust the voice of Jesus and step out in faith. Sometimes we take many steps, and sometimes, like Peter, we forget for a moment to concentrate on Jesus' great powers. Then we realize how afraid we are and begin to sink. Peter's joy must have been great afterwards, when he realized that he'd actually had enough faith to enter the dark waters and walk towards Jesus. Like Peter, we must keep our eyes on Jesus all the time, or we will sink into our own fears.

The next time you think about doing something good for someone, do it. Even if the other good people don't understand something needs to be done, keep your eyes on Jesus and walk the

MESSAGE continued . . .

in 1989. Evangelist Thomas Liberto was placed in charge, and the schedule will be announced in the near future.

The following General Quorum officers were re-elected: Paul Benyola, President; Ike Smith, Vice-President; Carl J. Frammolino, Secretary and Editor; Eugene Perri, Assistant Secretary; and Vincent Gibson, Treasurer.

The Evangelist District Chairmen were approved as follows: Matthew Rogolino, Atlantic Coast; Eugene Perri, Florida; Anthony R. Lovalvo, Michigan-Ontario; Vincent Gibson, Ohio; Dan Picciuto, Pacific Coast; Bob Buffington, Pennsylvania; and Dick Christman, Southwest District.

The enthusiasm and promise of the programs established have offered many opportunities to labor for the Gospel, and the Quorum of Seventy conveyed earnestness and desire to pursue them.

GMBA Retreat

The GMBA is planning a weekend entitled, "To Love and to Cherish," for couples married ten years or more. The retreat will be held at the Antiochian Village conference center near Ligonier, Pennsylvania the weekend of December 9-11, 1988.

Details and registration forms will be available from your local MBA.

Our Women Today

Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino,
General Circle Editor

The conference of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ convened on September 24, 1988 at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. The church building was filled to capacity with sisters from Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

The Vanderbilt Circle presented a program on "Beulah Land." They spoke about this land as if it were a person—from the times of the Jaredite nation up to the time of Joseph Smith and the Restoration. They also sang a few hymns, including *The Gathering of Israel* from *The Songs of Zion*.

General Circle President Sister Mabel Bickerton thanked the Vanderbilt Circle for hosting the conference on such short notice. She mentioned that she had been serving as Circle president for thirty-one years, enjoying every year and never missing a conference.

The business meeting started with the roll call of officers and the reading of the minutes of the last conference, held April 23, 1988 at Monongahela, Pennsylvania. A condensed report of the Circles was given by area: Pennsylvania, Atlantic Coast, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, Florida, and California. A report from India was also given—the Circle there has thirty members. Ladies' Circle meetings are spent studying the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and church literature. Local Circles help their branches and missions in all their doings.

The treasurer's report listed a donation to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund, tuition for a female Nigerian Student, donations to the Church's missionary work in Africa, India, and Guatemala, and to the Radio Broadcast Fund.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Sam Camarda, Dan Casasanta, John E. Cox, Evelyn Dale, Pauline Dulisse, Esther Dyer, James E. Hixon, Jack Laverie, Anthony Lombardo, Walter Malek, Leo Nicosia, Eugene Theodore, and Frances Vultaggio.

The Circle's next project will be to raise money for the families of the missionaries.

During the past six months, the sisters did some memory work. They learned to recite Psalms 23 and 121, the Beatitudes, and the books of the Bible. For the next conference, they will learn to recite the books of the Old Testament.

All of the officers were re-elected with the exception of the president and vice-president. Sister Arline Whitton was elected president, and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio was elected vice-president. Many experiences were related to confirm the election of the president, and a good spirit prevailed. The brothers of the priesthood that were present gathered around our Sister Arline, and Brother Joseph Bittinger offered a prayer on her behalf and that of the Circle.

The next conference will be held April 29, 1989 at Levittown, Pennsylvania. A vote of thanks was given to the Vanderbilt Circle for their hospitality. In dismissing this conference, we joined hands in a circle—truly a Circle of Love.

Special Prayer Meeting

By Cathy Gentile

The Michigan-Ontario Ladies' Uplift Circle held a special fasting and prayer meeting on September 19, 1988. The focus of the service was for the General Church Conference and a request from Sister Mabel Bickerton that we pray for her successor as president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. There were approximately forty sisters in attendance, some of whom traveled seventy-two miles to be there.

The meeting began with a special prayer on behalf of our Sister Mary Criscuolo, who has been very ill, offered by Sister Mary Coppa. The sisters were divided into three groups. These small, intimate groups allowed the sisters to get to know each other better.

Before the meeting was dismissed, the sisters formed a circle and joined hands, singing *Sweet, Sweet Spirit*.

I, Sister Cathy Gentile, believe it would be very difficult to find a Circle

member who does not feel strongly about how the Circle has influenced her spiritual growth. Personally, my earliest memories of when God's Spirit touched my mind and heart are of a Circle meeting in a sister's home, listening to experiences of how God blessed the sisters.

I know it is the desire of all the sisters in the Michigan/Ontario Ladies' Uplift Circles that other women, young and old, baptized or not, to investigate what the Ladies' Circle has to offer. We are convinced that the Circle is our place to make a contribution, a spiritual, physical, and uplifting one, to The Church of Jesus Christ.

MBA Highlights

GMBA Singles' Weekend

By Jeffrey Giannetti,
GMBA Editor

In recent months, a number of "firsts" have taken place in the GMBA. In December of 1987, the first ever GMBA Young Married Couples' Retreat was held. In June of 1988, the first GMBA Campout to be held in the state of Florida was enjoyed by all who attended. And, most recently, the GMBA sponsored a retreat for the Church's single members and friends. These "firsts" have been a source of great blessings to those fortunate enough to attend, and have also been instrumental in bringing ten souls to repentance. We trust and pray the Lord will continue to bless the GMBA and reward the efforts of those who labored to make these events a success.

Using the word 'successful' to describe the GMBA Singles' Weekend held at Detroit Branch 1 would be putting it mildly. The joy felt during the weekend was at times overwhelming. It seemed as though the weekend was an extension of the blessings received at the recent GMBA Campout. The Spirit of God was present from start to finish, and all who attended went away with their cups filled to overflowing.

(Continued on Page 10)

Branch and Mission News

South Bend, IN

The Church of Jesus Christ in South Bend has been blessed with the addition of four new members to the fold. On May 22, 1988 Darliss L. Cook and Terry Baldwin made their commitment to the Lord. A vision was seen in connection with Sis. Terry's calling into the Church; for this we praise God.

Four weeks later on June 19, Consuella Denise Jackson rendered obedience to the Gospel. Again this baptism was confirmed through an experience. Finally, Donald Eugene Sizemore was baptized on July 3, 1988, adding still another member and many more blessings to the mission here in South Bend.

Lorain, OH

By Katherine Cocco

Greetings to all the saints of The Church of Jesus Christ from Lorain, Ohio. We would like to share some of the blessings that our branch has been enjoying.

In addition to the fasting and prayer on Wednesdays that the General Church has designated for the Ohio District, our branch has a fast and prayer meeting every Saturday morning. The Lord has blessed us in answering our supplications many times, praise His name.

Due to transfers out and deaths, our branch has felt the loss of ten members in the past year, while we have not had any baptisms for quite some time. Realizing how important it is to replace our losses and build up our branch, Presiding Elder Joseph Calabrese requested that we direct our prayers that God would begin to call our children, husbands, wives, and other family members who have not yet obeyed the Gospel.

On Saturday morning August 13, 1988, many prayers were offered toward these individuals. In her prayer, Sister Betty Alessio mentioned her daughter Karen, who is a student at the University of Toledo. That day she was attending a Singles' Retreat conducted

by the GMBA at Detroit Branch 1. Sister Betty asked that the Lord bless the young people in attendance, and that we would hear a good report.

That evening in Detroit, Karen felt the Lord working upon her heart, and she asked for her baptism shortly after having hands laid on her for direction and strength. Brother Frank Ciotti of Santa Ana, California baptized her in Detroit the next day, and Brother Dominic Thomas confirmed her.

After our morning prayer service on August 13, Bro. Eugene and Sis. Helen Persutto's son came into the church building to be anointed for strength and direction in his life. Please pray for all our children and grandchildren; the Lord has said we must do this so they might turn around and realize the blessing that has been pronounced upon them as infants. We pray that they might receive a desire and a calling back into the family and fold of Christ.

Fasting and prayer has also availed much for those seeking jobs. Brother Robert Gonzales, Jim Kinser, and Brian Alessio were all offered jobs recently as the result of much fasting and prayer, and for this we thank God. Our young Tonia Davis has been spared from serious injury after her automobile turned over. She was expected to wear a brace and not be able to walk for a long time, according to the doctors of this world. But God, our Great Physician, had other plans for her. She recuperated swiftly and was also given a job.

Our Area MBA conference was held at Lorain on August 20, 1988. The business was conducted on Saturday morning and early afternoon, then the meeting was opened for spiritual inspiration. What a wonderful blessing we all enjoyed listening to testimony and experiences. Bro. Joel Gehly spoke on being prepared and enthused in doing the work of the Lord. Each of the saints who testified gave thanks for experiences they had on how God intervened in their lives concerning everyday problems, helping us in our smallest to our greatest needs.

Space does not permit us to enumerate the many, many ways in which the Lord has touched the lives of our

brothers, sisters, and young people and rewarded their efforts to fast and pray to Him. We thank the Lord for all the things that He has done.

Saline, MI

By Jerry Morle

On Sunday August 28, 1988, the Saline Mission enjoyed the blessings of God as we watched one of our own surrender her life and soul to Jesus Christ. Sister Tanya Wood, daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Roseann Wood, was baptized by Bro. Jim Cotellesse in the Saline River, culminating Tanya's long struggle against frustration and despair.

Eight years ago Sis. Tanya had a beautiful experience while attending a meeting at Detroit Branch 4, where she felt the power of God come over her. She never forgot this feeling, and spent the past eight years growing to the point where she was ready to make that total commitment to Christ.

Along the way, God continued to bless her with the gift of testimony. In the years before she was baptized, Sis. Tanya continually told others of the Church, sharing her experiences with many of her friends. This effort often resulted in these individuals visiting the mission in Saline where they could more fully hear the word of God.

Weeks before her baptism, Sis. Tanya began expressing fear and regret that God might not call her again, like she had felt Him doing eight years ago. She sought the advice of the priesthood and members of the mission before deciding to search the scriptures for help. On Saturday night, while she was reading the Book of Mormon, she asked God to let her feel His repentant spirit come over her once more. Thankfully, He did not let her down, and she was so overcome that she decided not to let Him pass by again.

The following morning, Sunday School was cancelled and we all met at the river to witness another soul come to Christ. As we met at the water's edge, our Brother John P. Buffa had the following experience:

"I was standing among the brothers and sisters, talking to Bro. Jim Cotellesse. I heard Tanya say to her father that she wanted to be sure that

this was in fact her day to be baptized. This thought began to work on me and left me very uneasy. I told Bro. Jim that I was going to take a walk down by the water to make sure all was in order for the baptism.

"As I was approaching the point where two streams come together, I began to pray about what Tanya had said. As I asked the Lord if He would be there for her, I truly felt His presence. I then asked Him if we all could hear Him, see Him, or feel Him. I knew He was there at that moment, even though I could not see Him.

"As the congregation all gathered at the water, the Spirit of the Lord was there for our sister as well as for the rest of the congregation. We all left with our cups overflowing, especially our new Sister Tanya. This was truly her day."

Sis. Tanya was later confirmed by Bro. Reno Bologna. Although the entire day was glorious, of special note was the wonderful spirit of singing we felt in our midst. Selections were called in accord with the feelings being expressed, and this seemed to tie the entire service together.

Our prayer is God's continued blessings upon our sister as she begins her new life with Christ.

Imperial, PA

By Jan Cornell

Our branch has greatly been blessed with the love of God, in witnessing three new baptisms.

On Wednesday September 7, 1988, Betty and Mel McDonald of Mt. Lebanon, PA made their covenant with God. They were baptized by Brother Robert Buffington, and Betty was confirmed by Bro. James Moore, Sr., and Mel by Bro. James Moore, Jr. We welcome our new brother and sister into the fold and family of God.

Then on Sunday, September 25, 1988 Sister Louise Bruno and her husband Kenny were visiting our branch when Kenny expressed his desire to be baptized. Brother Robert Buffington, assisted by Brother James Moore, Jr. baptized our brother and he was confirmed by Brother James Moore, Jr.

Our brother and sister are from Detroit Branch 4. All in attendance that day felt God's blessings, and we praise Him for His goodness.

Anaheim, CA

By Carl Huttenberger

Hunger and thirst are natural human occurrences. They tell us what we need to do in order to continue our existence. For our souls, hungering and thirsting for righteousness are also natural occurrences which tell us what we need to do in order to attain salvation for our souls.

On Sunday July 17, 1988 we had visitors from Pennsylvania, Florida, Michigan, and San Diego. The enthusiasm began on a high note during Sunday School, and only intensified as the day wore on.

Bro. Jim King from Vanderbilt, PA told us that if we were truly starving for food or water, we would do anything to obtain it. The same should be true of our spiritual lives. We should be willing to do anything to feed our soul, because our soul is always hungering and thirsting for God's Spirit to penetrate it and make it alive.

Bro. Bob Womack of San Diego followed along those same lines. He pointed out places in the scriptures where the people turned against God and hurt Him. God is a living being just as we are, and like us, His feelings can be hurt.

This led into a beautiful "popcorn" testimony meeting, where one was barely seated before the next one stood up. Everyone glorified God for the miracles He performed in their lives. Just then, John DiBattista and his wife Carol, after attending Anaheim for several weeks, rose to their feet and asked to be baptized. It felt as if the Spirit of God was overflowing in our midst, and so were the tears of joy. Our new brother and sister testified of how they had attended many churches, but felt something different when they entered The Church of Jesus Christ.

During the Sunday meeting, nine-year-old Patricia Duvall was anointed, having hurt her arm that morning. Afterwards she testified that the pain left her after she was anointed. Praise God!

On the previous evening, the Anaheim "GO" Group had a get-together at the beach for all the teenagers in the branch. Our Operation Make-A-Dent continues to bless the poor as we travel to downtown Los Angeles after church to hand out food to the needy. The Anaheim Choir, under the direction of Bro. Carl Frammolino of Santa Ana, have continued their after-church choir practices for the radio broadcasts throughout Central America and here in the United States.

All of our other activities, married couples meeting, men's leadership classes, ladies' prayer group, "GO" Group activities, Make-A-Dent activities, and other things continue to edify, uplift, and bless our people and those around us. For this we thank and praise our Lord.

CONFERENCE continued . . .

love each other better. There's no point in me trying to hold the reins of the Church if the people want to run willy-nilly and do whatever they want to do. There is no point in my brothers and I trying to preach the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph if we don't have your *unqualified* support. That means not only your prayers, that means that you have to give time, energy, and substance. It is pointless for us to say that this is the only true Church, unless we live up to the profession—I'm quoting Brother William Cadman—unless we live up to the profession that we make that this is His Church.

"I beg of you this morning, as I would of *all* the Church, to give freely, to give generously, to the work of the Church. I don't want to hear the cries of the missionaries saying, 'There are opportunities here, but we can't go because we don't have the funds.' I don't want to see a branch that's going down for the third time after it's hollered for help because we are so reticent and recalcitrant that we won't go there from another branch with a hundred members and [instead] say, 'Well, that's tough—you should've done what we told you.' No way! No branch should be put in that position. No mission should be put in that position. No elder should be put in that position. No district should be put in that position. No distant land should be put in that position.

(Continued on Page 10)

CONFERENCE continued . . .

"The time is come for us to rise to a new level of righteousness, to a new level of spirituality, so that we reflect what the title of this organization is: **The Church of Jesus Christ**. And let it be as it was in the days of the Nephites, when they had their peaceful reign. Let it be as it was in the days following the day of Pentecost.

"What do you want from the Lord more than what we've received? Do you want a shaking? Do you want to lose your possessions? Do you want to become diseased? Do you want a pestilence? Do you want a drought? Nephi, the man of God, said, 'Let a drought come. Bring them to their knees. Make them humble, make them cry out, make them seek repentance.' I don't have that courage. I'm with Abraham: 'Lord, if You find fifty, if You find forty, if You find thirty . . . ten . . . five . . . one, spare this nation.' We are the people that Abraham spoke of, the handful that must be so righteous before the presence of God, and in each other's eyes, that will not cease the struggle to become more righteous.

"You say, 'Don't you think we're righteous now?' Yes I do, to a certain degree. I speak for the Lord, but I think He's saying to us we can be more righteous. I think He's saying we can be more patient, more understanding, more persevering. I think He's saying, 'Of all the beautiful principles that My Son gave you, you need to use them better than you've ever used them before,' to move across the scene of reality and embrace those that still need our help, that we haven't been able to help.

"Not only the unemployed, not only the singles that have no companions, not only the widows, not only the emotionally disturbed, not only those that have broken families, not only those that are divorced, not only those that are in the mission fields, not only the elders of this Church, not only the mothers and not only the fathers, not only the dying sons of men who have not yet heard the Gospel preached, but the entire human family that we can reach.

"I hear—I read—that the disciples, a handful of them, went throughout all of the known world of their day. They didn't have cars, they didn't have buses, they didn't have airplanes or trains. They didn't have anything but very common transportation. We can pro-

mulgate this Gospel better, I'm convinced. We *can* take better care of our people, I am entirely convinced. I lay it on you as if it's just yours; it's all of ours.

"Please bear with me this morning; I love you. You love me; I wouldn't have survived the past two years if it wasn't for your prayers. And I don't care so much about me; I'll be gone tomorrow. Whoever is here tomorrow has the same responsibility. The men that are sitting on this rostrum are me. They are the extension of what I'm talking about. I've seen in their lives and in their hearts, in their broken hearts [He turned his attention to the priesthood.], I've felt your cries, your prayers, your pleadings, your suffering, and your anguish. I have not looked beyond that. I've read it in your minds and in your hearts. I've listened to it with my ears, and the Lord has told me again and again there's only one thing for me, only one thing for the Church: The Great Work of the Lord.

[Back to the congregation.] "Let me translate that into a better definition. It includes the sinner, the outcast, the poor, the rich, the hard-hearted. It includes all of humanity. God didn't give Jesus for only a few. He gave Jesus, His only begotten, that He might redeem the whole world. Will you commit to that? Will I commit to that? Will this Church commit to that? I pray that it will, or all that I've read, all that I've said, and all that we've done in the past will be in vain.

"Let us work together; let us hold each other up. I decry when people find fault. I said to the singles' retreat, 'If you want me to like you, don't criticize my Church.' I got personal—it's not *my* Church. Don't criticize our Church. I know it's imperfect, but you ought to be proud. When I was a boy of seven or eight, I got into fistfights over this Church. The neighbors said it was a no-good church; I beat them up. I'm still fighting for this Church. Some people think I'm a pussycat. I'm not. I only do that to keep things at an even keel.

"Peter gave his life for the Church. Many of us say in our testimonies, 'I'll give my life for the Church.' I've never made that statement because I'm afraid that maybe I couldn't do it. I have a wife, I have three children, two grandchildren; I'll lay my life down for them, ought I not to be able to lay down my life for Christ? He requires it of me; He requires it of you.

"May God bless you and keep you. Forgive my long-windedness. This is the only thing I have, and I know it's the only thing you have. May God bless you is my prayer."

WEEKEND continued . . .

Brothers, sisters, and friends from the Atlantic Coast, Florida, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, Pacific Coast, and Pennsylvania Areas gathered at Branch 1 for the seminars that would start the weekend. Three seminars broken into age groups of 15-18, 19-25, and 26 and over were taught by Brothers Paul Cioti, Brian Martorana, Doug Obradovich, Paul Palmieri, and Ken Staley. Each seminar addressed the various needs and concerns of the Church's single members and friends. Concerns such as dating, building a relationship, finding a mate, and developing your place in the Church were all focused upon. As the seminars concluded, it was evident that this event was a much-needed one. We hope and pray the information gained will be of great benefit to those who attended.

Following the seminars, we enjoyed a beautiful lunch of tacos, burritos, and salad, along with several delicious desserts. On behalf of the GMBA, we would like to thank the members of Branch 1 and the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA for their gracious hospitality and excellent cooking!! From the GMBA, we say, Thank you and may the Lord reward your efforts.

Our afternoon session was opened with an address from General Church President Dominic Thomas. Bro. Dominic stressed the importance of the Church's single members' finding their place in the Church and determining God's plan for them in their lives. Our brother also asked each age group assembled to express what they felt the General Church could do to help them. Many suggestions were given and were addressed by Bro. Dominic later in the afternoon. We enjoyed our brother's counsel, and pray the Lord would continue to make His will known in the lives of all His servants.

The balance of the afternoon was spent discussing additional seminar material, along with socializing, recreation, and a game of "Win, Lose, or Draw Nigh unto God." We brought the afternoon to a close with a beautiful din-

ner and looked forward to the evening ahead.

Our anticipation of the evening meeting was certainly not in vain, as we enjoyed an outpouring of the Spirit of God. Visiting Evangelist Frank Ciotti spoke to the congregation of singles with an inspired sermon encouraging us to plan our lives around the Gospel and seek God's will in all things. Our brother recounted the many times in his life God had made His will known and blessed Bro. Frank with direction and guidance. We truly enjoyed the words our brother was inspired with, as they laid the foundation for the events that would follow.

During the evening, we enjoyed a number of joyful testimonies and musical selections from those in attendance. As the time drew near to close the meeting, Bro. Paul Ciotti was led by the Spirit to ask if any in attendance needed prayer for spiritual strength. Almost immediately, a number of brothers, sisters, and friends from all age groups represented made their way to the front. Our brother elders offered prayers for each of them that touched

the heart of God as they touched the hearts of those present. The Spirit of God blanketed the auditorium as we poured our hearts out to the Lord.

Our prayers did not go unanswered, as many who were prayed on immediately testified that they had silently prayed for the invitation for prayer to be extended to them, and that following prayer, they were greatly uplifted.

Our meeting was finally brought to an end. However, it was not the end of the blessings. Karen Alessio of the Lorain, Ohio Branch made her wishes to be baptized known as we made our way out of the building. Karen's request was a fitting close to a day filled with God's blessings.

Our Sunday morning began at the water's edge for the baptism of our new convert. Sis. Karen was baptized by Bro. Frank Ciotti. What a joyous sight it was to view another soul rendering her life to Christ! Following the baptism, we headed to Branch 1 looking forward to the morning service.

At the start of the meeting, Sis. Karen was confirmed by Bro. Dominic Thomas, and we also enjoyed a season of spirited singing. During all of this, the Spirit of God was still at work, as Suzette Ross of Edison, NJ asked for her baptism. What a way to start the day!! (Suzette was baptized the following week in her home branch.)

If all this was not enough, we enjoyed an inspired season of preaching from Brothers Art Gehly, Paul Palmieri, Ken Staley, Gerard Valenti, Paul Ciotti, and Bro. Dominic Thomas. Our brothers exhorted us to display the Love of God in our lives. This love will set us apart from the world and begin the spreading of the Gospel throughout the world. We thank God for the inspiring words offered by our priesthood on this day.

We reluctantly brought this joyous weekend to a close. Praise God for the blessings He bestows. On behalf of the GMBA we thank all who attended for your participation, and solicit the prayers of all for the Lord's continued blessings upon the GMBA. Until we meet again, may God bless you is my prayer.

* WEDDINGS *

ESTEVEZ—TAPIA

Mr. Joseph Estevez and Sister Celia Tapia were married on April 5, 1988 in San Diego, California.

The couple were later guests at a reception held in their honor at the San Diego Branch, where family, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ gathered to wish them well.

Our prayers are that God's blessings will follow them in their new life together.

VINSICK—DULISSE

Bro. Paul M. Vinsick, son of Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Vinsick of Perry, Ohio, was united in holy matrimony to Sis. Christina L. Dulisse, daughter of Bro. James Jr. and Sis. Lydia P. Dulisse of Modesto, California on May 28, 1988 at the Modesto Branch of the Church.

Bro. Mark Randy, the bride's grandfather, officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Brothers Frank Giovannone and Joseph Bologna.

Musical selections were sung by Sis. Melissa Christman.

May this couple fulfill their vow, "Till death do us part."

BODO—CAMPITELLE

Michael L. Bodo and Sister Denise Lynne Campitelle were married on Saturday, September 3, 1988 at Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Roseville, Michigan.

Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo, the bride's grandfather, officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Brother Louis Pietrangelo. Musical selections were sung by Brother Steve Champine and Craig Adaline.

The newlyweds are living in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We pray that God will bless them in this new beginning.

RIOS—VALENTI

Salvatore Robert Rios and Donna Marie Valenti were joined in marriage on September 4, 1988 at the Brooklyn, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Dominick Rose, the bride's uncle, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were offered by Elizabeth Bayer.

The couple will be residing in Brooklyn. May God's blessings accompany them in their life together.

(Continued on Page 12)

WEDDINGS continued . . .

STALLARD—CHAMBERS

Bro. Paul Stallard and Sis. Shelby Chambers were united in holy matrimony on October 1, 1988 at Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Brother John Straccia administered the marriage vows, following a sermon by Brother Malcolm Paxon. Both are brothers-in-law to the bride. Vocal selections were presented by Sis. Rosanne Champine.

The newlyweds are making their home in Warren, Michigan and will attend the Sterling Heights Branch. May the Lord richly bless them the rest of their days is our prayer.

New Arrivals

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

Erin Nicole to Stacey and Carolyn (Martorana) Light of San Diego, California.

Donna Marie to Roy and Esperanza Verstraete of Anaheim, California.

Children Blessed

On August 18, 1988, Cicole Inez Crall, daughter of Louis and Kay Crall, was blessed in the Church at Anadarko, Oklahoma by Bro. Donald F. Valenti of the Brooklyn, NY Branch, who was visiting there.

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.

THOMAS BOTWRIGHT

On July 31, 1988, Thomas Botwright III passed from this life.

His funeral was conducted by Brothers Robert Buffington and Paul Palmieri.

Surviving him are his wife, Sister Nancy (Christman) Botwright, and his children Sister Kimberly Palmieri, Kelly Botwright, and Thomas Botwright IV. Also one granddaughter, Desiree Palmieri. May the Lord bless and comfort his family.

MARY TREVULLE

Sister Mary Trevulle of the San Diego, California Branch passed on to her eternal reward August 9, 1988. Sis. Mary was born in Italy on August 15, 1912, later moving to Detroit, Michigan where she lived for many years. She moved to San Diego and was subsequently baptized on May 27, 1956 by Bro. Joe Usai.

Bro. Lou Ciccati officiated at the funeral service.

Our sister leaves no immediate family, but was a devoted saint and will be warmly remembered by the members and friends of the San Diego Branch.

JEANETTE COLVER

Sister Jeanette Margaret Colver of Detroit, Michigan Branch 2 passed from this life on October 18, 1988. She was born on April 22, 1922 in Monte San Giuliano, Sicily, Italy and came to this country as a small child.

Sis. Jeanette was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Joseph Bologna on September 15, 1946. She married Louis Colver in 1958. He preceded her in death in 1986.

She is survived by a daughter, a stepdaughter, five grandchildren, three sisters, one brother, many relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Leonard A. Lovalvo and Dominic Thomas.

During the last few years, Sis. Jeanette was very ill, but she never failed to thank God for all His goodness and blessings toward her. She will be missed by all who knew her.

The Gospel News

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

(USPS 223-480)

December, 1988

Volume 44, No. 12

Called to Be a Saint

By Martin Michalko

Reprinted from the December, 1950 Gospel News

I was once asked my opinion of what a saint is. My answer was a simple one. I believe that a saint is a person who has repented of his sins, and by faith and obedience has received a remission of them, thus having garments washed white in the blood of the Lamb. When this occurs he has been taken by the power of God from the broad way of life and placed on the straight road. He has received this not for any outstanding works, but rather because of sorrow for his past deeds, which were works of darkness.

He must, though, continue on this road in newness of life, doing good works by faith and by love, the remainder of his days in order to retain this sainthood which he has received from his Lord and Savior. If he does retain this sainthood and keeps himself unspotted from the world, with his cup filled with oil, his eternal salvation is sure. This is not attainable only by a special few, a few talented ones, as, say, Paul was, but by all who believe in God, who do His will daily, who desire eternal life, for by grace does this come, for the Lord is no respecter of persons.

In Paul's day and time there were many saints. His epistles to the various churches of his day were oft addressed to the "saints." Sainthood was given to all faithful believers by God, as we understand these scriptures. Today some believe that sainthood is only for certain ones chosen by man. How con-

trary to scriptures! We of The Church of Jesus Christ practice using the word "saint" when referring to others of the Church. In so doing we are unjustly criticized by those who are unaccustomed to using this word today. We know that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and that His principles and doctrines always remain the same; why then should God's people act or address one another any differently, just because centuries have rolled by?

There is another fallacy existing in this religious world today that I wish to touch upon. There seems to be a reluctance to using the word saint, while the word Christian is used unhesitatingly quite often. If we were to ask a few people whether they were a saint or not, invariably they would say, "My, no, I cannot consider myself that." Yet if these same few were asked whether they were Christian or not, they would say (probably defiantly), "Why of course I am."

Now if we examine carefully the meanings of these two words, we must conclude that the words "saint" and "Christian" are synonymous. In fact, there should be a greater hesitancy in declaring one's self a Christian than in professing to be a saint, for the word "Christian" denotes Christ-like nature and character. On the other hand, when we use the word "saint," we mean one who is like Paul or Peter, or any other of the early followers of Jesus. How

strange it is that people will persist and hold this attitude. We declare that if you are a Christian you are a saint, and *only* if you are a saint are you Christian.

All of these remarks thus far would be just vain and empty words, as sounding brass, if we would stop our discourse here, and we might be guilty of vaunt-

(Continued on Page 2)

Church Calendars Available

1989 Church Calendars are available for \$5.00 each. They can be ordered by mail from Paul Francione at the following address:

Paul Francione
6361 S. Cactus Wren Pl.
Tucson, AZ 85746

They can also be obtained directly from a representative in your district:

Atlantic Coast—Marie Cihomsky
Florida—Sandy Smith
Michigan—Ontario—Cindy Everett
Ohio—Rhonda Martorana
Pacific Coast—Carrie Jankowski
Pennsylvania—Paul Aaron Palmieri
Southwest—Paul Francione

The calendars are illustrated by Bro. Doug McClellan of Dallas, Texas, and include a verse of scripture for each month. They make an appropriate gift as the New Year fast approaches.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank you all for the donations of clothes and pajamas you gave to us for the Bowery work in New York City. Our hearts are overjoyed to know we have sisters and brothers we can count on for help.

We have seen the lives of many men change as they have stopped their drinking and drug habits, and they thank us for coming to the shelter.

The Manhattan Bowery Corporation of New York has sent us a letter thanking us for the many clothes. This has been a favorable reflection on the Church. Again, we cannot thank you enough for all you've done. May God bless all of you.

Love,

Bro. Matthew and Sis. Joan Rogolino

50th Anniversary

By Kim Cuomo

Sunday, October 16, 1988 was a very special day in Windsor, Ontario. We all celebrated a joyous occasion, the 50th spiritual anniversary of Sister Mary Cuomo.

Sister Mary was born in Ponza, Italy on December 19, 1908, and was baptized on October 16, 1938 by Bro. Joseph Lovalvo. She attended Church in Detroit and transferred to the Windsor Branch in 1940. On July 22, 1944 she was ordained a deaconess, and on the same day her husband, Bro. Sam, was ordained an elder.

Sis. Mary and Bro. Sam have helped keep the Italian Culture in the Windsor Branch. Over the years they have introduced the Church to many people, and also have had people staying at their home, either just arriving from Italy, or having just been married and not having a new home yet.

Bro. Don Collison spoke this morning on how Sis. Mary has been a spiritual mother to all of us. She has kept that wonderful Spirit within her, along with her husband, who has gone to his eternal reward. Their way of living was, and

is, serving the Lord with a steadfastness which we should all possess.

After hearing the 23rd Psalm sung by Bro. Bob Stanek and Sis. Nicole Collison, the deaconesses pinned a corsage on Sis. Mary. Bro. Bob commented on how Bro. Sam and Sis. Mary have lived their lives in the Gospel. Whenever there were any sick brothers, sisters, or children, you could count on the Cuomos to be among the first to visit, in any kind of weather, not ever having owned a car. This is just one manifestation of the love of God they always carried within them.

Our testimony meeting was surely blessed; both young and old testified. All of our sister's children and grandchildren sang *Precious Memories*. Each and every one who sang it felt God's love and Sis. Mary's love.

Sister Mary then got up and gave her testimony, thanking God for the Church, her children, and the fact that God has brought her thus far.

We ended our beautiful meeting with *Rejoice, Ye Saints of Latter Days* and went downstairs to enjoy the luncheon that had been prepared.

All in all, we had a beautiful meeting with God's blessings.

SAINT continued . . .

ing. There is, though, an important complement that we dare not omit, in considering the word "saint." As I mentioned previously, Paul's writings were oft addressed to the saints of various sections. Upon close examination of these scriptures, we find that in addressing them he uses the words, "called to be saints." How all-important is this phrase in our discussion. It avails me nothing if I say I am a saint or I am a Christian, if I do not understand the full significance and individual responsibility of a holy calling into God's service, **to be a saint.**

It avails me nothing if I have received a call, and my life is no different from the masses about us, if it is no different from those who have not received this holy call from God. How seriously should we take this invitation or call, and how holy should we live our lives from the time we received it, for then we become engaged in God's warfare,

a warfare against unrighteousness. A warfare which is fought by good deeds, not by the shedding of blood. Our one and only aim, then, in life should be to endeavor to live holily, saintly, to live unselfishly in a world that is becoming contaminated with greed and selfishness. Have you accepted this call seriously, brother or sister? Have you left all that is not saintly, for you have been called to be a saint? Have you remained at the water's edge, or are you endeavoring to do some of the works which are required of a saint?

Let us consider a little, how men of old responded to God's call. We read of great deeds by men and women of old after their call, such as Paul's leaving wealth and chance for high office, and marriage; of Moses, who was ready to lay his own life to appease God when the Lord's anger was kindled against the Israelites. We read of Anna, the prophetess who continued night and day in prayer at the temple, many years, for the welfare of her people. We read also of many other great deeds.

It is not my intention here to recount or recommend to the readers of this paper great deeds that are able to be performed, but rather little deeds, for such are stepping stones to bigger ones, and such are needed in our midst today, for they bring peace and love and unity. In doing them there are great blessings, for little things always do please God, as the widow's mite. She gave not much, but that which she did give was given in the right spirit, therefore this was accredited to her more than was the abundant giving of the others. Micah tells us that God does not require great things of us, but only that we might be found loving mercy, doing justly, and walking humbly with God. Indeed, it is a great privilege to have God walking along with us in our daily walk of life; who could ask for more?

Some of David's virtues are worth bringing out at this point, for he was a man that pleased God. He also stated that he, too, did not exercise himself in matters that were too great for him, for he said, "My heart is not haughty." David's love and delight for God abounded continuously, the desire to serve and praise God remained with him always, and though various conditions and circumstances arose in his life, he could always say, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the house of the Lord." I heard a man once say that

(Continued on Page 10)

MBA Highlights

Pacific Coast Area MBA Campout

By Carl Huttenberger

"LIVING THE WORD"

The Lord descended upon our Pacific Coast Area MBA Campout in Idyllwild, California with power and glory like He never has before. Eleven souls decided to give their lives to the Lord. Cheryl Cervone, Enrique Garnica, Teresa Alcaras, Christopher Surdock, Frankie Ciotti, Andy Jankowski, Lisa Liberto, Armondo Rodriguez, Michelle Mazzeo, Christy Reynolds, and Kim Jones all decided to make Jesus their choice.

Our campout began Tuesday, August 23 and ended Sunday, August 28. Throughout the week, God revealed His presence to us in countless ways.

Many experiences were given wherein brothers and sisters saw the powers of good and evil at war with one another. God revealed that we must be united in Spirit to avoid wickedness so that Satan will have no power over us. One sister saw a large body of water with white roses all around it, representing our unbaptized children and

loved ones, whom the saints claimed back in prayer during the course of the campout.

Jesus Christ was revealed several times in visions, especially among our early morning fasting and prayer services. Tongues were spoken several times. During the confirmation on our new converts, the interpretation of tongues was, "This day have I anointed you." When Cheryl Cervone asked for her baptism, Sis. Flo Benyola had a vision of the saints encircled by a great ring of light. Cheryl was on the outside, but the ring lifted up and she was pulled inside. Shortly thereafter, she requested baptism. Don't you just want to praise God for His marvelous love and power?!

During our Thursday night service, Sis. Sue Coppa saw three personages at the door. She went outside to see what was there, but found nothing. When she came back in, she saw the three Nephites very clearly at the door once again.

Our campout was also blessed with healings. Sis. Julia Pacheco, after being anointed, was healed of her afflictions. Two experiences confirming her healing were related. Others said that burdens were lifted instantly when they were anointed. That power of prayer given to our ministry was made evident in our meetings. Satan's cords were broken (nearly all who requested baptism did so when they were prayed on),

afflictions were healed, concerns were eliminated, and love was increased.

Each meeting, campfire, and gathering was conducted in English and Spanish. We are dawning on a time when many languages will be spoken to the lost tribes of Israel, but in all, the language of the Spirit will be common.

At the baptisms on Sunday morning, a storm rolled in and rained heavily upon us. The rain ended after the baptisms. Later, during the confirmations, Bro. Luis Pacheco saw fire across the congregation. It was given to him to understand that at the water's edge, we were all being baptized in the cleansing rain, and at the confirmations we were all baptized with a renewing of the fire of the Holy Ghost.

Truly Bro. Mark Coppa's inspiration for our camp theme, "Living the Word," encouraged us all through the seminars and gave us the desire to live the word. Randy Huttenberger, our camp director, and the entire staff did a fine job in making this the highest-attended and most successful Pacific Coast Area MBA Campout ever.

Truly we were successful in reaching the throne of God. "Blow ye the trumpet in Zion and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand . . ." (Joel 2:1). Amen.

Our Women Today

Pennsylvania Area Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held on November 5, 1988 at Imperial, PA. A short business session started with the roll call of officers and reading of the last meeting's minutes.

There are nine circles in the Pennsylvania Area and they are all very active in reading the scriptures. Each one participates in special projects, such as Meals on Wheels, visiting the shut-ins, sending layettes, holding garage sales,

making communion cloths, and helping their branches and furthering the missionary work of the Church.

An Area Circle Retreat will be held June 3 & 4, 1989, and plans are being made to hold a Mother and Daughter Dinner some time next year as well. The next Area Conference will be held at the retreat. The officers elected were Chairperson Karen Progar, Secretary Marty Jumper, and Treasurer Jan Cornell.

The devotional program had as its theme The Fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, and Temperance. Each circle defined one of these words by reading from the scriptures or singing a song.

Brother Joseph Bitteringer spoke to the sisters at the close of the conference, saying that there is much talent in the

Church. Whatever we do, it should be to the honor and glory of God.

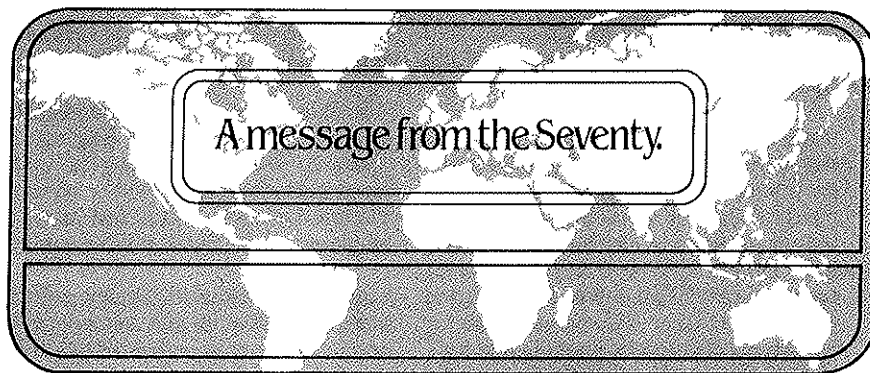
A pot luck lunch was served, and a vote of thanks was given to the Imperial Circle.

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the entire *Gospel News* staff, our warmest holiday greetings go out to each of you at this time of year.

As you look back on the past year, may you find yourself closer to the Lord now than ever before, and may you continue to press forward in the year to come.

—The Editor



Far-Reaching Projects Undertaken by Seventy

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

Projects undertaken by the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists and reported last month can have far-reaching effects and are intended to intensify spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The significant measures include the Worldwide Evangelism Program, the District Visiting Evangelist meetings, and the Radio Ministry, as well as the General Church Development Committee's Independence, Missouri effort, which has been reported in the past.

Each of these endeavors has the potential of reaching many people, as the work of the Quorum is being focused on outreach activities. The overall view being employed is that all reasonable means should be explored to bring souls to salvation.

WORLDWIDE PROGRAM

The Worldwide Evangelism Program was established in October. It is the kind of project which would facilitate expansion to different parts of the world, as the Lord directs. The progress made in some foreign countries in the past has been most noteworthy, and the fields which have been opened continue to show amazing results. These encouraging strides make it possible to foresee similar additional advancements, as the doors are opened and many honest-hearted individuals are led to the Gospel.

In this program, the world is divided into six regions, and Evangelists are assigned to each sector. Also designated specifically is a group for Israel, as well as one for each of the five time zones

in North America. Evangelists are also assigned to these additional areas.

The initial step is a fact-finding phase, which will allow for an evaluation to be made of what potential there is in the different parts of the world. Language, environmental, cultural, and demographic information will be collected about the different countries.

The studies of the areas will also focus on what major religions are present, what forms of government are in power, and what economic conditions prevail. Immediate opportunities for the Church will be identified, and both short- and long-term potential will be scrutinized. Special training, which may be necessary in some instances, will be examined as well.

Obviously, the major concern in this program is that the efforts be led by the Spirit of God. The preparation being made can then permit a more informed approach to be made after the direction is received.

Contacts from people in new countries are extremely valuable. Anyone who knows of any individual to whom they would like the Church introduced should contact Quorum of Seventy Vice President Isaac Smith, who is in charge of the program. His address is P.O. Box 759, Pinetop, Arizona 85935.

VISITING EVANGELIST PROGRAM

Continuation of the Visiting Evangelist Program was also authorized in October. In this undertaking, two evangelists from different parts of the Church meet at a designated district for a weekend of special spiritual meetings.

Church members are encouraged to participate in the planning, advertising, and implementation under the direction of the district officers and ministry. As indicated in the past, this is envisioned as being a kind of "complete Church concept."

The main objective is to invite visitors to these services, so they can become familiar with the Church. Besides media advertising, door-to-door invitations are being extended.

Following are the Evangelists scheduled for 1989 and the districts which they will be visiting:

Dwayne Jordan and Louis Vitto
Atlantic Coast

Richard Christman and Dan Picciuto
Florida

Sam Dell and Eugene Perri
Michigan-Ontario

Rusty Heaps and Tom Liberto
Ohio

Mitchell Edwards and Carl Frammolino
Pennsylvania

Joseph Calabrese and Anthony Lovalvo
Pacific Coast

Frank Ciotti and Paul Liberto
Southwest

Alternates: Paul Benyola, Isaac Smith,
and George Benyola

The dates for these meetings will be announced later, after the district officers and visiting evangelists coordinate their schedules. It is hoped, of course, that all members will become involved not only in being on work or music committees, but will also be busy inviting friends and relatives to these services.

RADIO BROADCASTS

The permanent status of the Radio Ministry will now make it possible for thousands of listeners to continue hearing about The Church of Jesus Christ. As explained in recent issues, listener familiarity with the broadcasts has proven to be extremely beneficial.

Results for this kind of endeavor cannot usually be realized in the short-term. Continuing programs must be aired

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The angels' proclamation of peace on earth and good will toward men spoke of the change that takes place in the heart of every man and woman who accepts Christ as their King. Bound by our carnal natures to sin and death, each of us must decide for ourselves whether we will turn from our wicked ways and become saints of the Most High God through His Son Jesus Christ.

The ultimate gift that Christ gave to us is the opportunity to have His Spirit—part of the mind of the Father and the Son—dwelling within us. It is through this gift that we are able to follow in the footsteps of our Savior, and overcome the mortal flesh that each of us is made of.

We were made a little lower than the angels (Psalms 8:5), and there are things about each of us that cause us to come short of God's glory. Flawed as we may be, however, we must never resign ourselves to being unable to change. If we desire it, through God's grace, we can see the improvements that need to be made in our lives, and through His strength, we can truly change to become *better* saints.

It is easy for us at times to look at the world around us and think that we're doing *moderately* well, compared to others, in our service to God, and that we don't need to change further. What the Lord is looking for in each of us, however, is a consistent desire to *improve* our service to Him, to be separated from the world and the things that are in it. Inasmuch as He has called us to be His representatives on earth, we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ must constantly examine our lives to see that we are properly reflecting the Light of Christ into an ever-darkening world.

All the beautiful things that were proclaimed to the shepherds by the angels at the time of Christ's birth can't take place unless we *all* become better saints. Peace on earth will never come, for example, if I must insist upon being at war with even one of my fellow beings.

The change that we undergo when we accept the Lord and receive His Spirit is a permanent one. Depending upon where we were when the Lord found us, it can be sudden or gradual, but it is not something that falls upon us once a year as December rolls around and then leaves at the beginning of the new year. By being born and living in the world, Jesus Christ proved that the Spirit of God can dwell within us every day we live on this earth, as long as we desire it.

The Lord's invitation to change for the better is open to us both before and *after* we've committed our lives to Him. If we can see any room at all for improvement in our lives, today is the day to start. The world will definitely be a better place for it.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Trust

Dear Girls and Boys,

Could you sing if you and another brother in the Church were arrested for telling people about the word of God? If you were beaten unfairly by the police, if your clothes were torn off you and you were locked in a terrible cold and dark cell, would you pray to the Lord and praise His name and sing beautiful hymns as you suffered there?

The Apostle Paul and Brother Barnabas did this (see Acts 16:9-40). Paul had prayed with an open heart, asking God where He wanted Paul to go and tell people about Jesus. He had a vision in the night of a man from Macedonia asking him to come and help. Immediately Paul and Barnabas found a ship and left for a country where most people practiced astrology, sorcery, and the worshipping of statues.

There they met a wonderful woman named Lydia, who heard them preach about Jesus and was baptized with her whole house of family and friends. Each day, Paul and Barnabas went to prayer, and a young woman followed them who was possessed by a spirit. This spirit could tell the future, and people paid the young woman's bosses large amounts of money to tell their fortunes.

Paul, filled with the Spirit of God, told the bad spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" and that same hour, the bad spirit left this woman. Her bosses were furious when they saw they couldn't make money off of her. They grabbed Paul and Barnabas and dragged them before the judges, making up lies about them.

The judges were not fair; they did not stop to find out the true story. They ordered Paul and Barnabas' clothes to

be stripped off them and commanded that they be whipped and beaten. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they threw them into jail, telling the jailer to keep them safely.

So the jailer put the brothers deep in the prison and locked their feet into special, painful locks.

Did Paul and Barnabas complain, or doubt? Did they say to each other, "Maybe that vision was wrong"? **No.** They prayed and sang praises unto God, and the other prisoners heard them.

And suddenly, God sent an earthquake which shook the prison and loosed their bands. They were free. But they did not run out—they stayed, and the Lord touched the heart of their prison guard, and that night he and his family were also converted to belief in Christ.

These men of God suffered, were humiliated, and tortured, but they trusted. They believed God was with them and trusted, and many came to believe in our powerful God because of their example.

When we go through heartbreak and humiliation, God is with us, too. He can loose our bonds, keep us safe in the darkest hour, and bring us triumphantly to a place where we can even forgive our enemies. The Apostle Paul believed in the same God we do, and we can trust God as Paul and Barnabas trusted.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed below:

MACEDONIA	SPIRIT
VOYAGE	TRUST
BARNABAS	GOD
PAUL	EARTH
BEAT	QUAKE
JUDGES	LYDIA
SEA	PRAY
LIE	

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

MESSAGE continued . . .

over a long period to make a real impact. This was illustrated in Tse Bonito, New Mexico, where the Sunday morning "Cornerstone Broadcast" has been airing for a little over 18 months. Recently the responses have increased, and some Navajo listeners have been attending services at the Branch. It is interesting that listeners have been seeking out "the church with the 'Cornerstone Broadcast.'"

Tse Bonito was the first location to start a regular radio series under the Radio Ministry. Others that followed are receiving some inquiries and visitations, and it is hoped that these will increase as more listeners develop a confidence in the broadcasts. In New York City, for example, many calls have been made to find out about the Church. Meanwhile a real rapport is being developed with the listening audience.

From the kinds of projects begun, it is obvious that the Quorum of Seventy is most desirous to get the Gospel message to as many nations and people as possible. Your prayers and continued support and assistance will, of course, go far toward ensuring the success of these endeavors.

Branch and Mission News

Greensburg, PA

By Darlene Markazene

*"There's no need on the sidelines,
and none on the back lines,
But only the front lines are
pleading for more."*

On Sunday, June 7, 1987 the Greensburg Branch "sent four to the front lines" as on this day one teacher, two deacons, and one deaconess were ordained.

Witnessing the ordinations were many visitors and friends from Glassport, Vanderbilt, Imperial, and Niles.

Bro. Jim Moore of Imperial opened our morning service, using I Samuel 16 as his topic. Bro. Jim stated that as God chose David, so, too, does He choose those who will work in His vineyard today. We must allow God to make the choice, for He looks upon the heart, while we as men and women often look upon the outward appearance—upon the countenance and/or stature.

This same scripture provided the theme throughout the day as visiting elders Joe Genaro (Niles), John Ali (Glassport), and Alma Nolfi (Glassport) also spoke to us.

The four ordinations took place during the afternoon service. Chosen as deacons were Bro. Tim Gehly and Bro. Frank Kuzin. Their feet were washed by Brothers Bob Noel and Ken Mellor. Bro. Joe Draskovich washed the feet of Bro. Bob Beam, while Sis. Rose Nalevanko washed Sis. Ruth Carr's feet.

Sis. Ruth was then ordained by her husband, Bro. Jesse Carr. Bro. Dan Todaro ordained Bro. Beam into the office of a teacher; Bro. John Ali ordained his nephew Frank Kuzin, and Bro. Paul Gehly ordained his son Tim. These four members then stood as the congregation greeted and welcomed each into their newly ordained offices.

To conclude our meeting, Bro. David Nolfi of Glassport stated that there is really no higher calling than to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To be called to an ordained office only means more labor, more faith, and more attention to the needs of others. We, as members, must look to our ordained brothers and sisters for help both naturally and spiritually, and more importantly we must remember to give them our support, our love, and our prayers.

May God continue to bless Sis. Ruth, Bro. Frank, Bro. Tim, and Bro. Bob as they continue "their march for the Lord."

SUCH PERFECT LOVE

The weekend of June 25, 1988 will long be remembered for the spirit of love that prevailed. That Saturday we witnessed the beautiful wedding of Bro. Bruce Picciuto and Sis. Danielle Noel. The love that this young couple share was conveyed to all present, and a portion of that love seemed to penetrate each and every one of us.

That bond of love was once again evident as many visitors gathered again with us for our Sunday services. First, during an early morning fast and prayer meeting, we felt the Spirit of God so strongly as we petitioned Him that His love and Spirit would abide with us throughout the day.

Following our fast and prayer meeting, the entire Sunday School joined together as Bro. Eugene and Sis. Donna Amormino of Detroit shared with us the new *Songs of Zion*. What a beautiful spirit encompassed the entire room as our elders then prepared for the preaching service.

We were blessed to have in our midst this day Bro. Tony Picciuto (Lindsay, CA), Bro. Mike LaSala (Detroit, MI), Bro. Eugene Amormino, and Bro. Don Pandone (Youngstown, OH). Bro. Picciuto opened the preaching service by asking the question, "Are we prepared?" Each of our visiting elders continued this theme, giving us much to consider.

Many beautiful and uplifting testimonies followed. Among these were the testimonies of Dean Picciuto (Bro. Tony's nephew) and his fiancée. Dean told how he felt such love all weekend, and how he wished this love

could always be a part of his life. His fiancée then stood and told how she and Dean have been seeking a church, for they realize that without God, their lives would not be complete. Near the end of the meeting, Dean asked for his baptism. May the Lord continue to bless them, and may the love of God follow them all the days of their lives.

As a fitting ending for such a beautiful meeting, we formed a large circle. As we joined hands, and as Bro. Paul Gehly dismissed us in prayer, that love which prevailed all weekend flowed freely from vessel to vessel.

May this love of God bind together each and every one of us throughout His entire Church with bonds that cannot be broken.

Valley Branch, CA

*By Joyce Azzinaro
and Linda Reynolds*

On July 17, 1988 Anthony Azzinaro was baptized by Bro. Emmett Hood. Brother Frank Verardo laid hands on him for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

Our new Brother Anthony, 15½ years old, had asked for his baptism on June 26, 1988. On the day of his baptism we had many visitors in our midst. Brother Ken and Sister Diane Surdock, Ralph Frammolino, Patty King, and Helen Scarna and Sis. Carolyn Gerardi, both of whom are Anthony's great aunts.

Sis. Diane sang a new song which the Lord gave her, *Today's the Day*. Bro. Ken preached a message which reaffirmed in us the foundation of our Church. We do not follow the ordinances of the Church because of tradition, but instead we do them because God revealed to us, through His word, what we must do. The foot of the road in our service to God is in the waters of regeneration; our service to Him starts with baptism.

Bro. Ed Buccellato followed with a few words, and called the hymn *We're Marching to Zion*. He then turned the service over to testimony. Bro. Ralph Frammolino bore a spirit-filled testimony asking for forgiveness, and the elders laid hands on him. He also

(Continued on Page 8)

VALLEY continued . . .

asked for a transfer back to the San Diego Branch. A special prayer was offered for those unemployed in our midst, that the Lord would bless them with the means to provide for their families.

Our new Brother Anthony gave his testimony. He said that he had been praying for the last two weeks that his uncle would be there for his baptism, and today he was filled with joy when he saw his uncle there. He thanked God for this.

It was requested that Sis. Diane sing *Give Me One More Day, Lord*, a song she had written some time earlier. Everyone in the meeting felt a wonderful blessing.

Young Bro. John Azzinaro got up again for testimony, saying that all week he had felt there would be one more calling (in addition to Bro. Anthony's), but now he understood that instead of a baptism it was Bro. Framolino's reinstatement.

To close our service we sang *Some Day, He'll Make It Plain*.

Lakeside, AZ

By Dana Mead

This year's Vacation Bible School was held outdoors at Brother Scott and Sister June Tenijeth's home in Whiteriver, AZ. The theme was "God's Children—Past, Present, and Future," and 55 wonderful children attended.

The children began every day with a flag ceremony and prayer, followed by singing. The lesson portion began with a trip back into the scriptures to learn how God used children in many different ways.

Next, they journeyed into the present time and were asked to share their love with others by writing letters of love to missionaries in various parts of the world. One of the children brought a young Japanese friend along, and we were privileged to send a Bible and Book of Mormon back to Japan with her.

On the final day the children were asked to dress up as a child from

another part of the world. They were taught about people and their customs, they ate foods from around the world, and they learned to be sensitive to people with handicaps.

Crafts, games, and splashing in the river provided a fun end to each day. The children each decorated a large heart to take home and share with others.

We were blessed every day, and the blessings continue as we receive loving responses back from Mexico, India, and Africa.

We thank God for opportunities like this to share the Gospel with the next generation. May we continually praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Riverside, CA

By Ken Jones

As you may know by now, our mission's building burned down because of an electrical short, and most of the items that we used there were lost in the fire.

This was a very discouraging moment in our lives, because it seems that Satan had been trying to chase us out of this city since the day we began here. But even though that natural fire has gone out, the Spirit of God burns continuously in our hearts.

The first Sunday after the fire, I asked the brothers and sisters what their desire was, and they were convinced that this was in the plan of God and that someday, we would have a large church building here. During the opening prayer, Sis. Bennie Jones felt someone enter the room and sit on the sofa next to her. She opened her eyes to see who it was, but saw nobody, even though the cushion looked as though someone was sitting there. We knew then that God was there with us, and wanted us to continue on in the city of Riverside.

Since the time of the fire, the Spirit of God touched a young man by the name of George Telles, who was baptized shortly afterward.

During one of our mid-week services, we experienced an instant healing. One of the babies began to cry, and at first

we thought nothing of it, but it got louder and louder until we had to stop the service. Sister Linda Telles told us that something was wrong and asked us to anoint the baby at once. I noticed the baby's hands and feet beginning to curl, as if the pain was unbearable. The baby was anointed, and as soon as the words, "in Jesus' name, Amen" were spoken, the baby went to sleep and his hands and feet were relaxed again. We praised God at that time and continued on with our service.

We would like to thank all the brothers and sisters again for all your prayers and donations; we are still in need of many supplies, but the Lord will provide. Please continue to pray that we will find a place to meet. At the present time we are still meeting in the home of Brother and Sister Telles, but as we continue to grow we see that we will need a larger place.

Anaheim, CA

By Carl Huttenberger

Sunday, August 21, 1988 at the Anaheim Branch, Jesus Christ made His presence known to us. Through His Holy Spirit, the gifts promised to His people were made manifest. Visiting us was Bro. Barry Mazzeo from Phoenix, Arizona, who preached to us on the power that resides in the name of Jesus Christ. He told us there is only one way to reach the portals of glory, and that is through Jesus.

We had visitors in our midst from San Diego, Arizona, and Michigan, as well as friends from the neighborhood surrounding our branch.

Our Sunday School was opened on the subject of faith. After our classes reconvened to close Sunday School, each class expressed an outpouring of God's Spirit in their session. We knew then that it would be a day of miracles and blessings.

One sister, Kay Gray, noticed during Sunday School that the name of the Church on the front wall was illuminated. After our break and during the preaching and testimony service, just the words "Jesus Christ" were illuminated, so brightly that she could hardly look. After the meeting, our newly-baptized Sister Carol DiBattista expressed that she, too saw the name

of Jesus illuminated during the entire service.

Bro. Gary Capone asked for prayer, that the silken cord of Satan would be cut from him and that God would put up a hedge of righteousness about him. During the prayer, a sister saw that Gary was given a shield. This vision of the shield of Faith was an answer to our brother's prayer.

The Lord then spoke to another brother, giving a message to relay to the saints: Come unto Me, all those who are thirsty, and I will give them to drink. Yet another brother was given to understand, through God speaking within him, that someone in our midst was being dealt with by the Lord and needed to give themselves fully to Jesus. This was confirmed by another sister. Just as God's sweet Spirit flowed, so did the tears of joy, as we basked in the warmth of God's love and grace.

Our prayer service brought many forward to have hands laid on them and to be anointed for their needs. One was a young girl who has not rendered obedience to God yet, but asked for prayer because she felt an onslaught of the Tempter approaching. We thank God that He allows us to see sin as it prepares to come before us, and He strengthens our ability to resist it through Him.

The following week was our Area MBA Campout in Idyllwild Pines, CA. God had truly set us aflame this Sunday and prepared us for camp, and for this we thank Him.

Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with him, we shall also live with him (II Timothy 2:11).

So many of us as were baptized unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

September 11, 1988 will be remembered as a day of a new birth into baptism for Valorie Dulisse. Bro. Daniel Picciuto spoke of the faithfulness of

saints who are more than conquerors, through Him that loved us.

I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38-39).

Only we can separate ourselves from Christ Jesus. There are nine "nors" in these two short verses, yet we and we alone have the power to say no, or yes. For everyone who comes to Christ must be willing.

It was a glorious day of rejoicing; yes, mercy drops round us were falling. May Sister Valorie say yes to Jesus Christ and no to separating from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus the Lord.

Detroit Inner City

We thank God for the meeting we had on Sunday, August 28, 1988, as the Spirit of God was prevalent in the service. We began by singing *Blessed Assurance* with deep intent.

After the song, Brother Gary Champagne stood before us and proclaimed with strong conviction, "This is our story; this is our song. It's our hope; it's our future. You know, we look at the many problems that come upon us in this life, yet we are still able to praise God, because if we view these problems with the mind of God, we are lifted above them. When we are living with the Spirit of God, we are able to cope, and we are able to put things into perspective.

"Sometimes our problems are intensified by what we fill our minds with. Satan's darts are always flying to break our bond with God. He uses things such as books, magazines, radio, television, etc., but we can overcome these things by presenting our bodies as a living sacrifice to God, putting off the things of the flesh, and putting God above all else.

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God . . . is the essence of living a full life; it is the essence of putting God first. Everything must fall outside of putting Him first. We must obey God and give our lives to Him, holy and unspotted.

We must stir up the gift of God that is within us (II Timothy 1:16). For we have been called by His purpose that He has placed within each one of us. God, the Almighty Creator, has a plan for us and we must be so in tune with Him that we will keenly understand what that plan is," stated Bro. Gary.

"In Romans 12:2, Paul tells us not to be conformed to this world, but transformed by the renewing of our mind, to prove the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. If we, the children of God, can transform ourselves just as the Bible teaches, and if we can keep God's kingdom first and the love for our neighbor next, then God will bless us with understanding and strength to overcome the adversary.

"Let the mind of Jesus Christ be in us. We must live with the hope of deliverance in our hearts, and know that God is the end of all things, and as we persevere, others will follow us because they see an example in this world that offers little hope. Let's continue to work together, walk together, encourage one another, and pray for one another, and in doing so we shall become a united family of God (A united nation: Zion), tightly bound together with the strength of Jesus Christ." Amen.

South Bend, IN

On October 23, 1988 Sister Letitia Veletta Beckett made her covenant with the Lord and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was baptized and confirmed by Bro. Mitchell Edwards.

Our new sister lives in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Please remember her in your prayers.

Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

On Wednesday night, October 19, Brother Rusty and Sister Barbara Heaps visited with us. Brother Heaps asked members to write questions for him and he would answer to the best of his ability. We enjoyed the evening as he spoke and as he gave satisfactory answers to the questions.

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STERLING continued . . .

Sunday October 23, we were pleased to have Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Buffington with us, along with Brother Rusty and Sister Barbara, and many other visitors.

Brother Spencer Everett opened in prayer, and Sister Arlene introduced the last four *Songs of Zion* to us, giving the experiences that accompanied each song. She said that her purpose in coming here today was to bring us a gift from the throne of God. She has been thoroughly blessed as she was given the songs. She takes no credit for herself; all glory is given to God. He sent these gifts to this precious Church. Sister Arlene said she sometimes has been to heaven and back when she was given certain songs.

Hearing these experiences gave us a fuller understanding of the meaning of these songs. Not only are they beautiful songs, they are also messages from God concerning the latter days.

Bro. Eugene Amormino was present, and he and Sister Donna played and sang the first verse of each song before the rest of us joined in with the other verses.

Brother Heaps spoke to us today, taking his lesson from the book of Ruth. Naomi said to Ruth, "Where hast thou gleaned today?" In today's world we don't glean the fields for grain nor the railroad tracks for coal, but we must glean souls for Christ. Let us not doubt what we have heard today; doubt leads to destruction. The scriptures are a light unto our pathway. There is a famine in the land today; not a famine of bread, but a famine of hearing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is much confusion; no one knows where to go.

Brother Heaps pointed out to us that the Church is where the truth is today, and it is important that we all find ourselves firmly embedded in the Gospel Restored. The enemy of our souls is working hard to get each one of us to weaken and give up—we must be spiritually strong in order to overcome.

After we sang *Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown*, Bro. Bob Buffington spoke. He told us how the *Songs of Zion* are a gift from God, and that there is a gift for everyone in the Church today.

Sunday evening we met again at the Church building for more singing of the

Songs of Zion. We enjoyed our visitors so very much, and will welcome them back. Praise God for The Church of Jesus Christ, and the many wonderful people who belong.

Sunday October 30, a new soul, Paul Stallard, was baptized and became a member of the Sterling Heights Branch. He was baptized by Bro. John Straccia, his brother-in-law.

After the baptism, we returned to the church for the confirmation and for our feet washing service. We sang *There Is a River* to open our service, and our new brother was confirmed by Bro. John Buffa.

Bro. Lou Vitto remarked on what a beautiful day this was for a baptism. The sun was shining brightly and the waters were calm. As he looked across the waters, he could see the beauty of God's creation. He said we were gathered here today to partake in the ordinance of feet washing.

The Sunday before, Brother Lou had looked at Paul sitting in the congregation and beheld a glow upon his face. The glow stayed upon him throughout the meeting. Meanwhile, Bro. John Straccia had had an experience that someone was going to ask for their baptism. He didn't say anything to anyone, but was disappointed when no one asked. He thought to himself that maybe they would ask at the evening meeting, but again nothing happened. The next day, Paul called his brother-in-law and said he wanted to talk to him. It was then that he asked for his baptism.

After these experiences were related, we went into our feet washing service. That evening we met again for a social in honor of our new converts. Bro. Paul Stallard, Bro. Keith Chambers, and Sis. Dawn Kersey were called forward to give their testimonies, along with Sis. Shelby, Bro. Paul's wife.

Sis. Shelby told of how she had been praying to meet the right man. She was out of work for some time, and one day Sister Donna Amormino felt very strongly to call and tell Shelby about a job opening she had heard about. The Spirit told her that Shelby would get the job. What she didn't know was that Shelby would meet her future husband at this new job. Our new Brother Paul testified that he, too, had prayed to the

Lord to provide a companion for him, and through her he met this Church.

Pray for us, that our branch will grow spiritually and in number as well.

SAINT continued . . .

a real Christian never gets up on the Lord's day with the question in his mind, "Shall I go to church today?" How true, for unto a saint, going to church is as important as eating itself.

On another occasion, David complained of maltreatment at the hands of his enemies, yet when they became afflicted he was ready to fast and pray for them. What love, what godliness, what saintliness! Truly he was a righteous man, yet with all of these virtues and good qualities, he was ever ready to receive correction and rebuke. "Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head."

Having such a nature and attitude, is it any wonder that the Lord Himself had a word of praise for the man David? Can we use more of this virtue in our midst, brothers and sisters? I can testify of myself that there is a great blessing in it. Scriptures contain many of these noble deeds of men and women, even as Ruth's love for Naomi, as well as for her mother-in-law's God and people. She no doubt was criticized by her own people, but to God it was a sweet savor, and she was not left unrewarded.

We might also list Daniel's rejection of the king's dainties, and of his fearless continuance of prayer three times daily when threats came, and of the three Hebrew children's refusal to bow to the golden image when others around them did.

Seeing, then, that we have these many worthy examples of the works of godly men and women of old, as well as inspired writings telling us what is required of us when we are called into God's service, shall we not set in our hearts and minds an aim, by God's help, that we might attain some of these virtues? For when He called you and me to be a saint, it was just for that express purpose. May God help each of us not only to call each other and to esteem each other as saints, but also that we might be stirred to a full realization of what it means to be "called to be saints."

* WEDDINGS *

BEAM—RANDOLF

On September 26, 1987 Mr. Bryan Beam and Miss Shelley Randolph exchanged marriage vows in The Church of Jesus Christ's Greensburg, PA Branch.

Bro. Jesse Carr officiated at the ceremony. Sis. Erma Draskovich provided organ and piano selections; Bro. Bob Beam, father of the groom, was vocal soloist.

May the Lord richly bless Bryan and Shelly as they go through life together.

ANSPACHER—FALLAVOLLITTI

Mr. Gregory Bernhart Anspacher and Sis. Lana Louise Fallavollitti were united in holy matrimony at The Church of Jesus Christ in Greensburg, PA on October 2, 1987.

The ceremony was performed by Bro. Paul Gehly and musical selections were provided by Sis. Alice Saeli.

Greg and Sis. Lana are residing in Ocean City, Maryland. We pray that God will continually guide and direct them, and that His blessings will be immeasurable in their life together.

PICCIUTO—NOEL

On June 25, 1988 Brother Bruce Anthony Picciuto and Sister Danielle Renée Noel were joined in marriage at the World Conference Center, Greensburg, PA.

Bro. Paul Gehly welcomed all in attendance and offered the opening prayer. Bro. Dwayne Jordan followed with the sermon, and Bro. Anthony Picciuto, father of the groom, conducted the wedding ceremony.

Vocal selections were provided by Sis. Donna Amormino and Dino Picciuto, cousin of the groom, accompanied by Bro. Eugene Amormino. Bro. Bruce surprised his bride by singing her a beautiful love song.

The newlyweds plan to reside in Georgia, where Bro. Bruce will attend school. May Bro. Bruce and Sis. Danielle continue to serve the Lord diligently, and may the Lord, in return, bless them abundantly.

New Arrivals

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

Jessica Lynn to Frank (Flip) and Alma Palacios of Detroit's Inner City Branch.

Children Blessed

On July 17, 1988 Andrea Rose Pickett was blessed in the Church at Greensburg, PA by Bro. Paul Gehly. It was a special day for Sis. Rose Nalevanko as she watched her great-granddaughter being blessed. Present at this meeting were four generations that have been blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Devin Christopher Lordy was blessed by Bro. Louis Vitto at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on October 19, 1988.

On November 6, 1988 Stanley Edward Wandeloski was blessed at Detroit, Michigan Branch 1 by Bro. Paul Vitto.

OBITUARIES

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

MARY TODARO

Sister Mary Todaro, a member of the Greensburg, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed on to her eternal reward on February 28, 1987. She was born in Grotto, Italy on October 26, 1897 and was baptized into the Church in 1924. Sis. Mary was ordained a deaconess in 1960.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Paul Gehly.

Sister Mary is survived by four sons and three daughters. Although her seat is now empty and we will miss her greatly, her testimony of great faith will be remembered for a long time to come. She would often tell how she lived daily, depending solely on her faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

MICHELANGELO GIOIA

Brother Michelangelo Gioia of Detroit Branch 1 went to his heavenly home on October 14, 1988. He was born in Sicily on November 29, 1902 and was baptized in Detroit on May 1, 1932. He strengthened the Church in the capacity of an ordained teacher for many, many years.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Nicholas and Louis Pietrangelo.

Brother Michelangelo leaves to mourn his passing his wife, four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Our brother's unshaken faith, hope, and charity, and his consistent display of the joy of the Gospel, leave an indelible impression on the minds of many brothers and sisters in the Church, particularly in the Michigan-Ontario District, who knew him through the years. May the Lord comfort those who will miss him most.

Address Change

Name _____

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