

The Gospel News

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

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Our Retirement Tour

By Michael and Ann Radd

Our journey began on Labor Day, September 5, 1988 from Greenacres City, FL to Greensburg, PA October 5 for General Conference. Our desire was to visit with as many of the saints throughout the western part of the U.S. as possible, as we had never been there before. During our trip we saw much of God's creation and some of the wonders of the world.

Our first stop was Asheville, NC, where our daughter, Jessie Ann Radd, lives. She took us on a tour through the Grove Park Hotel, where some of our former U.S. presidents stayed. This gave Sister Ann the opportunity to leave copies of the *True Vine Journal* in the building, where there were other artifacts, as well as in the parking lot on a few select cars. This was one of her projects on our trip, and some of the people seemed interested in what it had to say concerning the Restored Gospel.

The next stop was at the home of Brother Charles and Sister Ilene Smith, who now live in Oak Grove, MO. They took us on a short tour of Main Street and the church across the street. We enjoyed each other's company very much, and they said that they appreciated cards, letters, and visits from everyone.

We drove through most of the northwest United States, stopping at Mt. Rushmore and Yellowstone Park, where we could not venture because of the fires. These fires were burning for months and were finally put out by four inches of snow that fell during the night

as God gave a hand when man could not control the 1.3 million acre fire. Several attempts were made to contact some of the saints in the northwest, but we were unable to reach them.

Three more forest fires were going in Oregon and northern California, where many homes were destroyed. We passed through the giant Redwood and Sequoia Forests of central California.

One of the highlights of our trip was arriving in Anaheim, where our nephew Dom Bilardo and Sister Joann live. We stayed almost a week there, visiting the branches at Bell, Santa Ana, Anaheim, and San Diego with Sister Joann.

Sister Julia Pacheco from San Diego took us for a brief tour into Tijuana, Mexico. We spent the next weekend in Phoenix, Arizona, at the home of Brother Barry and Sister Nancy Mazzeo and visited a museum where we saw the history of the Arizona Indians. Sunday was spent at the branch meeting, followed by their MBA.

From there we went to the Grand Canyon, which was a beautiful sight, as we headed towards the east, past the painted desert and petrified forest. The best sight of all was to see Brother Bill and Sister Evelyn Crall in Anadarko, Oklahoma. The next morning I anointed Brother Bill, as he was scheduled to go to the hospital the next day. We shared testimonies and partook of the Lord's Supper.

Our next stop was Henryetta, Oklahoma, where Sister Margie Blake-

ly lives. We spent close to a week there and once more visited the Creek Indian National Headquarters in Okmulgee, Oklahoma. We then headed for Larussel, Missouri, where Brother Joe and Sister Helen Tissler live.

The last major stop of our trip was at the home of Brother Bucky and Sister Norma Kendall at Elco, PA for General Conference. Each night after conference there was a gathering at their home of saints from various parts of the Church.

Conference Saturday I was stricken with pneumonia and taken to the hospital in Greensburg. I was released eight days later, and enjoyed a Sunday evening service at Brother and Sister Kendall's.

The final leg of our journey was by airplane, completing the 9,500 mile tour. My wife and I want to thank everyone for your prayers, visits, phone calls, cards, and gifts in behalf of my quick recovery. I felt the power of your prayers. Thank you all, and thank God for this beautiful family of God. I know now that my sudden illness could not have happened in a better place; it may have been a disaster if it took place on some lonely road.

Florida Campout

You still have a chance to get away from the winter and attend the annual Florida Area MBA Campout in Avon Park, FL. The camp will be held in February, 1989, and you can contact Bro. Chuck Maddox at (407) 684-4827 for details.

50th Anniversaries

By Wendy Woods

Shortly after their Golden Wedding Anniversary, Sister Pearl and Brother Nick Zinzi celebrated their 50th spiritual anniversaries in The Church of Jesus Christ, in the Tampa Branch, on November 13, 1988.

Sister Pearl was baptized in The Bronx, New York, on November 13, 1938 by Brother Frank Braiotta and confirmed by Brother Gabriel Mazzeo. Brother Nick was baptized there on February 14, 1939 by Brother Vincent Azzinaro and confirmed by Brother Ishmael D'Amico.

During our service, Sister and Brother Zinzi told of their baptisms and years in the Church.

Sister Pearl came from a family of ten children, of another faith. Shortly after her marriage to Brother Nick, Brother Nick's mother and stepfather got baptized in the Church. They asked Brother Nick and Sister Pearl if they would like to visit the Church, which at that time met in a storefront. This was entirely different from the church that Sister Pearl was used to attending. Nevertheless, they visited the Church. That day, Brother Vincent Clementi was preaching and he became filled with the Spirit; tears were rolling down his face. During the afternoon service, the Spirit of God touched Sister Pearl and she asked for her baptism. Sister Pearl mentioned the many trials and blessings that she has received in the past 50 years, and then referred to the following scripture found in I Peter 1:7, "That the trial of your faith, being much more



Sister Pearl and Brother Nick Zinzi of Tampa, FL.

precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ."

Brother Nick, after the baptism of his mother and stepfather, became familiar with the Church. Many of the brothers would tell him to search the scriptures for the truth. He was not quite sure what to think of that, since many of our brethren were unlearned at that time. One day he was watching a documentary on a very intelligent man, George Washington Carver, who said that he read and searched the scriptures. Brother Nick then began to search the scriptures and eventually asked for his baptism.

Brother Nick also related an experience he had after his baptism:

He loves to play golf and is a very good player. He qualified for a tournament which took place on a Sunday. Sister Pearl told him that he really shouldn't play, that he belonged in Church. Brother Nick explained to her that he wasn't doing anything evil, he was just playing golf! That day he played *very* poorly. Brother Nick knew that the Lord had taught him a lesson—on the Sabbath Day, God comes first.

Brother and Sister Zinzi have three sons and one daughter, all blessed in the Church, and five grandchildren. On April 16, 1950, Brother Nick was ordained a Teacher. Throughout their years, our brother and sister have been and are actively involved in The Bronx and in Tampa, holding various branch offices.

After our Sunday service, Brother and Sister Zinzi provided a delicious meal for all of us to enjoy. The food and fellowship made for a very memorable day.

We are very thankful that our brother and sister have reached this milestone in their lives. They constantly prove that The Church of Jesus Christ is the most important thing in their lives, and they also remind us that love and dedication are not a thing of the past. They have reached a goal for which we should all strive. May God bless them both.

On November 20, 1988 the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 1 honored two of our sisters for reaching 50 years in the Gospel.

Sisters Jennie Randazzo and Angela Scolaro, both of whom were baptized in 1938, received corsages in recognition of their spiritual anniversaries. Both of them expressed their thankfulness to the Lord for the strength He has given them throughout the years, and their desire to press forward in the Gospel for the remaining days of their lives.

Our prayer is that God would bless our two sisters, and that we would follow the examples they have set before us.



Sisters Scolaro and Randazzo of Detroit Branch 1.

The brothers and sisters of Cape Coral, Florida, along with friends and relatives of Sister Phil Bartuccio and Sister Bertha Constantine, gathered to honor our sisters who have been in the Gospel over 50 years each.

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Sisters Bartuccio and Constantine of Cape Coral, FL.

His Wonders Never Cease

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers, and phone calls during my illness and miraculous recovery. Most of all, I thank God for sparing my life so that I would be able to do more of His work. I do love the Lord and all of you, and I truly love doing His work. I had brain surgery on August 5, 1988 and was able to go back to work on October 19. I am doing fine, Thank God.

Last winter I started to feel very tired and I had very bad headaches. I was anointed by Bro. Clifton Wells, and we both felt something move upwards in my head. Then the headaches went away and I felt a little better. Then my mind started to get slower and slower. I went to the doctor, but he could not tell what was wrong even though it was very evident that I was not well. Finally, the doctor ordered a CAT scan done,

which revealed a tumor on my brain. The doctors felt the tumor was operable and scheduled me to be hospitalized for surgery. I was relieved to know what was wrong with me, and I knew that the surgery had to be performed; but I was afraid.

The weekend before I was scheduled for surgery, we held our Annual July Mini-Conference here in Omaha and many of the brothers and sisters from out of town were here to attend. In testimony during the Sunday service I asked for prayer that I would not have the pain that usually accompanies this type of surgery. A special prayer went up for me and I was anointed again. I entered the hospital later that same day.

While in the hospital before the surgery, I had an experience; I know it was the Lord. He said to me, "If you go to the highest mountain, I'll be there." Then I saw my hospital room. Then He said, "And if you go to the lowest valley, I'll be there, too." Then I saw the operating room. I knew then that God

was with me for sure, and I worried no more.

Later, they told me that I passed out, but I don't remember. I do know that I was on my way back to earth at a high rate of speed. When I entered the earth elements, I know that I had to slow down or crash. Then I called on the Name of Jesus and here I am today with no loss of memory, no paralysis, nor any side effects. Two days after my operation, I was able to sing the entire chorus of *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord* from memory. I praise God for the miracle He performed, using me as an instrument. I know that this has had a profound effect upon all the members of my family; please remember them in your prayers.

Again, I would like to thank all the members and friends for their prayers and kindness on my behalf.

Sister Emma Grooms,
Omaha-Bedford Mission
The Church of Jesus Christ

MBA Highlights

Atlantic Coast Area Campout

By Betty D'Orazio

SEPTEMBER 23-25, 1988

Excitement, anticipation, pulses racing, only a few more weeks and our campout will be starting. What's happening? Why are we all feeling this way? Praise God, what's in store?

Let me tell you about what God has in store. It will not be necessary to identify who the individuals are, all that matters is that we were a *unit*.

Our theme was *unity*. It was not only the theme, it was *us*. We became a total unit, bonded so strong that we no longer came from different families, but were one, the family of God.

On Saturday, before our seminar began, one of the exercises we did made quite an impact on all of us. We were all asked to leave the building and stand outside. We were then asked to group together as branches. As soon as that

was accomplished, we were asked to gather as families. Some were among large family groups, some were few, and some stood alone. What an empty feeling for those who had no family! But then we were asked to come together as The Church of Jesus Christ, and no one was left alone. We again became a total family. This left a strong impression on all.

As we assembled back in the building, a box was passed with everyone's name on pieces of paper for us to pick from, and a length of yarn. We were to tell no one whose name we drew, as that was to be our prayer partner for the weekend. The yarn was to be worn around our wrists as a reminder for us to pray for our partner. At the end of the weekend, we went and tied the yarn on the person whom we had been praying for. Talk about bonding—this was terrific! What a sight to see all the wrists of the saints and friends there with a common bond—our prayer yarn. Also, our seminar was not broken up by age groups; there was no 'age.' We simply divided in half due to our large number, and two classes were held. God continued to control this unity throughout the day and into the evening meeting.

On Sunday His uniting Spirit continued into our meeting, and the

wonderful thing is that His Spirit of unity is still prevailing in our Area MBA. It is being nurtured and allowed to grow. Did we have cause for excitement and anticipation? Was it good to feel our pulses racing? Indeed it was. We took it back with us to cover all those who could not attend. And this is only a small portion of all the happenings.

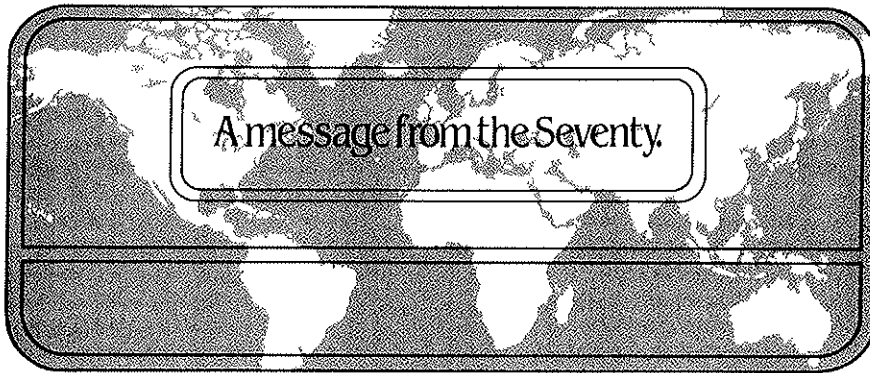
Southwest Area MBA

By Faith Hemmings

The weekend of September 24 and 25, 1988 was truly a blessing from God for the Southwest Area MBA.

The MBA scheduled a hike on Saturday to Cañon de Chelly, Colorado for the women and children, while the men spent the day at the Tse Bonito Branch. The canyon was a sight to be remembered by all who attended. It was a beautiful day as we drove along the base of the canyon, seeing the ruins and cliff dwellings of the Navajo ancestors. Saturday's evening meeting was again a blessing of God. Brothers Norman James, Virgil Link, Terry Ross, and

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Weekend in Independence Presents Promise; in India Promise Has Been Fulfilled

By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor

An intensive weekend of activities in Independence, MO on October 22-24, 1988 has offered much promise for the future. Meanwhile, the promise given by God for the nation of India has been fulfilled, as reported by Brother Joseph Calabrese, General Church foreign missions coordinator.

In Independence, the major focus included slide presentations of the Church's missionary endeavors among the seed of Joseph, preaching, testimonies, and a singspiration. Many brothers and sisters traveled long distances to join our resident evangelist, Charles E. Smith, and his wife, Sister Ilene, to publicize The Church of Jesus Christ.

Traveling there were Bro. Vincent and Sis. Sevilla Gibson, Bro. Al and Sis. Nancy Mayher, and Bro. Rey Rangel from Cleveland, Ohio; Bro. Mike and Sis. Barbara Nuzzi from Niles, Ohio; Bro. Oscar Lopez from Detroit, Michigan; Bro. Sam Dell from Levittown, Pennsylvania; Brothers Richard Christman and Barry Mazzeo from Phoenix, Arizona; Bro. Alex Robinson and Bro. Roger and Sis. Marietta Schroeder, with their three children, from St. John, Kansas; and Bro. Tom Liberto from San Diego, California. Brother Liberto, assistant chairman of the General Church Development Committee, presented the following information.

The first service was held in the Harvest Hills Community Center on Saturday evening. The meeting con-

sisted of congregational singing of the *Songs of Zion*, solos, small group singing, the slide presentation (compiled by Bro. Mark Mancinelli of Detroit), preaching, and testimonies. Members of the Harvest Hills group of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day-Saints (RLDS), which owns the community center, joined in testimony. One of them was very happy to exercise the gift God has given her by playing hymns on her violin in accompaniment to the singing. The spirit of love prevailed, and there was much liberty in sharing our thoughts and beliefs with them. The group expressed thankfulness for the visit, stating they felt the Spirit of God was present. They also provided lodging for our people in their homes.

On Sunday morning, the Church contingent split into three groups, each attending services at different locations. They were with congregations at the Harvest Hills RLDS, Contemporary Christian Center (CCC) RLDS, and the Aaronites (LDS) from Murray, Utah. The guest speaker at the CCC service was Paul Lucero, a Pawnee Indian who is a member of the RLDS Quorum of Seventies.

Our Church conducted an afternoon service at the CCC building in the same manner as on Saturday night. Brother Gibson had a feeling that someone should be anointed. Brother Smith confirmed this, saying he had a severe pain at the back of his head and neck. He found relief after being anointed.

An RLDS member told an experience she had had as everyone knelt in prayer prior to the Brother Smith's anointing.

She felt that if the words "the deaf will receive their hearing" were spoken during our brother's anointing, they would be a sign to her that she should be anointed by our priesthood for her hearing. Brother Dell had indeed used these words in his prayer on Brother Chuck, so she asked to be anointed. After this, Bro. Christman was inspired to call Gina Browne forward to anoint her for a leg problem. She said she felt the Spirit of God present throughout the service. She and her husband Roy had been very instrumental in preparing and in offering their hospitality for the weekend. Paul Lucero also attended this service, and wished us God's blessings in our efforts to restore the Seed of Joseph.

Sunday night, the slide presentation was made at the Aaronite group, and a strong spirit of testimony was present. At this service, Little Pigeon's son, Wayne Nicholas (RLDS), invited The Church of Jesus Christ to visit two Ute Indian reservations in Colorado, and Bob Conrad, high priest (LDS), gave invitations to hold the same kind of services with their groups in Murray and Exasdale, Utah.

GROWTH IN INDIA

Evangelist Calabrese has received updates from India that include some firsts. The first letter was typed on our own typewriter there. The first printing work has been done in India, and the first publication was on our Faith and Doctrine book. Our first hymn book has been printed in Tamil, and the "Retrospection of the Primitive Church" has just been completed.

The second anniversary of the church building in Ayalur was well attended by members and non-members from the village and the surrounding area. Included were some dignitaries, such as leaders of the villages, union school headmaster, teachers, and the union president. The headmaster said, "Most of the denominations work only in the cities and established churches near the roadways. But The Church of Jesus Christ's coming to meet the interior parts of the villages shows the love of God through these kind of services to the poor people." Then he requested all to cooperate and help our church work in all respects. This was indeed a high compliment, as the area is predominantly Hindu.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The beginning of a new year is a good time for us to look back at the successes and failures of our lives in the past twelve months. Our thanks go up to the Lord for the good He has brought to our lives, and we look forward, with His help, to becoming more effective servants of His in the year to come.

It is important for us, from time to time, to evaluate our personal sainthood. Called by God to represent His kingdom on earth, we in The Church of Jesus Christ must each take a spiritual look in the mirror, to be sure we are living up to the standard that Christ has placed before us. In order for us to be sure just what that standard is, we must—each one of us individually—know and study the Word of God, the Bible and Book of Mormon.

There is no substitute for individual study of the scriptures. Hearing our priesthood expound and elaborate upon the Word on a Sunday morning, though it surely feeds our hungering souls, cannot anchor God's Word firmly within us in the same way that regular reading of the scriptures will. If we can devote a little more time to studying the Word of God, let us do it. And if we can't find the time in our busy lives to do so, we must at least answer to ourselves (and to the Lord) exactly what it is in our lives that leaves us with no time for the scriptures. If we ask Him to, the God that we serve will *help* us to set the time aside to study His Word. We need only to sincerely desire it.

Likewise, we must assess how successful we as individuals have been in keeping the Holy Ghost stirred up within us. This most precious of gifts, which we each received on the day of our baptism by the laying on of hands, cannot and will not flourish within us without a continuing effort on our part. Through our individual desires, however, and through consistent fasting and prayer, our hearts and minds can indeed be possessed of the Spirit of the Living God. The extent to which this Spirit manifests itself in our lives depends more than anything else upon just how much we want it.

Our endeavors to study the scriptures and to fast and pray must be combined with righteous living in order for us to be vessels fit for the Spirit of God to dwell in. Each one of us must take a hard look at our lives, and be sure that we are keeping ourselves "unspotted from the world" (James 1:27). If we should indeed find any "spots" standing in the way of our becoming true saints of the Most High God, we need only approach Him with a broken heart and heed His gentle warning: "Go, and sin no more." Again, the Lord cleanses and sanctifies our lives to a degree that is limited only by our desire for His help; He draws us just as close to Him as we wish to be drawn.

Becoming a saint, becoming everything that God wants us to be, is a direct function of our heart's longing to be just that. As that desire increases or wanes, so does our sainthood. Thus it remains for each of us, in the year to come and for the rest of our lives, to continually increase our hungering and thirsting to become the saints of God. If our desires are sincere, we will make the efforts mentioned above. And if we *lack* this desire, the Lord will even give us *that*, if we desire it.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



That is how followers of Joshua are. We trust God. Even when faced with problems that are 'giants,' we know God can win. If we trust Him going into new territories, He will guide us. Through us, God can show His power to others.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

MESSAGE continued . . .

Dear Girls and Boys,

Have you heard the ministers of our Church preach and say, "Today is the time of the Joshua! We must all be ready for the Joshua era"? Did you remember that Joshua was Moses' first helper? Joshua was also a soldier, a spy for God, a leader of men, and a father who said, "As for me and my house (family), we will serve God!"

When Moses led 600,000 grown-up people out of the country of Egypt where they were slaves, they came with all of their children, their animals, and their possessions. God showed the people which way to walk (there were no airplanes, trains, or highways in those days) through the deserts and wild, rocky places. He showed them their path by sending a huge cloud by day and a cloud of fire by night, so they could see it in the dark.

How the people complained! Even though they'd seen the miracles of God which convinced Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, to let them go, they complained. They wanted food, so God sent them wonder food, called manna, from the sky. They complained because manna was too sweet; they wanted meat. So God sent huge flocks of migrating quail for them. They needed water, and God made water flow from a rock. Over and over these stubborn people complained and forgot to trust God. They even worshipped a golden statue when Moses left them to talk to the Lord.

But finally, the people went too far. Moses and the entire nation of wanderers were on the border of Canaan, the rich land God had promised Abraham hundreds of years before that He'd give to the Israelite nation. Moses chose twelve men to go and spy out the land so their armies could plan how to attack the Canaanite cities.

Only two of the twelve spies, Joshua and his friend Caleb, had faith in God and brought good news. The other ten spies came back scared and told the people, "We can never do this! The people in Canaan have big cities with walls and armies! They're giants!! We should go back to Egypt and be slaves!"

God was so mad at these men with no faith that he told Moses, "I will send a disease to this nation and they will all die—and then I'll make *your* family a great nation. These people forget all of my miracles; they forget everything good that I've done for them. I will start a new group of followers."

But Moses talked with God and asked Him not to destroy these people. God answered Moses and said, "I will not destroy their children. Everyone who was nineteen years old or younger when you left Egypt will live to go into the Promised Land. But the others will all die here in the wilderness. They will not trust me to go with them into Canaan now, so they will *not* go into the Promised Land. Out of the 600,000 adults, only Joshua and Caleb will live to enter the Promised Land!"

And this is what happened. Moses led the people for a total of forty years in the wilderness. Gradually the people who were used to the old ways of Egypt, the ones who feared and forgot God's miracles, all died.

Their children, who remembered the way God freed them and led them and fed them, grew up to be adults who trusted God. They followed Joshua, who taught them, "If the Lord is pleased with us, He'll bring us into this land and give it to us. Don't go against the Lord, and don't fear your enemies. God has taken away their power to win; He is with us. Fear not."

Baptisms, experiences, and miracles are occurring, and the Lord is continuing to bless our brothers and sisters. These have overshadowed some hardships and difficulties because of climatic conditions. The shed that housed a child-care center, nursery school, and sewing school was destroyed by the Monsoon storms which hit India each year. Also, the well that supplied the compound went dry, but an aquifer was finally found after having to bore three holes. All the facilities were rebuilt through private donations. Incidentally, the General Ladies' Uplift Circle donated two more sewing machines, which were greatly appreciated.

There are three fields now active in India. This is in confirmation of a dream had by Bro. Russell Cadman in 1981. While training a brother from India along with Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Anthony R. Loyalvo, he saw his father's farm and three different fields ready for planting.

When Brothers Alvin Swanson and Joseph Calabrese went to India in November of 1981, they established The Church of Jesus Christ in two different states: Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. There was no real indication that a third field could be opened.

In January of 1988, when Bro. Calabrese traveled to India with Bro. Paul Palmieri, Bro. Cadman's experience was fulfilled. During this trip, the two brothers were faced with a decision about establishing in the area of Madras, 35 miles from Ayalur where the Church is located, and in Bangalore, where five of our members reside, about 200 miles east of Madras.

Upon returning to the home of Brother Samuel in Bangalore, our elder there, Brother Babu, casually said they were now in another state. Hearing

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Branch and Mission News

Fort Pierce, FL

By David Checchi

On October 2, 1988 we witnessed the calling of two brothers into the Gospel. Noel Beckman, grandson of Sister Gladys Moore, stood and asked for his baptism during testimony. As we were preparing to go to the water, David Romano, son of Bro. Carl and Sis. Joanne Romano, explained that he had the interpretation to tongues during the meeting, stating that this was to be his time, so he too asked the elders for baptism.

Brother Joe Graziosi baptized both of our new brothers. Brother Sam Costarella confirmed David Romano, and Brother Frank Rogolino confirmed Noel Beckman.

On October 16 we had the opportunity of having Brother Duane Lowe open our meeting by reading from the book of I Peter. Brother Duane spoke on how blessed we are to have received such a broad understanding of Jesus Christ through His Gospel. He exhorted us to be fervent in our service to God, putting Him first in our lives.

On October 30 we again glorified God as Stephanie (Hatch) Baxter asked to be baptized during the testimony part of our meeting. Brother Joe Graziosi baptized her, and Brother Frank Rogolino confirmed her. Stephanie resides in Lake Worth, Florida, and attends the Church there.

On Sunday, November 27 we witnessed the ordination of Brother Carl Romano to the office of Teacher. His feet were washed by Brother Tony Arcuri, our presiding Teacher, and he was ordained by Brother Tony Ensana.

Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

"Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." Very great have been the blessings of God in Lake Worth. The baptisms, births and many

blessings along with the many visitors added to the wonderful joy we feel in serving our Lord in these the last days.

The power and influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and the outpouring of God's richest blessings were felt in witnessing two more souls join in obeying the Gospel and serving our Lord in the body of Christ's Church.

On a bright and clear Lord's Day, August 14, 1988, Stephen Anthony Gagnon was buried in Christ in the waters of regeneration. Brother Gene Perri officiated the holy ordinance.

After Brother Gene and Stephen came out of the water, Carmen Ingraham DiFede quickly came forward, making his wishes known to be baptized. Brother Gene was happy to take Carmen down into the water so that he, too, could be washed clean.

After beautiful exhortations by Brother Gene Perri and Brother Ron Carradi concerning the straight gate and the narrow way, our new brothers in Christ were confirmed. Brother Stephen was confirmed by Brother Ron Carradi, and Brother Carmen was confirmed by Brother Mike Radd. An experience by Brother Bud Perri was related, in which he saw a tear rolling down Brother Carmen's face and it stopped and became a precious jewel, then disappeared.

All have held together in faith and love as Brother August D'Orazio, Sister Carmella Mazzeo, Sister Marie McGuire and Brother Mike Radd have all suffered temporally and spiritually. Through the prayers of the saints, these pillars continue praising God, bearing their beautiful testimonies and enduring the heat of the day.

The saints in Lake Worth wish to acknowledge and thank those who have visited and joined in the fellowship of the Lord with us—Brother Frank Mazzeo, Brother Steve Mazzeo, Sister Palma Coppa, and Brother Lenny and Sister Jeanne Benyola; all from New Jersey. We also enjoyed Brother Dale King from Vanderbilt, PA as well as the saints from Hollywood, Miami, Quincy, and Fort Pierce.

Hollywood, FL

By Sharon Staley

The Hollywood Branch welcomed many visitors from throughout the Florida District on Sunday, November 27, 1988. They had come to witness the ordination of Brother Dennis Moraco into the Quorum of Seventy. Also in attendance were Sister Connie and Larry Moraco, Dennis' mother and brother, as well as Sisters Rose and Karen Milantoni, all of Detroit, Michigan.

Before the meeting was opened, a group of saints from Hollywood, Tampa, and Detroit sang two special selections—*Jesus Use Me* and *Stand Up for the Restoration*.

After prayer by Brother Cleveland Baldwin, Brother John Griffith addressed the congregation, reading various scriptures relative to the calling of an evangelist. He urged everyone to nurture the individual calling they have received—their calling into The Church of Jesus Christ. We should all strive to have a closer communication with the Lord, that we can help move the Church forward.

The congregation sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, after which Brother Dennis' feet were washed by Brother John Griffith. Brother Moraco was then ordained an evangelist by Brother Eugene Perri. Brother Moraco greeted all the brothers in the ministry and then bore his testimony.

After brief comments by several visiting brothers, the meeting was opened for testimony. Sister Connie Moraco was the first to express herself. She related that before her son Dennis was born, her mother-in-law (Sister Mariette Ruzzi) was given an experience that Brother Dominic and Sister Connie would have a blond-haired, blue-eyed son who would obey the Gospel and would eventually be used of God in many ways.

Following several other testimonies, the Lord's Supper was administered and this wonderful service was brought to a close.

Our prayers are with Brother Dennis, his wife, and their two sons, that the Lord would grant them all their needs as our brother endeavors to fulfill the duties of the office to which he has been called.

Omaha-Bedford Mission

Greetings to the *Gospel News* readers from the members of the Omaha-Bedford Mission. God continues to bless us and we thank Him for the growth both naturally and spiritually, even to the point where the natural and the spiritual become one and the same. In Hebrews 6:10, the Word of God tells us that He . . . "is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shewed toward His name. . ." In light of this scripture, we would like to share a great blessing God has brought forth due to the work and labor of love.

In the early 1970's a sister from our Mission had a dream in which she saw a tree with a huge trunk. The base of the tree trunk was in Omaha and as the tree grew tall the branches spread out across the midwest. Some of the branches had the names of cities on them and some didn't; but it was clear that each tree branch represented a city where the Gospel would be established through the testimonies of our Mission members. The members here envision that some day soon there will be another district of the Church called the Midwest District.

Praise God!!! We have evidence to report that this dream is coming true. A work has been started in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota area through the testimony of Sis. Sherri Harris, who recently moved from Omaha to St. Paul, Minnesota. Through her testimony, two have been baptized and another brother, originally from Michigan, has joined them. They are consistently faithful to meet each Sunday in the home of one of the members. They have no resident elder or ordained officer, but in their meetings they study and read scripture, pray, sing hymns and testify; knowing that God has started the work in Minnesota and that He will give the increase.

The following is an article concerning one of the activities of the members in the Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota area:

TWIN CITIES VISITS INNER CITY

On Friday October 14, 1988 the members of The Church of Jesus Christ that reside in the Twin City area (Minneapolis/St. Paul) traveled to South

Bend, Indiana, en route to Detroit, Michigan. We spent the night with our Sister Verna Jackson. The following morning Brother Leroy Love and Sister Verna Jackson escorted us to the correct highways leading to Detroit, Michigan. We arrived in Detroit early Saturday afternoon.

The members living in the Twin City area are: Sister Claudia and Brother Todd Wright (new members), 1514 Arundel St., St. Paul, MN 55117. Brother Norman Seneca, 328 W. Broadway St., Minneapolis, MN 55411, and Sister Sherri Harris, 175 Charles Ave., Apt. #206, St. Paul, MN 55103.

Our desires were to meet Sunday with our brothers and sisters at the Inner City Branch. (This desire had been in our hearts since the April 1988 Conference.) We finally made it! Praise the Lord!

Upon our arrival, we were told of the death of our Brother Michaelangelo Gioia. We had the opportunity to meet with many of our Brother Gioia's family members as well as many of the saints from the Detroit area at the viewing of Brother Gioia. Our prayers go out to the Gioia Family.

We were welcomed into the city by our Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino and their family. The warmth of Sister Judy Salerno and Sister Lisa Champine was very heart-felt as well.

Sunday October 16 truly held a special blessing for the Spirit of God was very much present, starting with the opening of Brother Mark Mancinelli's Sunday School lesson, found in James 1:18 & 19. The discussion following was very fruitful and enjoyable, and by all means full of the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ. Brother Tony Gerace opened his sermon by going back to the beginning (Genesis Chapter 1). Our brother truly preached a sermon.

The spirit of testimony was beautiful. Our Brother Mike Coppa testified of a white cloud that kept filling the room and personages filling the unoccupied seats. Sister Gerace testified of the presence of the Spirit of the Lord as Brother Eugene Amormino was anointing. There were other beautiful testimonies; we thank the Lord for the spirit of testimony.

We were blessed with a trio from the Champine Brothers, which was beautiful upon the touch of the ears. The

warmth of the brothers and sisters in the Inner City was beyond description. Sister Judy Salerno was blessed with a poem that was read during the meeting which best described the Spirit enjoyed in the Inner City Branch on Sunday, October 16.

Again we saints from the Twin Cities want to thank our brothers and sisters from the Inner City for truly displaying a wonderful example of the Love of God. Praise God!

I want to thank Jesus for this experience and for allowing me to share it with my brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere.

Respectfully,
Sister Sherri Harris

Detroit Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On November 27, 1988, we at Branch 1 had the rare privilege of witnessing eight ordinations. Called to the office of a teacher were Brothers Anthony J. Sclaro and Keith Lesperance. Brothers Mario Zaccagnini, Nick Francione, and Aaron Dix were called as deacons, and Sisters Lorraine Thomas, Marilyn Sclaro, and Cindy Everett were called to be deaconesses. The church building was filled to capacity that afternoon, with visitors from throughout the Michigan-Ontario District as well as from other parts of the Church. The singing before the meeting was so full of inspiration that as I walked in, the Spirit touched my heart and I knew the Lord was there, filling everyone with the blessings of this event.

Before the ordinations took place, Bro. Nick Pietrangelo spoke a few words about the younger ones in the Church eventually taking on more spiritual duties, because someday the older workers will have passed on, and the Church must continue in its work for the Lord.

He also stressed the support that is necessary from the spouses of these who are called, that they, too, must make sacrifices, sharing their mates' time a little bit more than they may like. But in the long run, if we put God first in our lives, we will be the ones who reap the rewards.

When Presiding Elder Richard Thomas called the eight up to the front,