

January, 1989

Volume 45, No. 1

### 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 Blakely 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.

(Continued on Page 3)



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

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

(Continued on Page 11)



### 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 "Retrogression 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.

(Continued on Page 6)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scelaro 36247 Harcourt Fraser, MI 48026

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leenard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 3406 Sunflower Rd. New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

> FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN — ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

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

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

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

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

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

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

### Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The beginning of a new year is a good time for us to look back at the succeses 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

Dear Girls and Boys,

Have you heard the ministers of our Church preach and say, "Today is the time of 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."

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 . . .

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 childcare 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. Lovalvo, 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

(Continued on Page 11)

### **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 consistantly 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 heartfelt 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. Scolaro and Keith Lesperance. Brothers Mario Zaccagnini, Nick Francione, and Aaron Dix were called as deacons, and Sisters Lorraine Thomas, Marilyn Scolaro, 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,

I thought to myself, What an honor, to think out of all the people in the world, the Lord chose to guide and direct these eight to find the Church and to be baptized, and He is placing a great responsibility and work upon them this day. Only by the softness of their hearts was He able to work in their lives. They are very willing individuals, full of love and optimism. Knowing them all very well, I cried just from hearing their names called that day.

Bro. Keith Lesperance's feet were washed by Bro. John Impastato, our presiding teacher, and Bro. Louis Vitto ordained him. Bro. Tony Scolaro washed his son Anthony's feet, and he was ordained by Bro. Eugene Amormino. Bro. Nick Francione's feet were washed by Bro. Frank DiDonato, and he was ordained by Bro. Jack Pontillo. Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo ordained Bro. Aaron Dix after his feet had been washed by Bro. Louis Pietrangelo.

Bro. Mario Zaccagnini's feet were washed by Bro. Norman Campitelle, and he was ordained by his uncle, Bro. Richard Thomas. Sis. Jenny Pietrangelo washed the feet of her daughter, Sis. Marilyn Scolaro, and she was ordained by her uncle, Bro. Nick Pietrangelo. Sis. Pat Christman washed her daughter, Sis. Cindy Everett's feet, and her father, Bro. Dick Christman, ordained her. Bro. Dick and Sis. Pat had come to Detroit from Phoenix, Arizona for Thanksgiving week. Sis. Pierina DiFalco washed the feet of Sis. Lorraine Thomas, her sister-in-law, and she was ordained a deaconess by her brother, Bro. Sam DiFalco.

We are thankful for the blessings of God we felt in taking part in this beautiful service, and we are grateful as well for the many brothers and sisters and friends who came from near and far to share the wonderful blessings of God with us. May the Lord bless those whom He has called to labor for Him in this part of the vineyard.

### Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday July 10, 1988 Bro. Dick and Sis. Pat Christman of Phoenix, AZ and Bro. Tom Everett and his wife, Sis. Cindy, and their family from Detroit Branch 1 became the first visitors at Branch 3's new location. We were honored and delighted to have them in our midst this day.

Bro. Tom opened in prayer, and afterward we sang There's Not Anything That Jesus Cannot Do.

Bro. Dick introduced the service and commented on how he felt the blessings of God when he entered our beautiful building this morning. He felt led by the Spirit when thoughts came to him from the Book of Nehemiah about a man of God serving a pagan king in a foreign land. Bro. Dick read from various portions of this Old Testament book. In particular, he cited the following: "These are thy servants which thou hast redeemed by thy great power and strong hand." Bro. Dick warned us that anytime we go about the work of the Lord, Satan is always peering through, standing on the sidelines.

Satan does not play fair. The more the Church works, the more sickness and discouragement exists among us. But we must remember that we have the important weapons of prayer, strength, and encouragement to combat the evil forces of this world. Our prayers are necessary for the workers in the missionary field. In Nehemiah, the people overcame their problems and continued to build; however, the enemies also continued to act against them.

Bro. Dick also warned us that it is actually a sin to be afraid. There are certain fears that are healthy for us, such as fear of fire, of a hot stove, or the danger of deep water. But the fear that is not justified is the fear of doing God's work when you know that God has protected you and provided ways for you and others to do His work. In the Book of Nehemiah, Tobiah was threatened. and eventually, evil drove him. Nonetheless, the people continued to pledge their service to God. Bro. Dick directed our attention to the trials the people in the account suffered prior to the dedication of their wall, and likened them unto the trials experienced prior to the forthcoming dedication of Branch

Even after our accomplishments, Satan still tries to break the people of God. Why? He wants to take away our precious gift of salvation. Thank God we belong to a unique and peculiar people! Bro. Dick reminded us that it is the Spirit of God that makes us so.

Bro. Tom continued the message, referring first to the verse of scripture

which states: "Woe unto me, if I preach not the Gospel" (I Corinthians 9:16). He mentioned that this was exactly what the Lord told William Bickerton many years ago.

Nehemiah was concerned about his people. Bro. Tom elaborated on how Nehemiah made his concern a matter of prayer without realizing that he would be the one responsible for rebuilding the wall of Jerusalem. Bro. Tom brought to mind many brothers and sisters who have fervently and unceasingly prayed for the missionaries of the Church, and like Nehemiah, not realizing that they, too, would eventually become the people working in those same missionary fields.

Our bodies are temples of God. We can talk to Him anywhere and at anytime because He dwells within us.

Nehemiah led a party to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. He could have taken the position that he feared what would happen, and therefore decline the endeavor. Bro. Tom asked us to look back at our lives and see the blessings and incidents where God could have intervened but did not because of our fear! Each one of us has situations where we deal with fear. And each one of us "messes up" because of our fear. God, in turn, reacts to what we do. If we do not act, God cannot react.

Bro. Tom reminded us that we are the light wherever we work or go to school. We are responsible for praying for those around us. Bro. Tom then related some very real experiences that were had by individuals at his workplace wherein the Spirit of God manifested itself through His healing power and other miracles. He hastened to point out that for evil men to excel in this world, it just takes good men to sit back and do nothing. God knows the bait on which we will bite. He has chosen different points in our lives that brought us closer to Him and drew others to Him.

Bro. Tom asked us this piercing question: "Are we planting any seeds?" God gives the increase by supplying the power for that seed to grow. *He* converts people, not *us!* 

It is only natural to catch the fish first, then to clean it. God uses His word and Spirit to clean each one of us. Bro. Tom concluded by stating that God reacts to the way we act. If we do nothing, then

(Continued on Page 10)

#### BRANCH 3 continued . . .

God has nothing to react to. We are the catalyst. If we have faith, we must show it by our actions.

After receiving such a beautiful and fulfilling message from our brothers, we participated in the ordinance of feet washing. God's beautiful Spirit was felt by many. We thank God for our visitors today and the message they brought forth. Surely we must do our part before God can bless us with all His bounty.

### Bell, CA

By Rosemary Scalise

Sunday, September 25, 1988 marked a most important point in the lives of Brother and Sister Ephraim and Josephine Luna. On this day they were both ordained into the offices of teacher and deaconess respectively.

Bro. Ken Jones of the Riverside Mission opened our service in prayer and led the congregation in singing I Surrender All.

Bro. Carl Frammolino was our opening speaker, visiting with us from the Santa Ana Branch. Many brothers and sisters from that branch came to honor our brother and sister on the day of their ordination. Bro. Carl spoke on the importance of the ordained office, regardless of what office it may be. Bro. Carl took his text from Ephesians 4, explaining, as the Apostle Paul did, that these offices are for the perfecting of the saints, "for the coming together in the unity of the faith," and that "we be no more children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine."

Throughout the meeting many hymns were sung both in English and Spanish.

Bro. Bob McDonnell followed Bro. Carl, explaining the duties of both teachers and deaconesses, and the manner in which they are ordained.

The next scene was a glorious one to behold. As Sister Josephine's feet were washed by her natural sister Ramona from Tijuana, thirteen other deaconesses present in our meeting surrounded the two and the Spirit of God was felt in great abundance. Truly the calling of God was felt.

Next, Bro. Ephraim's feet were washed by Bro. Lupe Rodriguez of the Santa Ana Branch, who had expressed a great desire to perform this ordinance.

Bro. Harry Marshall ordained Sis. Josephine and Bro. Vincent Scalise ordained Bro. Ephraim into their respective offices. We then shared in the Lord's Supper and dismissed in prayer.

A beautiful luncheon was prepared by the sisters of the Bell Branch following the meeting. There was a very good spirit felt by all present, and a beautiful season of fellowship was enjoyed. We thank God for our brothers and sisters who desire to work for the Church. May God bless our brother and sister Luna in their new roles in His service.

### Anaheim, CA

The Lord continues to call, bless, and re-energize His followers. We were privileged to have visitors from San Diego, Santa Ana, Bell, Yucaipa, Oregon, and Calgary, Canada on December 4, 1988. Every seat was taken as we witnessed two ordinations. Bro. Bill Duvall's feet were washed by Bro. Paul Grav and he was then ordained a teacher in the Church by Bro. Stacey Light of San Diego. Next, Bro. Randy Huttenberger's feet were washed by Bro. John Huttenberger, and he was then ordained a deacon by Bro. Jim Huttenberger. Bro. Walt Jankowski related a number of experiences which confirmed that these two brothers were called of God.

Bro. Bill Duvall began our meeting by singing Because He Lives. Bro. Carl Frammolino of Santa Ana followed enthusiastically on how because Jesus lives, we live. He pointed out how God is calling workers at a more rapid rate throughout the whole Church. He then outlined the duties of a teacher and a deacon.

After the ordinations, Bro. Frank Genaro of Yucaipa spoke on being patient with our children in hopes that someday God will use them for His great and marvelous work. Bro. Lou Ciccati of San Diego wrapped up today's message with encouraging words to push forward from this point.

Bro. Bob Henderson, having been out of fellowship for several years, rose to his feet filled with a spirit of repentance and cried out only that he wanted to "come home." Bro. Walt Jankowski offered the prayer reinstating him into fellowship. Tears of joy filled everyone's eyes at this long-awaited moment.

The testimony meeting was in keeping with Anaheim's tradition, with nearly everyone anxious to stand and thank God for the miracles of the previous week.

Our Operation Make-a-Dent has expanded. Several hundred lunches are prepared each Thursday night at the branch by ten or fifteen hard workers. On Sunday a group of saints rides in the back of our truck filled with lunches and goes to the homeless, the needy, and the abused. If I had words to describe the blessing this has brought to our branch, I would use them. Suffice it to say, God is pleased with our desire to give. Recently, Make-a-Dent held a jog-a-thon fundraiser in which we raised several hundred dollars for the food we use in this endeavor.

Christmas in Mexicali is another project we undertake each year. Our mission is supported all through the year, but around Christmas our branch fills up with bags upon bags, boxes upon boxes of clothes for our saints in Mexicali, Mexico. Then the clothes are all boxed and a truckload of supplies are brought to Mexicali. This past Christmas the trip took place on Saturday December 17. Again, words cannot express the blessing we receive from seeing the needs filled and the gratitude on the faces of the recipients.

After our Sunday service on December 11, we joined forces to pack several hundred pounds of candy. These little packages of candy are given with love to our saints in Mexicali, Tijuana, Santa Ana, and Tse Bonito, New Mexico, as a Christmas love gift.

Under the direction of Sis. Carol DiBattista, our children spent several weeks practicing for our annual Christmas program, which was performed on Wednesday, December 21. All branches in the area were invited. Needless to say, in a branch with over 30 children and two more on the way, it truly was a spectacular show.

As well, our leadership classes have expanded and the need for our new members' classes have arisen again. For all the blessings and love God fills us with, we thank Him. Without His direction, all our efforts would surely be in vain. May God bless you all.

### San Digeo, CA

On Tuesday, August 30, 1988, three souls were dedicated unto God. As dusk approached, we met at the San Diego Bay to witness the baptisms of Brothers Christopher Surdock and Salvador Langarica and Sister Margarita Ramos. Bro. Chris requested to be baptized a week earlier at the Pacific Coast Area Campout. He was baptized by his father, Bro. Ken Surdock, and was confirmed by Bro. Bob Womack.

The other two candidates requested their baptisms at a previous meeting of Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters. The work among the Hispanic people in the San Diego area has indeed been blessed of God. Bro. Luis Pacheco baptized Bro. Salvador, and he was confirmed by Bro. Stacey Light. Sis. Margarita was baptized by Bro. David B. Ciccati and confirmed by Bro. Bob Womack. We thank God for the newest additions to our Branch.

The saints who gather on Thursday evenings in San Diego have been enjoying the blessings of God. The services, which are held in the Spanish language, have been full of the works and gifts of God. Recently, we were privileged to have Bro. Luis and Sis. Darlene Marroquin with us. These missionaries to Guatemala shared many things with the congregation.

Bro. Luis Pacheco welcomed them to our meeting, stating that the Gospel is now established in a new country because of the efforts of the brothers and sisters there.

Bro. Marroquin then spoke, sharing his testimony of his past desires. He had planned to come to the United States in search of riches, but the Lord had other plans for his life. He stated that he had no plans to get married, but that God provided a loving and supportive wife for him. Nor did he plan to be baptized or to return to Guatemala, but now he is a minister there, for which he is thankful to God. He explained that the work in his country is prospering, and asked for our continued prayers.

Sis. Darlene then expressed her love for God and for the saints, and requested prayers for their family and the Dominguez family, who are the other missionaries in Guatemala. It was an inspirational evening, one which gave us great insight to the work in our new foreign mission.

### Valley Branch, CA

By Linda Reynolds

October 30, 1988 was a special day for us in the Valley Branch. We opened our service with Count Your Blessings, and Bro. Emmett Hood opened in prayer. Bro. Ed Buccellato spoke to us concerning the book of Romans, with an emphasis on God's servant Phoebe. He talked about Paul's teachings to Timothy, and how we, too, should be prepared to respond to each other's needs. We need each other's help on a daily basis.

Sis. Pearl Nester washed Sis. Berni King's feet. We continued by singing Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling. Our brothers in the ministry then laid their hands on our sister's head and offered a beautiful prayer, ordaining her into the office of a deaconess.

Bro. Ed continued by telling us some beautiful experiences and reminded us to help strengthen each other and to be good influences to our children.

We sang Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us and then had our testimony service. We also sang To the Work and The Valley of Peace. In our testimonies there were many good things said about our sister Berni, and everyone spoke of their hope that the Lord would bless our sister in her new office.

### Publication Notice

The Gospel News publication #223480 is published monthly-12 issues per year at \$6.00 per subscription. It is owned by The Church of Jesus Christ with headquarters at Sixth and Lincoln St., Monongahela. PA 15063 and published by The Church of Jesus Christ Print House at 8423 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115. The Editor is Anthony J. Scolaro, 15843 Manning, Detroit, MI 48205. The Managing Editor is Peter A. Scolaro, 36247 Harcourt, Fraser, MI 48026, 2100 copies are printed, 1923 subscriptions are paid, and a total of 1924 subscriptions are mailed monthly.

#### ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

Sister Gerri Gawronski presented a program, taking us down memory lane and reviewing our sisters' service to the Lord.

We pray that God would bless our sisters with many more years in His service.

#### AREA MBA continued . . .

Vernon James gave their testimonies of how God changed their lives after they were baptized.

The Spirit of God prevailed throughout the meeting on Sunday as well. The Tse Bonito Choir sang Set Her Free to open the meeting. Bro. Skip Smith opened, saying how love incorporates everything, and how nothing will diminish the love of the Lord. He went on to say that this Church has a special kind of love; it's the love of God.

Bro. Joe Lovalvo followed with his testimony of the persecutions from his own family when he joined the Church many years ago, but how the saints encouraged him and showed him love. He told of many blessings and healings that he witnessed as a missionary in Muncey, Ontario, and in Tijuana, Mexico City, and Mexicali, Mexico. He concluded by asking if anyone wanted salvation today. During lunch a Navajo woman, Valencia Spencer, asked for her baptism.

It was a very uplifting weekend for everyone, and we are all anxious for the next MBA gathering.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

this, the missionaries realized that the third field should then be opened. The new state, of which Bangalore is a city, is Karnatar. Brother Babu was placed in charge, and now there are three fields in India, fulfilling the dream. The three areas are Karnatar, with the two locations under Brother Babu; Tamil Nadu, with four villages under Brother A. Devanandam; and Andhra Pradesh, with seven villages under Brother B. David Livingston.

God has opened doors and is continuing to open them. It is now up to us to labor diligently. God will surely give the increase.

### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### CHECCI-FISHER

Brother David Louis Checci and Sister Lori Ann Fisher were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, October 15, 1988 in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Lori's grandfather, Brother Frank Rogolino, officiated at the ceremony.

Our prayer is that the Lord would bless our brother and sister with lasting happiness together.

#### URANA-MELLOR

A beautiful wedding ceremony uniting Mr. Alan Urana and Miss Amy Mellor took place at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch on November 26, 1988.

Bro. Bob Buffington of Imperial officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Bro. Paul Gehly of Greensburg.

Musical selections were sung by Sis. Kim Mellor of Cleveland, sister-in-law of the bride, and Bro. Joseph Saeli of Greensburg, accompanied by Sis. Erma Draskovich of Greensburg.

Alan and Amy will be residing in Norristown, PA and will be attending the Levittown Branch. We will miss them immensely, but we are assured that God has placed them in this part of the vineyard, as they have sought the Lord's guidance in all their plans and decisions. May God always be their guide and constant companion throughout their life together.

### **New Arrivals**

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

Angela Marie to James and Lynda Sgro of New Brunswick, NJ.

Ryan Kimmel to Scott and Lori Monaghan of Lake Worth, FL.

Alexandria Renée to Carmen and Lori DiFede of Lake Worth, FL.

Jessica Lynn to Joseph and Colleen (Davella) Pittius of Hopelawn, NJ.

### Children Blessed

Andrew Scott Heaton was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on July 17, 1988 by Brother Peter C. Genaro of Tse Bonito, New Mexico. Andrew's parents are Charles and Stacey Heaton of Fort Defiance, Arizona. Brittany Anne Baxter was blessed on September 11, 1988 by Brother Ron Carradi at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### JULIA MESKO

Our dear Sister Julia Scala Mesko passed on to her eternal reward on July 17, 1988. She was born on January 17, 1931 and was baptized on May 27, 1950. She was a faithful member at the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, where she was also a Sunday School teacher—she loved the children very much and it was her joy to teach them the Word of God.

Brothers Anthony Vadasz, Joseph Arcuri, and Walter Cihomsky officiated at the funeral.

Left to mourn our sister's loss are her husband George; her daughter Cindy Senft and her husband Fred; two sons, Brian and Timothy; five sisters, Margaret Benyola, Rose Risola, Theresa Siano, Sophie Van Bree, and Mary Vinci; and two brothers, Lit and Paul Scala.

Sister Julia assisted her father, Brother Dominick Scala, in many ways when the Metuchen Branch was being built. Later she worked on many projects to raise funds to better our building. Her concern and love was always for others.

She suffered extreme affliction for two years, and always looked to the Lord for the strength that she needed each day to endure her pain. She never once complained; her words were, "Whatever the Lord's will is, that is my will also." We praise God that He went with her all the way. The words in Psalm 116:15 are most fitting: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

Sister Julia will be greatly missed by all her loved ones and many friends.

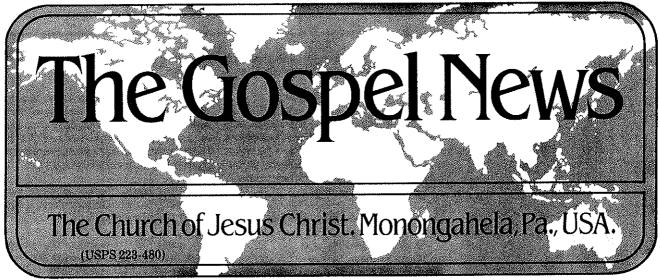
#### ANNA NATERELI

Sister Anna M. Natereli of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed from this life on October 30, 1988. She was born on September 20, 1911 and was baptized into the Church in 1925.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Tom Banyacski.

Our sister is survived by one son, Vincent Pecce; one brother, Anthony Natereli; one grandson, many brothers and sisters in Christ, and many friends.

Sis. Anna will surely be missed by all those who knew and loved her.



### February, 1989

### Volume 45, No. 2

### Marriage Enrichment Weekend II

By John Ross, Jr.

The second annual marriage enrichment weekend was held on December 9-11, 1988 at Antiochian Village near Ligonier, Pennsylvania. The theme was "To Love and to Cherish," and was for couples married ten years and more. It was a peaceful and enjoyable weekend, which was attended by eighteen couples from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, New York, Florida, and Arizona.

Much time and work was expended in doing many of the "little things" which made this such a special "celebrating our marriage" weekend. Some of these were: the "Do Not Disturb" signs placed on the doorknob of each couple's room, which included their names and number of years they have been married; a beautiful, romantic and delicious candlelight dinner, complete with homemade candy heart favors and wedding music; fun games—The Newlywed Game; Win, Lose, or Draw (using the scriptures) and Name That Hymn; and a scavenger hunt. A scheduled hayride was cancelled because of snow, but no complaints were registered because we were enjoying a warm, loving fellowship. Each participant was given an assignment of writing a love letter and giving it to his or her spouse by Sunday morning.

The seminar topic was God's Plan of Marriage, and included His creation of marriage and man and woman's role of joint dominion over His creation; the fall and curse—the beginning of man and woman's struggle for control; the solution to this struggle—each fulfilling

God's ordained role, possible only when husband and wife are filled with the Spirit of God and submit to Jesus Christ, and mutually submit to each other.

The husband's role was identified as the provider, protector, preserver of his wife, and prophet, priest, and king of his home. The wife's role was determined as lover of her husband, lover of her children and keeper of the home. Their joint role as parents is to love and nurture their children, maintaining a balance in their physical, mental, spiritual, and social growth, to instruct them in the way of the Lord and to not provoke them, in each of these roles submitting to each other as to the Lord.

The participants were given materials and activities to work on during the seminar and for when they returned home. These included a checklist for family growth, describing your spouse's qualities, communication, personal and finance questions for mutual discussion, cherishing the day's exercise, using positive statements to communicate rather than "put-downs," prayers and poems for marriage, warning signs of problems in a marriage, and a list of scriptures on which this seminar was based.

The day of the seminar, December 10, was the 50th wedding anniversary of Brother Bill and Sister Chris Colangelo of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. We all joined in their celebration with cake, love, and fellowship, with a hope and determination that, with the help of God, we each may have the opportuni-

ty to share with our spouse this beautiful blessing.

Our Sunday service was opened with each couple sitting together in a large circle as we had done throughout our seminar. Brother Bill Colangelo offered an inspirational prayer of thanksgiving to begin our worship.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service," from Romans 12:1 was the scripture Brother Duane Lowe of Tampa, Florida used as his text. His discourse elaborated on how we should serve and sacrifice for our mates as well as for our fellow man. He emphasized how we should be in God's perfect will and not in the permissible will.

His instruction was in "perfect" keeping with the theme of our seminar and God's will, as was evidenced by His Spirit in our midst. Testimonies were then given by many of the couples, praising and glorifying God for His love and mercy, for the gift of His Son Jesus Christ, and thanking Him for their mates. As we held hands in our large circle, Brother Don Pandone closed in prayer.

What a beautiful weekend and opportunity to reflect on God's purpose and plan for creating marriage! Our prayers are that we each left thanking God for and celebrating our marriages with a fixed determination to work at making our marriages to be the fulfilling and intimate relationship that God intended, that we might raise a godly seed. This

(Continued on Page 10)

### Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

#### RULES TO FOLLOW

The greatest stumbling block in your life is fear. The easiest thing is to find fault. The most useful asset is Pride in Workmanship. Another stumbling block is egotism; we also need to remember that the greatest mistake is Giving Up. Never be a complainer; who wants to be around a complainer?

The worst bankruptcy is Loss of Enthusiasm. Our greatest God-given gift is the Willingness to Forgive. Remember, if we forgive not, nor can we expect God to forgive us.

The greatest satisfaction in life is A Job Well Done. The greatest day to do your work is Today. Work at it, great or small, rain or shine, today is your day. Remember that even a fool can be egotistical; it takes a wise person to be humble.

These are great tools to live by; they are difficult for most of us, but our great dreams of success do not come easy. But then, who wants to be a listless, lazy person?

To be an achiever, one needs to work at it. Dreamers are those who, being filled with enthusiasm, get to work, having set their goals and being eager to reach them. They generally work with those who share their hopes and their dreams. We all have some dreams; follow them.

My mother used to often say, "You have a good name, honor it and people will honor you." As a teenager, I would rebel at her insistence, but as I grew up I reaped its benefits.

In writing to you, I am still thankful that I didn't follow the so-called easy way.

I found it was not so easy after all. Mountain climbers are the most careful and diligent people. Their life depends on being diligent every step of the way. Life is very much like climbing mountains; the joy generally does come on reaching the summit.

We can if we think we can.

May God bless you, Marco Randy

### My Testimony

This was the beginning.

It was September of 1986 when I first learned of the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. I met Bro. Ken Lombardo on a bus commuting to New York City on my way to work. It was there that he gave his testimony to me.

I realized my life was in turmoil. Although I believed in God and His Son Jesus Christ, I did not go to church. None of my friends attended church, and I didn't feel comfortable at the church where I was brought up. Yet I knew something ws missing from my life.

I attended my first meeting of The Church of Jesus Christ at a district conference in New Jersey in 1986. I remember the service was three hours long, not the 45 minutes I was used to. Everyone was friendly and happy. It was very different from any church gathering I had ever experienced; I was still open-minded. I needed God back in my life.

That evening at a singspiration in the Hopelawn Branch, I felt so blessed as the brothers and sisters sang *The Songs of Zion. Taste the Grass on the Summit* brought tears to my eyes; I had never heard words such as these before.

The Lord had been watching over me all my life, and even though I didn't realize it, He had a special direction for me to take. After attending meetings on Wednesdays and Sundays, and feeling the great love the saints shared, I could deny it no longer. I had to give my life over to the One that gave me life—Jesus Christ. I knew in my heart this was the

true church, the church I had been looking for.

My baptism took place on February 15, 1987. The Lord called me out of a world that knew no God, into a beautiful family of brothers and sisters in Christ. I am so thankful for all the wonderful gifts He has given me in my life.

Do you know a friend who needs your prayers? Do you know a friend who needs your testimony?

I praise God today for His endless blessings in my life. He has given me the privilege and the opportunity to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. I can't imagine what life was like before. It's only been two years since my life began, because I can truly say that there is nothing more real or exciting than serving Jesus Christ.

I remember hearing a brother speak at a GMBA Conference once, asking the congregation if they would be ambassadors for Jesus Christ. We have a mission, brothers and sisters and friends! Let's get excited about this mission—let us all become united ambassadors for our King, Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

Love in Christ,

Sister Lisbeth Helsel-Gehly Levittown, Pennsylvania

### Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I sincerely want to thank you for your prayers and the visits, letters, cards, telephone calls, flowers, and gifts that I received during my recent illness. Your love and concern came at a time when it was most needed.

The Lord answered your prayers. Many times during the critical stages of my illness I would feel those prayers being offered on my behalf and I would sense the presence of the Lord, and a great peace would come over me. The doctors were amazed at how quickly I recovered, but we thank God for His mercy and answered prayers.

Thank you again, and may the Lord continue to richly bless you.

Brother Jim Link The Bronx, NY Branch

### 50th Anniversary

A SPECIAL DAY

On Sunday November 27, 1989 the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch enjoyed a special day. Our meeting was opened by Brother T. D. Bucci. He first spoke on marriage, commenting on his marriage to Sister Mary, because they are celebrating their 60th Anniversary. Bro. Bucci told of the hard times they came through during the Depression, and how God brought them through it all.

He preached on the love of God and the Gospel, and how much they have to be thankful for. Bro. Bucci celebrated his 50th year in the Gospel. He has written pamphlets for the Church, and has done missionary work among the Seed of Joseph and Judah.

After the meeting all the congregation was invited to a luncheon for our brother and sister. Bro. Dom and Sis. Mary have been a blessing to our branch. Bro. Bucci with his knowledge of the scriptures has benefited us many times. May the Lord bless them with many more happy years.

They have two daughters, Sister Marlea Frentzos of Louisiana, and Sister Phyllis Kovacic of Erie, six grandchildren, and two greatgrandchildren.



Bro. T. D. and Sis. Mary Bucci of Erie, PA cut their 60th Anniversary cake.

### Branch 50th Anniversary

The Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ celebrated their fiftieth anniversary the week of October 9-16, 1988. Our Sunday meeting was opened by our presiding elder, Bro. David Nolfi, greeting and welcoming everyone present. We were blessed with many brothers of the priesthood from almost every district of the Church. Each brother was asked to introduce himself and which area he represented. Also, the elders and teachers from the Glassport Branch were introduced.

We had many apostles, evangelists, elders, teachers, and deacons in attendance throughout the week. It would be very difficult to name them all without leaving someone out. Along with the Priesthood, we also had many brothers, sisters, and friends in attendance, many of whom at one time had been a member of the Glassport Branch. It was a great feeling to see so many gather in our little church building, especially Brother Nick and Sister Lena Liberto of San Diego, California. It was a miracle how Sis. Lena endured the trip and sat through each meeting.

Brother Nick told how the brothers and sisters of the branch met in several buildings over the years. After going from one place to the next, they had a desire to have their own building. Funds were raised in a number of ways, and their desire became a reality in October of 1938. Brother Nick being a young man at the time, gave us many years later a brief outline on how they labored to make the building a success. Bro. Nick is one of the few still with us today that helped with the building.

During the week many experiences and testimonies were given. Sisters from the Glassport Branch sang a few songs in Italian. We also had duets and solos from some of our visiting brothers and sisters. Sister Ruth Ackerman gave us a brief history of the Glassport Branch. The back wall of our building was posted with every page of our record book, containing the baptisms, blessings, marriages, deaths, etc., of everyone who at one time or another was a member of the Glassport Branch. The side windows were filled with pictures of all the saints who belonged to the branch yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Brother John Ali showed slides each night of the brothers and sisters, many of whom were instrumental in the growth of our branch. The sisters of the branch did a super job in preparing a selection of food for all to enjoy at the close of each meeting. We had permission from the Borough of Glassport to use the Honor Roll for our Saturday afternoon outdoor singspiration. Again we had many brothers and sisters in attendance. After our singspiration we met back at our building for some pizza and refreshments.

In closing, we of the Glassport Branch want to express our thanks to all those that made this a very enjoyable week. God bless each of you.

Rosemarie Ali, Branch Editor Glassport, PA

### A Very Crushing Experience

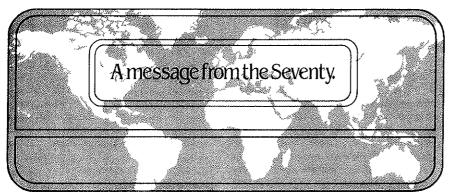
On Friday May 15, 1987, at four o'clock in the afternoon, I had to check a car for a problem. I wanted to leave on time to go home at 4:30 p.m., and feeling I would only be under the car for a few minutes, I raised the car up with an air jack and didn't place any safety jack stands under the car.

In front of the dealership where I work, they were removing the old road, using very large power hammers to break the concrete. This caused our building to vibrate.

While I was lying underneath the car examining it, the vibrations caused the air jack to slip out, and the front crossmember of the car's frame landed on my chest. The other mechanics, concerned about me, came running over and lifted the car off my chest. They raised the car high enough to pull me out from under it.

I told them I was all right, and went and sat down in the office for a while. While sitting there, I felt the right side of my chest and noticed I had some pain. I wondered why the pain was on the right side only. I then realized that I had put a wrench in my shirt pocket, which was something I had never done before.

(Continued on Page 6)



# Weekend Services Conducted with Development Committee

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

As reported in the past, the General Church Development Committee has been active in promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Independence, Missouri area where there are not yet any established branches or missions. Trips have been made there, a resident evangelist has moved to the area, and many efforts have been devoted to furthering the work.

Meanwhile, the committee is also busy helping established permanent locations. There are numerous ways in which this assistance can be given, and the group is ready to help whenever and however required.

Recently, the committee authorized and participated in a series of revival meetings in Lorain, Ohio, the weekend of November 18-20. This was a pilot venture. It gave the branch support in these services, and it afforded an opportunity to obtain valuable insights into what potential is available for the future.

The favorable responses received after the Lorain meetings indicate that there are strong desires to expand these endeavors to other locations interested in participating in this kind of outreach activity. An analysis of what occurred will present more specific methods in which these projects can be implemented.

#### APPROVAL

First, plans were made to receive approval from the district/branch officers and members. Then a special meeting was held to outline details. Assignments

were made for responsibilities involving the choir, advertising, newspapers, television, radio, and door-to-door invitations. Letters and flyers were prepared in both English and Spanish. The obvious personal invitations extended to relatives and friends were also included.

Planning started in the late summer months and the overall activity intensified as the weekend approached. The intent of the services was to generate enthusiasm and to aid the members and regular visitors who labor diligently to get the word out about the Gospel.

#### SERVICES

The services were conducted on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday morning. The Spirit of God was noticeably present in these meetings.

On Friday, Brother Elmer Santilli, the committee chairman from Perry, Ohio, was the guest speaker. He introduced and outlined the weekend theme, "Is Zion a Dream?", very effectively. Testimonies were then given, highlighted by many wonderful experiences about how God had called individuals into the Gospel and has sustained them. Prayers for the sick by the anointing with oil were offered by the ministry. A fellowship period was held after the service, during which visitors were able to become more familiar with the Lorain congregation.

On Saturday night, Brother Dominic R. Thomas, General Church president from Dearborn, Michigan, was the main speaker. He elaborated on the main theme about Zion. His spirit-filled words touched everyone present, as the expectations for the future were stated.

Testimonies then followed. Miracles, blessings, and healings were related to the honor and glory of God. Anointings were once again performed, and it was beautiful to see the power of God touch the honest of heart. Again, a fellowship period was held after the service.

A high school was rented for the Sunday morning service. After the congregational singing and selections from the choir, Brother Paul Palmieri, General Church secretary from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, addressed those present. Speaking in his usual pleasing manner, he compared the peaceful condition that was present in the Garden of Eden to the kind of condition that will be prevalent in Zion.

Ohio District President Ron Genaro then followed. He noted eloquently how Zion will be brought forth through men of God through The Church of Jesus Christ, and not through any political movement.

#### GREAT EXPERIENCE

The entire weekend offered some experience into the methods and approaches which can be made in this kind of program in the future. It set the stage for such activities at other places.

Any branch or mission which is interested in having the Development Committee either formulate or assist in a similar series of meetings may write or call Bro. Santilli at 8817 Farbar St., Kirtland, OH 44094; (216) 256-1258.

Evangelists and other members of the ministry are ready to help in these situations. Individual and combined visits may also be made by members of the Quorum as requested. The important thing to remember is that the General Church has established the committee and has placed it under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. The group comprises many evangelists from around the Church.

The overall goal is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Lord directs. The desires are to aid in any way possible to reach out to individuals wherever they may be.

"How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!" (Isaiah 52:7)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 36247 Harcourt Frager, MI 48026

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 3406 Sunflower Rd. New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

> FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN - ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

> OHIO James P. Huinagle 18906 Abby Ave. Euclid, OH 44119

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 24268 Robie Ct. Morono Valley, CA 92388

PENNSYLVANIA Jenathan Olexa 120 Greenridge Dr. Monongahela, PA 15063-1231

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

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

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

### Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Month after month, these pages serve to inform us of the new frontiers that are being established by the Church on this continent and abroad. It seems that the fire of the Gospel is beginning to catch in more and more locations, and in many cases we can see the fruit ripening where one has planted, another has watered, and God has given the increase.

As a Church, we know that the Lord has a tremendous work for us to do. We read in the Bible and Book of Mormon of His plan to gather the House of Israel and eventually bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world, and from time to time we look at ourselves and wonder how God is going to accomplish these things through His people. It should weigh heavily upon us, as individual members of the Church, to come to terms with the things that the Lord requires of us in our service to Him.

The scriptures have brought us to understand how the Lord uses the actions of men and women to bring about His divine purposes. While He could have intervened—and still can—in a supernatural way to see His will done, He nonetheless worked through His servants, who labored and fought to preserve the Truth and bring others to it. Today, the Church is faced with ever-increasing needs that can similarly be met by our actions and efforts. Even as we struggle to live our lives according to the commandments of God, as we battle with our own flesh and with the enemy of our souls, God's will can be (and indeed is being) carried out from time to time in our natural doings.

Whether we be young or old, we as members of The Church of Jesus Christ should be eagerly looking forward to the tremendous things the Lord has in store for us as His plan unfolds. More than this, however, we must gear our minds toward how we can play an active part in it, and not just anticipate the blessings we might receive as spectators.

It is important that we teach our young people, by our example, to center their lives around their service to God as He prepares to do a marvelous work and a wonder in these the last days. If they do otherwise, if they plan their membership in the Church to be just one part of their lives rather than their service to God being their entire lives, the coming generation will be doing less and less, rather than more and more, to bring about the Lord's kingdom here below.

The world we live in today has so many things to divert our minds, our time, and our resources away from the things of God. While the Gospel gives us the liberty to enjoy the good things that are part of the world around us, it becomes more and more difficult, in these days of material prosperity, to establish and maintain a proper balance between spiritual and natural, between the things of God and the things that we deem to be necessities of life.

The advances that the Gospel has made, the new frontiers that have been opened, have all taken place—by the grace of God—through sacrifices that were made by the many who have done the planting and watering over the years. How will we gather all of Israel and bring the Gospel to the corners of the earth? Perhaps we will have to sacrifice a little bit more. If we can make that brave step, we can be sure we'll have God's strength and power to accomplish the great work He has for us to do.

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

# À

L	U	0	Y	J	F	J	Т	G	0	D	Р
F	o	L	L	o	w	E	R	s	E	s	R
S	Т	U	G	Y	v	s	U	Т	M	R	A
U	0	Y	E	Α	L	U	н	R	A	E	Y
S	$\mathbf{v}$	w	н	o	0	S	v	0	K	Н	E
Р	E	A	С	E	v	P	Н	N	E	Т	R
H	s	s	Е	N	Е	v	I	G	R	o	F

### Followers of Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

Has anyone ever hurt your feelings terribly and left you feeling really sad? Were you ever embarrassed because everybody knew that you'd been hurt? Maybe you wanted to forgive that person but then you were worried that everyone would then think you were stupid to forgive.

People of this world would tell you to be mad, to hold on to your bad feelings and to never trust that person again, much less forgive them. Some people do that; they even think about how they were hurt over and over again, so they can stay hurt.

Jesus was a man, a human being like you and me. Do you know what He taught us to do when we are His followers? He said for us to forgive people that hurt us. He even asked God to forgive the people that nailed His living body to the cross. He forgave them even as they killed His body. But His spirit never died, and the ways Jesus teaches us about our spirit (or soul) are ways that make our spirits very strong.

Jesus teaches us that it is a *strong* person who can be loving to someone who is hurting and hating. Jesus even said, "Don't be afraid of people who can only hurt your body—but be careful of those who would steal your soul."

Now how could someone steal your soul? One way is to talk you into doing something wrong. Every time we turn against what is right, we let darkness into our soul. Every time we stand up for good, we are letting Jesus, the Light of the world, show. People see that we are different and they wonder how we are strong enough inside to forgive others, to love others patiently and

kindly. They begin to see that we have something special, and that something special is the love of Jesus.

Jesus already loves each and every one of us. He likes it when we talk to Him in our prayers and minds. He can give us peaceful strength so that the ways of our enemies cannot hurt us or trouble us. We can forgive others and go on about our lives with happiness, hope, and joy.

It is up to us to ask God to take away our angry, hateful feelings and give us peace within. It's up to us to exercise our souls by forgiving others, even if some people tell us not to.

We who are followers of Jesus are His soldiers. Soldiers become strong and tough and people can count on them because they become disciplined to do the right thing. We, too, can become followers of Jesus when we become willing to follow Jesus' laws. Our souls will become strong; people won't have the power to upset and worry us, because we'll pray for help when we feel that way, and we shall have love in our lives.

With care, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed:

JOY
FORGIVENESS
OTHERS
WHO
HURT
YOU
PRAYER
GOD

#### EXPERIENCE continued . . .

Being very dirty from working all day and feeling I'd be at the hospital all evening, I decided to wait until later to go to the hospital for X-rays. I went home and showered, and then got a haircut before going to the hospital. After being X-rayed, the doctor said there were no broken ribs, only some internal bruises. I didn't have any external bruises or marks on my chest, but I still had the pain where I had placed the wrench. The more I thought about what happened, the more I realized I should have been killed.

The following Monday I returned to work. I just felt I had to measure how high that car sat from the ground to the frame. To my amazement, the car sat only eight inches from the ground. I then added the thickness of my chest, about nine or ten inches, to the height of the creeper I was lying on, around three inches. When the car fell, it had to collapse at lease five inches into my chest.

We know that God still performs miracles and is still on His throne. I thought I would be in pain for at least six months, but after four weeks the pain was gone. I began to wonder again about the wrench that I had in my shirt pocket, and realized that that was the only place I felt any pain. I feel God was letting me know that the car did, in fact, hit me across the chest and thus removed any doubt that I may have had. We praise and thank God once again for miracles and for His love for one such as me.

Your Brother in Christ Brother John Ali Glassport, PA Branch

### **Branch and Mission News**

### Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday July 17, 1988 Brother Dennis and Sister Susan Moraco and their family from Hollywood, Florida came to visit Detroit Branch 3 at our new location in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Several other visitors from Branches 1, 2, 4, and Sterling Heights also came to receive a blessing this day.

Bro. Dennis introduced the service, reading from Matthew 22:15. He then asked us the following questions: What has motivated us to come here? Why did we come? We were given the opportunity to be here through the Spirit of God and to be blessed by the Savior, Jesus Christ, Bro. Dennis likened this to the disciples of John the Baptist when they went to see Christ and what He was all about. Although the scriptures are centuries old, we can still relate to many of those events today. For example, terrorism is still much a part of our world as it was back then. Political doctrines, upheavals, and the policies of intrigue that were dealt with in this campaign year also existed in olden times.

Brother Dennis asked us to consider those religious zealots, the Pharisees. They were one existing "political party" in that day and time. They devoted themselves to the most scrupulous fulfillment of the Law as expounded by the scribes. They firmly believed that the Messiah would come and release the people, that the Roman empire would fall, and that the House of Israel would rule. They were expecting a high and mighty ruler to come forth. Jesus Christ, the long-awaited Messiah, brought the kingdom of God, but the Pharisees could not see Christ as their Messiah; His way of thinking did not fit their preconceived notions, plans, and thoughts.

The other "political party" of that day consisted of the people of Herod. These people had an altogether different political standpoint. They set out to conquer the Jews. Their values were not as deep as the Pharisees', and they were not all that committed to fair doctrine. The only point that these two groups seemed to agree on was that they had

to entangle Christ and rip apart His doctrine.

In one of the no-win situations that these political parties pressed upon Christ, the Spirit of God influenced Him to answer, "Render unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's." The Pharisees and the disciples of Herod all marvelled at this answer.

Bro. Dennis threw the following question out to us: "Would we rob God of our soul?" In seeking the pleasures of the flesh, we are robbing God of our souls, and we are robbing ourselves of the Paradise that awaits us.

The Gospel was restored so that mankind might have salvation. Bro. Dennis concluded with a warning that we should always remember to render unto God the things that belong to Him.

Bro. Joe Furnari expounded on the message that Bro. Dennis delivered. He mentioned that the Jews of old anticipated a Messiah to deliver them out of bondage, but there were few who really knew Him when He came. Politicians do not always keep their promises, but Jesus Christ is the one man who would keep His promises and would remember to write the names of those who have rendered their lives to Him in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Christ came for those seeking a better life, something different. Bro. Joe alerted us to the fact that conversion actually starts at the passage of our life. We should not worry about the things that kill the body, but about the things that kill the soul. It is with these latter things that death lasts an eternity.

Many times we wonder if the storm will ever end. But just as the sun comes out and gives us renewed hope, the spirit that the brothers and sisters carry with them and pass along to those in need acts as sunshine also.

Bro. Joe concluded his sermon by encouraging us to look to Christ, who has come into our lives. From time to time we may miss the mark, but God *never* fails. Be glad for the Gospel and continually look up to the Sunshine!

### Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

One Sunday in October, inspired by the song *Be of Good Cheer*, Bro. Tony Gerace spoke on an extremely important subject regarding the destruction of evil and the establishment of peace.

Then referring to the dream King Nebuchadnezzar had of the giant statue (Daniel 2), he said that it represents the coming of Zion, and he went on to identify the past kingdoms that different parts of the statue represent. When he came to the ten toes of the statue, which represent a kingdom to come (Daniel 2:42), he said that the time of that kingdom is very near.

Our brother spoke of the time that John wrote of in Revelations 13:16 and 17, "And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand or in their foreheads: And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."

"We don't have persecution today," stated Bro. Tony, "but the day is going to come when someone is going to tell us to accept their organization and we will have to say 'no.' And because of our resistance, they will try to destroy us, so now is the time to prepare ourselves (spiritually). If you can't buy bread for your children, what are you going to do?" he asked. "If we believe and stand today, and put our faith and trust in God, then we don't have to worry about tomorrow."

"Because thou hast kept the Word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelations 3:10).

Brother Tony reiterated that it will be the more righteous who will not succumb to the evil of the time, and it will be they who will dwell in Zion with the Lord.

He also referred to The Church of Jesus Christ as being the stone that was cut from the mountain without hands that will smite the image and turn it to chaff, and it will be The Church of Jesus Christ that will become a great mountain and fill the whole earth.

(Continued on Page 8)

#### INNER CITY continued . . .

Afterwards, Bro. Eugene Amormino added that the stone cut from the mountain is still very small right now, but as it rolls down the mountain it will grow so much that it will knock down the statue.

"And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever." Amen.

### Saline, MI

By Jerry Morle

One of the largest congregations ever to attend the Saline Mission was on hand to witness the ordinations of Brother John Buffa and Sister Rosanne Batalucco on October 2, 1988. The members of Detroit Branches 2 and 4, as well as many others from throughout the district and from Ohio, joined with the Saline saints to witness Bro. John ordained a teacher and Sis. Rosanne ordained a deaconess.

Preparations for the blessed day began immediately once the announcement was made that the Lord had called two more individuals to serve Him with added responsibility. Homes were readied to accommodate the many expected visitors, and hearts were prepared to receive a beautiful blessing.

Needless to say, the Lord blessed the efforts of all who participated. Bro. Peter Scolaro, our district president, opened the meeting that Sunday morning by reading selected verses from the first four chapters of Ephesians. In these verses, Paul prays for the people at Ephesus, that they might obtain riches from God, including "the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him." Bro. Scolaro explained that we have a limited understanding from our knowledge, but we need to trust God and ask Him for His understanding of the world about us and of God. He said that being a part of this Church is a challenge to make that part strong. We all have places in which we are vulnerable, so we must ask for God's help and understanding to build our defenses. Further, ordinations are a

way of perfecting the body of Christ "until we all come in the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God."

Bro. Jim Cotellesse, our presiding elder, followed by remembering his own earlier ordinations in the Church, explaining how each was a learning experience as to the different aspects of serving God. He also emphasized that the teachings of his mentors has inspired him long after they had gone on to their heavenly rewards, and he suggested that the same will be true for our two ordainees.

Sister Rosanne's feet were washed by her mother, Sis. Anne Lovalvo of Detroit Branch 4, while Bro. John's feet were washed by Bro. Joe Vargo of Branch 2. They then took their places before the priesthood to be ordained. Bro. Anthony Lovalvo of Branch 4 ordained his daughter Rosanne, and Bro. Reno Bologna of Saline ordained Bro. John. For the more than 100 brothers, sisters, and friends in attendance, it was a day of rejoicing and fellowship, as well as an opportunity to renew our relationship with God and to rededicate our lives to His service.

### Glassport, PA

By Rosemarie Ali

Sunday, July 3, 1988 was a day filled with the blessings of God as another soul made his covenant with God.

Our morning meeting was opened by Brother David Nolfi speaking on Mosiah 18, Alma teaching the words of Abinadi concerning things to come and the resurrection of the dead. As children of God, we must be willing to bear one another's burdens, and we must always be a witness to God, that we may be numbered with those of the first resurrection; that we may have eternal life.

Bro. John Ali followed, speaking on the freedom we have in serving God and how at times it requires much suffering and humiliation. He compared the saints of God with the men serving in the armed forces, soldiers of the United States fighting for freedom and liberty for our country. As saints of God, we are soldiers of Christ, fighting for freedom for the Church.

As our brothers finished speaking, Donald Romano stood up and asked for his baptism. We then gathered at the river to witness another soul being brought to Christ. A man standing at the edge of the river was invited to stay and watch the baptism. Bro. Donald was baptized by Bro. Alma Nolfi. The blessings of God were felt by all present, including our visitor, who was crying.

Bro. David opened our afternoon meeting, speaking of the laying on of hands. Our new brother was then confirmed by Bro. Edward Donkin. Bro. Donald was then greeted by the brothers and sisters. Our meeting was opened for testimony, and many dreams and experiences were related confirming our brother's baptism.

Bro. Alma spoke on how the only way to come into this Church is through baptism, and how it is God that does the choosing. Bro. John then spoke of the example Christ set for us on Calvary. He gave His life and blood for us. Whatsoever we bind on earth is bound in heaven. Today, Brother Donald was bound to the Lord.

### Muncey, Ontario

By Sam French

On December 18, 1988 the Muncey, Ontario Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ held their Christmas Program. We sang *The World Needs a Friend Like Jesus* and opening prayer was offered by Bro. Sam DiFalco.

There certainly was a spirit of singing as songs rang out to the honor and glory of God. During this time the children and the teenage classes put on a play which portrayed the true story of Jesus Christ, from His birth and childhood to His manhood. How beautiful it was to see the young people put into the form of a play one of the greatest events of all times.

Also during this time the very young children sang a couple of cute songs, one of which was *Jesus Loves Me*. As usual, they captured the hearts of everyone present.

At last it was time to give out the gifts, and we wish at this time to thank the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA for collecting the money that was used to buy a gift for each individual in our Sunday School.

Bro. Sam DiFalco spoke on various scriptures which portrayed the life of Christ, the Anointed One. Musical selections were played by some of the young children, Julie and Andrea Dyer on the piano and Peggy Kechego on the flute. At the end of the program all of the children and the young people sang Amazing Grace. We enjoyed a wonderfull turnout, and wish to thank the visiting brothers and sisters from Detroit and Windsor for attending our program this year. May God richly bless all of you for your efforts in spreading the Gospel.

After the program we enjoyed a great dinner which had been prepared by the sisters. Truly we came away filled spiritually and naturally.

### Guatemala

By Rose Ciotti Anderson

Christmastime in Guatemala was a unique and blessed experience, not only for the children of The Church of Jesus Christ, but for the adults as well.

Participating in a special Christmas program were 37 children, aged five to thirteen. Sisters Darlene Marroquin and Marisela Dominguez worked diligently in preparing the program and working with the children to teach them their parts and the songs they sang. Bro. Tom Smith and Quique Gomez assisted. The children were adorned in clothing reminiscent of the time of the Savior's birth.

Sis. Darlene related that she will always remember the experience of presenting the costumes to the children for the first time, especially the face of one little boy, seven-year-old Vicinio, who played the part of a wise man. When he first looked upon his costume, his eyes got so big and his face lit up with the biggest grin. He had never experienced anything like this, and his reaction was typical of all the children.

Two succesful performances were given of the program. Attending the first performance were our visitors from California, Sis. Shari and Bro. Frank Ciotti and Bro. Anthony Cardinale. The parents were overjoyed. One sister related to me, "I am so happy," and you could feel the sincerity and happiness radiating from her. Another

sister related how grateful she was, and said her children have never had an oportunity to be involved in anything like this. Many visitors also attended, and some of them are now attending church on a regular basis.

The evening of Friday, December 23 was a happy time for 48 children of our Church. A special party was planned, and this was their long-awaited event: The day each of them would receive a Christmas present. Each gift had been carefully chosen for a specific child and was labeled with the child's name. Something we will never forget is hearing the loud screams of the children's voices that filled the room when they opened their gifts. We never expected anything like it! To this day the sound of their voices still penetrates my mind.

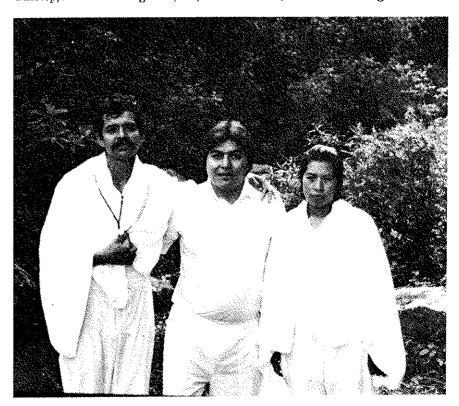
It was so wonderful to watch the beaming, happy faces, not only of the children but of their parents as well. One brother related to us that his tenyear-old son cried all night because he could not believe that he had his very own toy. The sisters of the Church worked hard with fundraising events in an attempt to raise money for the children's Christmas presents. We are grateful to the brothers and sisters of Pinetop, AZ and Monongahela, PA, who

donated the needed funds to make this happy event possible.

Saturday December 24 was another special day. This was the day we surprised thirteen families of our Church with food baskets, which we delivered to their homes. Much of the previous week was spent in preparation of this day: Bagging beans and rice, baking hundreds of cupcakes, selecting various fruits and food items. The day of the 24th arrived, and each colorful, heaping basket was ready. We received a special blessing as we visited each home. Our brothers and sisters were so appreciative of the love we have for them. We will long remember their tearful, happy faces and the happiness we shared with them on that day.

On Sunday December 25, Mario and Irma Alvirez sang a song for the congregation and then expressed their desire to be baptized. We were so richly blessed during the meeting that all the brothers and sisters and visitors rose to their feet and began to embrace one another, not taking their seats again until everyone had embraced. The sanctuary was filled with God's love. It is beautiful to see the strong unity among the brothers and sisters.

(Continued on Page 10)



Bro. Luis Marroquin (center) of Guatemala brings Mario and Irma Alvirez up from the waters of baptism.

#### GUATEMALA continued . . .

Fast and prayer was held on Saturday December 31 at 6:00 a.m. Not only was it a day to unite in prayer with all of our brothers and sisters of the General Church, but it also was an opportunity to give thanks to our Lord that the Church was established in Guatemala in 1988 and to give thanks for the many blessings which we experienced throughout the year.

It was wonderful to begin the first day of the new year at the waters of bap-The blessings continued throughout the day. There were several experiences given when Bro. Mario and Sis. Irma were being confirmed. Sis. Rose Anderson saw a bright illumination around them and the elders. At the same time, Bro. Nayo Ramirez had a vision in which he saw the twelve apostles around the sacrament table. In his vision. Jesus entered and prepared to administer the Lord's Supper. Sis. Leonarda Dominguez de Castillo related that during the same period she felt overcome by the Spirit of the Lord and she knew He was in our presence. We received an added blessing that day as Bro. Tom Smith's friend Carlos Enrique (known as Quique) asked for his baptism. We were overjoyed, as we have come to love this young man and consider him as part of our family. We are thankful for the blessings we received that day and for the manifestations of the Spirit.

January 2 was a holiday in Guatemala, and Luis, Darlene, Isidro, Marisela, Tom, Quique, and myself were invited to Sis. Gladys and Bro. Nayo Ramirez' home for lunch. Shortly after we arrived, we were surprised to see all the brothers and sisters and their families come in. They led us to our church building, a block and a half away, where all the preparations had been made and tables and chairs had been set up for a feast of Guatemalan pepian. They had planned this special surprise for us as their way of saying thanks. Sister Gladys spoke on the brothers and sisters' behalf, and they thanked us for being in Guatemala, for giving them and their children so much care and love, and most of all for The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala. One by one, with tears streaming down their faces, they came to embrace each of us. We were so touched. Our eyes were also filled with tears as we relished this beautiful moment. What joy filled our hearts! It was a great gift of love, as we knew the

sacrifice they had to make in order to purchase the food that was prepared.

A potluck dinner was held on Saturday January 7 at the home of Sis. Rose Anderson. All of the brothers and sisters attended with their families, and they brought friends as well. It was a joyous occasion, with a beautiful spirit of fellowship. We received an added blessing in watching videotapes of the baptisms that had taken place in Guatemala thus far. Two of our visitors who have been attending since the first Christmas program have expressed their desire to be baptized. There are many more who are close to taking that step.

As we begin a new year in the land of Guatemala, we look forward with much anticipation to the growth of the Church in this land and in our work for the Lord among the people of Israel. We now have a strong foundation on which to build. Please remember us in your prayers, that the Lord will continue to bless our ministry and our Church in Guatemala.

How glorious it is to labor among the Seed of Joseph! Brothers and sisters, it really is something to see Israel smile!

### Santa Ana, CA

By Mary Ann Nicosia

1988 was a year in which our branch was blesed with 21 baptisms. It is impossible to state the events surrounding each soul's miraculous calling. Some were called in dreams, some in visions, some through healings, and others by faith. Most of our newly-baptized members are in their late teens and early twenties.

God will truly guide the honest heart. Some of our new members came from Mexico and were living on the streets. They were directed to the Church by His Spirit. They felt God's love here and never left. After they came into the Church, God blessed them both naturally and spiritually.

I cannot express the height of our joy in this the work of the Lord. Our branch holds meetings for our new members six days a week. On Mondays and Wednesdays, English classes are taught by Sis. Santina Mercuri. On Tuesdays, we have an English service. Young people's

meetings, which are held on Fridays, average 25 young people. Saturday is our day for fundraising. Last year we raised \$2,000 to assist sending our members to the California Area MBA Campout.

Lately, God has called some of our young men and women to be teachers and deaconesses.

God is calling Israel home. God is blessing the Seed of Joseph with dreams, visions, and other types of experiences.

Our members come from many parts of Mexico and Guatemala. This year we have baptized four who are originally from Acapulco. Every member that is baptized possesses a deep conviction to bring the Restored Gospel to their family and homeland.

1989 has started off wonderfully, with three more baptisms, including a mother and daughter from Oaxaca. There are several more preparing to make this commitment.

May God continue to bless those that bless Israel. Please pray for our branch, because the greater the blessing, the greater the opposition. We enjoy working in the vineyard of the Lord in these the last days as we see God's kingdom on earth come to fruition.

#### WEEKEND continued . . .

can only be accomplished as we are filled with the Spirit.

Thank you, GMBA, for all your efforts and the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful, loving marriage enrichment weekend, and our thanks to our God for His Spirit that was felt there.

#### HILL CUMORAH PAGEANT

Each July, an outdoor pageant depicting events in The Book of Mormon and early Church history is presented on Hill Cumorah at Palmyra, New York. This year, the pageant will be held on July 21 & 22, and 25-29.

This scripturally accurate pageant has been seen and enjoyed by many of our brothers and sisters over the years.

For specific information regarding the pageant, you may telephone 315-497-6808.

### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### KUZMA-ALI

Mr. John R. Kuzma and Sister JoAnn Ali were united in marriage on April 2, 1988 at The Church of Jesus Christ World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA.

Officiating was the bride's father, Brother John Ali, assisted by Brother Paul Palmieri, and Brother Joseph Catone, uncle of the bride.

Pianist was Sister Nina DiCenzo and soloists were Sisters Barbara DiNardo and Iva Fedorka.

Musical selections at the reception were provided by Sister Karen Progar and Mr. John Naretto.

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

#### MANES-PETTY

Joseph A. Manes and Lisa R. Petty were joined in marriage on August 14, 1988 at a garden wedding held at the Toulomne Lodge in Modesto, CA.

Brother Joseph Ciarolla officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were sung by Raymee Fryer.

The couple is residing in Modesto. May God's blessings accompany them in their future life together.

#### BEAGEN-LONGUILLO

Mr. Ronald Beagen and Sis. Carol Longuillo were united in holy matrimony on August 20, 1988 in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone, the bride's uncle, officiated at the services held in the beautiful flower garden at the Rutgers Agricultural Park.

The newlyweds will reside in Keyport, New Jersey. May the Lord bless and keep our sister and her companion in their life together.

### **New Arrivals**

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

Stephanie Rae to Scott and Joann Anderson of Detroit, Michigan Branch 3.

Katie Rose to Tim and Diane (Coppa) Brandt of Harrison, Michigan.

### Children Blessed

Ryan James Intrieri was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on May 1, 1988 by Bro. John Ali at the Glassport, PA Branch.

Brandon M. Domer was blessed on May 1, 1988 by Bro. Alma Nolfi at the Glassport, PA Branch.

Joseph George Prizner IV and Amy Jean Cross were blessed on September 18, 1988 by Bro. David Nolfi at the Glassport, PA Branch.

Brent William Bickerstaff was blessed on September 18, 1988 by Bro. Alma Nolfi at the Glassport, PA Branch.

Brian Douglas, born on September 30, 1988, was blessed in the Phoenix, AZ Branch by Brother Dick Christman on October 16. His parents are Douglas and Sherry Ranger. The child's great-grandmother, Sister Cecilia Byo, came from San Diego to share with her grandchildren in this joyous occasion.

Raynaldi and Marnelda Begay were blessed on October 9, 1988 at the Tse Bonito, NM Branch by Bro. Charles Curry.

Vanessa Spencer was blessed on November 12, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Robert A. Watson.

Crystal Spencer was blessed on November 12, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. John E. Mancini.

Byron Calvin and Amy Holtsoi were blessed on November 12, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Dwayne Jordan.

Regina Holtsoi was blessed on November 12, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Peter Genaro.

Celeste Spencer and Fillmore Chee were blessed on November 12, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Larry Watson.

Hope Holtsoi was blessed on November 12, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Dennis Calabrese.

Mary Lu Metzler was blessed on November 20, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Bob Nicklow, Sr.

Sergio Robert Metzler was blessed on November 20, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Bobby Nicklow.

Anna Marie Metzler was blessed on November 20, 1988 at Tse Bonito by Bro. Dwayne Jordan.

On December 25, 1988 the adopted son of Lyndon and Ethel Kayson George, Joseph Lee George, was blessed at the Lakeside, AZ Branch by Bro. Joseph Calabrese. May God bless the new family.

<sup>&</sup>quot;And . . . little children need no repentance, neither baptism. Behold, baptism is unto repentance to the fulfilling of the commandments unto the remission of sins" (Moroni 8:11).

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### LOUIS LITTLE

Louis L. LIttle of Coal Valley Road, Jefferson, PA passed away on April 19, 1988.

Born in Sharon, PA January 6, 1930, he was the son of our late Bro. Harry W. and Sis. Gertrude Curry Little.

Officiating at the funeral was Brother David Nolfi, assisted by Brother Alma Nolfi and Brother John Ali.

He leaves to mourn him a son, John D.; a daughter, Sharon Syron; three grandchildren; a brother, Walter; and two sisters, Ruth Keating and Ida Matthews.

#### KATIE WARREN

Sister Katie Warren of the Edison, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her eternal reward on August 23, 1988. She was baptized in her later years, at the age of 75, by Bro. Nathan Peterkin.

The funeral service was held by her son, Bro. Arthur Searcy, along with Bro. Phil Arcuri, both of the Edison Branch. She was buried in her hometown of Oak Ridge, North Carolina.

Our sister is survived by two sons, a daughter, one brother, three sisters, and many grandchildren. She was a blessing to all and will be missed by those whose lives she touched.

### Address Change

Name			 	 
Address	3 <u></u>			 
Phone		~~~	 	 

#### MARY CRISCUOLO

Sister Mary Criscuolo passed on to her eternal reward on December 1, 1988. She was born June 11, 1921 at Shantytown, PA to Bro. Marco and Sis. Teresa Piersante, and was baptized into the Church on June 17, 1934. She married the late Bro. Silverio Criscuolo on September 2, 1940 and together they raised five children—Lucy, Violette, Lyle, Teresa, and Lehi.

Sis. Mary was ordained a deaconess on May 14, 1950. She served the Church in many other capacities as well, including Sunday School teacher for 25 years, president of Detroit Branch 3 Ladies' Circle for many years, president of the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Circle for fifteen years, and card sender of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle for thirty years. Our sister was extremely active in Church work all of her life. She served as a missionary along with her late husband in many fields around the Michigan-Ontario District.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Whitton, Peter H. Capone, and Joseph Furnari. Sis. Mary is survived by four children, twelve grandchildren, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed by a host of friends and brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our dear sister was a faithful member who was loved by all. She was considered a pillar of the Church whose example had a great impact on the lives of many. Her faith was an encouragement to all who came in contact with her. She endured many hardships, yet continually gave all praise and glory to God. She will long be remembered by all who knew her. Her life exemplified a standard of righteousness that merits admiration and a place in glory.

#### ALBERT TROVARELLI

Albert Trovarelli passed from this life on December 8, 1988. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 22, 1936.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Peter H. Capone. Left to mourn his passing are his daughter, Lorry Buchinni; his brother, Bro. Attilio Trovarelli, two sisters, and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

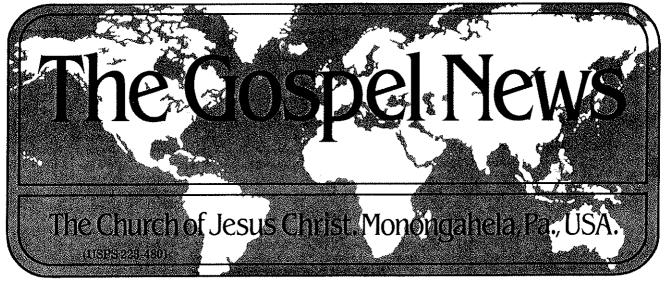
Our prayer is that those whom he left behind may be comforted with peace and comfort from God.

#### E. ELMO THOMPSON

E. Elmo Thompson passed away January 7, 1989 after an extended illness.

Services were conducted by Bro. Harry Smith of the Lakeside, AZ Branch.

He leaves to mourn his wife, Sis. Doris J., two sons, two daughters, 17 grandchildren, and seven greatgrandchildren. We extend our sincere sympathy to all.



March, 1989

Volume 45, No. 3

### November, 1988 GMBA Conference

By Jeffrey Giannetti

On the weekend of November 12 and 13, 1988, brothers, sisters, and friends from every district of the Church gathered at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA for the semi-annual GMBA Conference. Once again it was a joy to be gathered with saints from all parts of the Church and experience the blessed fellowship associated with such meetings.

The Saturday morning session began with opening remarks from GMBA Chaplain Ken Staley and GMBA President Paul Ciotti. Our brothers welcomed all in attendance and encouraged the participation of everyone during the business activities of the day.

The business was started with reports from various GMBA officers noting the events and developments occurring in the GMBA during the previous six months. Details of these reports and of all the conference activities are available at your local MBA in the conference minutes. We continued by reviewing and approving a number of unfinished business items for the coming year. These included reports on the Religious Awareness Pamphlet, the Welcome Packet, and a number of GMBA sponsored events to be held in 1989. Discussion on all of these items took place in an efficient and orderly manner, and it looks as though another exciting and eventful year is in store.

Some forthcoming events in 1989 include a second Singles' Weekend to be held in the Atlantic Coast Area. A

special weekend sponsored by the Student Morale Booster Program for the Church's college students is scheduled for this summer. And, of course, the May GMBA Conference and the annual GMBA Campout, which will be held the week of August 13-18 in Cohutta Springs, Georgia. The morning session ended with the majority of business items completed.

After a lunch break, the afternoon session began with a videotaped presentation reporting on Campout 1988. Bro. Doug Obradovich, last year's camp director, recapped the events of the first GMBA Campout to be held in the state of Florida. The report was concluded with a video presentation of the seven baptisms that took place during the campout; a beautiful sight to witness once again!

Election of officers and the selection of a camp director for 1989 were next on the agenda. Brothers Paul Ciotti, Brian Martorana, and Ken Staley were all re-elected as the GMBA officers. A complete listing of election results is available in the conference minutes.

The conference body selected Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti to serve as camp director for 1989. Since I am writing this article, I would, at this point, solicit your prayers and support on behalf of the upcoming campout. I am counting on your attendance!! Look for information and specifics about the camp in future Gospel News issues.

We concluded our afternoon session with a campout-like season of singing, fellowship, and testimony. All were glad to enjoy the Spirit of God after a morning of business. We ended the afternoon session looking forward to 'tuning in' to the evening meeting.

The Ohio Area MBA was in charge of the evening service and did a tremendous job. We were treated to an old-fashioned evening with the radio!! WGMBA radio broadcast an inspiring program dedicated to future events and expectations of the Church and the role all of us must play. The narration, singing, acting, and overall creativity were a joy to witness. May the Lord reward the Ohio Area for their diligent efforts. The Saturday evening session was brought to a close after an eventful and productive day.

The Sunday morning service was under the direction of the Pennsylvania District. Bro. Joseph Ross, district president, welcomed all in attendance

(Continued on Page 10)

### Pacific Coast Area Camp

You can be among the first to register for the 1989 Area MBA Campout on the West Coast. Camp will be held July 1-6 in beautifullywooded Idyllwild, California.

Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, please contact Bro. Sam Hemmings at (619) 670-7857 or Sis. Diane McDonnell at (714) 861-1075.

### Dallas, TX

By George Benyola

GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS MEET

The General Church officers, including President Dominic Thomas and Second Counselor V. James Lovalvo, met at the Holiday Inn in Dallas, Texas on December 2-4, 1988.

By 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, General Church officers had arrived to be part of a series of business meetings which were scheduled to last right through to Saturday night. Bro. Dominic stated that the intent of these meetings would be to "plan for the '90's."

Many new ideas and strategies were exchanged by everyone hoping to formulate a plan that would enhance the growth of the Church in the 1990's. New committees were formed to enforce the following goals, set forth by Bro. Dominic, hopefully to become realities in the coming years:

- 1. Increase the membership of the Church in the US, Canada, and Mexico.
- 2. Increase the membership among the Seed of Joseph.
- Increase the foreign missionary work.
- 4. Ease the burdens of our people.
- 5. Find and train people to do missionary work.
- 6. Finance General Church support for missionary programs.
- 7. Organize and better control (manage) committee members.
- 8. Monitor progress on all of the above.

All of the members of the Dallas Mission met with the General Church officers on Sunday morning for a worship service. Bro. Thomas opened the meeting, using for his text, "Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted." He applied this scripture to the mourning of the saints for those who have not rendered obedience unto God, speaking of the comfort and the blessings that God provides for His people when our loved ones finally obey the Gospel.

Bro. Russell Cadman followed, recounting to us the experience of his grandfather in coming to this country from England. He stated that it was truly the hand of God that brought him here, and that were it not for God he would have been destroyed. Bro. Cadman requested a special prayer for his sister, who is very afflicted. As we all fell upon our knees, Bro. Jim Lovalvo led us in prayer.

After the bread and wine were blessed and administered, Bro. Paul Palmieri expressed himself with closing remarks. A circle was formed, and as we all joined hands, Bro. Joseph Ross dismissed the service in prayer.

After a delicious buffet luncheon, the members of the Dallas Mission bade our visiting brothers farewell as they traveled to the airport and on to their respective homes.

The Dallas members would like to express their gratitude to the General Church officers, who have decided to make Dallas a regular meeting place. Their visit has brought great joy to our hearts, and it is exciting to think that perhaps we can host them again sometime. May God bless our brothers for allowing us to share these blessings with them on this beautiful weekend in Dallas.

### Note of Thanks

We thank all brothers and sisters that prayed for us; this gave us an uplift after a craniotomy was performed on me. The response of concerned phone calls, the cards, and praying in branches moved me deeply and lifted me up to restore my strength. I thank God for seeing me through a trying time.

The onset of a seizure that resulted in the ensuing CAT-scan at the Carlisle Hospital did much to explain the spells of headaches that would not go away, of a problem of memory retention that would be encountered occasionally. The CAT-scan showed a right frontal growth in my brain. The pronouncement by the doctor in Carlisle, PA was, "Well, at least you know what is going to kill you." Bleakly looking at the x-ray of a large growth, I felt that he was right, given the 80% probability that this was malignant.

A neurosurgeon was found on my return to New Jersey. His philosophy

was that the tumor's placement in the right hemisphere of the brain gave me a better chance at recovery. His reasoning was that a more vigorous effort to excise could be made, since vital motor nerves would not be severed on that side. The operation went well, and much of the tumor was removed. The cheerful note is that it was not malignant. The doctor's words were, "Mr. Kovacs, you are alive and well." The hymn came to my mind:

"Many things about tomorrow I don't seem to understand,

But I know who holds tomorrow, and I know who holds my hand."

God bless you all. My problems are only as big as I make them. I cast my burden upon my Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Bro. Julius Kovacs Brooklyn, NY Branch

## God's Still on His Throne

During the thirteen years that I have worked as a counselor for male juvenile offenders in a residential facility I have been required to work two out of every three weekends, which means I've had to work two out of three Sundays. I've always requested the afternoon shift on weekends so I could attend Sunday services at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, where I am a member. When compelled to work Sunday mornings, I've found strength and blessings in attending the Imperial, PA Branch's Sunday evening meetings.

Approximately two years ago, the institution where I work devised a new schedule, and each counselor in my cottage was given a part of the year in which they had weekends off. I began to have weekends free from September through December.

As the end of 1988 was approaching and I was enjoying the blessings of God in being free to attend my branch every Sunday without having to rush to work afterwards, I began to cry unto the Lord and to plead with Him to do something so that I would not have to return to a work schedule involving Sundays again beginning in January of 1989.

(Continued on Page 10)

### Detroit, Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

DEDICATION

Sunday August 21, 1989 is a day that will long be remembered by the saints at Branch 3 in Detroit, Michigan, as well as others throughout the Michigan-Ontario District. This extraordinary day was made to give God all honor and glory as Branch 3 dedicated their new building.

Our hearts were overflowing at the sight of the huge turnout of brothers, sisters, family, and friends that came to share this special day with us. More than 260 people from Florida, Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Canada, and throughout Michigan joined this jubilant ceremony. Outstate visiting elders included Brothers George Benyola, Joe Arcuri, Anthony Vadasz, Phil Arcuri, and Rick Elzby.

We were blessed in having Bro. Nick Pietrangelo, who has been recuperating from his recent illness, open the service in prayer. Sis. Judy Coppa then presented the hymn God's Touch. Presiding Elder Paul Whitton reviewed the trials we experienced as a branch prior to God's directing us to this location, His constant abiding in providing a buyer for our old building in Detroit, and His guidance in acquiring this lovely one-level structure complete with cushioned pews, air conditioning, carpeting, and parking space.

To begin, Bro. Paul related that the sale of our old building was closed on April 17, 1986. From that time on, the members of the branch and their families met in a Macomb Community College auditorium on Sundays, and in saints' homes on weeknights. In October of 1987 there was mention of our new location and the possibility of its sale, but the whisper of such a consideration was then only had among the real estate profession; it was not yet offered to the public market.

But the Lord, in His own way, made the possibility a probability (while still not on the market), and on February 15, 1988 the members of Branch 3 had an opportunity to visit the building. The Oneness and unity of God manifested itself when there was 100% agreement to acquire the property and the building. On June 10, 1988 our membership took possession of this beautiful building, and

on June 18 we held our first meeting—a fasting and prayer service.

At our dedication service this morning, Bro. Whitton extended a special thanks to all involved. Appreciation was also expressed to the members of the Sterling Heights Branch, who presented us with a lovely silk fern tree.

Bro. Paul then called upon those who were given dreams and experiences concerning the sale and purchase of our properties to relate them to the congregation. Sis. Ruth Coppa revealed how an angel of God had visited her one day while she was working outside at our old building in Detroit. The angel mentioned to her that the Church is a lovely Church, and then proceeded to review the history of Branch 3, mentioning a fire that occurred many years ago. Sis. Ruth felt the sense of establishment and endurance that Branch 3 has had through the years, and she felt the need to continue to serve God as a body in this capacity.

Sis. Mary Coppa was asked to relate the dream she received and the strong spirit she felt pertaining to the possibility of purchasing another building. Though these experiences hold special meaning and encouragement, one that touched the hearts of all was had by young Colleen Capone. After viewing the new building on the designated meeting night, nine-year-old Colleen went home and had a dream. She dreamt that Sunday School classes were being held in the rooms at the back and that all those sitting in church had smiles on their faces. The first chance that Colleen had to return to the building, she brought along some chalk and wrote in the parking lot, "God Bless

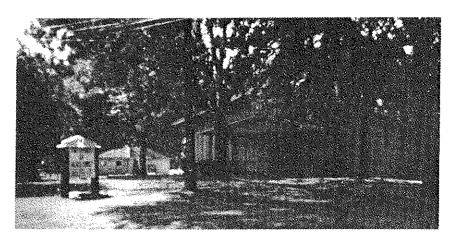
Our New Home." We praise God for the insight He gave this young child.

Bro. Jerry Benyola of Branch 1 also related a dream he had received when Branch 1 was relocating eight years ago. In his dream he saw a giant water tower that was all white, located somewhere in the midst of the winding Schoenherr Road. He also saw pipelines leading from the water tower and interpreted this as being the pipeline leading from the Living Waters of everlasting life. When this dream did not come to pass for Branch 1, he had put it aside. But as he drove to our dedication service this morning, he saw the water tower as he had in his dream, and he knew that this was God's plan.

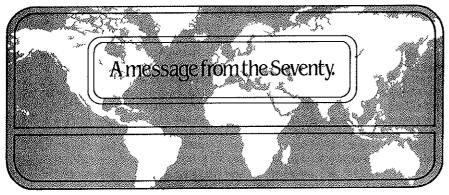
Bro. Paul mentioned how much fasting and prayer was necessary in order for God to communicate with us and make His will known. Sisters Nina DiCenzo and Karen Progar from Pennsylvania then presented a duet of *I Surrender All*.

Afterward, Bro. Dominic Thomas presented us with an unforgettable sermon that our branch history will bear witness to for many years to come. He mentioned that although this dedication is special for our branch, today must be considered as part of a large dedication when taking in the outstretch of the Church geographically. When a charter of The Church of Jesus Christ was first established years ago, several foundations were laid. These include: 1) A right and privilege to worship God according to our faith and belief; 2) A right to be organized as branches; 3) A right to have a governing authority made up of brothers who gather in conference each year.

(Continued on Page 6)



Branch 3, formerly of Detroit, Michigan, now located on Plumbrook in Sterling Heights.



### Preparations Being Made for the Weekend Evangelistic Meetings

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Preparations are being made for the weekend evangelists' visits in all seven districts of The Church of Jesus Christ, and these services will be held soon. As detailed in the December 1988 issue, two evangelists from different parts of the country will meet and be the main speakers at meetings which are being scheduled by each region's officers and members.

The enthusiasm and activity which will be generated is directed toward spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and in strengthening the branches and missions. The ultimate goal, obviously, is to bring souls to salvation. Continuation of the visiting evangelist program, which was started in 1987, was authorized at the last October General Quorum of Seventy meetings. Bro. Thomas M. Liberto from San Diego, California is coordinating the program.

There is nothing more edifying and meaningful than to be in services devoted to the honor and glory of God. This is true wherever the saints gather; but when a greater effort is expended, greater blessings seem to be experienced.

Much work is required to successfully plan, direct, and implement the weekend activities, which usually include Friday night, Saturday night, and Sunday services. A full-scale plan is established and many workers must do their part. District officers strive to get as many as possible involved, because The Church of Jesus Christ is for everyone. Whether by singing a song, passing out a leaflet, knocking on doors, or making some other contribution to

the effort, each person can participate. Beautifully, God sees these desires and labors, and He rewards them.

#### GREAT BLESSING

Many years ago, a group of young people were going door-to-door in a new community. Two by two, they were covering a large area. Suddenly, a young sister in her late teens knocked on a door, and an elderly gentleman opened it. He asked what she wanted. She told him she was there to invite him to church services the next day. He was very pleased and very receptive, but said he could not go because his wife was ill and could not get out of bed.

The young sister told the man she was sorry and, in an almost instinctive reaction, asked him whether he would want his wife to be anointed with oil in prayer by our minister. He said, "Yes, by all means."

Quickly, the sister ran to an elder of the Church who was knocking on a door several houses away and told him that someone needed prayer. Devotedly, he went right back with her and anointed the woman.

The gratitude the older couple expressed was unbelievable. They praised God that someone had come to their door and was interested in them. In return, the blessings the young sister and minister received more than made up for the many steps they climbed and the many doors they knocked upon that day. The question is, just how many more people are waiting for us to pray for them? Unfortunately, they do not know how they can reach us, or that we are there, unless we seek them out.

Many people are out there waiting for us. It is up to us to reach them—tell them about Jesus—to invite them to the Gospel of Jesus Christ—to help them change their lives—to lift them up and offer a kind word or to give aid in other ways.

The weekend evangelistic services offer these outreach opportunities. The visiting evangelists will be speaking at the meetings, along with members of the district ministry. But the work of attracting the people, planning the activities, and even transporting visitors, if needed, must be done by all those who are willing to step forward and do their much-needed part. Each of us can participate in one way or another. Not everyone can be evangelists, but everyone can take part in evangelism, can be a missionary.

#### SPIRITUALLY UPLIFTING

There is nothing more spiritually uplifting than to walk into a well-attended service and to know that the Lord's Spirit will certainly be there in great abundance. The singing exemplifies it, the preaching attests to it, and the testimonies, if part of the meeting, electrify all assembled.

(Continued on Page 10)

### Special Request

FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

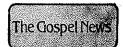
HELP NEEDED

Evangelist Charles Smith needs the assistance of elders, teachers, and members who are willing to labor with him in reaching out to individuals in the Oak Grove/Independence, Missouri area on behalf of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you are able to give one or two weeks of your time, please contact Evangelist Elmer Santilli, chairman of the General Church Development Committee, at:

> 8817 Farbar Street Kirtland, OH 44094 Telephone number: (216) 256-1258

YOUR HELP WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED!!



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 36247 Harcourt Fraser, MI 48026

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jeffrey Giannetti
3406 Sunflower Rd.
New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN - ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit. MI 48205

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

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

PENNSYLVANIA Jonathan Olexa 120 Greenridgy Dr. Monongabela, PA 15063-1231

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

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

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

### Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Whenever people unite to advance a common cause, whether it be in the Church or any secular organization, a fundamental truth surfaces very quickly: As human beings, we are all different. Our differences can be a tremendous asset to us as we collectively strive to reach a common goal. Our varying points of view and diverse backgrounds can be pooled together to provide a broad spectrum of knowledge, experience, and ideas from which we can devise many different courses of action and reach numerous solutions to the same problem.

For this planning and problem-solving process to work smoothly, it is necessary first and foremost, that every individual involved have a solid understanding of what our common goals are. These goals must be stated clearly and unequivocally, so that everyone is indeed working to solve the same problem. If we haven't set our priorities, we must first deal with *that* problem before we can begin to move forward.

Even with our priorities in place, it is our unfortunate lot, as human beings, to possess traits which make it very difficult for us to work together:

- A genuine contempt for the opinions of other people, eventually developing into real hatred toward the people themselves
- The need to react with undue emotion to any way of thinking different from our own
- An inability to place the common good of the group ahead of our own best interests for any length of time, and the consequent tendency to disregard group ethics in pursuit of individual gain

We have all seen these traits come to the fore in our dealings with the world around us. In such an atmosphere, our differences only become stumblingblocks to one another; any desire we may have had to work together is quickly extinguished.

At the workplace, in the PTA, on the Little League team, the ugly side of human nature surfaces from time to time; we often quit in disgust. As Saints of Latter Days in The Church of Jesus Christ, with the example the Lord set for us and His Spirit dwelling within us, we cannot look upon these things save it be with abhorrence. Certainly, in our dealings with the world, and especially when we meet as a Church to advance our common cause, we should always seek to bear the attributes that Christ Himself carried:

- An attitude of patience, longsuffering, forbearance, forgiveness, and love toward each of our fellow beings
- The ability to remain calm in the face of even the most agitated opposition
- A realization that the common good of the Church is in our own best interest, and that God's will cannot be confounded by even the most stubborn, influential, or devious of men

As we meet to carry out the business of the Church, let us take time to prepare ourselves spiritually as well as naturally, that our love toward one another would grow ever stronger, that the Lord might make full use of the different gifts and talents He has bestowed upon His people, that His Church would move forward in these the last days.

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

In the years when the man of God Daniel served the Lord, King Belshazzar committed a great sin. Belshazzar took the sacred dishes and goblets from God's Church and used them for a big party. They filled the beautifully cut glasses and carefully made bowls that were used in God's temple with wine. Then the king, his friends, his wives, and his girlfriends drank wine and praised the gods of silver, of gold, and of brass, iron, wood, and stone.

Now these glasses and vessels (containers) were beautifully made, but they were only things-not gods. Think about this; if you prayed to a stick, would the stick hear you? If you prayed to a rock, could the rock hear you? What if you carved the stick to look like a person, then would it hear you? No; of course not. And if you chose a special rock, even one made out of crystals or even diamonds, it still would be just a rock-only a mineral that God put in this world. And a rock, or a stick, or even a statue made out of shining gold, cannot hear you. They cannot answer your prayers, or bring you "good luck." They cannot forgive you of your sins or give you great honesty to be sorry when you've hurt someone else. Rocks are just rocks, sticks are just sticks, and statues are just statues.

Our great big wonderful God is powerful. He made those rocks and that gold. He made us. The Bible teaches us that God made us in His own likeness. So, that means God must look a lot like the way we do. He isn't just a big pulsating brain like on some television show. He isn't a big scary voice. God is love and true power and kindness and mercy.

Our God loves each of us. It isn't Santa Claus who hears everything we do or say, it is God. It is important to God that we love Him and give Him credit



(thanks) for His presence and the good things He gives us.

God heard King Belshazzar praising stones and silver. When Belshazzar's enemies came to fight them, those pretend gods couldn't help, and God didn't help because Belshazzar did not ask God to forgive him and help him.

But we can. Whenever we make mistakes, or hurt someone or need help, God is a whispered prayer away. Pray in your mind, pray in your heart, and don't forget your God, who loves you.

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed:

BELSHAZZAR	WHISPER
PRAYED	HEART
TO	GOD
FALSE	LOVES
VESSELS	HIS
GOLD	CHILDREN
SILVER	HELPS
BRASS	KIND
CRYSTALS	POWER
STATUE	PRAY
WAR	LIVE

C	Н	I	L	D	R	E	N	P	R
P	0	W	Е	R	G	P	R	A	Y
В	A	Z	S	0	W	0	Z	S	С
R	E	V	L	I	S	Z	D	S	R
A	P	D	Е	V	A	N	E	E	Y
s	R	E	S	H	I	V	P	U	s
$\mathbf{s}$	A	S	s	K	0	s	V	Т	Т
0	Y	L	E	L	1	V	E	A	A
Т	E	A	V	H	$\mathbf{E}$	A	R	Т	L
В	D	F	W	H	E	L	P	S	S

#### BRANCH 3 continued . . .

Bro. Dominic continued by relating the importance of the words, "Bless this place with Your Spirit and Your Peace," which were uttered in Bro. Pietrangelo's prayer. He mentioned that the time is past for a narrow, parochial vision; it is now time to look around. Although there are many branches, we must remember that there is still one Church. The various gatherings we undertake from time to time are for the benefit of experiencing the Oneness of God's Spirit. We dedicate our buildings, but even more importantly, we must dedicate ourselves.

When King Solomon was confronted with the dedication of the temple, the scriptures describe the event as a huge, magnificent happening, not one that was quiet and sedate. The spiritual dimension of the Church concerns our attitudes and beatitudes. We must be dedicated to the Lord, and not to brick and mortar. We must dedicate ourselves personally and spiritually to the work of the Lord. When the Apostle Paul spoke to the Church in the New Testament, he told the followers of Christ that they must attain the qualities of humility, meekness, lowliness, forbearance of one another in love, forgiveness, unity of the Spirit, longsuffering, goodness, and charity. None of us can be dedicated to God unless we reflect these spiritual characteristics so that "he might sanctify and cleanse [the body] with the washing of water by the word; that he might present to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish" (Ephesians 5:26-27). Christ is the head of the Church and He is the Savior of the body.

Bro. Dominic commented on how we are a unique church that goes beyond the limits—in testimony and in serving God. Each of us must strive to be a better member! We need to be that city set apart, that light that cannot be dimmed. We cannot be fearful of turning ourselves to the Lord and to the Church.

Bro. Dominic then warned us that the enemy of our soul will not give us half a chance. But we can make each branch a better branch in the dedication of one branch in particular. Bro. Thomas concluded his message by admonishing us to be serious in our service to God if we want to dedicate a branch or building for His honor and glory!

(Continued on Page 11)

### **Branch and Mission News**

### Greensburg, PA

By Darlene Markazene

The first weekend of December, 1988 will long be remembered by the brothers and sisters of the Greensburg, PA Branch. During this weekend we experienced both the 'old' and the 'new'.

On Saturday December 5, we presented "Sweeter As the Years Go By" in honor of those members who have held strong to the Gospel for at least fifty years. "Starring in the lead roles" were: Sis. Rose Nalevanko (64 years); Sis. Yolanda Fallavollitti (60 years); Sis. Rosalie Kaiser (59 years); Sis. Bambi Dulkis (56 years); Sis. Ruth Carr (50 years); and Bro. Jesse Carr (50 years). We were convinced that God was quite pleased with His six precious "Vessels of Gold" as His Spirit was felt throughout the entire evening.

Following a delicious dinner, a short program was presented. For each honoree, a brief testimony was read and their favorite song sung; then they spoke. Sis. Carolyn Gehly recited a poem she had written entitled "A Golden Remembrance," which beautifully summarized their years of service in the Gospel.

To conclude this wonderful evening, the Sunday School presented our brother and five sisters with a gift. We can truly say that we found it difficult to conclude this very special meeting.

With our cups still overflowing, we returned to Church the next day for our Sunday services. We had in our midst this day Bro. Bob and Sis. Arlene Buffington of Imperial, PA and Bro. Mike and Sis. Barb Nuzzi of Niles, OH. They brought *The Songs of Zion* with them, and we heard many experiences concerning the songs, once again feeling God's Spirit strongly in our midst. Near the close of our meeting, Rita Gehly, daughter-in-law of Bro. Paul and Sis. Carolyn Gehly, asked for her baptism. Shortly thereafter, her husband Dennis also requested baptism.

Despite chilling winds and cold temperatures, we all anxiously met at the waters to witness Bro. Paul Gehly baptize his son and daughter-in-law. Upon our return, Sis. Rita was confirmed in the Church by Bro. Fred Olexa, and Bro. Dennis was confirmed by Bro. Jesse Carr.

What a perfect way to end such a glorious weekend!

### Lorain, OH

By Katherine Cocco

Greetings and best wishes from Lorain, Ohio to each of you. May God continue to bless and abide with us as He has in the past. Last year was a full and rewarding year as we take inventory of all God has brought us through. Realizing His goodness and mercy as last year's history was read at our watch service brought rejoicing beyond human comprehension. Surely each branch and mission, as the year was recapped, had many experiences and happenings brought to mind. Many outstanding moments in our natural and spiritual lives were recounted.

I want to share with all of you the beautiful revival, "Is Zion Only a Dream?" hosted in Lorain by the General Church Development Committee on the weekend of November 18. On the Wednesday night before the revival, Bro. Joseph Calabrese scheduled a fast and prayer service especially for the coming weekend. At the end of the service, Sis. Rose Palacios testified of a vision she had received. In it she saw a beautiful bride standing by the sacrament table holding an anchor and inviting all to come and partake. Hearing this vision related brought to Bro. Joseph Calabrese's mind Revelation 22:17, "And the Spirit and the bride say, Comé. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.'

What a blessed service and weekend the revival afforded each of us who came to partake! Much preparation had been done, flyers sent out with the local paper, radio and cable television notices broadcast, booklets prepared for congregational singing, a special choir prepared and special songs selected, and many other details handled to assure a successful and smooth revival.

PLAUINC
"SWEETER AS THE YEARS GO BY!"

Front Row: Sis. Rose Nalevanko, Sis. Yolanda Fallavollitti, Sis. Bambi Dulkis Back Row: Sis. Ruth Carr, Bro. Jesse Carr

(Continued on Page 8)

#### LORAIN continued . . .

On Friday evening our guest speaker was Bro. Elmer Santilli from the Perry, Ohio Branch. He spoke on Zion and what it means, as well as the expectations of the Church. On Saturday our guest speaker was Bro. Dominic Thomas, who exhorted each of us to be mindful of our position as saints and to be missionaries wherever we are. Bro. Paul Palmieri, an apostle from Aliquippa, PA was our guest speaker on Sunday morning, followed by Bro. Ron Genaro of Niles, OH. Both brothers delivered messages of revival and inspiration. The choir, under the direction of Bro. Ron Dziak, offered programs at each meeting, and the congregation enjoyed singing along.

The first two evening meetings were held at our church building in Lorain, and the Sunday morning service was held in the Clearview School auditorium. It was a weekend of joy and blessing for all in attendance. At the Sunday morning service Sis. Vera Naro was presented with a rose for fifty years of devoted service in the Church. She gave her testimony and all were blessed.

Another event of special fellowship and cooperation was our auction and bake sale. To boost our contributions to the General Church, Sisters Rose Palacios and Iva Davis had asked for permission to hold an auction. The saints were requested to donate large and small items. All were eager and happy to participate in whatever capacity was necessary to get the job done. A professional auctioneer was procured and many hours were spent in collecting items and arranging them in the big yard of Buck and Sister Iva Davis. The activity and energy spent in making this activity a success brought a special closeness and love between all who participated.

Continue to pray for Bro. Joseph Calabrese as he recuperates from surgery on his shoulder. His determination and dedication to the Church was evident when he attended Church to perform his duties as presiding elder four days after the surgery. Remember Sis. Vickie Calabrese as well. Let us pray for each other in the coming year, that whatever is in store, God will continue to revive each of us to daily remember our commission as saints in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Much love in Christ, Sister Katherine Cocco

### Muncey, Ontario

By Samuel French

In 1988 we of the Muncey, Ontario Mission experienced many changes and blessings. We had the opportunity to have our building renovated, and we received new pews in the building for the comfort of the saints. We wish at this time to give God all of the honour and the glory for blessing us.

During the past year we were blessed with five new converts, whom God called into the Church. Brother Eli Schuyler was baptized on February 24, 1988. Sherry Waddilove was baptized on June 26, 1988, Irene Snake and Ruby Riley were baptized on August 14, 1988, and Brenda Deleary was baptized on August 28, 1988. Praise be to God.

While we gained five new members, four of our older brothers and sisters went on to their heavenly home. On March 4, 1988, our Sister Elvira Maness passed on to her eternal reward. Sis. Ada Seneca died on May 3, 1988, Bro. Alfred Burch on May 13, 1988, and Sis. Annie Deleary on May 24, 1988. Praise God that these saints were faithful to the end of their days here below.

On September 18, 1988 Sisters Judy Dyer and June Hendrick were ordained deaconesses.

On December 31, we had a beautiful meeting, having the opportunity to watch the old year go out and the new year come in. As we reflect on the past year, we can say that God has richly blessed us as a people. Visiting with us that evening was Brother Sam DiFalco, along with the Champine brothers and Bro. Flip and Sis. Alma Palacios from the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Bro. Flip spoke a few words on faith, and how we should have faith that God will take care of us. Not only do we have to have faith, we also have to live by faith.

Bro. Gary Champine followed, relating how God has blessed him since he gave his life to Jesus Christ. What a beautiful time we had in just listening to the saints of God tell of His goodness towards us.

Bro. Sam DiFalco then spoke, relating to us how it is in the world today—how there are many dangers and disastrous situations happening

right before our very eyes. It behooves us to be found in the holy places of God, where we can find refuge. Truly God will look after those that love and serve Him in spirit and in truth.

### Youngstown, OH

By Saundra Cardillo

Sunday January 15, 1989 was a very special day for the saints in Youngstown, Ohio. After listening to a sermon on the promises of God and how we should count our blessings, Sister Josephine Berardino stood up and made her desire to be baptized known.

Sister Josephine had been ill for almost a year. She had promised God that if He would heal her, she would do His will. The Lord did see our sister through this troubling time, and when the doctor told her she had a clean bill of health, she praised God's goodness and fulfilled her promise to Him.

Sister Josephine was baptized by her son-in-law, Brother Hank Cardillo, and confirmed by Brother Don Pandone. As Sister Josephine's daughter, I can say that my mother has always been a fine example of one who follows the Lord's teachings. She always loved the Church and defended it whenever anyone doubted it. My father, Bro. Ralph Berardino, prayed and waited for 47 years to see this glorious day. They both now have a "newness" about them.

I want to thank God from the bottom of my heart for calling my mother into this Gospel, as well as for giving me parents who raised me with the Church as the foundation of our home.

### Six Nations, Ontario Mission

By Grace Bashaw

On Sunday, January 29, 1989 the saints gathered together with the Seed of Joseph to witness the ordination of Brother Don Green, a member of the Six Nations Mission, into the office of a teacher.

Bro. Thomas Everett, missionary in charge, explained to the congregation how our ministry is called by God's revelation. Just as Jesus called His

workers in the New Testament, so He still does in these last days. Bro. Tom gave a few remarks concerning his own calling into the ministry, and then went on to explain the duties and responsibilities of a teacher in the Church.

District Mission Board Chairman Bro. Spencer Everett expressed his joy in being present and able to represent the Board. He went on to explain how they had been looking forward to this ordination for months. For the past three years, Bro. Don had been in need of a kidney transplant, and the day after the brothers talked to him about being called to this office, the hospital called him and told him they had a donor. Our brother has withstood many afflictions and trials, and through them all he has remained a true and faithful servant of God. Now with a new kidney, the Lord has enabled him to fulfill the calling He has placed upon him. Praise God, He always makes a way for us.

Bro. Spencer continued to speak of spiritual teaching, reading from Ezra 7:10 and I Corinthians 12:28. He shared several personal experiences as a teacher and closed his remarks with Jacob 1:18 & 19, "And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence."

After the Lord's Supper was administered, Bro. Don was set apart by washing of feet by Bro. Harold Batalucco. A prayer was offered by Bro. Richard Thomas before Bro. Mike LaSala anointed our brother a teacher in the Church.

After we sang *To See the Morning Light*, Bro. Tom asked Bro. Don to express himself. He proceeded to relate his testimony relative to his illness and God's grace:

"I had been sick for over three months. I had been going to the doctors, and I just kept getting worse. My body kept rejecting all the medication the doctor had prescribed for me.

"One night as I lay in bed I began to pray. I prayed, 'Lord, if I'm not going to get any better, just take me.' That night I had this dream:

"I was standing on a hillside, looking over at this beautiful city. I knew that it was the New Jerusalem as described in the Book of Revelation. It was so bright that I could hardly look at it. As I stood gazing at it, a brighter light came out of the center of it and stood before me. Inside the light stood my Savior with His hands outstretched.

"I ran to Him and He held me in His arms and wiped the tears that streamed down my face. He looked at me and I saw in His eyes so much compassion and love, and such a joy and peace flooded my soul just to be standing in the presence of the Lord. He spoke to me in the kindest, most gentle voice, 'Not yet, but in a little while.'

"I knew then that the Lord would spare my life a little while longer, and for whatever the reason, whatever He has planned for me, I just want to live for Him and serve Him all the days of my life, and perhaps when my days on this earth are finished, I'll be permitted to enter that city."

A couple of other experiences were related pertaining to Bro. Don's calling as a teacher. At the close of the service, all the teachers present were called to the front of the building, and we all sang Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile. Bro. Mike Coppa then closed the service in prayer.

### Hopelawn, NJ

By Linda Calabro

The Hopelawn Branch experienced a multitude of blessings on Sunday February 12, 1989. We witnessed the ordination of Brother Joseph Pittius into the office of deacon. The Spirit of God presided from the start through the end of the day. We had the privilege of meeting with visiting saints from Metuchen and Edison, NJ; Aliquippa and Levittown, PA; and Brooklyn, NY.

At the beginning of the service, Brother Leonard Benyola outlined the duties of a deacon and read from I Timothy 3:8-14. Brother Jeffrey Giannetti sang Without Him, after which Brother Bill Davis washed Brother Joe's feet. Brother Joe was then ordained by Brother Tom Banyacski.

Immediately following the ordination, Brother Tom related a dream which confirmed this day's ordination. He stated that he found himself joined with the ministry, encircling a brother who was about to be ordained a deacon. In the dream, Brother Tom could not see the brother's face, but he felt the Power of God directing him to lay his hands on the brother's head. Brother Tom explained that he had had this dream a few months prior to Brother Joe's ordination, and it was not until this morning, immediately before the service began, that he recalled the dream. It was revealed to him, as he recalled the dream, that the brother whose face was hidden was Brother Joe. Brother Tom stated that he strongly felt the Spirit of God directing him to ordain Brother Joe.

Brother Paul Benyola of Levittown then introduced the service. He chose as his text Ephesians 4. Brother Paul touched upon various subjects, among which was the office of a deacon. Furthermore, he posed the following question to the congregation, "How far have we progressed from the waters of baptism?" He admonished us to examine our spiritual lives, and concluded his sermon by speaking about the plan of salvation.

In our afternoon service, we enjoyed a beautiful season of testimony. There was not a second's hiatus between testimonies. Each one was filled with praise and honor to the Lord. We concluded our day with a covered dish dinner, where we enjoyed the fellowship of the saints. We can truly say that the Lord has fed us both spiritually and naturally, and we thank Him for His goodness. Our prayer is that God will bless Brother Joe in his office and in his endeavor to labor in the vineyard of the Lord.

### Harrison, MI

By Cathy Mulla and Judy Coppa

Sunday, November 20, 1988 was a very special day for the Harrison Mission in Michigan. Many visitors, friends, brothers, and sisters gathered at the Hayes Township Community Center Hall to witness the ordination of Brothers Adam Coppa and Lyle Criscuolo into the office of teacher.

In addition to all the elders of Detroit Branch 3, District President and First Counselor Peter Scolaro and Louis Vitto also joined our service this day.

(Continued on Page 10)

#### HARRISON continued . . .

Visiting members also came from Branches 1, 3, 4, Sterling Heights, and Inner City.

After a season of inspirational singing, Sis. Judy Coppa sang Give of Your Best to the Master. Brother Silverio Coppa then introduced the service, speaking from the last chapter of Moroni. He emphasized the point that Spiritual gifts are given to men that they may profit God. The Lord works with mankind through His Spirit.

Bro. Silver related an experience that an old brother had when he was going out on teacher's duty. The Lord told him to go to a certain place. The brother asked God what the problem was that he would be confronted with when he got there. God spoke to him and told him that He would reveal that when the brother arrived, in order that no one would disrupt him on his way. Bro. Silver explained that the office of teacher is one of counselor and peacemaker. God will give gifts to His servants according to their humility. When we go out by the Spirit of God, whatever we do will be successful.

Brother Peter Scolaro followed. He prompted each of us to examine ourselves and see what gift God has given us. If we don't know, we must ask God to reveal it unto us, so that all of us might work together to build up the Church. We can strengthen and perfect our Church by all of the different gifts God has given us. Moses did not have all the gifts (for example, Aaron became his spokesman before Pharaoh), but he was nonetheless prepared for an important work. Bro. Peter concluded with the message that a teacher's job is to teach the word of God in its pureness and truth.

Bro. Louis Vitto then related some experiences he remembered when he was a teacher. He said to always go out with honey upon your lips. When he would depart to fulfill his duties as a teacher, his wife would go and pray. He reminded the families of our two delegates to be understanding and patient. The great work of the Lord must go on. There is a lot of work to do. Bro. Louis then asked all the brothers and sisters to remember to pray for Brothers Adam and Lyle in their new role in the Church, as they need our spiritual support.

The ordination service continued with Bro. Peter H. Capone washing Bro.

Lyle's feet and Bro. Mike Coppa washing Bro. Adam's feet. Bro. Mike spoke in the gift of tongues as he washed his father's feet. The interpretation was given to Sis. Mary Jane Soave. God said, "I will guide your feet in My work."

All the elders joined hands in a circle around these two brothers, and Bro. Jack Pontillo petitioned God to bless the brothers in the office of a teacher. Bro. Silver Coppa anointed his brother, Bro. Adam, and Bro. Paul Whitton anointed Bro. Lyle.

All who attended the meeting felt the blessing of God this day. Shortly after the service, Bro. Lyle related to Sis. Judy Coppa that he awoke on this Sunday morning hearing a woman's voice singing *Give of Your Best to the Master*. He told her that the voice he heard was hers, but he did not realize it until she sang the hymn during the service today. Many who heard this experience felt that this was a confirmation of our brother's calling and an encouragement for Him as well.

A beautiful buffet luncheon was served by the members of Harrison and Branch 3. We fellowshipped with one another, and then said good-bye and headed home. The day was well spent, and we enjoyed the blessings of God in our fellowship with one another. Our prayers are with Brothers Lyle and Adam and the work they set out to do.

#### GMBA continued . . .

and asked Bro. Frank Natoli of Rochester, NY to introduce the service.

Bro. Frank greatly encouraged us with his inspired sermon. Speaking from I Corinthians 1:25, our brother instructed us to take courage in the ability of our God. Even when it seems the Lord has left us, or our problems are insurmountable, God is able to deliver us. It is in these dire situations that the Lord is able to show His power to the Church and to the world. Our brother recounted events in his own life that have proven what faith in God and trust in His power can do. Bro. Frank's sermon was enjoyed by all. We thank God for the inspiration He gives.

During the balance of the morning service, we enjoyed words of instruction and encouragement from Brothers Mario Milano, Jerry Giovannone, Russell Cadman, James King, and John Genaro. The evidence of the Lord's presence was felt in the speaking of our brothers.

We concluded our day and the conference with a few selections from the Ohio Area Choir. We thank God for the beautiful weekend with the saints and His continued blessings upon the GMBA. On behalf of the GMBA, we solicit your prayers in hopes that God would continue to use this organization to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Until we meet again, may God bless you is my prayer.

#### THRONE continued . . .

Soon after I had prayed this way, I was informed of a new girls' transitional cottage opening up. After applying for a position there, I was one of three counselors chosen for the new program. The director informed me that I would have to work many 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. shifts and some weekends. However, during the last week of 1988, when I met with my new supervisor, he informed me—to my joyful delight—that I would be scheduled for 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, with every weekend free!

God made it possible for me not to have to miss any church meetings. Surely, God's still on His throne. This shows to me that the dealings of the Master Creator in our day and time are just the same as His works in the past. Praise God!

Sister Connie Smith New Castle, PA

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

Yes, there is much work to be done, but it is well worth it. The traveling evangelists arrive with joy and the hope that they can be a blessing and seek the Lord's guidance and power. They need your help, not only with prayers, but with a sincere determination to be part of the total effort. All the honor and glory belongs to God, and God has promised that He will help us to perform mighty works if we work for Him.

If there would be a united prayer which could be uttered for all these weekend activities, along with all our other labors in the Church, it should be that God will accompany the speakers—that their messages would have power—that all their words would be so spoken as to strike at the hearts of all men, women, and children.

These meetings are serious. They are taken seriously by the Quorum of Seventy. They are taken seriously by district officers. And they are taken seriously by the branches, missions, and members. The underlying thought is that this is a major outreach activity, not just a weekend activity. It is viewed as a profound effort to move people's hearts to come into the Gospel.

Please pray that, as we all do our best to help in this joint venture, God will add the increase.

#### BRANCH 3 continued . . .

Bro. Gorie Ciaravino then addressed the congregation, noting the period of indecision and frustration that Branch 3 experienced prior to finding a building. He likened the incident to that of a pillar reduced to a post. Our indecision concerned that of whether to dissolve and assimilate into surrounding branches or strengthen and remain united. In the end, God saw us through our predicament and through His blesings, Branch 3 stood united as a branch and grew stronger in Spirit. Bro. Gorie complimented Branch 3 on this achievement and wished us continued blessings of God's Spirit. He further approved of our determination and fortitude in staying together, stating that this was a step in the right direction towards sanctifying and dedicating ourselves to God.

Bro. Antonio Molisani, a pillar in the Church who is nearly 104 years old and who was for many years a member of Branch 3, was asked to give his testimony. He remains one of the last of the old-timers who are still with us. The consistent spirit of dedication that characterized our older brothers and sisters will long be remembered, as well as the examples they set for us.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola of Tampa, FL presented us with a duet. Afterward, Bro. Peter Scolaro spoke to us concerning the message Bro. Dominic brought forth. He reinforced in us the notion that a dedication in this day and age is not an event like it was in olden days. What goes on beyond this date is what bears significance. We must follow the scriptures from cover

to cover in striving to dedicate ourselves, even more so, our souls, to God. The building alone does not do it for us. But putting forth our best effort to uplift the saints is one way to start. We can be that source of strength or that base from which others may find encouragement. Our goal should be to become a beacon to others lost along the way.

Bro. Paul Whitton followed with some closing remarks on the responsibility we should all feel as we leave this meeting. We now must have a greater dedication within ourselves to the service of God. We must desire to attain the level of spirituality that is needed to sanctify our souls. Furthermore, we must carry the Spirit of Peace always! Our meeting closed with the hymn *Our Church* and a prayer was offered by Bro. Louis Vitto.

Many felt the presence of God in our midst this day. We give Him all honor and glory for blessing us so richly and for the presence of the many visitors who traveled great distances to be with us. Our branch would like to extend an invitation to all who are in our vicinity to please stop by and share our joy in serving God. Blessings to all!

### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### ROSEMEIER-HINES

Scott Eric Rosemeier and Margaret Ann Hines were united in holy matrimony on June 11, 1988 in the McKees Rocks, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Bill Colangelo officiated at the service, with the assistance of Bro. Paul Ciotti. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Nina DiCenzo.

The couple is residing in Pittsburgh, PA. May God richly bless Scott and Margaret as they begin their lives together.

### **New Arrivals**

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

Kelly Marie to Danny and Marian McCallum of Muncey, Ontario.

### Children Blessed

Bro. Paul Ciotti blessed his grandniece, Rachel Renee Zeh at the McKees Rocks Branch of the Church on August 7, 1988.

Anthony James Salvio, son of Jim and Heidi Salvio, was blessed by Bro. Paul Gehly in the Greensburg, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on November 20, 1988.

On New Year's Day, 1989, Lauren Christine Bell, daughter of David and Cynthia Bell, was blessed at the Greensburg Branch by Bro. Fred Olexa.

Both Anthony and Lauren are great-grandchildren of Sis. Rose Nalevanko. She thanked God for allowing her the privilege of witnessing these beautiful blessings.

Bethany Cara Naro, daughter of Bro. Mark and Sis. Carey Naro, was blessed in Lorain, Ohio on February 12, 1989 by Bro. Joseph Calabrese. Her great-grandmother, Filomena DeLuca, and grandfather, Anthony DiAntonio, were visiting from Aliquippa, PA to witness this special occasion.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### SAMUEL SAMARO

Bro. Samuel Samaro, Sr. of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed from this life on December 3, 1988. He was born on May 30, 1912 and was baptized in 1929.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Frank Mazzeo and Wilbert McNiel.

Left to mourn is Bro. Sam's wife, Helen; two sons, Samuel Jr. and Louis; seven grandchildren; seven greatgrandchildren; two sisters, Sisters Mary Pastore and Josephine Ciccati; and one brother, Carmen.

Brother Sam will be missed not only by his natural family, but also by his brothers and sisters of the Church, and the many friends who knew him. May God comfort his family.

#### NANCY MORONE

On December 28, 1988 the Lord called Sister Nancy Morone home to eternal rest. She was born in Messina, Italy on September 25, 1896, and came to this country when she was eleven years old. Baptized on October 17, 1926, she proved to be a most faithful and stalwart member—seldom missing a church service until illness befell her in her latter days. For the past 23 years Sister Marone had been a member of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

Doubly handicapped for many years with loss of hearing and sight, she still derived much comfort and joy from attending church. She will be sorely missed as the seat she occupied regularly now stands empty. She was a dearly beloved sister.

	Address Change
Name _ Address	
Phone _	

Funeral services were conducted by her grandson, Brother Barry Mazzeo, and Bro. Richard Christman. Musical selections were offered by Sis. Patricia Christman and Ronald Mazzeo, another grandson, with Sis. Grace King as organist.

To mourn her loss, Sis. Morone leaves two daughters, Loretta Mazzeo and Mary Lombardo, and one son, Daniel; 14 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, and one greatgreat-grandchild. Her husband, Brother Anthony, and three other children preceded her in death.

#### BILL CRALL

Brother Bill Crall of Anadarko, Oklahoma passed away February 1, 1989. He had been a member of the Church for over 50 years. His mother, Elizabeth Crall, was a very active member of the Monongahela, PA Branch of the Church, and his grandfather, Sam Sanders, was an apostle in the Church in the early 1900's. Brother Bill was himself recently ordained a teacher.

Brother Alex Robinson of St. Johns, Kansas conducted the service with the assistance of Brothers David Robinson of St. Johns and Richard T. Christman of Phoenix, Arizona.

Our brother is survived by his companion, Sister Evelyn; four sons, and two daughters. He will also be missed by the many Native Americans he had befriended over the years in the area surrounding Anadarko.

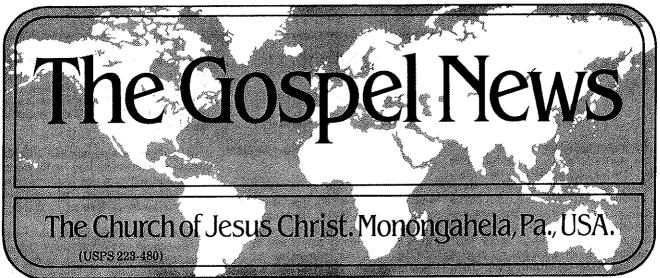
"...[U]nto him will I give power to bring forth my word unto the seed of thy loins ... to the convincing them of my word, which shall have already gone forth among them" (II Nephi 3:11). Brother Bill was a great believer in bringing the Gospel to the American Indian, leaving the convincing to the Choice Seer. In his own humble way, without asking the Church to provide him with a vehicle, a home, or a meeting place, he succeeded in planting the knowledge of the Restoration in the hearts of many of Joseph's Seed. May the Lord bless those who feel his loss most deeply.

#### ANNA BADALUCCO

Sis. Anna Badalucco passed on to her eternal reward on December 14, 1988 after a long illness. She was born in Italy on November 16, 1902 and was baptized and confirmed into The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico on September 14, 1930.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Querino Bologna and Dominic Thomas. Left to mourn is Sis. Anna's daughter, Jennie Mannino, three granddaughters, and five great grandchildren.

Sis. Anna and her late husband, Bro. Bart, were faithful members of Detroit Branch 2 for many years. Even though they lived far from the church, they still managed to be very involved both spiritually and naturally. In recent years Sis. Anna was ill and could not get out, but she still retained her faith in the Lord and her love for The Church of Jesus Christ. Sis. Anna will be greatly missed by all her knew and loved her.



April, 1989

Volume 45, No. 4

# Ordination and Blessings in Tse Bonito, NM

By Kim Alaburda

Members and visitors of the Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch gathered for a spiritually profitable weekend on November 19 and 20, 1988. Brothers and sisters from Santa Ana and San Diego, CA; Monongahela, PA; Orem, UT; Phoenix and Lakeside, AZ; Miami, FL; Guatemala; and three little children from Columbia, South America all came with the expectation of blessings and more blessings. No one was disappointed.

On Saturday we participated in a "shower" for Bonnie and Alan Metzler's newly-adopted children: Marilou (Age 7), Sergio (6), and Anna (4). Naturally, we overwhelmed their children with a mountain of gifts, preceded by a feast of celebration. Although a language barrier existed between most of us and the Columbian children, God managed to provide several Spanish-speaking guests for the weekend, who—along with Bonnie and Alan—helped to translate everyone's sentiments as well as explain the weekend's events to the three wide-eyed youngsters.

That evening, we were to have had evangelistic services; however, the cold, snowy, muddy night seemed to have prevented many from attending, except for our "church family." Following the Spirit, and the circumstances, a very love-filled night of testimonies surrounded the Metzler children. Those of us who had fasted and prayed with Bon-

nie and Alan for the last decade, that the Lord would bless them with children, were already aware of just how much of a miracle Marilou, Sergio, and Anna were.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. related Bonnie's desires to move from Pennsylvania years ago, and how she felt God's direction to work with children on the Navajo Reservation. He expressed his many years of prayer and concern as his daughter and her husband attempted unsuccessfully to begin a family. Even their efforts to adopt children were fruitless. But you could just feel the unspeakable joy that was present in his voice as he spoke of his new grandchildren.

Sister Charolene Metzler gave a humble and sincere testimony of her son, Alan. After losing two children, she told the Lord when Alan was still very young that she would not be able to risk loving him. If Alan were also taken away from her, she wouldn't be able to bear the pain of losing a child again.

She told God that He would have to raise Alan, protect him, and love him: that she would only be responsible for his physical needs. Alan became a blessing to her after that—having a sincere love for the Gospel and its mission. As Charolene viewed Alan now, being so caring and fatherly with his three children, she admitted how much she really did love Alan. Currently, as Grandma to dozens of Navajo children for the past ten years as a day care pro-

vider, Charolene very naturally took on the new role of grandmother, and the expression on her face throughout the weekend told it all.

Alan and Bonnie expressed the long ordeal that paid off more than even they expected. Bonnie, exhausted and yet beaming, tearfully thanked God for the numerous miracles that finally brought her children to her. Years of medical tests, operations, and false hope from doctors in her efforts to bear children were in vain. It was obvious to this writer that God had a far greater purpose, a miracle to bestow on Bonnie and Alan.

Alan described how, after being interviewed and placed on adoption waiting lists for almost five years, an international adoption agency telephoned with an offer to adopt three siblings from Columbia. At the thought of taking in three Spanish-speaking children, the Metzlers realized that God was indeed in the plan.

After much paperwork, more than eight months after the first notice, Alan finally received pictures of all the children on—would you believe?—Father's Day. Alan felt a conviction that God was in the matter, and that He had chosen these children to be theirs. In October, Bonnie and Alan purchased round-trip tickets to Columbia, with their return date set for two weeks later.

Columbian officials strongly advised them not to schedule a departure date, because of the many uncertainties. Once in Columbia, they were taken on a con-

(Continued on Page 3)

## Tree Planting at World Conference Center

On Saturday October 22, 1988 at 8:00 a.m., approximately 14 brothers from the Pennsylvania District met on a dismal rainy morning to plant a variety of shade trees around the World Conference Center. Their willingness and dedication was put to the test, and before the call for lunch, these hardworking men accomplished the task of planting these beautiful trees. Truly they demonstrated the hope we all share, that in future gatherings of the people of God, we shall each enjoy the pleasure of sitting under our own shade trees.

A delightful lunch was served by our Sister Rose Nalevanko. May the Lord bless the efforts of all of our people in their labors for the Lord.

The Apostle Paul said, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. . . . Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building" (I Corinthians 3:6, 8, & 9).

Brother Joe Draskovich Greensburg Branch

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank each one of you for your prayers and your expressions of love and concern during the hospitalization of Brother John and myself, which ended in his death following our auto accident.

His passing was a great shock to me after 49 years of being together, but I know the Lord was with me during this tragedy.

My greatest hope is now, through the strength of my Lord, that I may prove faithful to meet my loved ones over there.

God bless you, Sister Anne Ahlborn Monongahela, PA Branch

## **CAMPOUT!**

It's time for the young men!!!

It's time for young women!!!

The frontlines are crying for more help!!!

Anyone reporting to the frontlines, whether young or old, men or women, must first report to training camp. Training camp begins on August 13, 1989 and is being sponsored by the GMBA. Anyone reporting to the frontlines must first "bulk up" on their scriptural knowledge, "tone up" their spiritual gifts, and "work out" their dormant testimonies. Long before anyone reports to the frontlines, where help is certainly needed, training camp is a must . . . so start planning to attend!!!

Men and women of all ages, you have the tools already—come to training camp and learn to utilize them. And then, dear brothers and sisters, get ready to report for your tour of duty . . . next stop, the frontlines!!!!

## **Beauty**

Beauty is the inherent quality of an object to be pleasing to the eye. Beauty is a term commonly used with regard to the appearance of a woman, and certainly is in the eye of the beholder. The fair countenance of a woman has a narcotic effect that is able to snare the heart of the mightiest of men.

The beauty of Sarai caused Abram to lie to Pharaoh; he felt threatened because he was husband to such a beautiful woman. Pharaoh's efforts to obtain the fair Sarai, believing she was only Abram's sister, led to the Lord plaguing Pharaoh's house. Pharaoh realized the plagues came because of Sarai being Abram's wife. He returned Sarai to Abram and sent them away (Genesis 12:14-20).

Likewise Isaac lied to the men of Gerar (for the same reason as his father), telling them that the beautiful Rebekah was his sister. When Abimilech, king of the Philistines, saw Isaac sporting with Rebekah, he perceived that she was Isaac's wife and warned his men not to touch her (Genesis 26:6-13).

Samson, ordained of God before his birth to be a Nazarite and to judge Israel, was snared by the beauty of Delilah. His great strength was lost to her wiles when he revealed his secret to her (Judges 16).

King David was so blinded with the beauty of Bathsheba that he took her, committed adultery, and then—to cover his adultery—he had her husband Uriah killed in battle (II Samuel 11 & 12).

Amnon, son of King David, was vexed by the beauty of his half sister Tamar. This vexation led to Amnon raping her, then despising her. In vengeance Absalom, David's son and Tamar's full brother, had Amnon murdered (II Samuel 13:1-30).

Through the beauty of Esther and Mordecai's counsel to her, the Jews in exile under the reign of Ahasuerus escaped the genocide that had been plotted by Haman.

The daughter of Jared used her beauty to persuade Akish to murder Jared's father, that Jared might obtain his father's kingdom (Ether 8).

These scriptural accounts are examples of how the beauty of a woman has served the purposes of both good and evil throughout the ages of time.

A proverb of Solomon gives us a further spiritual insight into the blessing (or curse) of beauty. Proverbs 11:22 states, "As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion." The key to this verse is the need for discretion when confronted with decisions. Discretion is the quality of being prudent or circumspect with regard to good when making a judgment.

We live in a society where beauty alone is a quality able to be used to advance one's self. The standards and trends of today are always displayed by the beautiful; beauty appeals to our vain nature. Youth has become synonymous with beauty, and society would have us stop at nothing to maintain or regain these vain and very fragile mortal qualities.

To use natural beauty in pursuit of the vain glory and riches of this world, without regard to the principles of God, places one under the indictment of the aforementioned proverb. Regardless of

(Continued on Page 6)

#### TSE BONITO continued . . .

siderable journey to get to the little village where the children were being held in a group home, awaiting placement. A would-be parent sadly warned the Metzlers that the children might not want them as their parents; this unfortunate experience had just happened to her—her adopted children-to-be would not come near her, and refused to go with her.

Finally, at the children's village, Bonnie and Alan anxiously waited to meet them. Sergio immediately ran over to Alan, sat on his lap, and placed Alan's arms around himself. The girls ran to Bonnie, instantly accepting her as "mom." God had made an instant family.

As is customary in international adoptions, a Columbian social worker observed the new family, making sure it would be an appropriate placement. The social worker was so convinced of the love that existed in this new family that all the paperwork was completed two days before their scheduled departure. Just a week earlier, the entire city had been shut down because of a labor strike. The social worker was deeply touched by the Metzler's love for the children as she wished them well.

Bro. Bob Nicklow, Jr. decribed his feelings as he awaited his sister and her new family at the airport; he wondered especially how the children would react. As soon as they saw him, however, the children ran into his arms, and were practically attached to him the entire weekend, not hindered by the language barrier.

The Tse Bonito Branch was also instantly endeared to the kids. We all made fairly embarrassing attempts to speak Spanish to them. Sis. Vanessa Watson was caught sweetly whispering, "Te amo" (I love you) to Marilou. It was the only thing Vanessa could say, but it was enough.

Brother Frank Ciotti addressed the children in Spanish and let them know what was happening, as Marilou tightly held the hand of Sister Elaine Jordan, taking in every word. Brothers Frank Ciotti and John Mancini sang a verse of En la Viña del Señor (In the Vineyard of the Lord). It was a great way to end the evening.

Sunday morning we gathered once again for the double blessing of Brother

Larry Watson's ordination as an evangelist and the three Metzler children's blessing in the Church. Brother Tommy Smith, visiting from Guatemala, was truly blessed in his piano playing throughout the day. Brother Armando Barreiro from Miami, Florida connected instantly with the Metzler children, speaking to them throughout the morning to let them know what was happening.

Brother Frank Ciotti explained to the children, in Spanish, about the special blessing that Jesus was about to give them. As he knelt next to Anna, he took her hand and asked God to give His Spirit to this ceremony of blessing. The children were truly enveloped in the Spirit as they sat calmly, tears flowing freely. Bro. Bob Nicklow, Sr. then asked God's blessing upon Marilou. Bro. Bob Nicklow, Jr. knelt down next to Sergio, who kept hugging him and smiling, and pronounced a blessing upon him. And Bro. Dwayne Jordan asked God's blessing to be given to Anna.

Brother Paul Liberto of San Diego, CA continued the meeting with his message concerning the mantel of Elijah being passed on to Elisha. He related that this is what happened to Bonnie as she was given the mantle of motherhood during her children's blessing. He made reference to the different mantle that Brother Larry would be taking upon him this day, that of an evangelist. This is a mantle that we cannot take of our own free will; it has to fall upon us from heaven, even as it did in the case of Elisha. As we prepared for the ordination, Brother Larry and his father, Bro. Bob Watson, sang He Was There All the Time. The Tse Bonito choir then sang Ye Who Are Called to

Bro. Dwayne Jordan washed Bro. Larry's feet to set him apart for this responsibility, and Bro. Bob Watson ordained Larry into the office of an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Bob recounted to us how the Lord has worked with Larry, miraculously delivering him from a Soviet prison, knowing fully that He had a plan for Larry's life. Bro. Bob knew that God had preserved his son's life for a reason, and that God was going to use him in His work.

Larry has been in the Navajo community for over sixteen years, and has been adopted as well by a Navajo grandmother, Mrs. Roanhorse, who at 93 years old was able to attend the ordination with her daughter. Mrs. Roanhorse wasn't feeling well when she came to church, but when they were ready to leave, she mentioned to her daughter that the pain in her neck was gone.

We have seen the effect Larry has had on the Navajo people. We're excited about how God will use him as an evangelist, to carry His Gospel forward.

## The Ten Most Wanted Men

- 1. The man who puts God's business above any other business.
- 2. The man who brings his children to church rather than sends them.
- 3. The man who is willing to be a good example to every child he meets.
- 4. The man who thinks more of his Sunday School class than he does of his Sunday sleep.
- 5. The man who measures his giving by what he has left rather than by the amount he gives.
- 6. The man who goes to church for his own sake rather than for the sake of the preacher.
- 7. The man who has a passion to help rather than to be helped.
- 8. The man who has a willing mind rather than a brilliant mind.
- 9. The man who can see his own faults before he sees the faults of others.
- 10. The man who is more concerned about winning souls for Christ than he is about winning worldly honor.

## Address Change

Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Natoli of the Rochester, NY Mission have moved to the following new address:

> Frank J. and Kathy Natoli 5 Thomas Circle Fairport, NY 14450

> > Tel. (716) 425-1805



## Thank You for Your Help

By Paul Benyola, President, Quorum of Seventy Evangelists

Over the past three years, we have asked you to support our efforts with your natural and spiritual talents, as well as through prayer and financial assistance. We thank you for your positive response to our request for help. Without you, we would not have been able to implement the spiritual programs that are necessary to tell others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### COMBINED EFFORT

The combined effort of the members, ministry, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ has resulted in a spiritual partnership that has enabled us to reach a potential audience of millions of persons with the message of Jesus Christ.

#### IMPOSSIBLE TASK

We spoke of programs that could be implemented to reach thousands of persons with our message. It seemed impossible to do this with our spiritual and natural resources, but it is possible.

#### WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!!

If we have the desire and exercise our talents, God will provide a way for us to accomplish His plan. Having a complete faith in God's great plan of salvation and the role our Church will play in establishing Zion in this last dispensation of time is the cornerstone of spiritual success. Peter was able to walk on water for a few steps until he realized what he was doing and became afraid of the waves. Jesus reached out and saved him after Peter's faith wavered.

#### **Spiritual Accomplishments**

INDEPENDENCE, MO EFFORT

- Several songfests and meetings were held with members of various Restoration groups.
- A mission home was remodeled with much of the labor performed by our members. Volunteers staffed the mission home for periods of one week to three months. Evangelist Chuck and Sister Ilene Smith have purchased a home and relocated to the Independence area in Oak Grove, MO.
- Dialogue has been established with Restoration groups. These are at this point preliminary discussions. We plan, with God's help, to have a joint meeting by the end of 1989.

The combined effort of the apostles, evangelists, elders, members, and friends of the Church has allowed us to reach several thousand persons in the Independence area with the message of Jesus Christ and our beliefs.

#### DISTRICT VISITING EVANGELISTS PROGRAM

- Church districts have sponsored a program to introduce the Gospel to our friends and neighbors through song, speaking, newspaper, radio, and door-to-door visits in 1987 and 1988.
   Many of the members were actively involved in this effort, and we were able to tell thousands of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- This program will continue; the Southwest District sponsored the first meeting for 1989 in February.

RADIO/TV BROADCASTS

Six radio broadcasts each week reach a potential listening audience of over 50 million persons in the United States, Mexico, South America, and the Caribbean Islands. Many volunteers devote several hours each week to make these programs a success. There are free radio spot announcements available to your branch. Contact the radio committee for information on this.

#### WORLDWIDE EVANGELISM PROGRAM

The world has been divided by the Quorum into seven geographical regions. We are in the process of securing demographic information that will assist the Church in identifying areas in which missionary work can be established. We have many of the ministry, members, and friends of the Church working on this effort. If you know of any persons who would be interested in hearing of the Gospel anywhere in the world, including North America, please contact us.

#### PARTICIPATING IN GOD'S PLAN

This is the radio program theme in the New York/New Jersey area.

The question posed is, "Do we want to be participants in God's plan or are we content to be the ones sitting on the sidelines, viewing God's work?"

As outlined above, the work and opportunities are great and the laborers are few. Much work is being accomplished by those on the Education, Finance, Mission Boards, Trustees, and other committees and officers at the branch, district, and General Church levels. Because of the shortage of laborers, some individuals serve on two or more committees.

#### THE GOSPEL IS ON THE MOVE

There is much to be accomplished. We need each other's continued support, talents, and participation. We thank you for your efforts and pray that God will bless us as we endeavor to expand these programs.

<sup>&</sup>quot;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. Amen" (Matthew 28:19 & 20).

## The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 36247 Harcourt Fraser, MI 48026

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 3406 Sunflower Rd. New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA
Joseph Graziosi
7304 Deland Avenue
Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN -- ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

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

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

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

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

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

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

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Many of us have been blessed in recent years to experience and enjoy a standard of living that would have astonished our forefathers. Even in our natural labors, we work in safer, more comfortable surroundings, often equipped with the latest and best of what is needed to do the job.

In today's world, it is not uncommon for employers to pay premium airfares, extravagant restaurant tabs, and exorbitant hotel bills so that their employees can be as comfortable as possible while traveling for the company. Such luxuries are easy for the flesh to get used to, seeking as it always does life's creature comforts.

We read in the New Testament that when Jesus sent His disciples out to preach the Gospel, He taught them to be austere in their natural preparation: "Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, nor scrip [currency] for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves" (Matthew 10:10). He wanted them to be unencumbered by the things of life as they went about His work. The scriptures are filled with examples of people who sacrificed—in some cases even suffered naturally—as they endeavored to bring the Gospel to the souls of men. In every case, they were ultimately blessed beyond measure for their selfless efforts.

Living as we do in a world of high finance, it is sometimes difficult for us, when doing work for the Church, to look at our labors as spiritual rather than temporal. In our natural jobs we are unaccustomed to cutting corners in order to save money, and seldom do we have to choose between settling for less or paying for things ourselves. It would seem that we could all do so much more for the Lord if everyone had large, comfortable facilities, state-of-the-art equipment, and new vehicles to drive around in. But The Church of Jesus Christ is much more than an earthly entity; we must not liken it in our minds to some kind of multinational corporation, equipped with limitless financial resources.

What the Church does have at its disposal, more important than finances, are the Spirit and Power of the Almighty God. The Bible and Book of Mormon tell us how God's servants succeeded not by relying on what money could buy, but rather by being equipped with God's Spirit and Power, through which they accomplished mighty wonders and saved thousands of souls. If we find ourselves lacking in this same Spirit and Power today, we have only our individual selves to blame; it is we who place the limits on their availability. While natural preparation is always expedient, it is this spiritual preparation that is imperative as we set out to preach the Gospel.

While we must be careful not to rely excessively upon material wealth to accomplish our spiritual goals, we must be continually aware of the numerous laborers in the vineyard who have made great sacrifices, who have indeed suffered, and who must of necessity depend upon the Church (that's you and me) literally for their daily bread. Blessed as we are in this day and age, it would be inexcusable to see them not adequately provided for. Instances also exist where the Gospel is hindered from moving forward only because funds are lacking for even the most elementary inroads to be made into new territory.

As much as it is the responsibility of those who are involved in the Lord's work to see that the Church's finances are used as prudently and efficiently as possible, it is also the duty of every one of us whom the Lord has blessed with an income to make even more of our resources available to Him than we already have, realizing that everything we have He gave to us, that we might magnify His name.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## A Great Battle by God's People

Dear Friends,

About five hundred years after Lehi had come to the Promised Land, the people of Nephi, who served God, set up a government where they were ruled by judges. In their old days, kings had ruled and bad things had sometimes happened because not all kings were good. When power belongs to one bad person, that person (the king) can change the laws and hurt the good people.

Now in the fifth year of the judges, an evil man named Amlici began to talk against the people of God and the judges. Amlici formed a political group with himself as the leader. He wanted to be the boss of the whole country; he wanted to be a king.

The governor of the land was Alma. Alma was also the head of the Church, a man who served God faithfully. Across the country, the people began dividing into two groups. Alma arranged an election according to the laws of the land so the people could decide whether to have a king or to be ruled by judges.

The friends and followers of the wicked Amlici lost! More people chose to keep their freedom and be ruled by judges. Immediately Amlici formed an army to attack the people of God. He called his followers Amlicites. They gathered swords and knives and spears, and all weapons of war.

But Alma quickly realized their danger and formed his people, the Nephites, into an army also. When the fighting started many men were killed from both sides, but Alma cried unto the Lord to strengthen the people of God, and God heard him. The Nephites began to beat back their enemies. The Amlicites turned and ran away.



Alma sent spies to watch them, and they returned with terrible news! A huge army of their ancient enemies, the Lamanites, was approaching their borders and marching towards their unprotected cities. The Amlicites had joined them, and now they greatly outnumbered God's followers.

The people began to cry out to God to save them, and the Lord heard their cries and strengthened them. The next day the Nephites began battling thousands of the Lamanites, who fell before them.

Finally, the Lamanite and Amlicite armies turned and fled into the wilderness. There, the wild jungle animals killed many and the buzzards in the sky feasted on the dead. Piles of bones were all that was left of the enemies of God's people.

This is the same God that we love and serve. When we become spiritually weak or too proud to serve God, sometimes we must suffer things (problems) that wake us up to return to God and rejoice in His love. Scriptures tell us that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. As He was there to hear the children of Nephi, He will be there to hear us. Our battles will be God's battles.

Alma 2

Sincerely, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

Find the words listed:

AMLICITES BATTLE
ALMA BIRD
PEOPLE OF

ELECT ENEMIES TO GOD FOLLOWERS SAVED JOY AIR WILD ANIMALS PRAY WEAPONS WAR

W	E	A	P	0	N	s	v	w
Α	N	S	L	A	M	I	N	A
w	I	L	D	v	Y	A	R	Р
E	E	L	Т	Т	A	В	Р	С
Α	M	L	I	С	I	Т	E	s
E	L	Е	С	Т	R	Y	0	J
D	V	M	В	I	R	D	P	R
0	M	S	A	v	E	D	L	A
G	S	E	I	M	E	N	E	w
S	R	E	W	0	L	L	0	F

#### BEAUTY continued . . .

the outward beauty, the disregard of that which is wholesome, pure, and good reveals the swine's nature.

In an overview of the current fashions for today's women, the attitude leans toward a "sexy," sensually attired woman, the slenderest of figures and a most provocative appearance. While this may turn a man's head, it may also stir up the lasciviousness with a man, as did the dance of Herodias' daughter.

The Apostle Paul stated "that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works" (I Timothy 2:9 & 10). A virtuous woman (Proverbs 31:10-31) is truly a treasure with an inner beauty that affords those around her true happiness, far outweighing the beauty of the appearance.

As we strive to serve God throughout our lives, whether we be short or tall, thin or stout, having gray hair, long hair, or no hair, a fair complexion or wrinkles, old or young, there is a radiant beauty not seen by mortal eyes, yet it shines with ever-increasing brilliance unto the recipients of our good works and unto God.

God bless you, Brother David Nolfi

## **Branch and Mission News**

## Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

## Two Golden Anniversaries and the Ordination of a Deacon

Sunday October 2, 1988 was an important day for Sister Ida Napolitano and Brother Jack Pontillo as they celebrated their golden jubilees. It was also a special occasion for Bro. Timothy Capone, who was ordained a deacon. Several visitors and friends from Santa Ana, CA, Branches 1, 4, Sterling Heights, the Harrison Mission, and elsewhere joined our service today.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio opened in prayer. Afterward, Sis. Frances Capone was asked to come forward to pin flowers on Sis. Ida and Bro. Jack in honor of their fifty years of service and dedication to God. Bro. Joe Furnari then presented a synopsis of Sis. Ida's life. She was born on February 22, 1914 in Detroit, MI to Bro. Joseph and Sis. Josephine Trupiano. Sis. Ida was baptized on September 11, 1938 in Detroit by Bro. Patsy DiBattista. Bro. Joseph Usai laid hands upon her the same day for the reception of the Holy Ghost. She was married to Bro. Jack Napolitano in September of 1941 and God blessed them with a daughter, Agatha.

Sis. Ida was called into the office of a deaconess on April 25, 1954. She served as presiding deaconess of Branch 3 for several years and has fulfilled her calling well. While participating in many church activities these fifty years, she has been an active member of the Ladies' Uplift Circle. Her testimony has always been that God has been good to her. She continues to praise Him for His healing power and comfort.

We give honor and thanks to God for being with our sister these fifty years. His strength has enabled Sis. Ida to remain steadfast unto her calling and her example of service will not be forgotten. Our prayer is that God's Spirit will stay with our sister the remainder of her days on earth.

Bro. Gary Coppa then gave a synopsis of Bro. Jack Pontillo's life. Bro. Jack was born on April 22, 1922 in Italy to

Frank and Sis. Serafina Pontillo. He was taken into the waters of baptism in Detroit by Bro. Patsy DiBattista on September 11, 1938. Bro. Joe Madonia laid hands upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Bro. Jack married Sis. Lena Ausilio on April 20, 1946. Bro. Concetto Alessandro officiated at this ceremony. Bro. Jack and Sis. Lena have three children, Sharon, Daniel, and Brian.

Bro. Jack was ordained a deacon of the Church on April 23, 1950, and was called into the ministry on April 17, 1955. He, too, has served his calling well. Even though he has recently suffered considerable pain and difficulty in walking, he has not flagged in his desire to fulfill his calling.

Bro. Jack committed his life to God fifty years ago and has remained fervent in that promise ever since. He has been a comfort to the sick with his prayers and words of encouragement. He has also worked diligently with the ministry of the Church.

We are thankful to God for the strength He has given Bro. Jack these fifty years in service to Him. His example of dedication and humility will long be remembered, as well as his oftquoted expression that "prayer is the key, but faith unlocks the door." Our prayer is that God's Spirit will remain



Both Sis. Ida Napolitano and Bro. Jack Pontillo of Branch 3 - Detroit have served 50 years in the Church.

with our dear brother for the rest of his days.

Sis. Ida and Bro. Jack briefly expressed their thankfulness to God for His love and guidance. Bro. Jack then related a dream he had confirming Bro. Tim's calling as a deacon.

Bro. Carl Frammolino joined with Bro. Louis Vitto in singing Sheltered in the Arms of God. Bro. Carl then related to us the great and unquestionable love that exists among the Seed of Joseph for the Gospel. This past year, the Santa Ana Branch has witnessed seventeen baptisms. Bro. Carl expressed his excitement over the fact that the Gospel is spreading. And we have the responsibility of standing up for the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

Bro. Carl indicated that the real purpose of Christ coming to earth was that the world, through Him, might be saved, not condemned! In Ephesians we read about the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Carl cited Ephesians 4:5, which states, "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism."

The evidence of Christ's miracles exists in our lives every day. Bro. Carl directed our attention to Paul, who stated that "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me." We must try to live our lives in the same manner and positive attitude that Paul exemplified. Bro. Carl pointed out the significance that the office of a deacon holds. Deacons may have the distinct chores of mowing the lawn, maintaining the building, and (in Michigan) shoveling snow, but even this natural side of their work is done for the saints to God's honor and glory.

Bro. Carl read from Acts 6:3-8, where seven men of honest report were chosen to fulfill the office of a deacon. Their names were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas. Stephen, who was a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, did great wonders and miracles among the people. The possibilities are limitless today in which a deacon may fulfill his calling. The sky is the limit in the power of God that can be magnified in him. Bro. Carl expounded on the goodness and energy that Stephen exuded. People were drawn to him because they felt the love of God. When a person has a loving heart, this love is sure to be felt by those around him. If we do our best in serv-

(Continued on Page 8)

#### BRANCH 3 continued . . .

ing God, He will help us with the answers and with the wisdom we need.

We read in Acts where Stephen sincerely pleads his case and ends up being stoned to death. He truly set the example of a man who gave his life for Christ. Bro. Carl alerted our Brother Tim to walk in Stephen's shoes. He also directed him to recognize the importance of this position, and realize whose footsteps he will be following in. All of us must respect this office, as well as other offices in the Church. Bro. Carl concluded by reminding us that the office of a deacon has a long heritage that dates back to the days of Christ, and that the importance of this heritage must not be forgotten.

The ordination of Bro. Tim commenced with his feet being washed by Bro. Lyle Criscuolo. The priesthood encircled our brother, and the Lord was petitioned in mighty prayer by Bro. Louis Vitto. Hands were then laid on our Brother Tim by his father, Bro. Peter H. Capone. Afterward, Sis. Judy Coppa presented us with the hymn He Changed My Life Completely.

Bro. Jerry Benyola from Branch 1 briefly related an experience pertaining to his calling as a deacon years ago, prompting us to ponder on how the Lord looks within the hearts of all those whom He calls to serve Him in a particular office.

ddress Change

Bro. Louis Vitto also spoke briefly to us, commenting on the work that was done in preparing this building. He admonished us to cast our eyes onto the fields white with harvest, and to the glory that awaits us if we continue to serve God and endure to the end.

Bro. Tim then expressed his heartfelt thankfulness to God. We then were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Dan Parravano. All honor and glory we give to God this day for calling another brother into service where help is greatly needed.

## Riverbank, CA

Submitted by Mark Randy

The Lord once said, "When I was hungry you fed me, when I was naked you clothed me. . . . Inasmuch as you have done this to one of these you have done it unto me."

Sister Barbara Parravano became involved, along with others of the Modesto Branch, in making several baskets of food and taking them to needy families. This was done at first at the end of every year, but the story below tells how it grew from there. Our sister has served not for any worldly honor, but rather to bring honor and glory to the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

(Reprinted from the Riverbank News)

Some say that charity begins at home. Others, like Riverbank resident Barbara Parravano, see a need in a community and set about filling it.

Every year at Christmastime, Barbara and her husband Louis Parravano would work with their church, preparing food baskets for the needy families in the area.

"We always felt bad that the only time something like this happened was during the holidays. We could never see a solution to the problem," said Parrayano.

Four years ago, they read in the paper about a program in Oakdale, designed to feed low-income residents. The program was the Oakdale Community Sharing Christian Center.

"I called Lois (director Lois Orr) and went down to look at the place. I was very impressed and got involved very quickly.

"When volunteering for the Oakdale project, I saw the same need for Riverbank, because many Riverbank residents were serviced by Oakdale, and many others could not come because the distance was prohibitive."

Two and a half months later, Parravano opened the Riverbank Christian Food Sharing Program (RCFS).

The RCFS serves between 50 and 60 families per week. In 1988, the organization provided food for 6,993 people at a cost of \$3 per person.

"So many people fall through the cracks—for whatever reason, they don't qualify for other assistance programs. Welfare does a great job, but they can only do so much," Parravano said.

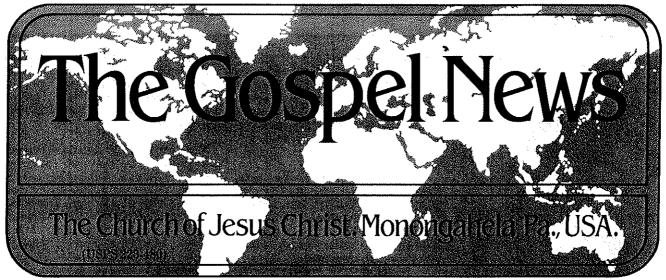
RCFS has 15 active volunteers and more that make up a waiting list. The center is open Fridays between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. . . . Families and individuals who qualify for assistance receive groceries for one week which includes fruits, vegetables, meats, breads, and dairy products.

"A majority of these people don't have jobs, for a variety of reasons. They may be too old, unskilled or mentally or physically handicapped. Others have jobs, but they're usually part-time, minimum-wage jobs that don't pay enough," said Parravano.

Food for the center is obtained through donations by individuals and farmers, canned food drives, and monetary contributions. In addition, RCFS receives yearly grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to offset the cost of running the program.

In addition to running RCFS, Parravano has her hand in other volunteer activities within the community. She has recently begun to teach reading on a one-to-one basis through the county's program to fight illiteracy, and in the future she hopes to help Spanish-speaking residents learn English.

"I get a great deal of satisfaction from helping others. I have a need to feel that my life is worthwhile . . . my involvement in this and other projects helps me to feel that."



May, 1989

Volume 45, No. 5

## Two Apostles Ordained at April Conference

Two evangelists in The Church of Jesus Christ, Brothers Paul Benyola of Levittown, Pennsylvania (Atlantic Coast District), and Joseph Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio were ordained into the Quorum of Twelve Apostles on Sunday, April 23, 1989. Their ordination into this holy office brings the number of living apostles in the Church back to twelve for the first time since December of 1985, when Apostle A. A. Corrado of Youngstown, Ohio passed away.

While Evangelist Paul Palmieri was ordained into the Quorum of Twelve in October of 1986, the passing of Apostle Frank Calabrese earlier in 1986, along with that of Apostle Rocco Biscotti in January of 1987 still left two vacancies in the Quorum for the Lord to fill.

General Church President Dominic Thomas stated on this day that he was happy to once again have the Quorum filled, that there is a certain spiritual significance to this event. First Counselor Nicholas Pietrangelo and the other apostles concurred, saying they couldn't describe the burden that was lifted from their shoulders once the Lord had made it known whom He was calling to fill the Quorum.

It is of the utmost importance with any ordained office in The Church of Jesus Christ, be it deacon, deaconess, teacher, elder, evangelist, or apostle, that the individual chosen to fill the office be called of God. During the course of this conference's Friday evening service on April 21, our brother apostles each expressed themselves concerning various experiences and revelations

they had had, in some cases several years ago, concerning the calling of Brothers Benyola and Calabrese. Our two new apostles had the opportunity to express themselves as well.

While the Quorum had been prayerfully considering a number of names over the months, the list was gradually shortened through the Lord's direction. Finally, when they gathered to speak with these two brothers at the beginning of this conference, the Power of God fell upon them so strongly that none of them could utter a word. With this manifestation given to confirm the calling of these two brothers, the apostles voted unanimously to recommend their names to the priesthood of the Church on Friday afternoon for ratification. Like the apostles, the priesthood in attendance were unanimous in their acceptance of these recommendations.

Before a large congregation of saints and visitors Sunday morning at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA, Bro. Paul Palmieri washed the feet of Bro. Joseph Calabrese. He was later anointed and ordained an apostle by Bro. Dominic Thomas. Bro. Paul Benyola's feet were washed by Bro. Russell Cadman, and Bro. V. James Lovalvo later ordained him. A sweet spirit of peace prevailed as the ordinations took place, and many tears flowed as we heard the inspired prayers of the brothers who took part in the ordinations. Truly the Spirit bore witness to each of us gathered there that God had truly called these brothers to take upon them the mantle of an apostle.

Let us remember our Brothers Benyola and Calabrese, along with Apostles Joseph Bittinger of Vanderbilt, PA; Russell Cadman of Fredonia, PA; Gorie Ciaravino of Detroit, MI Branch 4; Paul D'Amico of Lockport, NY (Ohio District); Joseph Lovalvo of Modesto, CA; V. James Lovalvo of Lindsay, CA; Paul Palmieri of Aliquippa, PA; Nicholas Pietrangelo of Detroit, MI Branch 1; Dominic Thomas of

(Continued on Page 6)

## Atlantic Coast Area Camp

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout will be held from Friday, May 26 through Monday, May 29, 1989 at Fairview Lake Camp in Netcong, New Jersey.

This year's theme will be "The Time Is Now." We're looking forward to spending a long weekend of spiritual blessings and fellowship.

Last year, many wonderful blessings were felt at our camp. We truly felt the presence of the Lord instructing and blessing us.

Come and join us for one, two, or all three days. We'll be looking for you. For more information regarding the camp, contact the camp director, Sis. Renee Benyola, at (201) 572-1115.

## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

#### HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

There is no real hurt that a mother cannot soothe,

No task so great that a mother's love will refuse.

No heart so shut that she won't eventually open,

No sin that a true mother cannot redeem.

#### THIS IS OUR MOTHER

Since I cannot name all of you mothers, I feel sure you won't mind my naming one who has long gone, but has left a heritage of fellowship to many brothers and sisters: Sadie B. Cadman.

This great mother, who raised four daughters, felt that women could play an important part in the Church, as they do in the home. Sister Cadman asked our Church leaders to permit all willing ladies to start an organized spiritual service, studying the holy scriptures together and promoting support for the missionary endeavors of the Church. Thus began what is now the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised by these noble mothers and sisters. No church can really be fully successful without spiritual mothers bound together, promoting the well-being of each other, of the Church, and of the world. What would it be like in the home without a mother? Likewise, what church is complete without mothers working together in support of the many needs of the family of God?

Many years ago I had the honor of presiding over the Muncey, Ontario Indian Mission. The General Ladies' Circle would send money from Monongahela monthly to pay for the traveling expenses. Besides a detailed report of my expenses, I would report on the spiritual progress of the mission: its blessings, baptisms, and divine experiences. Every branch of the Church developed a Ladies' Uplift Circle.

I was so proud of these mothers then, and still am. Happy Mother's Day to all of you. Indeed a good mother makes the difference in the home, in the Church, and in the world. This is your day, mothers. We salute you, our mothers and sisters everywhere.

## Sweeter As the Years Go By

By Mark Kovacic

Several years ago, an article was printed which noted the many years of membership and marriage enjoyed by Brother Nicholas and Sister Pauline Ritz.

Now, in 1989, it is sweeter. In July Brother and Sister Ritz will be celebrating their 63rd wedding anniversary! They were married at the July 4, 1926 General Church Conference in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Also, in the month of May, each is celebrating a spiritual birthday. Bro. Nick will have been a member of the Church for 68 years, and Sis. Pauline will have been a member for 66 years! How wonderful!!

May God continue to bless this "young in heart" couple in their service to Him and to the Church.

## 50 Years of Joy In the Lord's Service

By John DiBattista

February 19, 1989 Sister Nancy Ciotti celebrated her 50th Anniversary in the Lord's service. The Anaheim Branch presented her with a personal plaque and added her name to the others who have served the Lord for 50 years or more.

She has always been our prayer warrior. Her prayers have gone to heaven for all of us, and God has answered and given her many messages for us. When we have a need, big or small, we call her, knowing that she will take it to the Throne of Grace, and that God will answer her.

Her children in Pennsylvania honored her today with a beautiful gift. Her family in Phoenix, AZ, Sister Nancy and Brother Barry Mazzeo and their daughter Michelle; and from Santa Ana, Bro. Frank and Sis. Shari Ciotti along with their children Traci and Frank, came to Anaheim today and prepared a beautiful and delicious luncheon for all the saints who came to join Sister Nancy in celebrating her special day.

Sister Nancy was born in Sicily, Italy on March 12, 1911. After coming to this country she found a wonderful husband, Brother Joseph Ciotti, and they both found the Lord in February of 1939, worshipping for many years with the saints in Greensburg, PA. Sis. Nancy has six children, 17 grandchildren, and 18 great-grandchildren. Nearly all of them are serving the Lord together. Sis. Nancy was ordained a deaconess in 1960.

Our sister has been and still is an example to all of us. Not only as a prayer warrior, but also in her attendance and her testimony. When it's time for Sunday School, she's there. Worship service, she's there. Wednesday morning prayer service, she's there. Ladies' Uplift Circle, she's there. Saturday morning fasting and prayer service, she's there.

I pray that we may all follow an example such as this. Let us take up the challenge to be a "prayer warrior" and to "be there" for the Lord. After all, He's certainly always there for us.



Sister Nancy Ciotti

## Evangelistic Meetings in Tucson, AZ

By Connie Marinetti

The Tucson Branch was happy to host the evangelistic meetings on February 11 and 12, 1989. The Arizona evangelists were present, along with guest speakers Bro. Frank Ciotti and Bro. Paul Liberto of the Pacific Coast District.

Brother Frank Ciotti opened our evening service, reading from Hebrews 2:6-9, which tells how we were created a little lower than the angels and how we are to show gravity, sincerity, and good works. He stressed to us the great impact that Christ has on anyone when we allow Him into our lives. He spoke of Zaccheus, and what a great impact Jesus had on him.

Brother Paul Liberto followed and related how we have our own expectations of how God will work with us, but when He does the work, it's done His way and not ours. The ways of men fail, but when God's hand is in the matter, everything turns out well. Brother Ike Smith recalled his own conversion, remembering how empty he was until the Lord called him and he was baptized.

Refreshments were served, and

Brother Frank showed a videotape of the work in Guatemala, pointing out the various brothers and sisters there and relating a number of experiences that God has given them.

On Sunday February 12, there was a nice group gathered and Brother Paul Liberto opened the service after a solo by Brother Barry Mazzeo. Brother Paul spoke of the walls of Jericho. He noted how thick the walls were, and how protected and secure the people seemed. They saw the small group walking around, and thought they were insignificant and posed no threat to them. But those people were doing God's will, and on the seventh day, God caused the walls to fall.

Bro. Paul likened this incident to the world today, and how small and insignificant we, The Church of Jesus Christ, seem to the world. But if we follow God's will, His power will be with us. Bro. Paul gave several examples of how man must do as God directs before God will work through him.

Bro. Frank Ciotti followed, advising us to be more positive in our thinking. It seems that man usually brings up the negative, as did the ten Israelite spies reporting on the land of Canaan. With the help of God, we can accomplish our responsibilities and fulfill our callings. God will never fail, nor should His people ever be afraid.

Brother Ike Smith felt inspired to attend to the needs of the congregation. Many came forward; children, brothers, and sisters both young and old, and prayers were offered for strength, healing, etc. As the brothers prayed for them, special blessings were felt by all. Sister Doris Thompson of Lakeside, AZ asked to be reinstated into the Church. As Brother Herbert Hemmings prayed, we felt such happiness and joy for our dear sister.

Brother David Majoros, our presiding elder, spoke a few words of thanks to those who helped make this gathering possible, especially Brothers Frank Ciotti and Paul Liberto, who traveled from California to hold these meetings with us in the Tucson, Arizona Branch.

After Bro. Paul Francione closed our service in prayer, lunch was served and Bro. Frank showed slides of Guatemala. We appreciate the efforts and visits of all those who came from near and far. We especially enjoyed the message of salvation which is in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

## Plan for the 90's Presented at Conference

The Friday morning and afternoon sessions of the April Spiritual Conference were given over to the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, who presented the priesthood and ordained teachers gathered there with an overview of the programs that have been established in recent years to move the Gospel outward to the corners of the earth.

Each of these programs, the General Church Development Committee, the Visiting Evangelists Program, the Worldwide Evangelism Committee, and the Radio/TV Broadcast Committee have been explained to us in detail, one at a time, in *The Gospel News* and elsewhere. What we saw for the first time at this Conference, however, is how these four programs are designed to join together to form a cohesive, wellorganized plan to unite The Church of Jesus Christ and move it forward, equipped to do the work that God has given us to do.

While these programs have only been in place for a short time, the brothers involved in them shared with us in a seminar atmosphere a few of the many lessons they have learned in their labors for the Lord, as well as the plans they have for the future. Implicit in all their endeavors is the prayerful quest for the Lord's direction in spreading the Gospel.

The Church's involvement in the Independence, Missouri area, in many ways a "first", provided us with a much greater understanding of what is required in the way of preparation and presentation of the Gospel, as well as how to deal with groups of people of other faiths. Much of what we've already learned as a result of our work in Missouri can be applied to future missionary endeavors as they develop.

One of the primary goals of the evangelists' programs is to get

members involved at the district. branch, and individual levels in bringing the Gospel to others. One of the rhetorical questions posed at this conference was, "What will it take to make the Church successful in spreading the Gospel?" Among the many obvious answers is the pressing need to encourage and develop our members into becoming pillars, not just tomorrow's pillars—to replace those who've gone to their heavenly rewards-but today's pillars, to keep the branches and missions thriving as spiritual bases while more and more missionaries are called out into the field to labor.

Some of the interesting discoveries unearthed by the Worldwide Evangelism Committee in their research on other countries and religions provided us with a glimpse into what we must be prepared for when

(Continued on Page 6)



## Just How Many People Are There?

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

How many people do you think are in the world? Seriously, just how many people do you think are actually living at this time?

How many nations are there today? Now, where are they located and how long have they been in existence? Also, do you know what languages are spoken in these countries?

These questions are a few of the many which are being studied by the Quorum of Seventy Worldwide Evangelism Committee. The chairman, Evangelist Ike Smith, and the secretary, Evangelist Dwayne Jordan, are currently collecting the data from the subcommittee chairmen who have been conducting surveys of their areas. Evangelist members of each team have been researching many important matters as they pertain to the ultimate spreading of the Gospel to all nations.

As reported previously, the world has been divided into seven regions. There are many countries within each of these regions, and each nation has its own history, customs, traditions, and methods of worship. Getting to know all about these significant and necessary details allows for better understanding of the governments, peoples, and individual citizens in each sector. Also pertinent are where the nations are located geographically and the climatic conditions prevailing.

The United States has been further subdivided into ten areas. Within each section, the individual states and locales contain their own distinct characteristics, which must, of course, be analyzed.

APOSTLE PAUL GOOD EXAMPLE

Being aware of what is present makes it better to actually communicate and implement actions later. The Apostle Paul offers many good examples of how important it is to be knowledgeable about the people whom we visit to give the Gospel Message. Paul was aware of the customs, traditions, and history wherever he traveled, and thus was able to speak with some expertise on these matters. His discourses with leaders of nations, as recorded in the scriptures, are spiritually stirring and can be used as precedents to acquaint us with what is required in the performance of our task.

Understanding this need for preparation, the quorum members are seeking specific information. This includes finding out each country's main religion, as well as other established religions. Also, membership numbers in these religions are being accumulated. The predominant faith in most cases is most important, but the recent growth in numbers of other religions can be almost as significant. The development in each religion, and how it is being achieved, are also worthy of study. Furthermore, it is interesting to note the variations that exist between even different regions within the same nation.

In some countries, governments not only recognize official state religions, but also regulate, subsidize, and pay the expenses incurred. Their positions on these kinds of things may go back for many centuries as part of their constitutional composition.

#### MISSIONARY POSSIBILITIES

Perhaps the most meaningful issue is whether a country is open to new religions. The official position of the nation toward new missionaries then becomes a critical, if not the most critical, consideration.

A good indicator of the possibilities available is the basic policy that a country has toward extending visitation privileges. It is thus mandatory to know whether visas are required, or whether entry can be made with nothing more than a passport. Also, the length of time which one can spend in a country and the restrictions which are placed upon the visitor's activities are indeed of great concern.

Many other questions are involved beyond entry into the borders of a country, such as, can a church own property in its own name, and if so what stipulations apply?

Something to be weighed in this whole program is whether there are people in these nations who have inquired about the Gospel and about The Church of Jesus Christ. When there are actually interested people awaiting us or who have been directed to contact us, there is a greater liberty in the travel.

If anyone knows the name and address or phone number of any individual or group of people anywhere in the world who would want to know more about the Lord's Church, you may write to Brother Smith at P.O. Box 759, Pinetop, AZ 85935.

There are other fundamental matters to consider. Perhaps the main one is, who can speak the language of the country to be visited? Will it be necessary to actually learn the language, or can interpreters be used?

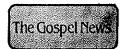
#### ALL THINGS POSSIBLE

Any analysis of the demographics and need for preparation will surely make us aware that there is a huge task ahead of us; but the labors of the Lord can be done. With His help, of course, all things are possible.

The overall mission is to go to all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, as Jesus Christ directed.

Prayers are so important in this matter, because there is a need even greater than Preparation; that need is Direction. The efforts will, of course, be suc-

(Continued on Page 6)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 36247 Harcourt Fraser, MI 48026

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Glannetti 3406 Sunflower Rd. New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN - ONTARIO
Anthony J. Scolaro
15843 Manning
Detroit, MI 48205

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

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

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

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

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

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

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Restored Gospel, which we accepted when we went down to the waters of baptism, provides The Church of Jesus Christ with three important things: A clear picture of God's mighty plan, the Commission to perform a key function in that plan, and the Authority to carry out the plan in its fullness. Along with these things we are privileged to partake of the gifts and blessings of God in full measure.

We also accepted a Gospel which entails spiritual growth and development of its followers. It is one in which the Lord of the harvest looks for fruit on His branches, one where our faith is shown by our works. Each one of us has the obligation—and the opportunity—to become everything that God wants us to be.

One of the themes that emerged from the April Spiritual Conference was the realization that the Church will be a source of qualified laborers for the Lord to send out to gather His harvest. No army of babes still feeding on the milk will go forth to conquer the enemy and win souls for Christ; the army of God must consist of strong soldiers, fully armed, in order to be victorious.

It is not our physical age, nor is it the number of years we have spent in the Church, that makes us strong spiritual soldiers. It is the amount of individual effort we have put forth, whether young or old, man or woman, that alone determines our spiritual prowess. The Lord seeks dedicated saints, brothers and sisters who can be counted on to be there when there's work to be done. He needs saints whose faith has grown to the point they can share some of the responsibility of feeding the flock, of carrying the Gospel to others, be it through prayer, through ministering spiritually or temporally, or through any other means of support.

Bible and Book of Mormon prophecies work together to tell of the Church's crucial role in bringing the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, of Joseph's key role in gathering Israel, and of the subsequent spreading of the Gospel to all nations. As recipients of the Restored Gospel, we must look within ourselves to see how fully we understand these truths, and make ourselves more available to the Lord so that we can play a part in this mighty work.

Certainly it is given to some to do more, and to others to do less. If we compare our own deeds and accomplishments to others', we will all surely fail. What is important is that we all put forth the same degree of effort; that is, our *best* effort. When the Lord sees that we are serious about serving Him, He will provide us with what we lack, and steer us toward a work, a great work, that we have been chosen to do for His honor and glory. And from those who are not serious, He will take what they have and give to others who *will* do His work.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## An Instrument in God's Hand

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever wanted to help someone but you didn't know how? Was there ever a time that you could see someone's feelings were hurt or someone needed something, but you weren't sure what to do about it?

The answer about what to do is prayer: two kinds of prayer. The first prayer is for God to help that person. The second prayer is for God to work through you—for God to use you to help.

Just the way a doctor picks up a tiny surgical instrument to sew up someone's cut or clean out a spot filled with nasty germs, God will use you. You will be God's instrument. God will use you to say kind words or honest words to patch up a fight. God will use you to clear up a problem spot in someone's

God will tell you what to say. God will put words in your mouth that heal and help. The more you allow God to use you, the easier it becomes. Good results give you faith and confidence to trust God more. God hears our prayers and He sees our struggles.

Serving God is like a reward system. When you obey God's commandments, you have blessings. When you love others, and share what you have, then God gives you more. God needs instruments to help others.

When Jacob was working for Laban, his selfish father-in-law, he wanted to quit. He wanted to take his share of the sheep for payment, and move away with his wives. So Laban picked out the skinniest goats and sheep-the few brown and speckled ones in the flock. He told Jacob, "You can have all the speckled and brown sheep, goats, and cattle."

Jacob prayed to God and asked God to bless him. He had served his fatherin-law for twenty years, and had his pay changed ten times. God had seen all the bad things Laban had done to Jacob, the servant of God (read Genesis 31:12).

God blessed Jacob's flocks. The brown and speckled sheep became the strongest ones. Jacob's herds became great, and he, his children, and all of his servants had riches. When Laban came to fight, God warned Him in a dream not to say anything to Jacob or harm

Laban also came to know that God had blessed him because of his servant Jacob. And today God blesses all of His followers and those around us.

Remember that Christ has picked you to be a light to the world and an instrument in God's hand to help others. Just admit to God you need His help and ask in the name of Jesus, and He will show you what to say and what to do.

> Sincerely. Sister Jan



#### APOSTLES ORDAINED continued...

Detroit, MI Branch 2; and Robert A. Watson of Tse Bonito, NM. Like any of us, they are men who rely upon the Lord's strength and mercy to carry out that which He has called them to do.

#### PLAN FOR THE 90's continued...

we set foot on a strange land for the first time. The most important preparation of all, of course, is the spiritual preparation of our hearts and minds. However we know from past experience that the more informed we are about a nation's government and religions when we go in, the more effective we will be in introducing the Gospel there.

As these programs become more fully implemented, the Quorum of Seventy plans to have each of its evangelists assigned to a specific aspect of the Work of the Lord, be it at home or abroad, to assure that the Gospel moves consistently forward on all fronts. It was exciting to see how the tremendous work of spreading the Gospel can indeed be divided into manageable portions and, with the help of Almighty God, successfully accomplished.

Toward the close of the Sunday service, Bro. Ike Smith bade farewell on behalf of the Quorum of Seventy to Brothers Paul Benyola and Joe Calabrese as they joined the Quorum of Twelve. Their ordination as apostles leaves the current number of ordained evangelists at 62, a number which Brother Ike said he prays the Lord will increase to 70. He requested our prayers on behalf of the evangelists, that the Lord would make known to them whom He would have fill these vacancies.

## Tapes Available

An extensive collection of recordings of conferences, campouts, singing, and preaching services are available on cassette tape through the Audio-Visual Committee. For a complete catalog, please write:

> Bro. Fred D'Antonio 101 Division St. Aliquippa, PA 15001

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

cessful, with God providing the guidance. All members and friends of the Church are requested to thus go before God in prayer to seek His leadership.

God knows how many people are actually in the world today, and where He wants us to go to meet those who are ready to hear and heed the words of salvation.

## **MBA Highlights**

#### By Tammy Morle

On the weekend of March 10-12, 1989, approximately 100 brothers, sisters, and friends from Michigan, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania met at the Echo Grove Salvation Army Camp in Leonard, Michigan for a season of fellowship with each other and God. Prior to the camp, an area-wide fast and prayer day was held to assure God's blessing upon the camp, and those prayers were answered.

As we began gathering Friday evening, it was nice to renew some old acquaintances and to make some new ones. Our camp director, Bro. Mario Zaccagnini, introduced us to the theme for the weekend: Becoming *More Missionary Minded*. He also introduced his assistant director and committee chairs during the orientation. Afterwards, refreshments and conversation were on the agenda as more brothers and sisters arrived on camp.

Saturday morning dawned bright and glorious as the sun gleamed over the lake, and some of the saints began the day with a peaceful prayer service. Among all of the prayers, one thought was emerging: that if there were any present who had affliction upon them, God would look upon them and heal their bodies. Over the course of the weekend, this became something that we would see manifested in many individuals.

Chapel service was opened by Brother Eugene Amormino of the Inner City Branch. He asked the question, "Where does a missionary spirit begin?" He paralleled that question to one Jesus asked, "Where is the kingdom of heaven?" Bro. Eugene answered that it is within us. We must take something from within ourselves before we can reach out and give to others. In Ether Chapter 12, our brother pointed out that ". . . if men come unto me (Jesus), I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble. . . . Behold, I will show unto the Gentiles their weaknesses, and I will show unto them that faith, hope, and charity bringeth unto me-the fountain of all righteousness." This inspiration helped set the tone not only for the chapel service, but for the rest of the weekend as well.

## Michigan-Ontario Area MBA Campout

Brother John Straccia, the seminar coordinator, followed to guide us to our various classes. There were eight classes, ranging in age from five months to 81 years. Observation of the different classes included watching an 18-monthold in the nursery gleefully chase after bubbles. She was determined to get involved with those bubbles and pop them! The 4-9-year-old age group made golden treasure boxes to lay up not earthly treasures, but spiritual ones, like being kind, obeying our parents, and loving one another. The children from 10-13 years old made pictures of sparkling gold pitchers, symbolizing that they are clay in the potter's hands, and that God, the Master Potter, can mold them into anything He wants.

With each age group, a pattern emerged of how God was working to mold us into workers for Him. In one adult class, the whole group became "close and intimate," relaxing and sharing their thoughts and feelings freely with one another. This served to illustrate how God's handiwork could be manifested differently in different groups, but still have the same, wonderful result.

Seminars gave way to a buffet lunch, followed by an afternoon of recreation. The recreation coordinator, Bro. Duane Lovalvo, designed approximately a dozen games that challenged both our physical and mental skills. The camp participants were divided into twelve groups—named after the twelve tribes of Israel—and the object of the game was to be the first tribe to reach the Promised Land in a group effort. This innovative technique was a very successful way of drawing all age groups together for some fun activities.

Our Saturday evening meeting began with community singing. It was wonderful to hear the echo of voices singing praises to God as we walked across the camp. We enjoyed hearing the two groups of young children sing and talk about what they had learned in seminars that day. To hear them sing out with all their strength was to hear an eager chorus of angels praising God. Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine then favored us with a beautiful selection written especially to emphasize the camp's theme of involvement.

Brother Peter Scolaro, a member of the General Church Mission Board, then updated us on the missionary work being performed throughout the Church. It was a blessing to hear of how the word of God is being spread in the many different parts of the world. He asked us to pray for those who are dedicating their lives to the spreading of the Gospel. It was an evening well spent in praise to the Lord, but the best was yet to come as we gathered the next morning for our Sunday service.

Brother John Straccia of the Sterling Heights Branch opened the meeting with the hymn A Higher Spiritual Mind, and used involvement, commitment, and devotion as his major themes. Brother John told us that we not only needed to be a hearer of the word, but a doer as well. If we are going to be involved in something, we should give it our all. He gave us the ultimate example of commitment and devotion, Jesus Christ, who laid down His life for all of us. Our brother also stated that we are all equal in our involvement, according to our ability. We all start with the same measure of faith, but what we do with that faith is up to us. He told us to "hunt" for the things of the Lord. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.'

It is all right to have dreams and goals in life, but we should not let them consume our energies away from our spiritual life. Bro. John exhorted us not to lose our excitement in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. By doing so, we will remain strong. We should re-evaluate our priorities to make sure we are keeping God first. Most importantly, we should always be willing to stand up for The Church of Jesus Christ—to be immovable in God.

Brother Tom Everett, our Area MBA Chaplain, followed Bro. Straccia, relating how the Lord has been moving in the lives of those he works with. Many of his co-workers, knowing he is a minister, have come to him asking for prayer. Bro. Tom explained how many of them who had been quite ill were healed of their afflictions after the saints had prayed for them, and how this has left a strong impression on

(Continued on Page 11)

## **Branch and Mission News**

## Quincy, FL

By Meredieth Martin

#### HEAVEN WENT INTO ACTION

Sunday January 29, 1989, Heaven went into action as saints and angels all agreed at the marvelous work of the Father.

"No man can come unto me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him."

Tom Bright has sat under the sound of the Restored Gospel since June of 1988. In possession of a very quiet spirit, he came, he watched, he listened. One could readily see him being drawn closer and closer, picking up wisdom and desire, and seeking understanding.

How beautiful to see the humble followers of the lamb making their way to the water's edge. A repentant soul now ready to take upon himself the name of Jesus. Only words of inspiration from the throne of glory can capture and describe the lowly, solemn display of God's glory as we watched Tom Bright being laid in the liquid grave by Brother Charleston Hester and—in a moment—lifted up into a new life.

This is joy as the heavens open and the joy within its glorified walls descends to earth. Amid the vast work of Satan in the world, the marvelous work of God, His Kingdom, is still being built.

Our new brother was confirmed by Brother Cleveland Baldwin. Another soul. We rejoice.

## Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

#### DEACONESS ORDAINED

The day of February 5, 1989 was beautiful and clear for the great day of Sister Anne Radd's ordination as a deaconess. We were overjoyed with the many visitors we received from throughout the Florida District to

witness this precious event. In addition to our visitors from Florida, we were thankful to have Brother Bucky and Sister Norma Kendall with us from Roscoe, PA.

Brother Bucky had the opportunity to speak to us with a wonderful message from the Lord, exhorting us on I Corinthians 10:11. He cautioned us as sheep of the flock to get on our watch towers and have on the whole armor of God.

Brother Ken Staley followed with Romans 12, encouraging us to present our bodies as living sacrifices, that we might be found holy and acceptable to God, which is our reasonable service.

The ordination of our sister followed. Her feet were washed by Sis. Peggy Benyola and a prayer was offered by Bro. August D'Orazio. Brother Mike Radd then pronounced the ordination upon our sister Anne.

Sis. Peggy related during our testimony meeting how nervous she is in front of large groups, but as she washed Sis. Anne's feet and prayed for her today, she felt only love and peace.

Brother Dennis Moraco closed the meeting by reaffirming our Brother Bucky's words earlier in the day, with the thought that "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world."

## Aliquippa, PA

By Karen L. Progar

On February 5, 1989, the Sunday services at the Aliquippa Branch were fittingly opened with the singing of *Good Morning, God!* We were pleased to have visiting with us Bro. Frank and Sis. Ina Giovannone, Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Vinsick, and Sis. Evelyn Willforth, all from various branches in Ohio.

We enjoyed many experiences shared with us by Bro. Frank. He told us that confession gives a person relief, while repentance gives one release. Bro. Frank used Alma 34:32 & 33, stressing that we must not procrastinate the day of our repentance, and that we must perform our labors in this life.

Bro. Paul was afforded the opportunity to share his testimony. We are grateful for our visitors' contribution to our service. A wonderful day was enjoyed.

Sunday, February 19, 1989 began with our visitors, Bro. Carl Frammolino, currently residing in Butler, PA and Sis. Nancy Botwright of the Imperial Branch singing a beautiful hymn, I Need Thee Every Hour.

Bro. Carl opened our service using Romans 1:16 as his text. Admonishing us not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, Bro. Carl stated how important it is to serve God to the best of our ability. He said that we must have goals in the Gospel, and that each day is an opportunity, and that we must be ready to be used, no matter what the chore, or where we might be sent.

Our afternoon service was opened by the Giannetti Brothers singing We Are Not Ashamed. Bro. Paul Palmieri followed by reminding us that God's greatest show of power was when He changed our thinking. He advised us to be happy in the service of God. We thank God for the blessings which He bestows upon us.

Easter morning of 1989 was bright and glorious, both out of doors and inside the Aliquippa Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The saints began their day hearing good news regarding the progress of our Sister Josephine Ross, who had been critically ill. Bro. Tom Ross updated the membership on Sis. Josephine's condition, and thanked the saints for their prayers. Even Sis. Josephine's doctor acknowledged that a healing had taken place with regard to her very serious condition.

Bro. Ken Staley of the Tampa, Florida Branch opened the meeting, sharing the experiences of several people in the Bible regarding the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. He likened Judas to a person who is a Christian by convenience, when it suits his purposes. Peter said that he was able to suffer for the Gospel of Christ, yet even he denied that he knew the Lord. Pilate chose not to take a stand in regard to his feelings about Christ. Lastly, Bro. Ken recounted the experience of the centurion, who acknowledged Christ to be the Son of God after seeing the torture of His death. He asked us to consider how committed we are to this Christ and His

Gospel, and to be cautious of our actions and reactions to the situations which we encounter while serving God. Bro. Ken told us to remember that Christ died and resurrected that all men might have the opportunity to be redeemed, and it is our responsibility to tell others of his limitless love.

Sis. Carol Jumper sang Behold the Empty Tomb. We enjoyed a beautiful communion service and closed appropriately with There Was No Other Way.

## Detroit Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On February 19, 1989 we at Branch 1 heard a very inspiring testimony in beautiful, flawless Italian that ended with the words, "I would like to be baptized."

The niece of our Sister Margherita LaSala, Celeste Lombardi of Buenos Aires, Argentina, said in her testimony that she had visited The Church of Jesus Christ on a visit here nine years ago, and had long felt that this was the true Church. When she returned home to Argentina, she realized that she wanted to be baptized. For the last nine years she had been saving every penny she could, working ten hours a day, seven days a week, earning only \$200 a month. It had taken her every bit of those nine years to save the \$1500 plane fare to North America.

What determination we felt in Celeste's words! It made me wonder how many of us would have done all that to be baptized. I know for myself that the longer I stayed away, the easier it became to put off and forget. But the constant exposure to the saints and the word converted my spirit. Yet this young woman hungered for nine years to be saved.

There were several experiences given immediately after she requested baptism, confirming that this calling was from the Lord. A sister told of a vision of angels in our midst, and a brother arose and told how the Sunday before, he saw the Lord Jesus Christ standing beside Celeste in church saying, "This is My daughter." Another sister mentioned to her husband on the way to church this morning, "We're going to have a baptism today, I just know it."

Two of our brother elders who knew Italian, with the help of one of our sister deaconesses and another Italian-speaking sister, then conversed privately with Celeste regarding her desire to join the Church while we sang a few hymns. Our brothers returned to the rostrum a few minutes later with tears in their eyes, both attesting to the genuine spirit of repentance and the remarkable understanding of the Gospel displayed by our new sister.

Once the decision was made to baptize her, our deacons and a couple of other hard-working brothers headed out to our site on Lake St. Clair armed with steel picks and a chain saw to cut through the ice, which turned out to be nearly a foot thick that day. By the time the rest of the saints arrived about a half hour later, a "watery grave" had been cut into the ice about fifty feet offshore.

Having seen neither a baptism nor a frozen lake before, this was truly a first-time experience for our new Sister Celeste. She went down into the icy water and was baptized by her cousin, Bro. Mike LaSala, and later that day was confirmed by Bro. Peter Scolaro. We all contributed this day in different ways, both natural and spiritual, and felt blessed to see our new sister join the army of the Lord.

In the weeks that followed, we continued to enjoy the fellowship of our Sister Celeste, who also had the privilege of visiting around the Michigan-Ontario District during her stay. Although her native language is Spanish, she is fluent in both Italian and French, and she conversed with us mostly in Italian while in Detroit.

On the day that our sister was scheduled to return home, March 19, 1989, we at Branch 1 observed the ordinance of feet washing. It was with mixed feelings that we spent the day in God's house, filled to overflowing with the peace and love that always accompanies our feet washing service, but also feeling the sorrow of seeing our dear Sister Celeste depart from our midst.

At lunchtime we served a cake upon which had been written, in Italian, of course, "The Lord Bless and Guide You." In the course of our afternoon service, those who could remember them sang a few hymns out of the old Italian hymnal. It brought back memories for many of us of a time not too long ago when half of our congregation were native Italians.

After feet washing, our Sister Celeste expressed herself once again, bidding us all a fond farewell. The brothers of the ministry felt to lay hands on her once again, for the added strength she would need in facing the world alone, without the fellowship of the saints that we who have it sometimes take for granted. As they gathered around her to pray, Bro. Nick Pietrangelo related that when she has asked for her baptism, the Lord had told him of Sis. Celeste, "I will make her a rock." We ask that you would pray with us for our dear sister in Argentina. While we have no church there at the present time, at least the seed has been planted.

## Tucson, AZ

By Connie Ross

Greetings to each of you from Tucson, Arizona. It is our prayer that the love, peace, and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, your family, and your friends.

Oh, how happy our hearts are when we have the opportunity to listen, speak, and learn more about God and His precious Son! Wednesday, March 15, 1989 was one of those occasions for us. Brother Rusty and Sister Barbara Heaps met with us and we enjoyed a period of refreshing as we studied God's Word together.

Brother Rusty taught from Luke 21:1 & 2, commenting how soon after Jesus' departure from the disciples they went back to fishing and did not even recognize Jesus as He appeared to them at the seashore. The scripture tells us they were concerned with their fishing and, because they were not centered on Christ, they failed to recognize Him. But as soon as He spoke to them and told them to "cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find," resulting in their catching a multitude of fish, John recognized the Lord and they went ashore.

How loving Jesus was to those disciples, and is to His children today. He had fish and bread upon the fire, and invited them to "come and dine," just as He continues to invite us today to "come and dine."

Brother Rusty admonished us to keep Jesus in the center of our lives, so we

(Continued on Page 10)

#### TUCSON continued . . .

will recognize Him when He appears in our lives. What a joy it is to center on our loving Lord, for He is so good.

We thank and praise God for who He is, for His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, for the visit of Brother Rusty and Sister Barbara Heaps and our joy in sharing Christ. God bless each of you.

## New Brunswick, NJ

The brothers and sisters of the New Brunswick Branch were greatly blessed recently when Brother Joe and Sister Sandy Coppa committed themselves to the Lord. It is always a blessing to witness one soul surrendering to the Lord, and we were fortunate enough to witness both Joe and Sandy make their wishes known on the same day.

Recently, Joe and Sandy took their second biggest step in life. They were married in July of this past year.

We are all thankful for this addition to the Lord's flock, and are certain that the Lord will walk with them both throughout all the days of their lives. He will fulfill His promise to them and to us all, "being confident in this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ' (Philippians 1:6).

## Homestead, FL

Members and visitors both received a special blessing Sunday evening, March 5 at the Homestead, FL Holiday Inn. The conference room at this hotel has been the meeting place of the saints and migrant workers who fellowship together for several months now. Although we have enjoyed many meetings filled with testimonies, healings, and children being blessed, this last meeting was special.

On inspiration, the Lord's Supper was served to the members in attendance. Brother Joe Catone, Sr. opened the service, explaining the importance of sacrament and how the Lord served it when He visited the land of America.

For months we have been speaking to these migrant workers concerning their heritage, as recorded in The Book of Mormon. Several of them started reading The Book of Mormon on their own, and are being blessed by God.

Brother George Kovacic followed Bro. Catone, showing plainly how we can come to be able to partake of the Lord's Supper. He also pointed out differences in the New Testament Church and churches today, and explained how The Church of Jesus Christ follows exactly the teachings of Christ.

Our visitors were very touched by the Spirit which prevailed, and the humbleness of this ordinance. Our hope is that it will bring them a little closer to the Lord and increase their desire to partake more fully in what the Lord has to offer His people.

## Millstone, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

Nestled quietly in the farmlands of central New Jersey is the home of Juan and Lucy Murillo. For the past year, God has been doing a mighty work among the Seed of Joseph here. What started as the seed of a desire sprouted and budded into a wonderful work, and now the beautiful flowers of God's blessings are blooming.

This area of the country is densely populated with people from Central and South America. Therefore the desire of the saints here is to fulfill the Divine Commission that Christ established for us: to bring the Gospel to the House of Israel.

On Sunday, April 2, 1989, two miracles sat in our congregation. Sister Chayo (Rosario) Gonzales had developed a serious illness which required immediate surgery. If she had waited just a few hours longer, her life would have ended. The Lord healed our sister and she sat in our Sunday meeting-a testimony to God's power. Sister Cindy (Perri) Wolff also developed problems during her pregnancy. The Lord carried her through and protected her during this ordeal. How wonderful the Lord has been to us! Sister Clotilde Rivera Granados, Sis. Chayo's mother, was visiting with us from Tijuana, Mexico as well. Her testimony was a blessing to us all.

The evening before the meeting, Brother Mario Morales was given by the Lord a scripture—the 34th Chapter of Alma. We studied this scripture in our Sunday School and understood what God was telling us. That is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with all those who haven't heard, and explain the basics as clearly as Amulek did in this scripture. As well, we need to always be in a state of repentance by exercising our faith in God's mercy.

A year before she passed away, Sis. Evelyn Perdue gave this same scripture to two brothers in our midst today who were visiting Tijuana at that time. It was confirmed by Bro. Mario's experience the evening before.

Whenever souls turn to Christ, Satan begins to discourage and disrupt. On the way to the meeting, three brothers were in a car accident. But again, the Lord protected them and brought them safely there—another testimony of God's power.

Many of the Seed of Joseph have been converted or have come into contact with Christ through this work. Many experiences have come forth regarding this work as well. We know this is God's doing and not ours, and hope that in the future we can tell you more of how God has dealt with this little mission. Pray for us. Being on the threshold of Zion, we know we will see many wonderful things.

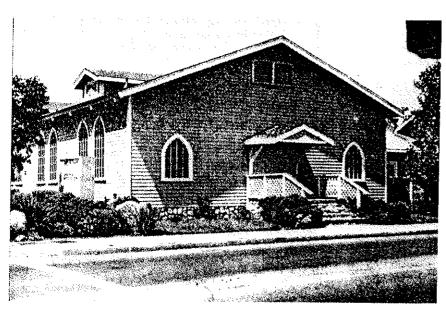
"Verily, verily I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do because I go unto my Father."

## Santa Ana, CA

## Mission Given Preservation Award

The Santa Ana Historical Preservation Society recently presented its quarterly Beautification Award to the Santa Ana Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. The society cited the "sensitive rehabilitation of the church building and the houses on the north and east, . . . tied together by the use of a grey, blue, and white color scheme, latticework fences, and an attractive landscape plan."

The brothers and sisters of the Santa Ana Mission labored for many hours



The Santa Ana, CA Mission

over a period of several years to achieve a modern, accommodating atmosphere inside their building, while working hard to maintain the historical integrity of the original structure on the outside. It is only fitting that a Gospel so plain and precious, so pure and simple should be represented by a building of such simple, unassuming beauty.

#### CAMPOUT continued . . .

them of how the Lord works. It is our hope that the Lord will continue to work through our Brother Tom, and that those he comes in contact with will see that there is a better life available through God. Sister Tracey Francione sang People Need the Lord to underscore this point. Knowing the way

the world is today, now more than ever, people need the Lord.

Sister Mary Jo Jones of Branch 1 then related an experience she recently had. She had been suffering with a serious affliction for over a year when she had a dream in which she was instructed to attend this camp and be anointed by a particular brother. It was made known to her that while he was anointing her, he would speak with the gift of tongues.

She and her family did come to camp, and as she was being anointed by this brother, he began to speak in tongues, and the interpretation was given that this affliction was for the honor and glory of God. Sister Mary Jo testified that her Saturday and Sunday at camp were the first days in over a year that she had absolutely no pain! Others also related that during this weekend, sim-

ple prayers brought immediate relief from various afflictions on their bodies. We praise God for the mercy and love that He continually shows upon His people.

We have the tools needed to work in the Church, and we have the power within us to do the work. Now we have to strive to continually find ourselves in a *more* missionary-minded spirit, and allow God to lead the way.

## Loving Service

Dream not the sunny hours away,
Be up and doing ever,
For life is short and after life
There comes the vast Forever.
And single not great work to do.
A word that's kindly spoken,
A smile, a glance may help to heal
The heart that's nearly broken.

If happiness should dwell with you
Or sorrow be your guest,
It matters not, put self aside
And bravely do your best.
The sunshine shed on other lives
Will surely gild your own,
And harvest time will bring to you
The seed which you have sown.

Then haste to do the Master's work.

The cup of water giving,

And soon with thankful heart you'll find

That life is worth the living.

Dream not the sunny hours away,

Be up and doing ever,

For life is short and after life

There comes the vast Forever.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

#### ROSE CARRARA

Sister Rose Carrara passed from this life to her heavenly reward on March 6, 1989. Sister Rose was born in Italy on June 13, 1895. She was baptized in 1926.

A funeral service was held in New Brunswick, NJ and was officiated by Brother Wilbur McNeil and Brother Frank Mazzeo.

#### **EVELYN PERDUE**

Sister Evelyn Perdue was called to obtain her crown of glory on March 11, 1989 at her home in San Diego, at the age of 80. Born February 6, 1909 in Hungary, her family moved to the United States a year later.

She was a member of The Church of Jesus Christ for over forty years, having been baptized by Bro. Rocco Meo at the Bell, CA Branch. She was ordained a deaconess at

(Continued on Page 12)

#### OBITUARIES continued . . .

the Los Nietos Mission and had devoted over thirty years of her life to working among the Mexican people.

Her funeral was a tribute to her efforts. Led by Brother Tom Liberto, Brothers Vincente Arce, Jose Granados, Luis Pacheco, Joseph Lovalvo, Joe Ciarrola, Frank Ciotti, Paul Liberto, Mark Randy, Sam Randy, and Dwayne Jordan offered beautiful words. A group of Sister Evelyn's "daughters" from Tijuana, along with Sister Diane Surdock, offered musical selections.

Among those who will miss our sister most are her beloved husband of forty years, Brother Eddy; her daughter, Sister Norma Kennedy; and a sister living in Ohio; as well as countless others who were touched by her life.

Missionary. Mother to Israel. If one had to call up an image of a woman who personifies these two titles, this writer can think of no one more appropriate than the late Sister Evelyn Perdue. The impact that this sister has had on the Church in Central America may very well never be fully known. It is through the effort that she and Brother Eddy have put forth that entire nations have been able to accept the Gospel. Yet, having spent many hours with her, I know that she would be the first to object to an article such as this, for she felt that all honor and glory should go to God.

Hermana Eva, as she was known, was of Jewish descent. Through a powerful experience of Christ, she was converted to believing in Him and spent her life working with her husband among the Seed of Joseph. Prior to moving to Tijuana, Mexico, they spent five years in the Los Nietos Mission in the Los Angeles area.

Upon moving to Tijuana, Bro. Eddy and Sis. Evelyn sacrificed the modern conveniences of life to work among the people there. Their first home, located in a desolate mountain region, consisted of a ten by sixteen-foot room with three walls; a blanket was hung to make the fourth. There was no water or electricity and they slept on cots. Besides the natural elements, Sis. Evelyn had to overcome the language barrier and much sickness. She often related

## Address Change

Name _	 	 	
Address	 		
Phone _	 		

great experiences regarding the Lord's healings in her life. She felt that Satan was trying to prevent the spreading of the Gospel in this manner, but she continued to work, confident in God's power and His purpose.

The work among the Mexican people consumed Sis. Evelyn and became her life. Even during her final prolonged illness, she was involved in the missions from her bedside. She died with the desire and hope of making one more missionary journey to Oaxaca, often telling Bro. Eddy to continue even if she was unable to do so.

Sis. Evelyn was an example and an encouragement to all who knew her. She will be sorely missed, especially in Mexico, but her "sons and daughters" there live with her teachings and love in their hearts, for surely she was a Mother to Israel.

-Sis. Carolyn Martorana Light

## **New Arrivals**

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

Daniel John to Daniel and Susan Coppa of Detroit Branch 3.

Kasey Lynn to Dusty and Geri (Dulisse) Wilson of Desert Springs, Arizona.

Jasmine KoKo to Michael and Lorraine (Onorato) Cuevas of Alexandria, New Hampshire.

Tessa Elizabeth to Bruce and Cindy Churchill of Falmouth, Maine.

## Children Blessed

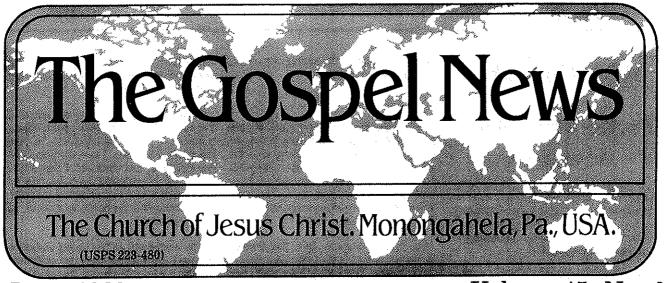
William Marshall Speece III, the grandson of Bro. Adam and Sis. Lucy Costarella of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, was blessed at Youngstown by Bro. Richard Santilli on October 9, 1989.

On October 16, 1989 the Miami, FL Mission witnessed the blessing of Brittany Amber Manalaysay, the daughter of Tony and Colleen (Warden) Manalaysay of Margate, Florida. Brittany's blessing was performed by her uncle, Bro. Mark Kovacic.

Kiela Denae Manes, daughter of Joseph A. and Lisa Manes, was blessed by Bro. Joe Ciarolla in the Riverbank, CA Mission of the Church.

Bro. John Straccia blessed Ryann Nicole, daughter of Sharon and Ethan Rosenbaum, at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch on Sunday, April 2, 1989. This was the first child Bro. John had blessed.

Richard Anthony Palacios, Jr., son of Sgt. Richard and Cpl. Sherri Palacios, was blessed on April 9, 1989 in Lorain, Ohio by Brother Frank Altomare.



June, 1989

Volume 45, No. 6

## Evangelists Visit Michigan-Ontario District

On May 6 and 7, 1989 the Michigan-Ontario District was privileged to host Brothers Sam Dell of Levittown, PA and Eugene Perri of Lake Worth, FL as part of the Visiting Evangelists Program.

In keeping with the program's format, the district was busy preparing for their visit some weeks before the actual event occurred. Flyers were printed and distributed and radio announcements were made regarding the services, which were held on Saturday evening at Branch 2 in Allen Park and Sunday morning at Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Brother Dell chose the song Take Some Time to Pray to open the Saturday evening service. He then stated to us that while the world has certainly changed, the things of God have not. He told us that we really wouldn't want God to change; we want Him to remain true to His promises. But in exchange God requires that we remain true in keeping His commandments. Even the slightest deviation from these things displeases the Lord. Bro. Sam told how Moses altered the decrees of God the second time He drew water from a rock for the children of Israel. He struck the rock in anger, displeasing the Lord to the point where he was not permitted to enter into the land of Canaan.

Likewise today, our brother pointed out, there are changes that we might think would be harmless to make, but in reality are not pleasing to God. "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Malachi 3:6).

Our brother pointed out that all change is not bad. But we must be careful when we see change taking place, he added. The world's need to become "modern" has often left the decrees of God destroyed in its path. We in The Church of Jesus Christ, on the other hand, must be sure we adhere to the entire Gospel.

After hearing one of the special musical selections prepared for the evening, we heard from our Brother Eugene Perri. He spoke briefly of his experience working in the Independence, Missouri area, and told us of one man in particular whom he had spoken to.

This man, who at one time was a minister in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, mentioned to Bro. Eugene that some forty years ago he met some of our brothers and sisters in the Detroit area and was very much impressed with what he saw in them. The memory of the time he spent with them was so vivid, he told Bro. Perri, that it remains with him to this day.

This man's experience—and others like it—clearly attest to the fact that it is the manifestation of the Spirit and the Power of God in our midst that will convince others of the truth of the Gospel and cause our numbers to swell. As we meet with little success in trying to argue the Church's Continuity with other Restoration groups, the fact that the Spirit must truly do the convincing becomes more and more evident.

Our Sunday morning service at Branch 1 was once again opened by Bro. Sam Dell. He spoke on the text, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." As human beings we all have the opportunity to choose our master. Our brother showed how in the New Testament many came to see Jesus and followed after Him for many different reasons. "Why do you seek Him?" he asked us. "And on whose terms do you come to Him?"

Our brother pointed out how some would seek to come to the Lord, but bypass all of His commandments. This is not the way the Lord taught us, however. Jesus is seen by mankind in two different ways: as Loving Savior, or as Judge of all the earth. How we see Him is entirely up to us.

Brother Dell was followed by Brother Gene Perri, who delivered inspired words of thanksgiving, testimony, and encouragement. He asked that we sing Ye Who Are Called to Labor and dedicated it to the priesthood of the Church, whose example and support he said have been a tremendous source of strength and uplift to him. After the hymn he recited Psalm 1 to us, a sermon in itself. He elaborated on the words of the psalm, telling how the Lord's touch changes people. Truly He is our hope.

All who attended the meetings this weekend came away truly blessed and uplifted, with a renewed desire to be the people of God. May the Lord bless all those whose labors for the lord take them many miles from home.

## **MBA** Highlights

## Pacific Coast Area

By Linda Reynolds

On Saturday February 11, the Pacific Coast Area MBA Conference met in Anaheim. We had members representing San Diego, Santa Ana, Riverside, Anaheim, Bell, the Valley, and Modesto Branches in Attendance.

During the afternoon we took care of all our business and followed with fellowship and dinner. After dinner we had a short meeting with singing, after which Bro. Randy Huttenberger asked the senior brothers and sisters to come up front and tell the congregation the most important thing about the Gospel that they have learned in their many years in the Church. We had many different answers ranging from patience, endurance, and to love one another—to always praise the Lord in all things. It was very inspiring to all of us.

Bro. Ken Jones from Riverside sang Because He lives. After this meeting we were all invited to the home of Bro. Walt and Sis. Carrie Jankowski for more fellowship. It was a wonderful day.

Several of our out-of-town visitors stayed overnight and came to the Sunday services at Anaheim. Bro. Otto Henderson opened in prayer and Bro. Ken Jones asked all the young people to come up front and help him with a song he wanted to sing. He sang the verses of We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord and the young people joined in on the chorus.

Bro. Ken then spoke to us from the scriptures relating to the words of the song he sang, wherein it says, "Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus is the Lord." He told us to make sure it isn't too late when it's our time to bow our knee and confess, and to make sure we're in the right place in the sight of God.

Bro. Otto Henderson followed, and Bro. Jim Huttenberger summed up the message delivered by our two brothers. At the close of the service, Bro. Ken again requested all the young people to come up and help him with a song. They sang If You Would Labor in Zion. We

all feel so much joy in seeing our young people serve the Lord.

In January we held our annual ski trip in June Mountain, California. Nineteen young people attended, along with six adults. Everyone had a safe, enjoyable time. We even had two young men from Florida fly out to join us on the trip; Brian Miller from Hollywood and Steve Brown from Lake Worth.

On Sunday morning Bro. Jim Dulisse of Modesto held a little Sunday School class for us. We had prayer and then participated in a round table conversation regarding things in our lives that challenge us as we endeavor to serve God, and how prayer and the support of our families can help.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

My family and I want to express our gratitude and deep appreciation to all of our people for the many cards, messages, and gifts of sympathy sent to us in loving memory of Brother Peter Capone who went home to be with the Lord on March 31, 1989.

How can we possibly thank everyone for the overwhelming demonstration of love and concern at a time when it was most needed? God bless each one of you for sustaining us in our deep loss and sorrow.

Sister Frances J. Capone Brother David Capone Sister Yvonne Saffron

## A Testimony

My niece Joanne lives in London, England with her husband and twoyear-old son.

On February 5, the child was rushed to the hospital due to a high temperature and signs of pneumonia. The doctors gave his mother very little hope.

When I telephoned my sister-in-law that Monday, she was weeping because of the bad news her daughter had given her. I told her, "Be of good cheer; God is everywhere and He's able to heal the child. Let us pray!"

That evening, I did pray on behalf of the child. The Lord gave me a vision wherein I was transported to the Hospital in London. I saw my niece and her husband, and their child. Jesus was there, and He touched the child, blessed the family, and disappeared. A wonderful blessing fell upon me as a result of this experience.

The next day I called up my sister-inlaw and she told me that the child was well and was going home the next day. Praise be to God, He's still on His throne and does hear us when we pray! May God bless all of you.

> Sister Carmella D'Amico Rochester, NY Mission

## Three ordained in Riverbank

By Barbara Parravano

January 8, 1989 was a very special day for the brothers and sisters here in Riverbank. Our Spanish Mission, which was dedicated just this past July, had been praying for the Lord to call more workers. This day three would commit themselves to more dedicated service to God!

Our custom in the mission is to open our Sundays with a season of singing the Spanish hymns. Everyone sang with enthusiasm, and many visitors came into our midst.

We had our Sunday School as usual, then after enjoying a short break with coffee, punch, and cookies, our service began. During the singing of a Spanish hymn, visiting Sister Dolores Picciuto of Modesto set the table for the Lord's Supper. This was followed by a beautiful song, El Es Todo para Mi (He Is Everything for Me), sung by Sisters Eva Betancourt and Martha Picciuto, and Brother Saul Betancourt, who also accompanied them on the guitar. Brother Matthew Picciuto opened in prayer.

Visiting Brother Anthony Cardinale from the Santa Ana Mission opened the preaching service, speaking in Spanish

(Continued on Page 6)

## 50th Anniversary

By Mary Ann Nicosia

"And as Jesus touched 5,000 lives when they were fed with five barley loaves and two fishes, so can He touch our lives and when He does, there is a difference. He can use us to bring forth His honor and glory. First we must thank God for His blessings, then we must act in faith, with spiritual knowledge, and then we will see the results of His blessings in our lives.

"God deals with the miraculous. It is time to glorify God. We need to praise Him, glorify Him, and serve Him. We must not be limited as to what we can do, but think of what God can do through us. The change in our lives can affect many people, as Sister Santina Mercuri's life has affected many souls."

These words were spoken by our Presiding Elder, Frank Ciotti, as he proceeded to review the works of our Sister Santina Mercuri.

Sis. Santina was born on May 3, 1919. She was baptized in the Church on February 26, 1939, and was a member of Detroit Branch 3 from 1939 to 1947. Among the many things that our sister accomplished over her fifty years of service to the Lord are:

She translated the pamphlet "My Testimony," written by Apostle Ishmael D'Amico, from Italian to English.

She was a founding member of the Bell, California Branch.

She wanted to do more for the Lord so she began petitioning Him. A voice



Sis. Santina Mercuri of Santa Ana, CA

spoke to her and said, "Who's stopping you from doing something?" She was directed towards Mexico and the feeding of the Mexican people. She began to purchase beans with the assistance of Sisters Lucy Hemp and Josephine Palermo. From this action grew the "Indian Welfare Fund," which has provided tremendous assistance to the missionary efforts of the Church.

Sis. Santina contacted the Orowheat Company. They donated 75 loaves of bread every week, which were sent to Mexico and to San Carlos, Arizona.

In September of 1986, Sis. Santina and her family moved to Tustin, CA, and they started attending the Anaheim Branch. Again, she involved herself in the missionary work. Through her efforts, the Church received a donation of one thousand pair of shoes. The branch held a shoe matching party and the 2,000 shoes were paired off and arranged by size and color.

Sister Santina also started the Anaheim Newsletter and today it is distributed worldwide.

When our sister reached the age of 60 years, instead of thinking of retirement, she enrolled in school! She received a degree as a licensed vocational nurse, but she still wasn't quite satisfied, as she had a desire to learn the Spanish language. She enrolled at the Chapman College, and received her bilingual degree completing the courses in one half the normal time.

In 1980, the Santa Ana Mission began. Sister Santina proceeded in teaching the Spanish language to the elders and those who wanted to learn. She also began her teaching career as a bilingual teacher. She began to bring her second grade students to church with her on Sundays. When the children returned home filled with happiness and joy, their parents became curious and started attending the Church along with their children. Through this, many of our Mexican brothers and sisters in Santa Ana came to know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Sis. Santina will soon retire from her natural occupation, but she will not stop working for the Lord. God still has a work for her to do.

A plaque was presented to Sis. Santina for her 50 years of dedicated service to Jesus Christ. She stated that she was very thankful to see everyone at the

meeting this day (there were visitors present from Anaheim, Bell, San Diego, and Detroit, MI), and that she felt very small and doesn't want to receive any credit, as it all belongs to God. She thanked God for her strength and health, and as long as God gives her continued health and strength, she will continue to work for Him.

Over 45 individuals who came to know the Gospel through our sister came forward and presented her with a song, Yo Sempre Sigo a Jesucristo (I Always Follow Jesus Christ). Numerous other musical selections followed, all dedicated to our sister Santina.

Sunday, February 26, 1989 will always be remembered as we all shared this beautiful occasion with much love and admiration for our dear sister. We are honored to know Sis. Santina and feel privileged that she came into our lives.

## Do Your Part

Are you an active member, The kind that would be missed, Or are you just contented That your name is on the list?

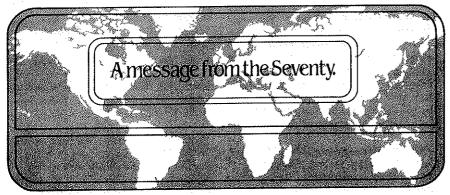
Do you go to the meetings And mingle with the flock, Or do you meet in private And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part To help the work along, Or are you satisfied to be The kind who just belongs?

Do you work on committees? To this there is no trick. Or leave the work to just a few And talk about the clique?

So come to the activities
And help with hand and heart.
Don't just be a member,
But take an active part.

Think this over carefully, You know right from wrong, Are you an active member, Or do you just belong?



# Two Ordinations, One Death, and Two Retirements

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Two ordinations as apostles, one death, and two retirements have reduced the active number of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, and the Lord's direction is being asked, as always, in replacing those who have moved on. There are three other vacancies as well, so the number now stands at 62.

The two brothers who were ordained apostles at this April Conference were Paul Benyola and Joseph Calabrese. The brother who passed on was Peter Capone, and the two brothers who retired are Timothy D. Bucci and Ansel D'Amico. All five had served as evangelists for many years.

#### PRESIDENT

Brother Benyola had been the Seventy President for almost three years. He succeeded Brother Joseph Milantoni, who had passed away in June 1986, and has been instrumental in continuing the programs previously started, and in directing the growing scope of the evangelists' labors.

Brother Calabrese has been greatly involved in missionary work, in this land and abroad. In 1981, he traveled to India with the late Evangelist Alvin Swanson to start the first mission field there. He has also traveled broadly on behalf of the Church.

At a brief Quorum session added to Saturday's Conference, both brothers expressed their thankfulness to God and to the other evangelists for their fellowship, their help, and their inspiration in the past. In a touching gesture, they were given a standing vote of thanks for their many years of faithful service.

This same kind of gratitude is also extended to the other three brothers. They contributed much of their time and effort in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and have been fervent in maintaining their commitment to God.

#### UNEXPECTED

Brother Capone's death was unexpected. He was called home after a series of illnesses, the last and most grievous being of relatively short duration. He had been active for many years in the Michigan-Ontario District before he moved to Phoenix, AZ, where he passed away. His loss is not only deeply felt by his wife, Sister Frances, and their family, but is also acknowledged by The Church of Jesus Christ in general.

Brother Bucci has done missionary work in various states and has spoken extensively to American Indians, principally in Oklahoma and New York. He has written two booklets and one book, which are being used throughout the Church. He has also been associated with Indian centers' activities and has been on television to promote the Gospel.

Brother D'Amico has been primarily active in the Rochester, New York area. He has functioned there for many years and has fulfilled his duties faithfully. He has been afflicted for some time and has been unable to travel. Like Brother Bucci, he has also indicated that advanced age, as well as illness, has prompted his retirement.

The capabilities and desires of these five brothers have been exemplary for everyone. Their loss to the Seventies is, of course, immeasurable.

Brother Ike Smith, who had been the quorum vice president, has assumed the presidency which Brother Benyola had held. Evangelist Thomas Liberto was elected vice president at the Saturday meeting.

#### MET ON THURSDAY

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists had met on Thursday, April 20, in two sessions to review the four main programs being pursued concurrently. They are those under the General Church Development, the Weekend Visiting Evangelists, the Worldwide Evangelism, and the Radio Committees.

Presentations by each committee were then made to the general priesthood on Friday morning. Seminars for each of these areas were then conducted in the afternoon.

The emerging role of evangelism in both the domestic and foreign areas has been highlighted. Efforts are being expended on many different fronts. There are 153 nations in the world, and getting the message to each one is our duty. Understandably, activities are being directed in such a way that this task can be accomplished, under God's direction and with His help.

Meanwhile, calling of brothers into the Quorum of Seventy to fill the present vacancies is in God's hands.

# Come to MUSICAMP '89,

the Music Workshop Outreach Project of the Tse Bonito, NM Branch.

Come sing in the choir, in groups, sing solo, play instruments, learn to read music, etc.

July 25-30, 1989 (Monday-Sunday)

Contact Brother Dennis Calabrese (505) 371-5750, or Brother Ken Lombardo (201) 561-5441 for more information.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolare 36247 Harcourt Fraser, MI 48026

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jeffrey Giannetti
3406 Sunflower Rd.
New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plaintield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN—ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolare 15843 Manning Detroit, MI 48205

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

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

PENNSYLVANIA Jonathan Olexa 120 Greenridge Dr. Monongabela, PA 15063-1231

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

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

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

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Most of us devote the majority of our time to the natural labors by which we support ourselves, and look forward with much anticipation to the opportunity to take some time off. Vacation season presents us once again with the decision of how and where to spend our time away from school or work. As we consider the vacation choices available to us, we should be asking ourselves what exactly we are seeking to get away from, and what we are hoping to gain, from our time away from the routine.

In examining our motives for getting away, we as members of the Church must be careful that we are not seeking, perhaps unconsciously, to "take a vacation" from the things of God. The covenant we made at the water's edge to serve Him included vacations and holidays. While all of us can profit from an occasional rest from our natural labors, our souls will only suffer if we periodically neglect our spiritual health and well-being.

It is not so much the rest that we get when we're on vacation which refreshes us; indeed, too much rest tends to sap our energy and make us more tired. It is rather the change of scenery and pace that restores us and adds a fresh perspective to our lives. While our regular attendance at church services in itself provides a change of perspective not experienced by our co-workers, our vacation time can be used to bring us an even greater degree of spiritual uplift, through the blessings of God and the fellowship of the saints.

Anyone who has spent all or part of his or her vacation at a GMBA Campout can attest to the amount of spiritual sustenance that can be obtained from the experience. In addition to Campouts, there are other ways to spend our vacation in spiritually uplifting surroundings. We can both give and receive God's blessings when we visit the branches and missions in other parts of the Lord's vineyard, when we return home to fellowship with the saints we grew up with, or when we make a special trip to participate in one of the various seminars and workshops offered by the Church's auxiliaries.

Just a word of testimony from us while visiting a branch can bring a tremendous uplift to the congregation gathered there, as they hear one more witness to the goodness and joy to be found in the Restored Gospel. If we want it to, our vacation really can do us, as well as others, a world of spiritual good.

What we do or where we go on our vacation doesn't matter so much as where our hearts are, just as it is with every other day of the year. Wherever our vacations take us, let us make sure to keep our spiritual lamps trimmed and burning, to be a light unto the world. Even if we're away from the flock, we should be mindful of the Sabbath day and sanctify it from the other days in the week in whatever way we can. Our covenant to God was for a lifetime, and we should permit neither vacations nor any other departure from life's routine to diminish or interrupt our commitment to Him.

## The

## Children's

#### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you know that in many of the places in the world today millions of people do not know about God? They also do not know that God sent His only Son Jesus to help us with all of our fears and problems.

In many countries it is against the law for people to even meet together. The rulers of those countries are afraid that people will get new leaders if they let people hold meetings.

These leaders, or rulers, also like their power, and fear that people serving Jesus and feeling love instead of hate would be hard to control. When someone hates you, it is easy to hate back, to lock them up or beat them up. But when someone loves you, it's so hard to resist.

The Book of Mormon tells an amazing true story about how love changed an army. It was in the days of the sons of Mosiah, when Ammon had preached the beautiful words of God to his enemies, the Lamanites. They had never heard the story of Jesus. They called God the Great Spirit, but did not know how to talk or pray to Him or find His wonderful power. Ammon told them how Jesus would save them from their sins, and how they would live forever in heaven after their bodies died. The joyful people put away their hate and were baptized.

They promised God never to murder or go back to their evil ways. They buried all their killing weapons in the ground. They were not afraid to love, nor were they afraid to die. They knew about Jesus.

Very soon their own people who did not know God decided to throw out their new king who loved peace. Armies



gathered with terrible weapons of war and marched to where the new believers lived.

But the new believers in God were not afraid. When they saw the armies coming against them, they went out to meet them. Laying themselves on the ground before them, they called on the name of the Lord and allowed their bodies to be killed. We know good souls like these go to live with God.

But when their enemies, the Lamanites, saw this they stopped killing them. Their hearts were breaking when they saw what they'd done. They threw down their weapons, too, and they turned and called out to God, relying on the mercies of those whose arms were lifted to slay them.

That day, the people of God were joined by a greater number than the number of people who had been killed. And since those that died were righteous (or followed God's ways), we know that their souls went to heaven. A great nation learned about God that day, and the power of love was greater than the power of evil.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

GREAT	ARMY
SPIRIT	KILL
IS	SORRY
LORD	SAD
GOD	SERVE
AMMON	JOY
RIGHTEOUS	LOVE
BAPTISM	SON
REAL	$\mathbf{OF}$
WEAPONS	

					5			
D	A	s	N	o	P	Α	E	w
A	R	M	S	1	Т	P	A	В
R	I	G	H	Т	E	0	U	s
K	S	L	L	ı	L	F	L	P
В	0	s	0	N	0	G	0	D
U	R	E	G	A	D	J	v	D
R	R	R	R	M	R	R	E	w
Y	Y	v	E	A	M	M	0	N
0	R	E	A	L	K	S	Y	L
J	0	Y	T	1	R	I	P	S

#### RIVERBANK continued . . .

and English, with Acts 8:18-21. He spoke of the gift of the Holy Ghost, given only to our Church to set it apart from the world. He told of how honorable the office of a deacon was, how a deacon must be a spirit-filled individual. He also used the scripture from Alma 13, where it tells how the Lord had ordained His servants from the beginning of time.

It was a beautiful day—the sun was shining, coming through our bare windows, even though it had been dreary for days. It was as if God was smiling down on us! We sang Oi la Voz del Espiritu de Dios (Hear the Voice of the Spirit of God). Sacrament was administered by Brothers Lou Parravano and Matthew Picciuto.

The washing of feet in preparation for the ordinations was preceded by a few words in English by Bro. Matthew, translated into Spanish by Bro. Anthony Cardinale. Our brother explained that God calls people who will teach us the way to worship. He said that feet washing is to cleanse and renew our lives. It is a privilege, and we should experience joy and humility when we perform this sacred ordinance. We do it to remember our Lord, and to prepare our minds and hearts for God to enter us through His Spirit.

Sister Martha's feet were washed by her mother-in-law, Sister Dolores Picciuto. She was ordained by her husband, Brother Matthew, into the office of a deaconess.

(Continued on Page 10)

## Our Women Today

#### By Mary Tamburrino, General Circle Editor

The Levittown, Pennsylvania Circle was the host for the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference on April 29, 1989. There were sisters present from Arizona, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, and Florida.

Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, welcomed everyone and expressed her hope that the blessings of God would be in our midst. She presented Sisters Mabel Bickerton and Ruth Akerman with corsages, and a standing vote of thanks was given for their thirty-one years of service to the General Circle. Vice President Sis. Lorraine DeMercurio read from I John Chapter 4 on the love of God.

Most of the officers were present, and the minutes of the last conference, held at Vanderbilt, PA were read. Forms have been printed that can be placed near the visitors' book at funeral homes for those who would like to donate to the Memorial Fund. Also, each of the Area Circles gave membership reports as follows: Arizona, 12 members; Atlantic Coast 79; California 52; Florida 35; Michigan-Ontario 82; Ohio 87; Pennsylvania 99.

# "It's nice to be important, but it's nicer to be nice."

Minutes from the Ladies' Circle in India were also read, and Area Presidents each gave a brief report of their activities.

The questions and answers assigned were: "Who was the 110 year-old man who was embalmed and put in a coffin?" (Genesis 50:26). "Who was told to get a linen girdle and put it on, then hide it in a hole in a rock? Did he obey, and what was this compared to?" (Jeremiah

## Levittown Circle Hosts Conference

13:4 and 1:11). "What was the prophecy given to Helaman by his father Alma?" (Alma 45:9-14).

Contributions have been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Sara Amanda Byers, Mary Criscuolo, Evelyn Dale, Cora Fowler, Linda Henderson, James Hixon, Elsie Marinetti, Rex Eugene Maynard, Julia Mesko, and Harry Tisler.

The special project for the past six months was to raise funds for the families of the missionaries. \$1500 was forwarded to the Church for this project, which will continue. Other donations were made to the work in Africa, India, Italy, the Radio Committee, the Missionary Reserve Fund, the work in Independence and Guatemala, and the General Church Indian Missionary Funds.

The next conference will be held on October 28, 1989 at Edison, New Jersey. A vote of thanks was given to

the Levittown Circle for their hospitality.

The remainder of the conference was spent in honoring Sisters Mabel Bickerton and Ruth Akerman for their outstanding service to the General Circle. The Levittown Circle started by singing Vessels of Gold. They spoke of women in the Bible, and of Mabel and Ruth in today's world.

John Bickerton, Sis. Mabel's husband, addressed the Circle and gave his view of Mabel's involvement in the Circle. He concluded by saying, "It's nice to be important, but it's nicer to be nice."

Sis. Arline gave a brief history of Sis. Mabel's life and presented her with a plaque, and Sis. Lorraine did the same thing for Sis. Ruth. Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the Church, concluded the conference by speaking briefly to the sisters present. He emphasized that we must do the best we can in serving the Church in whatever capacity we find ourselves.



Sisters Mabel Bickerton and Ruth Akerman, who together led the Ladies' Uplift Circle for 31 years.

#### REGISTRATION FORM

	AMEARRIVAL DATE DDRESS DEPARTURE DATE								
ADDITION TO SECURE									
PHONE NO.				DKANCII					
ORDAINED OFFICE(S)									
MEDICAL TRAINING		O ONT W				···			
PARENT OR GUARDIAN (	UNDER I	8 ONTA	)	4.145					
						-	\$		
		1	1 03340		Т	CDC	RTS &		
			CAMP		T) T			CRAFTS	
NAME	SEX	AGE	LODG	E MOI	EL	REC	REATION	LIGHT	
<u> </u>		<u> </u>	<u> </u>						
2		<u> </u>	<u> </u>						
3		ļ							
4		<u> </u>							
5			<u> </u>						
5		<u> </u>						L	
							e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e e		
List number of perso	ns on t	his fo	rm who	will be	eat	ing	each mea	1:	
	Υ.		•	:					
·									
	S	UN	MON	TUES	W	ED	THUR	FRI	
BREAKFAST		1	i		1				
DREADIAGI									
***									
LUNCH									
***									
LUNCH									
LUNCH DINNER	TEM						QTY.	PRICE	
LUNCH DINNER	TEM hildren	(5-14	) stay		oom		OTY.	PRICE	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c	hildren	(5-14 arents	) stay		com		OTY.	PRICE	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay	hildren ing w/p	arents	) stay		oom		OTY.	PRICE	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents	) stay		oom		OTY.	PRICE	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents	) stay		oom		OTY.	PRICE	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents	) stay	ing in r					
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents	) stay	ing in r		L CA	OTY,		
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents	) stay	ing in r		L CA			
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents		ing in r	ТОТА		MP FEES	\$	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents		ing in r	ТОТА		MP FEES	\$	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents		ing in r	ТОТА		MP FEES	\$	
IUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee  If you wish to lodge	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents		ing in r	TOTA	ndic	MP FEES	\$w:	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee  If you wish to lodge	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents		ing in r	TOTA	ndic	MP FEES	\$w:	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee  If you wish to lodge  NAME 1	hildren ing w/p wn room	arents	speci	ing in r	TOTA	ndic	MP FEES	\$w:	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee  If you wish to lodge  NAME 1 2	hildren ing w/p wn room near s	arents	speci	al, plea	TOTA	ndic	MP FEES	\$w:	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee  If you wish to lodge  NAME 1 2 3	hildren ing w/p wn room near s	omeone	speci	al, plea	TOTA	ndic	MP FEES	\$w:	
LUNCH DINNER  I Couples; Parents w/c Children (5-14) stay Ages 6 and over in o Children 4 and under Songbooks R.V. Hook-up Fee  If you wish to lodge  NAME 1 2 3	hildren ing w/p wn room near s	omeone	speci	ing in r	TOTA	ndic	MP FEES	\$w:	

JULY 1, 1989.

Please make checks payable to: GMBA

MAIL TO: Michele Davella

3 Croman Court

Hazlet, N.J. 07730

## **Branch and Mission News**

## Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

The Modesto Branch experienced an unusual day of rejoicing due to the ordination of Brother Samuel D. Randy on March 26, 1989.

Bro. Sam was honored not only by our church members, but by many friends and relatives in attendance that day as well.

It was a great day for all of us. Apostle Robert Watson of Tse Bonito, NM addressed us on the duty of a minister and the righteousness of the followers of Christ. Many of our Mexican brothers and sisters were also present.

Bro. Eddy Purdue washed Bro. Sam's feet and Bro. Dwayne Jordan ordained him. Apostle V. J. Lovalvo was also present and along with other brothers in the ministry took part in the service that day.

Several divine experiences were related confirming the calling of our Brother Sam. One outstanding one was related by Bro. Tom Liberto of San Diego. Bro. Tom said that while meeting in Tijuana in 1987, the calling of several brothers into the ministry was revealed to the brothers gathered

## GMBA Campout 1989

"THIS IS THE YEAR!"

This year's GMBA Campout will be held the week of August 13-18 at the Cohutta Springs Adventist Center in Crandall, GA, just south of the Georgia-Tennessee line. All are welcome.

For further registration information, obtain a complete Registration Form at your local MBA. We hope to see you at camp!

Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti 1989 Camp Director there. At that time it was felt that Bro. Sam was also one of those who were called that day. Other experiences have been given since that time to confirm this calling, and it was felt that this day was the proper time both for Bro. Sam and for the Church in Modesto. As it is written, we prove and know all things by the Spirit of God.

My departed mother had an intuitive spirit, wherein she predicted that Bro. Sam would one day be a minister of the Gospel. She was also given to know that Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo would take Bro. Thurman Furnier's place in the Quorum of Twelve, and she also saw Bro. Robert Watson's name on one of twelve pillars in God's temple. "One day," she said, "I will not live to see these joyous days, but they will come to pass."

We live with faith in God, and though troublesome days are oftimes before us, we also experience great blessings as the Lord helps us meet the challenges of life. May God's richest blessings fall on Bro. Samuel.

We rejoiced in having our Brother Richard Lawson visiting with us about two weeks earlier, for the first time here. On April 8 Brothers David Majoros and Eugene Amormino were here; Bro. Majoros presented a blessed sermon. We hope to see these brothers in our midst again some time, perhaps for a longer stay.

Each of us has a great stake in the Lord's work; let us therefore share in the joys, the exuberance, the excitement and the satisfaction as well as share in the heartache and sorrow when it comes; even as Jesus' own disciples could closely observe Christ's trials and triumphs. Let us endure, whatever we need to do in order to remain faithful to Christ and His Church.

## Millstone, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

Praise the Lord! ¡Gloria a Dios! He is beginning to make bare His arm of power in our mission.

On Sunday May 7, 1989, the blessings flowed from vessel to vessel. Our visitors came from Edison, Freehold, Hopelawn, and Levittown Branches. Our little meeting place was filled to capacity. Brothers Joe Perri and Isidro Gonzales opened with a discussion from John 3:1-8, regarding repentance, baptism, and being born of the Spirit. We discussed the difference between being born of the flesh and being born of the Spirit.

During testimony, Sister Dotty Calabro related an experience where a man of the Seed of Joseph called her house collect. The strange thing is, our sister has an unlisted number. He said that the number came to him after praying for direction. He had called from prison and needed to talk to someone about the Lord, being depressed about the condition in which he found himself.

They talked and cried and shared in the Lord. He told Sis. Dotty that he would be leaving prison soon and would like to attend church with us. In the meantime he asked us to contact his family and tell them about the Church. Ironically they live very close to the saints in this part of the vineyard. So God is bringing those from the Seed of Joseph to a knowledge of His Gospel, and of their heritage, through The Church of Jesus Christ. For this we thank the Lord.

Our meeting consisted of the children reading us scripture and singing us songs, along with a solo from one of our visiting sisters. The songs of praise were beautiful throughout the day.

Then Maryann Soltis rose to her feet and requested baptism. We rejoiced in her decision to follow the Lord. We all walked to the nearby lake to baptize our sister. The wind was cold while we walked there, but while at the water's edge we felt such a warmth that many brothers and sisters had to remove their jackets. Brother Joe Perri baptized Sister Maryann.

When they returned to the shore, Brother Joe asked if anyone else would like to accept the Lord today. Just then, Lucy Murillo stepped forward in tears and proclaimed that she wanted to be baptized also. Praise the Lord! We had waited a long time for this day. Brother Joe baptized Sis. Lucy as well. We returned to the meeting rejoicing. Sister Lucy was confirmed by Brother Joe

(Continued on Page 10)

#### RIVERBANK continued . . .

Brother Mike Martinez's feet were washed by Brother Lou Parravano, and he was ordained a deacon by Brother Joseph Ciarolla of Lindsay.

Bro. Saul Betancourt's feet were washed by Brother David Picciuto of Modesto, and he was ordained by Bro. Anthony Cardinale into the office of a deacon.

Everyone kneeled, with the ministry in front, and Presiding Elder Lou Parravano offered up a special prayer. The Spirit of God was truly felt by all who were present. We sang En la Vina del Senor (In the Vineyard of the Lord), and Brother Joseph Ciarolla closed this most beautiful and spirit-filled day with prayer.

#### MILLSTONE continued . . .

Perri, and Sister Maryann was confirmed by Bro. Isidro Gonzales.

We continued testimony, and it was related that the previous week, several of the brothers and sisters had fasted and prayed for Sister Lucy, so that she could make her commitment. Another dream was related where a sister saw Sis. Lucy even before she met her. In this dream she was urging the brothers to bring the Gospel to Sister Lucy. We rejoiced, this day especially, in seeing Israel smile.

At the end of the meeting, two different people on opposite ends of the room had a desire to close with Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile. God's confirming Spirit was apparent throughout the day. We thank God for this day, which was long awaited by many.

"And awake and arise from the dust, O Jerusalem; yea, and put on thy beautiful garments, O daughter of Zion; and strengthen thy stakes and enlarge thy borders forever, that thou mayest no more be confounded, that the covenants of the Eternal Father which he hath made unto thee, O house of Israel, may be fulfilled" (Moroni 10:31).

## **Notice**

Effective July 1, all correspondence to the *Gospel News* editor should be addressed to:

Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly Rd., Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 43066

## \* WEDDINGS \*

#### YOUNG-HESS

Mr. Scott Young and Miss Michelle Hess were united in holy matrimony on May 13, 1989 at the Rochester, New York Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Frank Natoli officiated at the ceremony, with musical selections provided by Bob Batson and Kathy Natoli.

The couple are residing in Rochester, New York. We wish them God's greatest blessings as they begin their life together.

## Children Blessed

On April 16, 1989 Robert Anthony Ives, son of Ann Marie Ives, was blessed into the Church by Brother Isidro Gonzales at the Millstone, New Jersey Mission.

Daniel John Van Ittersum was blessed by Bro. Louis Vitto on Sunday, April 30, 1989 at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Daniel is the greatgrandson of Sister Hazel Zoltek.

On May 7, 1989 Brandy Lynn Calabrese, daughter of Todd and Julie Calabrese, was blessed by Apostle Joseph Calabrese at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of the Church.

Angela Lynn Nardozzi, daughter of Leonard and Tammy Nardozzi of Lorain, Ohio, was blessed by Bro. Frank Altomare on May 14, 1989.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

#### PETER CAPONE

He was born in Latrobe, Pennsylvania on April 11, 1912; baptized in the Church on August 1, 1937; ordained an elder in Detroit, Michigan Branch 3 on January 11, 1942; ordained an evangelist on July 15, 1945; and passed away on March 31, 1989 at Scottsdale, Arizona.

The above facts are the simple statistics on the life of Brother Peter Capone. He loved the Lord with all his heart and with all his might and he served faithfully and loyally until the Lord called him home to his final rest.

His stentorian voice stayed with him until he preached his last sermon at the Phoenix Branch on February 12, 1989—and, though in failing health, he remained an ardent student of the Holy Scriptures all the days of his life.

He made many trips to the Six Nations and Muncey Reservations in Ontario, Canada. He also served as presiding elder at Branches 3 and 4 in Detroit, Michigan as well as at the Phoenix Branch.

He departed from this earth; and, surely, when he arrived at the heavenly portals, he was greeted and met by those dear brothers and sisters whose lives touched his throughout his many years in the Church.

To mourn him Brother Peter leaves his wife, Sister Frances; son, Brother David; daughter, Sister Yvonne Saffron; three grandchildren, Stephen, Joanna, and Erin Joy.

#### PAULINE WOOLEY

Sister Pauline Wooley of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed away on April 18, 1989. She was born December 17, 1921 and was baptized on May 5, 1949 by her father, the late Brother Frank Wooley. She was confirmed by the late Bro. Travis Perry.

Funeral services were conducted by Bro. Ralph Berardino. Brothers Richard Santilli and Michael Italiano also participated in the funeral.

Our sister is survived by one brother, Robert, and three sisters, Sisters Ruth Santilli, Kathryn Sarisky, and Lucy Costarella. Sister Pauline will be greatly missed by the saints of Youngstown. She was eager and sincere in her service to God, and therefore was an inspiration to all who knew her.

#### ANGELINE GIOIA

Sister Angeline (Lily) Gioia of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her eternal reward on April 29, 1989, just six months after the death of her husband, Brother Michelangelo. She was born June 18, 1912 and was baptized into the Church on February 2, 1929 in Youngstown, Ohio.

The funeral was officiated by Bro. Paul Vitto, with the assistance of Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo.

Our sister is survived by four children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, as well as many relatives and friends, and a host of saints who knew and loved her.

## en kanada da kanada d Kanada da k

Control of the Control

and the second of the second o

And the second s

## Address Change

Name _	 		
Address	 	.,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	
Phone _			

# The Gospel News

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

July/August, 1989

Volume 45, No. 7 & 8

# Detroit Branch 2 celebrates 25 years

By Duane Lovalvo

At 6:30 p.m. on April 9, 1989, a commemorative meeting opened at Detroit Branch 2. It was with great anticipation that saints, friends, and relatives of the saints gathered together. The cause of this celebration was the arrival of the 25th anniversary of our building in Allen Park, Michigan.

A committee labored for months to organize this grand event. Their efforts were rewarded by the marvelous time we all enjoyed, and by the presence of the Lord's Holy Spirit that evening.

The service began with Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo leading us as we sang favorite hymns from our branch's past. Following opening prayer, our night was filled with words of reminiscence, testimony, and song.

Bro. Reno Bologna, visiting from the Saline Mission, spoke about how the Lord had blessed Branch 2 immensely in opening the way for us to finance our building. He also gave words of praise to the members who labored diligently to omplete the project. Many of these saints have passed on to their eternal rewards. Brothers John

(Continued on page 3)

# Combined issue heralds changes

Vacations, moving, an equipment breakdown, and an underabundance of editorial material have resulted in this one-time combined July/August, 1989 Issue of *The Gospel News*.

During our down time, we decided to implement a few changes to the design of the paper, and to combine the July and August Issues in an attempt to publish toward the beginning of each month. We hope you won't mind the interruption, and that you'll find the new layout easier to read. A new feature of the paper, "Directory Update," is for Church members to get their new addresses and telephone numbers out to everybody quickly and easily. Send me your new address and telephone number when you move, and I'll see that it gets printed in the next issue.

Please, continue to remember my staff and me in prayer as we endeavor to provide a publication that will keep the members and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ informed of what's new at all levels of the Church. Like everyone else, we depend on the Lord for the desire, the inspiration, and the strength to do His will.

My ZIP code was incorrectly given in the last issue. Please note that my correct ZIP code is 48066;

my telephone number is 313 294-6464.

Yours in Christ, Anthony J. Scolaro, Editor

## Campout 1989

"And unto one he gave five talents, and to another two and to another one; to every man according to his several ability."

Come to Camp!! Give yourself the opportunity to expand on your God-given talents.

Don't be hesitant. Come with confidence that your talent is needed in the Lord's work.

Fill your suitcase with good desires. Bring along your dreams to be a better servant of the Lord.

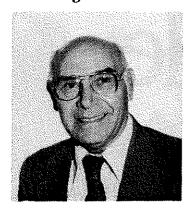
The Church of Jesus Christ, through the revelation of God, has all the tools and all the godly principles needed for man's salvation! Let's come to camp and brush up on our skills and principles!

> Lawyers practice! Teachers practice! Doctors practice! Athletes practice!

The saints of God must practice what we preach!!

Come to camp for practice!! See 'you-all' in Georgia on August 13, 1989.

## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

## Singing

The power of singing has been the strength of the human spirit from creation. It stirs the senses, kindles the flame of commitment, soothes the troubled heart, inspires the divine mystery that awakens the soul, reassures the discouraged, reaffirms the brave, and blesses the minds of all mankind. Jesus, before He and His disciples went to the Mount of Olives, sang a hymn (Matthew 26:30).

At the birth of Jesus, angels sang announcing the message of "Peace on earth and good will toward men." This hymn of peace is yet to be accomplished. The death of Jesus was the beginning of a new era that will embrace all mankind, by singing songs of redemption.

It was Christmas Eve 1818 when Franz Gruber, 31, composed what became an internationally famous song, *Silent, Night, Holy Night*. It has been recorded that when he was a boy, he had often been beaten by his father for sneaking away at times, yet this man composed this beautiful hymn as an adult.

Another memorable song was born during the end of World War I. The French, Americans, and British had advanced into German territory; a German soldier came out of hiding and faced an English soldier with his gun trained on the Briton. The Englishman began to sing Jesus, Lover of My Soul, a composition written by Charles Wesley. Instead of shooting, the German responded by singing the

same melody in his own language. They were no longer enemies; the German soldier surrendered to the British soldier as the Germans were being overtaken by the Allied charge.

Shall we enter Paradise with singing? Why not? "Jesus set the world to singing" when He came. I recall a story later told to us by those who were on a boat, crossing the Monongahela River, returning home from a meeting. That night, the wind made the river waves too dangerous to cross, but these great people prayed for a safe crossing. They needed to return home. The boat was loaded beyond its capacity, and water was getting into it. Some of the sisters became frightened. At this point one Joseph Ashton stood in the middle of the boat, balanced himself, and began to sing. His voice roared above the stormy wind and the sound of the waters, "Fear not, brethren, Lo, 'tis Jesus holds the helm and guides the ship; Spread the sails that catch the breezes sent to waft us to the deep."

The others took courage and joined him with an assured feeling of joy. "Led by Him we brave the ocean; Led by Him the storm defy; Calm amid tumultuous motion, Knowing that our Lord is nigh." Charles Ashton, who was just a child at the time, told us, "There was a sudden break in the wind, and the clouds parted. When I saw my uncle stand up, I knew everything would be all right. I saw the clouds break and suddenly there was calm. I was proud of my uncle; it was he who brought me to the Church.'

"Sing your glooms away, it will change your night to day." The children of Israel were urged by their King Jehosaphat to sing and to praise the Lord, and "the Lord sent ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir" (II Chronicles 20:22). The Lord heard their singing and their praises. "Be you not dismayed by reason of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's."

Singing comes from rejoicing. We do rejoice over all manner of tribulations when we know our Redeemer lives and knows all about our troubles. He does care, so why not sing His praises? Sing through trials and tears; you too can sing as King David, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou are with me, thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

Mary sang a song of praise when the angel told her she was to be the mother of Jesus. A new song of love was sung when the angel brought to earth the Restored Gospel, "An angel came down from the mansions of glory." And now the Songs of Zion written by Sis. Arlene Buffington are bringing a new spirit of singing and rejoicing into our hearts. Tell it in song, tell it in testimony, sing it again, our redemption is near!

## Faith

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

Faith is the bridge between you and God. It is the bridge which God has ordained. If all were seen and known, there would be no merit in doing right. Therefore God has ordained that we do not see or know all things directly. But we can experience His power through our faith. It is the bridge between us and Him, which we can take or not, as we will. There could be no morality without free will. We must make the choice ourselves. We must make the venture of belief.

There are two things that we must have if we are going to change our way of life. One is faith, the confidence in things not seen, the fundamental goodness and purpose in our lives. The other is obedience—that is, living according to our faith, living each day as we believe the Lord wants us to live, with gratitude, humility, honesty, purity, unselfishness, and love. Faith and obedience, these two will give us all the strength we need to overcome sin and temptation, and to live a new and more abundant life. May God richly bless one and all.

Bro. Sam French Muncey, Ontario Mission

## Our Women Today

#### PA Circle holds retreat

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Circle held a retreat on June 3 and 4, 1989 at Gilmary Diocesan Center in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania. Six locals were represented and about 35 sisters were in attendance. Sisters Lorraine DeMercurio of Detroit, Michigan and Robin Rangel of Cleveland, Ohio were our out-of-town guests.

Sister Karen Progar, chairperson, welcomed everyone and hoped that everybody would enjoy themselves at this beautiful place. The West Elizabeth Circle took care of the devotions. They talked about the journey Moses took to the promised land, reminding the sisters that because of their murmurings they took 40 years to make the trip, and only those that were 20 years and younger when they left were permitted to enter.

Business was then taken care of. The presidents of the six locals present gave a brief report of their activities. Each circle is to raise money to help the Pennsylvania missions program. A Mother and Daughter Dinner will be held on May 5, 1990. Money was donated to the Radio Broadcast Program and to the building fund for Elkin, West Virginia. The next meeting will be held November 4, 1989 at Monongahela, Pennsylvania. A vote of thanks was given to the Imperial Circle for their hospitality.

After lunch there was a seminar led by Sis. Becky Tarbuck on "Our Journey to the Promised Land." Our journey through life was compared to Moses, his people, and his journey, as well as to Lehi and his family.

Supper was served and there was some free time in which the sisters visited with one another. During the evening meeting Sister Lorraine DeMercurio spoke to the isters, saying she enjoyed herself and encouraged the sisters to attend Circle functions. She said that

as an area, the Circle can ac-

complish many extra projects for the district's missionary activities.

The Imperial Circle presented a program on the foods that are eaten in Africa, India, Italy, Mexico, and China. The sisters explained their customs and they also served a treat pertaining to each country.

A few sisters gave their testimonies, thanking God especially for the little things He does for them

Sunday morning Brothers Alma Nolfi and James Moore, Jr. conducted the meeting. They read from the scriptures about the expectations we as a Church are awaiting, encouraging us to have faith as Abraham. Sacrament was administered by Brothers Carl Frammolino and Alma Nolfi.

The sisters enjoyed the weekend very much, and we hope everyone there gained something. We hope for God's blessings as we continue our journey together.

#### BRANCH 2 continued . . .

Romano, Joe Straccia, and Emil Carlini were among the laborers named.

As the night progressed, the elders of Branch 2 brought many pleasurable memories back to our minds. Bro. Dominic Thomas moved through the congregation, microphone in hand, "interviewing" various members and acquaintances of Branch 2.

Among the most memorable testimonies was that of Brother Emil DiMelis. At a previous point in the meeting, all those who had been blessed in the Church at Branch 2 were asked to stand. Bro. Emil noticed that his son Dino, now 20 years old, was not among those standing. In a moving testimony, Bro. Emil expressed his and his wife Norine's desire to have Dino blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. Tears of joy flowed from our eyes as Bro. Alex Gentile asked the Lord for His blessing upon Dino DiMelis.

Soon afterward, the young people prepared to sing a closing hymn. But the Lord had not fin-

ished blessing us that night. A young woman, Paula Hunt, rose to her feet and in a stirring testimony, asked for her baptism.

No words can express the joy and love that we felt. The power of God was truly present in that meeting. We can only pray that the Lord continues to bless us as we embark on another 25 years in Branch 2.

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Kenneth and Louise Bruno 16404 O'Connor Allen Park, MI 48101 Telephone (313) 274-5281

Joseph Jr. and Suzanne Catone 14210 Appalachian Trail Davie, FL 33325 Telephone (305) 370-5022

Elsie Ensana 1722 W. Sanderling Lane Fort Pierce, FL 34982 Telephone (407) 489-0018

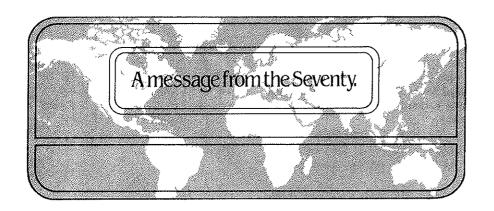
Mike and Pat Hildenbrand 114 Orchid St. Strasburg, VA 22657 Telephone (703) 465-5487

Tina Katsaras 594-16-8927 PSC Box 274 MAFB, FL 33608-5360 (McDill Air Force Base) Telephone (813) 830-6823

Stacey and Carolyn Light 6036 Ponca Ct. San Diego, CA 92120

Joseph and Mary Perri 16 Lavister Drive Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 Telephone (609) 722-8958

Anthony and Angela Scolaro 49541 Lordstown Ct. Utica, MI 48087 Telephone (313) 566-0598



## Special follow-up services conducted at Lorain, Ohio

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Two special services (morning and evening) were held on Sunday, May 28 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ as a follow-up to last November's weekend of revival meetings conducted through the General Church Development Committee under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists.

The subject for May's services was "America: Land of Promise." Guest speakers were Evangelist Fred Olexa from Greensburg, PA and Ohio District President Ron Genaro for the morning service, and Evangelist Paul Ciotti of McKees Rocks, PA in the evening.

Many penetrating and farreaching thoughts were discussed,
indicating how America has been
and is the land of promise. Among
the comments made was the
underlying theme of God's promises
to the inhabitants of the land of
America, how He has fulfilled them,
and how He has opened the doors
for all nations and people to come
unto Him. How those whom God
chose specifically to come to
America were directed, protected,
and nurtured during their expeditions was highlighted.

Scriptures were cited to point out how the Lord has performed many wonderful things in the land of America, the land of liberty. How the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ took place on this land and how it was performed by way of the Gentiles were points also brought forth.

Prophecies and revelations were presented, with future expectations and the role of The Church of Jesus Christ being interspersed. Present-day testimonies and examples of how God has brought individuals from many miles away and from remote countries were edifying to all those assembled.

#### A SIGNIFICANT PART

Besides the blessings for those who participated and attended, the significant part of these recent services was that the Ohio District took the place of the Development Committee in working with Lorain. This marked the district's increased willingness to become more active in the domestic missionary endeavors within its boundaries. It is noteworthy and ideal, because it fulfills the need for helping individual branches and missions in their quest to spread the Gospel. Being in the same area also allows for more immediate attention and permits closer contact and implementation of efforts.

In accepting the ongoing responsibility, Ohio has set up procedures to follow through and coordinate activities. Bro. Bill Hufnagle has been elected the coordinator, assisted by Bro. Wayne Martorana.

The Ohio District has officially adopted the kind of branch missionary program being utilized in Lorain. It sponsored the advertising phase, which included information placed in newspapers, over radio and television, and the distribution of flyers.

A press release detailing the theme, purpose, intent, schedule, and expectations for the meetings was sent to all the news media in the area. The notice also described our church, locations internationally, and identified our headquarters as Monongahela, PA. On a more intimate note, it mentioned that General Church President Dominic Thomas is from Lorain and that the motto of the Church is, "You are always welcomed and never a stranger."

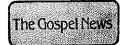
As additional coverage, Lorain Presiding Elder Joseph Calabrese mailed 225 individual personal letters of invitation. The branch members had submitted the names of the people invited.

#### VISITORS ATTENDING

Visitors who had come in November are still attending at Lorain. The latest effort was viewed as a way to bring in others. The total project of publicizing the Gospel is one which requires continual exposure and follow-up. Greater results usually accrue after those being sought have become familiar with the Church and desire to come to the services. A one-time effort does not usually yield large numbers, but, after repeated announcements and reports are read or heard, people develop confidence and interest. Expectations for turnouts should be viewed accordingly.

Being diligent and persistent in going out to attract new people is necessary in any missionary activity, and the General Church Development Committee had espoused this position from the beginning. The Independence-Oak Grove, Missouri project is an example of this position. The committee has held a series of meetings in that locale. As a result, meaningful dialogue has begun with many groups and individuals. It has been found that concentration within a location's boundaries allows for more intensified and noteworthy achievements.

The support for branches and missions is being built and is available for any who desire it, as in Lorain. With God's help, our efforts will be rewarded.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 41825 Alden Drive Mt. Clemens, MI 48044

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Jeffrey Giannetti
3406 Sunflower Rd.
New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

> FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN — ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

> OHIO James P. Hufnagle

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

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

PENNSYLVANIA Lucette Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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

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

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

One of the concerns we must have as the people of God is that we are working toward the success of His Church as a whole. The actions that we take and the decisions we make should positively affect not only ourselves, not just our own branches or missions, but also our districts and ultimately the entire General Church. It is the duty of every part of the Church, each member and congregation, to contribute in some way toward the health of the unified Body of Christ.

While every Church-related endeavor is undoubtedly undertaken for a good cause, we must be careful that the Church's many parts do not begin to detract from the whole, rather than add to its unity. Our exclusive support of local endeavors, while appearing necessary at times, could very quickly erode the unity that we as a Church must possess in order to succeed. Before we realize what's happened, scheduled Church activities can begin to conflict with one another, our energy and funds trickle into a growing number of increasingly smaller Church projects, and no single area of endeavor gets the attention or support it needs in order to flourish. Worthy causes sometimes founder and die for a lack of the support necessary to follow through and build after the ground has been initially broken.

To complicate matters, the busy lives we lead these days make it harder and harder for us to get together even to worship the Lord, let alone to work for Him. It becomes more and more difficult for us to support anything more than localized Church functions. We know that one day the Restored Gospel will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, and in our own way, each of us is doing our part to increase that coverage. But as much as the Lord works within each of us, we also know that no individual member, no one branch or mission, is going to singlehandedly bring forth the Kingdom of Zion.

The Lord is waiting for His Church to become a unified body, one through which His matchless power might be made manifest. As we find ourselves tempted at times to launch still another project while hard pressed to find the manpower and funds to continue the work we've already begun, we must ask ourselves just how thin we as a Church can afford to spread ourselves and still be an effective Light unto the world.

Of course, neither manpower nor funds will be the secret to the Church's success. What we all need is a greater level of spirituality, which will bring about greater charity, which will drive us closer together with an inconquerable force. With God's Spirit in full control, the Church's growth will take place across the board, on *all* fronts; each of us as laborers will be divinely inspired to lend our help where it is needed most.

A tremendous effort must be made on everyone's behalf in order for the Church to raise itself up and unite. The enemy of righteousness will try anything—even scattering our energy in opposing directions—to thwart the forward motion of God's kingdom here below. Like glowing embers, we must all maintain a certain proximity to one another—spiritually, philosophically, even geographically—to prevent any part of God's fire from going out.

# The

# Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

# God's Angry Servant

Dear friends,

Sometimes I hear people say, "Oh, I would serve God, but I'm too imperfect; I make too many mistakes." Sometimes I hear people even say, "I have such a bad temper that God could never use me."

According to a wonderful story in the Bible, this is not true. Jonah was a servant of God who did a lot of disobedient things on purpose; he was also a very angry man.

God told Jonah, "I want you to go to the huge city of Nineveh. The people there do so many evil things that I will destroy their city if they don't stop. But I want you, Jonah, to go and tell them to stop."

Now we all know from reading the book of Jonah in the Bible that Jonah hopped on a boat instead and went in the exact opposite direction from Nineveh. Jonah did not want to help the people of Nineveh. From reading the story, it almost sounds like Jonah hated the people of Nineveh and wanted God to destroy the city.

But Jonah could not hide from God; God sees everything. He saw Jonah on the boat and He sent a storm to stop the little boat. God showed the sailors that it was Jonah that He wanted. The sailors believed Jonah when he told them God wanted them to throw him into the sea. A big fish (also called a whale by Jesus in the New Testament) was prepared by God to come along and swallow Jonah.

For three horrible days Jonah was inside the belly of that special sea creature. Jonah rolled up and down in the water, with weeds



wrapped around his head, no doubt choking and rolling on pieces of dead sea creatures in a tight, small place. What could Jonah do but pray?

Jonah knew that he didn't have to be there. He knew that he had been running away from a job God wanted him to do, and God had stopped him. Now Jonah was ready to do God's will and follow His plan.

God told the fish to vomit Jonah out by the shore, and Jonah was free again and on dry land! This time Jonah went to Nineveh and began preaching to the people to stop their sins or be destroyed. The king and all the people heard and believed. They fasted and prayed. To fast, they did not eat or drink. The king declared that everyone would fast; not even the animals or flocks were given food or drink. God heard their sadness and cries, and forgave them.

But was Jonah happy? Was he rejoicing that over 120,000 people had turned away from evil? No, he was angry. He told God, "I know you were good and kind and forgave people. That's why I did not want to go to Nineveh!"

Angrily, Jonah left the city and camped outside under a flimsy shelter. He was waiting there, hoping to see Nineveh destroyed. But God wanted Jonah to understand and forgive. To teach Jonah another lesson, the Lord had a beautiful shady vine grow up the shelter to provide shade and comfort for Jonah.

Jonah really liked that vine. The next day God sent a worm to bite and destroy the vine. Then God sent a hot easterly wind to blow on Jonah and the sun beat upon his head; Jonah fainted.

Finally God came to Jonah and asked, "Are you right to be so angry about the vine?" Jonah answered, "Yes! I'm so angry I wish I could die!"

But God knew that what Jonah was really angry about was Nineveh. He said to Jonah, "You are angry about a vine dying that you didn't make, or even plant or care for. Shouldn't I be concerned over a huge city of 120,000 people and all their animals?

And we see that God is patient and forgiving, not only of a huge wicked city, but also of a stubborn, angry servant. And God is patient and loving today with us, too. We must just overcome our struggles and put our trust in God.

#### WORD SEARCH

NINEVEH	$\mathbf{WATER}$
WICKED	FOOD
JONAH	FORGIVE
HATE	$_{ m LOVE}$
PEOPLE	$\mathbf{OF}$
FEAR	GOD
FAST	VINE
NO	

P	E	0	Р	L	E	Т	E	L
G	N	J	0	N	A	Н	V	0
0	D	S	V	F	Е	R	Ι	V
D	E	V	J	V	N	E	G	Е
R	K	I	Е	T	G	Т	R	F
0	С	N	Т	s	R	A	0	Е
F	I	E	A	A	Y	W	F	A
N	W	V	Н	F	0	0	D	R

# Notice

Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout
September 15, 16, and 17 at
Antiochian Village
Ligonier, PA
\$40 per person
Camp Director David DeLuca
Telephone 412 378-3306

# **Branch and Mission News**

# Aliquippa joins Youngstown Branch for Sunday service

By Saundra Cardillo

May 7, 1989 was the date that the Youngstown, Ohio Branch hosted the annual Aliquippa-Youngstown combined meeting. The members of these two branches share ancestry and friendships that have given them a special bond.

Presiding Elder Ralph Berardino turned the service over to Bro. Chuck Jumper of Aliquippa. Bro. Chuck opened the meeting by telling how in the scriptures the saints of God gathered together and waited for the Lord to be in their midst. With this as the morning's theme, our day of worship began.

The Aliquippa choir, under the direction of Bro. Pete Giannetti Jr., sang It Is Well with My Soul and Make Me a Blessing. Our first peaker, Bro. Carl Frammolino, proclaimed that hearing the harmony and sincerity of these saints further confirmed that it was well with his own soul. He added that it all started "at the cross." The entire congregation stood and sang that beautiful hymn, and the Lord's presence was felt in our midst! Bro. Carl continued by speaking on Ephesians 1:15-19, elaborating on the wisdom and the Spirit of God.

Bro. Pete Giannetti Sr. followed, telling of the joy to be had in serving God.

Bro. Chuck concluded the morning service by relating an experience that he had during his mother's hospitalization. Upon entering her room one day, he found her gravely ill; she wasn't responding to his voice, and her vital signs were failing. He knew that the Lord was her only hope. With the combined compassion of both a son and a minister of the Lord, he bowed his head and pleaded for the Lord to enter into their lidst and to extend his mother's life a little longer.

Upon completing his prayer, he raised his eyes to the monitors over

her bed. The pulse rate had returned to normal, and she became alert. Praise God for the love that He shows His children! Bro. Joe Gennaro closed the morning meeting in prayer.

After enjoying a wonderful luncheon prepared by the Youngstown sisters and brothers, we assembled for the afternoon meeting. Apostle Paul Palmieri opened with a few encouraging remarks about how important we all are to the success of the Church. All of our talents are needed to further the work of the Lord. No talent is too great or too small; all are much needed and greatly appreciated.

The testimonies that followed our brother's speaking were numerous and very moving. We all felt the energy of the Lord's quickening Spirit in our midst, and certainly each and every one of us went home rejoicing.

# Healings and baptism in Riverbank

By Barbara Parravano

On February 5, 1989 we started the meeting with the singing of Spanish hymns, which always puts us in a frame of mind to receive God's blessings! Presiding Elder Lou Parravano began speaking about the Holy Ghost, using the scriptures from Acts 2, Romans 12, and IV Nephi.

During the meeting we heard a four-year-old boy crying. He seemed to be in terrible pain. His grandmother asked the elders to pray for him because he was having bad stomach pains. The brothers anointed him and prayed.

The boy continued to cry for another half hour or so. His mother was ready to take him to the doctor, but the boy said he wanted to be prayed on again. The brothers prayed again, and within five minutes, the boy was healed!

Later in the meeting, his grandmother, who had been coming to church off and on for several years, asked for her baptism!! We praise God for those two miracles that day.

On February 12, the following Sunday, the grandmother, Sister Irma Navarro, was baptized by Bro. Lou Parravano and confirmed by Bro. Matthew Picciuto.

On March 15, at a Wednesday night meeting, Sis. Irma had a severe sore throat and headache. When she was anointed and prayed on, the pain was immediately lifted from her. In a testimony service, one of our faithful visitors, Susie Padron, also told of being healed after being anointed at the Mexicali Mission by Bro. Luis Pacheco. She's never had pain since! We are so thankful God has made Himself so real to us.

# Teacher ordained in Tampa

By Sharon Staley

Sunday, April 30, 1989 was a memorable Sabbath for the saints in the Tampa, Florida Branch as we anticipated the ordination of Brother Isaac (Ike) J. Smith as a teacher. The day began with a fasting and prayer service, followed by an interesting Sunday School lesson in III Nephi regarding Christ visiting the lost tribes after His resurrection and appearance on the land of America.

Visiting with us this day were saints from Lake Worth, Hollywood, Monongahela, PA; Lakeside, AZ; and Guatemala.

Brother Ike Smith of Lakeside introduced the preaching service, stressing that we are composed of both body and soul. As Christ's servants, we individually are important parts of the body of Christ, regardless of our responsibilities. He encouraged the congregation to

(Continued on page 8)

#### TAMPA continued . . .

always walk and abide in the Spirit of the Lord.

After the Lord's Supper was administered, Brother John Griffith read the duties of members and teachers in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Ike's feet were washed by his father-in-law, Brother Duane Lowe, after which he was ordained by his father. Following his ordination, Brother Ike bore his testimony and solicited the prayers of the saints as he endeavors to fulfill his duties as a teacher. Other brothers and sisters then expressed themselves, several of whom related experiences relative to our brother's calling.

Our meeting concluded with everyone feeling blessed to have spent such a beautiful day in God's house.

# Elder ordained in Cape Coral

By Bertha Constantine

On May 7, 1989 we in Cape Coral, Florida experienced a blessing in witnessing the ordination of Brother Milford Eutsey Jr. into the priesthood. We also enjoyed our visiting brothers and sisters from Phoenix, AZ, as well as the Miami, Hollywood, Fort Pierce, and Lake Worth Branches in Florida.

A solo, Second to God, was sung by Sister Barbara DiNardo of Hollywood. Brother Milford Eutsey Sr.'s opening remarks were on the blessings and promises that come through serving God, and how they have enriched all our lives. Brother James Sheffler led the congregation in prayer. Michelle Hylton and Doreen Kukal then sang Sweet, Sweet Spirit.

Before the ordination took place, we sang *To the Work*. Brother George Kovacic of Miami washed our Brother Milford's feet to set him apart, and Brother James Sheffler ordained him with the anointing of oil and the laying on of hands.

Brother Sam Costarella of Fort Pierce called the hymn Are Ye Able, Said the Master and elaborated on the words of this appropriate song, giving our brother encouragement and strength. God has much work for our Brother Milford to do.

Our Brother Milford then gave his testimony as to how God has worked with him in coming into the Gospel in his youth, and how He has blessed him through the years. Both our brother and his wife Sister Hope have had experiences confirming this calling, and we pray that the Lord will continue to bless them as they labor for Him.

# Muncey holds spaghetti dinner

By Samuel French

On April 18, 1989 the saints at the Muncey, Ontario Mission held a spaghetti dinner which turned out to be a huge success. There was an excellent turnout of over one hundred people.

Many came from the Indian reservation in Muncey, and a few from nearby London, Ontario. To date, the receipts from the endeavor have totaled nearly \$1500.00.

We wish to thank all of those who contributed to the success of this dinner in so many different ways. A special thanks to Vaughan Albert for the use of the building; may God richly bless you.

We give God the honour and glory for giving us the strength to undertake this wonderful task.

# Lorain Branch honors new apostle

By Iva Davis

The Lorain, Ohio Branch is feeling the blessings of our Brother Joe Calabrese being called to be an apostle. Many of us traveled to the General Church Conference to witness the ordination.

Brother Paul Palmieri washed Bro. Joe's feet and Bro. Dominic Thomas ordained him. As these events took place, we were blessed in witnessing the humility that fell upon our Brother Joe.

To show our love and joy for him, we (the Lorain Branch) gathered together on May 15 for a pot luck dinner. On behalf of the branch members, Bro. Joe was presented with a briefcase. We're sure he'll use it in carrying out his added responsibilities.

Our prayers are for both of our new apostles. As long as they look to the Lord, He will direct them in all things. God bless each and everyone!

## Ordination in Hollywood

By guest writer Pamela D'Orazio

On May 14, 1989 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch, visitors from Arizona, Guatemala, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and throughout the Florida District were in attendance to receive God's blessings and to witness the ordination of Brother Douglas Obradovich into the priesthood.

Our meeting was opened by Brother Paul Palmieri, visiting from the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch. He spoke on the two men Elijah and Elisha. The message brought forward was certainly one that could be applied in our everyday lives. Following Bro. Paul's address, Bro. Cleveland Baldwin from the Quincy, FL Mission spoke for a few minutes and his words were enjoyed by all.

As the congregation prepared for the next event of the day, Sis. Barbara DiNardo sang Ye Who Are Called to Labor. Bro. Doug took his place before the basin of water as everyone in the room fell silent. The Spirit of God was felt by all those in attendance as Brother Dennis Moraco washed Brother Doug's feet.

The priesthood then gathered around our brother to offer a prayer on his behalf. Bro. Joseph Catone Sr. placed his hands on the head of our brother and offered a beautiful prayer. Blessings from on high surely descended into our presence this day.

Following the completion of the ordination, Brother Dennis Moraco gave way for both Brother Doug and Brother Milford Eutsey, Jr. to say a few words. Brother Milford was ordained into the priesthood one week prior to this event and expressed his gratitude to the Lord. Not only did these two newly ordained elders have a brief opportunity to speak, but they also had the privilege of administering the Lord's Supper. Surely the joy within their hearts must have been immeasurable this day.

# Millstone Mission bids Gonzales family farewell

By Carl Huttenberger

Sunday, May 21, 1989 was a day of joy and a day of sadness at the Millstone, New Jersey Mission.

For the past year, Brother sidro Gonzales and his family have been with us to teach and preach and minister to our Spanish-speaking members. He left his home in Tijuana, Mexico with his wife Sister Chayo and four children last year to work for the Lord in this part of the vineyard.

The time had come, however, when he and his family had to return to Mexico. We were saddened by the news. Many tears of sorrow were shed, but they were mixed with tears of love for the Gonzales'. We have all become like a family, and it was hard to watch them go.

Nevertheless, we also were joyful because we know that God has a purpose for everything. Brother Isidro, in following God's direction, counseled us to continue the work. Recently we have experienced many blessings and miracles. We also have had many visitors originally from countries throughout Central and South America. Our most recent visitors vere from Argentina. We have several established families of Mexican origin baptized in the Church here.

Bro. Isidro encouraged us that the foundation of this work has been sufficiently laid so that the work can move forward with God's direction. We rejoiced in the encouragement, and realized that this work is not *our* work, but God's. Therefore God will continue to strengthen and build, as He is doing throughout the world as the time draws nigh for the gathering of Israel.

The following Monday evening, we all met at Brother Paul and Sister Dotty Calabro's home to bid the Gonzales family farewell. Before they left, we sang Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile and Keeping Step. Brother Isidro offered a prayer, and the spirit of love prevailed so strongly that even the children were crying. We thank God that by His Spirit which was so evident, we know He has much more in store for us to do in spreading the Gospel. God bless you all.

# Two answer God's call in San Diego

We of the San Diego Branch have recently enjoyed witnessing two souls enter the fold of God. In May, David Manard requested to be baptized and was taken to the waters by his brother, Bro. Bob. Womack. Bro. Tom Liberto confirmed him. He has testified of his desire to grow in the Gospel, and our prayer is that God will aid Bro. David.

On June 4, Scott Renz stood to testify of God's movement in his life, and requested to be baptized. He had been introduced to the Gospel over a year ago when Bro. Ray Saczko gave him his testimony.

Apparently Bro. Ray's words touched Scott, because recently he decided to seek out the Lord and His Church. Bro. Bob Womack baptized him and Bro. David Ciccati confirmed him. While he was being confirmed, a vision was had in which a crown was seen on Bro. Scott's head. We are thankful to have witnessed these conversions. May God continue to call souls into His fold.

## **Baptism in Dallas**

By Stella Benyola

Brother Duane Lovalvo of Detroit, Michigan Branch 2 was baptized one year ago in May. Since then his constant prayer was that his wife, Janice (Benyola) Lovalvo would join ranks with him so they could enjoy God's blessings together as husband and wife and as brother and sister in The Church of Jesus Christ. Well, Bro. Duane's prayers were answered on Mother's Day, May 14, 1989 while visiting in Dallas, Texas.

It was a beautiful, sunny day in Dallas. As the members paid tribute to our mothers, past and present, a beautiful spirit of peace filled our building. Brother George Benyola spoke of the important and influential role our mothers play in all of our lives. Their constant concern and compassion for their families only reflects their concern and compassion for the Church, which they always put first in their lives even before themselves. We all felt a great sorrow in our hearts for those unfortunate people who never knew the love of their real mother.

When Janice got up to thank God for her mother and the love she always showed unto her, she admitted that there was still something missing in her life. She said, "I'm not baptized." She revealed to us that getting up enough courage to stand upon her feet and request baptism has been a constant struggle for some time, and she prayerfully asked God to open the door for her. Well, she didn't have to wait too much longer, because she said, "I don't know if today is a good day, but I would like to be baptized." Of course it was a perfect day-not only for Janice but for all the saints in Dallas. How anxious God is to open that door when we express a sincere desire.

We immediately left our meeting to gather at the water's edge. Brother George Benyola, Janice's father, took her into the water and by the authority given to this priesthood, baptized her in The Church of Jesus Christ. We later

(Continued on page 10)

#### DALLAS continued . . .

met again at the church where Bro. George laid hands on Janice for the precious gift of the Holy Ghost. The saints in Dallas would like to welcome Sister Janice into The Church of Jesus Christ. May God bless her with strength and courage all the days of her life.

The Dallas Mission would also like to welcome Brother Duane and Sister Janice to the Dallas area as our newest residents. It seems that God blessed them with a job in Dallas and, better than that, with an opportunity to play a very important role in a small mission that is yearning to grow. They will both add a great deal of strength to the nucleus that already exists in Dallas. Their future contributions to the success of the Dallas Mission and their desire to share the talents God has blessed them with will no doubt be a tremendous asset to everyone in Dallas. May God richly bless them both today and forever.

#### Levittown moving forward

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Levittown needs your prayers. Our little church in eastern Pennsylvania has been blessed in very many ways, and it is our desire that these blessings come to their fullest fruition for the honor and glory of our Father and Provider.

On April 9, 1989 our building was filled with visitors from all over the East Coast eagerly anticipating the ordination of three members of the fold into the select service of God. Sister Tammy Valenti received the double blessing of being called into the office of deaconess and having her feet washed by her mother, Sister Faye Valenti.

Our Brother Joseph Benyola, having his feet washed by Brother Joe Perri, accepted the office of teacher, and Brother James G. Speck bowed his head to the calling into the priesthood, with Brother Jerry Valenti washing his feet and asking the Lord's blessing upon him.

Then, on April 21, during the General Church Conference in Greensburg, we learned that our beloved Brother Paul Benyola had been called to fill a seat at the Lord's table as an apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ.

So you can see, brothers and sisters, that many doors are opening and many lives are changing here in our little branch. We would ask that you remember our fellow servants as they move and live and grow in the Father, that they remain open and obedient to the Spirit. Remember also the congregation, that we may provide support and encouragement to our newly appointed leaders as they don the garments of responsibility God has sewn for them.

Blessings in the Lord, Bro. Brian McCreary

# \* WEDDINGS \*

#### McGUIRE-PORDON

Sean Lee McGuire, son of Sister Marie McGuire, was married to Pamela Ann Pordon in Lake Worth, Florida on April 15, 1989 with Brother Gene Perri officiating.

#### STOUR-CARUSO

Brad Scott Stour and Sandra Lynn Caruso were united in holy matrimony on Friday, May 5, 1989 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Sam DiFalco officiated at the ceremony. The bride is the daughter of Sister Elaine Caruso of Sterling Heights. May the Lord bless the newlyweds in their life together.

#### ROGOLINO-LEMING

Gregory Michael Rogolino, son of Pat and Joyce Rogolino, was married to Elizabeth Anne Leming in Fort Pierce, Florida on June 10, 1989 with Brother Joe Graziosi officiating.

#### PALERMO—ZIMMERMAN

Ronald Palermo and Christen Zimmerman were joined in marriage on June 17, 1989 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Rochester, New York.

Brother Frank Natoli performed the wedding. Musical selections were provided by Sister Kathy Natoli.

The couple are residing in Rochester, NY. May God's blessings rest upon them as they enter this new phase of their lives.

# **New Arrivals**

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

Allysa Monique to Steve and Ruth DeCaro of San Diego, CA.

Jordan Richard to David and Lisa Manard of San Diego, CA.

# Children Blessed

On February 5, 1989, Sarah Rose Snake was blessed in the Muncey, Ontario Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Sam DiFalco.

Daniel David Ross Fisher was blessed on March 26, 1989 by Bro. Rodney Dyer at the Muncey, Ontario Mission.

Mark James Rogolino Jr. was blessed by his grand-father, Bro. Frank Rogolino in Fort Pierce, Florida on May 14, 1989.

On May 21, 1989 Joshua Lee Robertson was blessed by Bro. Frank Rogolino. Joshua is the grandson of Sister Sherry and Brother Vincent Moore of Fort Pierce, Florida.

Latrisha Pamela Hayes, daughter of Oscar Tyrone Hayes and Sherbia Simmons Hayes was blessed on May 21, 1989 by Bro. Frank Rogolino. Latrisha is the granddaughter of Sis. Susie Perry of Fort Pierce.

# **OBITUARIES**

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

#### SANTINA D'ORAZIO

Sister Santina B. D'Orazio of Lake Worth, Florida died April 9, 1989 after a prolonged illness. She was born January 6, 1911 and was baptized November 25, 1928. Our sister was a deaconess.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Mike Radd and Leonard Benyola.

She is survived by her husband, Bro. August; one son, Bro. John; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Another son, Bro. Augie, preceded her in death. Our sister passed on to her reward with a firm hope of the resurrection, faithful and steadfast to the end.

#### FILOMENA CERONE

Sister Filomena Thomas Cerone of Lorain, Ohio passed on to her eternal reward on April 15, 1989. She was born on December 21, 1897 and was baptized into the Church on November 8, 1931.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Dominic Thomas, and Anthony R. Lovalvo.

Our sister is survived by two daughters, Sisters Vickie Calabrese and Anne Lovalvo, and a son, Brother Dominic Thomas, in addition to numerous grand-children, great grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren. Another daughter, Sister Christine Taormina, preceded her in death.

Sister Filomena was a faithful sister, a good example to all, and a spiritual example to the young sisters in her love for the Lord, for her family, and for all the saints. She fought a good fight and kept the faith until the end.

#### BERTHA SOMMERVILLE

Sis. Bertha Deline Sommerville of the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch died unexpectedly on May 31, 1989 in her home. She was born April 6, 1908 in Belle Vernon, PA and was baptized July 9, 1939.

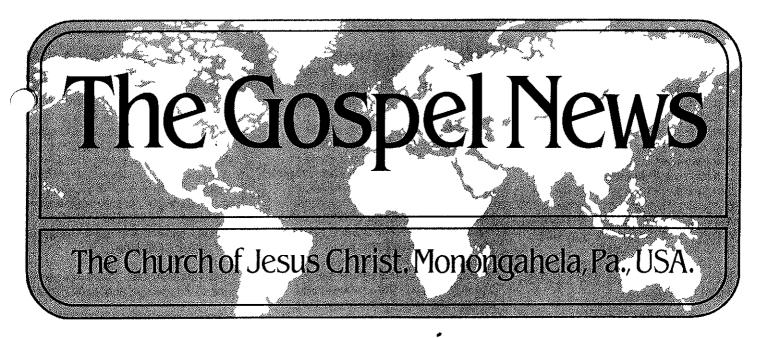
Funeral services were held at Pine Hills Garden Chapel in Orlando. Brother Frank Rogolino officiated at the June 3 service. Sister Bertha's interment was at the Riverlawn Cemetery in Marysville, Michigan, with Brother Chuck Smith of Oak Grove, Missouri speaking at the graveside.

We know that our sister has had a great reunion with her loved ones who have gone on before her, and that Christ extends this blessing to all who believe on Him and obey.

# Address Change

Name \_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_



September, 1989

Volume 45, No. 9

# Evangelists Visit Pennsylvania

By Lucetta Scaglione, PA District Editor

On Saturday July 29, many members of the Pennsylvania District gathered in the Vanderbilt anch to hear Evangelists Mitchell Awards and Carl Frammolino. The congregational singing was beautiful, and Bro. Bob Beam sang one of our late Sister Esther Dyer's hymns, Are You Working in the Vineyard of the Lord, My Son? District Evangelists Chairman Bob Buffington welcomed everyone and thanked God for the opportunity to "move the Church a little farther" and to pray that God would bless our brothers as they spoke, that all might receive a little drink. Brother Paul Ciotti opened with an inspiring prayer, and we then sang The Sea So Great, Lord, My Boat So Small.

As Brother Edwards opened, he testified that he found God's goodness, mercy, and tenderness to be the most reliable things in his life, and because of this he has fallen in love with the Lord. The Church has become his family and has allowed him to achieve a special love for his fellow man.

He told of his kindredship with the Apostle Peter as he read the systure in Matthew where Jesus a. d, "Whom do men say that I the Son of Man am?" His apostles began to say the things they had heard. But it was Peter who answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus was pleased with this answer. We know that this was made known only through the revelation of God. This is our revelation too, which will live with us forever, and which no man can take away.

Brother Mitch also spoke of Peter's faith when he walked on the water, and how, when he realized where he was and took his eyes off Jesus, he began to sink. How often do we let the world come in and take away our faith? But in spite of our shortcomings, the Lord is always there to reach out to us like He did to Peter, if only we say, "Lord, help me."

Our brother also told us that we all can evangelize. We must reach out to the many who don't know about Jesus. We should share our testimony, that the gates of hell will never prevail.

Sister Bertha Bilsky sang Then Jesus Came, and Brother Frammolino told about the excitement that Jesus has placed within his heart. When Jesus came into his life, a wonderful change took place. This is what the Gospel is all about! There is nothing more exciting than telling others about Jesus and seeing that change take place in their lives.

When Jesus comes, all fear is wiped away. Who can say that everything we need is not supplied through Jesus Christ our Lord? Are we convicted that Jesus is the Son of God? If we are, we should be out in the highways and byways telling others about Him. No matter where we are, we should be excited about spreading the Gospel. It is very important to labor, that others might have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This should be the desire of all of us.

We sang *His Wonderful Love*, and Bro. Dick Lawson closed in prayer.

On Sunday evening we gathered in the Imperial Branch to again enjoy the words of life spoken by our visiting brothers. It was a blessing to see the building filled to overflowing. Sister Patti Giannetti sang He Held His Arms and I Ran In, and Brother George Johnson, visiting from Phoenix, Arizona, offered the opening prayer. Brother Dick Lawson welcomed everyone, after which the four Giannetti Brothers sang Revive Us Again.

Brother Mitch Edwards again had the privilege of being the opening speaker. He thanked God for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and

(Continued on Page 2)

# 50th Anniversary

The year 1989 marked fifty years in The Church of Jesus Christ for Sister Jennie Pietrangelo of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1. Over the years she has served as Sunday School teacher to many of us, and is active as a deaconess in the Church. Sis. Jennie is the wife of Bro. Louis Pietrangelo and the mother of Sister Marilyn Scolaro of Branch 1 and Sister Carolyn Griffith of Tampa, Florida.

May the Lord bless our sister with many more years of joy in His



Sis. Jennie Pietrangelo

# Golden Wedding Anniversary

By Marie Fera

Saturday May 27, 1989 was the 50th wedding anniversary of Brother Anthony R. and sister Anne M. Lovalvo of Detroit, Michigan Branch 4. A beautiful reception was given in their honor by their son Leonard A. Lovalvo, along with his wife Loretta (Bologna), and their daughter Rosanne Batalucco, along with her husband Harold, at the Laurel Manor in Livonia, Michigan.

Families, relatives, friends, and many brothers and sisters in Christ were all present to share and help celebrate this special day. Sister Vickie (Anne's sister) and Brother Joseph Calabrese, who were attendants in the wedding, and Brother Michael Piacentino, the best man, were all here to share this happy occasion.

Many happy memories and events were related throughout the afternoon. Our Brother Tony and Sister Anne's faces expressed their joy and love; later they thanked everyone present with emotional sentiments and gave thanks to the Lord for all He has done for them and for blessing them and being in all of their plans from day one. It was especially heartwarming for them to see all the brothers and sisters that they grew up with in the Gospel, as well as the wonderful family the Lord has given them.

Our brother and sister met at a Church Conference in Lorain, Ohio in 1937. After a two-year courtship they were married in Lorain on May 27, 1939. The ceremony was performed by Bro. V. James Lovalvo and Bro. Joseph Lovalvo.

From this union two children were born, Leonard and Rosanne. Their children and one grandson are members of the Church. "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children and their children another generation" (Joel 1:3).

Our brother and sister Lovalvo have been very active members throughout the years, and devoted many years to missionary work. Bro. Anthony was baptized in Detroit, Michigan on July 16, 1933, along with his brothers V. James and Joseph, who are apostles in the Church. Bro. Ishmael D'Amico baptized all three of them. Bro. Tony was ordained a teacher in 1955, an elder in 1960, and an evangelist on October 27, 1968.

Sister Anne was baptized in Lorain, Ohio on January 29, 1933 by Bro. Patsy Fyre. She was ordained a deaconess in 1955 at Detroit Branch 4. Over the years she has held many offices in the branch and in the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). Marriage is the union of two in one, and because of its spiritual nature, the first consideration between a husband and wife should be a common

faith. A good marriage will find the two people growing closer together in the companionship and love that is uniquely theirs. In a Christian home, the husband and wife find that their companionship increases as they enjoy common interests together, and they enjoy just being with each other as they share their common devotion to the things of God. A strong marriage builds upon the primary foundation of their sharing together the good things in the Spirit of the Lord.

May God bless our Brother and Sister Lovalvo with many more years of happiness and good health.



Sister Anne and Brother Tony Lovalvo

#### PENNSYLVANIA continued . . .

what it means to each of us. It is the best thing that ever happened to any of us. "Without the Lord," brother Mitch stated, "I would not be standing before you or have a testimony." He asked us, "How much room do you have in your heart for Jesus?" We should put our faith in the Lord and not in any man. We should try to revive that first love again. Our brother read the parable of the sower, and advised us to be careful of the tares in our lives. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and let the Lord revive your life.

Once again Sister Bertha Bilskv was requested to sing *Then Jesu Came*, and Brother Frammolino told

(Continued on Page 6)

# **MBA** Highlights

# Michigan-Ontario MBA activities

Brothers, sisters and friends from the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA gathered on Sunday, May 29 at Detroit Branch 2 for an evening of singing with an interesting twist.

Sister Tracey Francione coordinated the night of singing and fun patterned after the game show "Name That Tune." Seven songs were selected from several hymn books, and the congregation was divided into two teams. One person from each team was selected at random to be a contestant for each round. After the round was played, the losing contestant had to lead the congregation in the singing of that hymn.

During the course of the game, several "commercial" breaks were taken in which Brother Gary Carlini provided us with the background information of some classic hymns of old. It was an evening of laughter, smiles, and fellowship enjoyed by all

Fund raising has generally never been considered an enjoyable task. However, the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch 3 and the Area MBA got together to prove that raising money for The Church of Jesus Christ can be a very entertaining experience.

A bake sale/auction was held in the classroom area of Branch 3 on Saturday evening June 17, 1989, sponsored by the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA in an effort to raise funds for area activities.

Baked goods were generously donated by our sisters for the event, and were on display before the bidding took place. Everyone registered and was assigned a number with which to bid. Brother Scott Anderson acted as our aucioneer for the evening.

Everything from candy and cookies to Mexican wedding cake was available for auction. The good

taste as well as the generosity of those in attendance allowed the bidding of one apple pie to be sold for \$23.00, while a loaf of home-baked Italian bread sold for \$13.50.

All totaled, over \$600.00 was collected for the area treasury. Brother Scott is to be commended for a superb job as our auctioneer, and we thank the brothers and sisters who attended the activity as well for making it a fun and successful evening.

## Pennsylvania MBA news

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held a business meeting on March 31, 1989 at Aliquippa and planned many activities for the next six months. On May 29 the Area picnic took place at Moon Park. There was a large group in attendance, and everyone had a very enjoyable time.

The planned singspiration was held on July 8 in McKees Rocks. The beautiful singing and testimonies were a blessing to our souls. The forthcoming Area business meeting will be held on September 28, 1989 in Monongahela. The seminar scheduled for August 26 has been postponed to a later date.

A reminder that the PA Area Campout will be held on September 15, 16, and 17 at Antiochian Village. Don't forget to support your Area MBA!

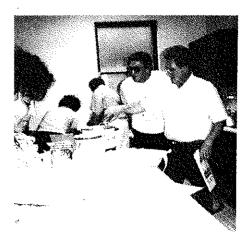
# PA District works with local Indians

The Gentile and the Seed of Joseph working side by side has long been a vision of The Church of Jesus Christ. A small sample of our future camaraderie was experienced on Saturday June 10, 1989 at the Monongahela Branch during a fry bread and chili sale sponsored by the Urban Indian Committee of the Pennsylvania District. The purpose of this event was to raise funds for the humanitarian needs of individuals affiliated with the Council

of Three Rivers American Indian Center, located in Dorseyville, PA.

We enjoyed a very busy day, full of hard work and fun laboring together with volunteers from the Urban Indian Committee, the branches, and our very good friends from the Indian Center. Those representing the Center also had an attractive display of Native American artifacts set up in our church building.

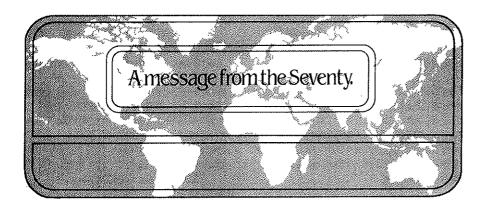
The sisters from the Monongahela Sunday School also donated funds from their flea market and bake sale to support this fundraiser. Their support was much appreciated and needed.



We wish to convey special thanks from the Urban Indian Committee to all who volunteered with their help and those who supported this project. The committee will continue to accept donations towards the humanitarian needs of our Native American friends, the Seed of Joseph.

The committee will be involved in the American Indian Powwow to be held the last weekend of September at the American Indian Center. If anyone would like more information on the fundraiser or the Powwow, please contact the Urban Indian Committee c/o The Church of Jesus Christ, 6th & Lincoln Streets, Monongahela, PA 15063.

<sup>&</sup>quot;And I will also be your light in the wilderness; and I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments; wherefore, inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments ye shall be led towards the promised land; and ye shall know that it is by me that ye are led" (I Nephi 17:13).



# Singing service held outdoors in Glassport

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Evangelism is an ongoing project. This never-ending challenge has been stated in many ways, many times in this column. Sometimes the activities are prominent, and sometimes they are low-key and subtle. Regardless, they are all important and contribute to the spreading of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One of the more prominent kinds of endeavors took place on Sunday evening, June 25, when an inspirational singing service was held in Glassport, Pennsylvania. The Glassport Branch used an outdoor public memorial park in the heart of the city to host the meeting. Local officials were very accommodating; they even detoured traffic from before the capacity-filled pavilion so that the music could be enjoyed without distraction and interruption.

There was no question that there was a special feeling present. The twilight scene was beautiful, and the edifying singing could be heard far away. The serenity and happiness of the evening could be felt in a special way.

The opportunity to project could be sensed by the singers. They were able to look out to the tiers of homes elevated immediately before them, and they seemed to be sincerely hopeful of reaching as many residences as possible with their voices. How far the sound actually carried is unknown, but there was a great intent to sing out, as they put their best efforts forth.

CHOIR, SOLOISTS, QUINTET

The Glassport Branch Choir sang several selections. In addition, soloists from the neighboring branches participated, and the McKees Rocks Quintet offered several beautiful hymns. The singers were introduced individually by a different elder, either of the Glassport Branch or visiting from another branch. This additional feature provided an alerting innovation to the service. Wondering what the next selection would be, who would sing it, and who would be doing the introducing added an air of anticipation and interest to the period between the songs. The elders of the Glassport Branch are Presiding Elder David Nolfi, Alma Nolfi, John Ali, and Ed Donkin.

This marked the second consecutive year that the Glassport Branch has held this kind of service. Interest has increased over the last year, and there was unmistakable excitement among the visitors and the Church members.

#### EASIER TO VISUALIZE

Outdoor services are extremely spiritually uplifting. Being able to look directly into the skies gives everyone the feeling of being much closer to God. One of the introducing elders stated this, and reflected on how much easier it was to visualize how Christ fed the multitude and how personally satisfying it was to be in the same kind of setting.

Perhaps it may not be possible to hold similar type meetings in all branches and missions, but outreach programs of any kind can be most beneficial. The General Church Development Committee is desirous of helping in any way possible.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have outdoor services wherever the Church is located? Is there any more fulfilling way than to go "out to the highways and byways" with the spirit of evangelism to bring the message of salvation to all who will isten and believe?

# Visiting missionary tells of God's great power

Elder Isidro Dominguez of the Guatemala mission field, accompanied by his wife Sister Marisela, recently visited in the Pacific Coast District and spoke about how the Lord has been with them in their labors. They have been in Guatemala since November 1987, along with Elder Luis Marroquin, his wife Sister Darlene, and their family, who left from the Santa Ana, California Branch.

Brother Isidro explained about how God has opened doors and helped them to spread the Gospel. As is true in any new mission field, many unusual and unexpected situations arise. The enemy of our souls is quick to cause problems and to try to disrupt the movement of the Spirit of God. In noting this, Brother Dominguez praised God because, whenever He was needed, He used His power and prevailed.

#### POWER ILLUSTRATED

A situation described illustrated how God's might came forth. In the experience, Brother Isidro spoke of one woman who wanted to come into the Gospel but could not rest because of the devil's intervention. After she had suffered through many sleepless nights, she was prayed upon and was delivered through God's mercy and power.

God's presence has been evident from the beginning, and He has given the new saints understanding about the Gospel through the illumination of His Spirit. Brother

(Continued on Page 10)

# The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, M1 48066

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 41825 Alden Drive Mt. Clemens, MI 48044

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 3406 Sunflower Rd. New Brighton, PA 15066

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN -- ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, M1 48066

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

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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

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

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As much as it is important for each of us to contribute to the overall unity of The Church of Jesus Christ, we must also face the individual challenge of leaving a positive mark on the lives of the people around us. One indication of a true servant of God is that he or she makes the world a better place to live, and by touching the lives of others brings them to a closer understanding of the Lord.

We cannot depend on the Restored Gospel continuing only through our children and our children's children. In order for the Church to thrive and grow, it is important that we look beyond the circle of family and friends as we seek for those who would join in the work of the Lord and pick up the mantle when we leave this earth. While a portion of our labors are directed toward the forward motion of the Church, we must also direct our sights outward from time to time, toward those sincere of heart in the world who would want to be part of the Lord's army.

In seeking to bring the Gospel to others, we learn that there is no prescribed routine, no prepared script to follow. We discover as we speak with one another concerning our own conversion experiences, that the Lord calls each one of us in a different manner. Like those of us in the Church, every man and woman in this vast earth must come to terms with the Gospel in his or her own unique way. As we strive to be instrumental in spreading the Gospel, we come to realize how important it is to be prayerful, observant, and sensitive to the workings of the Spirit, which directs us in all that we should say and do.

Just as no two of us were called into the Church in exactly the same way, no two of us will shine the light of Christ in exactly the same manner. The Lord will use each of us in a unique way to draw different individuals toward Him; we need only be sure that we are motivated by the true love of God.

While we may not all be directed to preach the Gospel from the housetops, we can all strive to truly *live* the Gospel and be an example to others. If we can do this, we will be delivering a powerful message, over a period of time, to those with whom we interact.

We who have been blessed with the promises and power of the Restored Gospel in our lives, we who possess the joy of the saints, cannot justify being the grumpy one, the stingy one, or the negative one in our peer group. We must be vigilant in seeing that no aspect of our personality provides a stumbling block to bar our neighbor from finding the truth of the Gospel through us.

Even in the tribulations and reverses that befall us here on earth, our demeanor as the saints of God can and should be such that men and women see not so much our suffering but rather the inner strength and peace which the Gospel has brought to our lives.

There must be something far-reaching, something profound and non-superficial about the way in which we affect people. We must remember that it is not so much to brighten their day that we are seeking (although that should be part of it), but rather it is to *change their lives*. The honesty, integrity, strength, and hope that come through seeking to walk uprightly before God will not immediately show itself to the passerby or the casual acquaintance. But upon those with whom we have day-to-day contact, we as saints should be making a lasting and fruit-bearing impression.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Jan Steinrock



# God Will Supply All of Your Needs

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that God loves you so much that He cares about every problem and every worry in your life? He is never too busy to hear you, either. The Bible tells us (Philippians 4:19), ". . . God shall supply all your need, according to his riches in glory by Jesus Christ." Sometimes we don't get all of our "wants," but we do get our needs.

One day about three years ago I was sitting quietly in my home in the evening. My daughter was asleep, no one was over my house visiting; there was not one program on television that looked good to watch. I felt so lonely.

I started talking with God. I told Him all of my feelings. Many times before I'd wished I had a piano. Now I told the Lord, "I need a piano! I could play beautiful hymns at night and not feel sad or lonely!"

Many times before I'd thought about a piano, but I'd gone through a divorce and had moved several times and had spent all of my money going back to college for my Master's Degree. Now I had carefully saved a few hundred dollars in the bank, but I needed it for other things; what should I do?

As I sat there talking with God, I remembered how many times Sister Darlene Large and Sister Jean DePerno had told me, "Talk to God! He will supply all of your needs." And I cried out to God, "Lord, I need a piano!" I felt better and so peaceful. I would trust the Lord.

Two days later I went for a walk around my neighborhood with Sister Cathy Gentile. As we circled around the block, I saw that many families had put big pieces of furniture and trash outside for Spring Clean-up Day. At one house there was a huge old upright piano perched at the end of the sidewalk right by the curb!

I told Cathy excitedly, "Maybe they are throwing it away!" She shook her head and smiled at me. "I'm going to go ask," I said.

And I did. The girl who answered the door told me that the family didn't want it anymore. For only twenty-five dollars I was the joyful owner of my own piano! My brother and friends helped me push it down the hill and carried it into my house.

God had supplied my needs. I'd wanted a piano before, but the Lord knew then that I would be moving five times in the four years after my divorce. I couldn't have moved a heavy piano along with everything else.

God had heard my cries and He answered me. Many times a week I sit quietly at the piano and softly play hymns that cheer me or speak prayers for me. How I love the Lord!—And the Lord loves you, too.

He never sleeps, He's never too busy. He is slow to anger and quick to forgive. He loves you dearly. He watches over you and cares for you.

Talk to the Lord. In the name of Jesus Christ ask Him to guide you and bless you and use you to help others. And never forget, "God will supply your needs.

With care, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

GOD	PRAY
DEARLY	HIS
LOVES	CHILDREN
HE	HEARS
WILL	THEIR
SUPPLY	CRIES
ALL	NEVER
OF	SLEEPS
YOUR	CARE
NEEDS	KIDS

A	W	С	S	S	P	Н	Т	s	S
G	F	I	Н	L	R	P	H	U	L
0	Н	V	L	С	A	R	E	P	E
D	E	A	R	L	Y	N	I	P	E
Н	S	L	0	0	R	0	R	L	Р
L	E	N	E	V	E	R	U	Y	S
0	I	R	N	E	E	D	s	R	D
V	R	N	Z	S	R	A	E	Н	I
E	С	Н	I	L	D	R	E	N	K

#### PENNSYLVANIA continued . . .

us how this song touched his heart. As he thought about the theme of this weekend's meetings, this is what came to him—"Then Jesus Came." This thrilled his soul, because we know that when Jesus comes, there has to be a change. We are filled with the love of God and the desire to tell others of this salvation. God has chosen us; we didn't choose Him.

Greater love hath no man than to lay down his life for you, just as our Savior did. If we build upon the good seed, how wonderful will our lives be. We should go away from this weekend remembering the change that took place when Jesus came into our lives. We must be determined to tell others that they, too can testify of this change "when Jesus comes." We can truly say that this was a beautiful weekend, and the Pennsylvania saints were blessed by the words brought forth by our visiting evangelists.

# **Branch and Mission News**

# General Circle meets with Levittown Branch

By Walter F. Kowalsky

On April 30, 1989 the Levittown Branch was privileged to host the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference. Also visiting was Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President.

The meeting was held at the Westaby Hall in Fairless Hills, PA. A large group of members came from all parts of the vineyard. After opening the service with the hymn Zion's Border Line, Brother Thomas spoke concerning the sisters of the Church, women in Christ's time, and women in general. He pointed out the spiritual significance of women in the service of the Lord. He quoted the scripture which reads, "And he turned to the woman and said unto Simon, seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head" (Luke 7:44).

Throughout the Bible, we find many women depicted in the worship and service of the Lord; following Him to Calvary, preparing spices and ointments for His burial, and Mary seeing the angels at the tomb.

While Christ walked the earth, Bro. Dominic pointed out, "He was spontaneous in communicating to different women, different situations, and different responsibilities—but to all with the same understanding and sympathy." Bro. Dominic went on to say that Jesus shows us the importance of women in His time and ours. Jesus showed us how we should treat women in our lives. He pointed out that the sisters in the Ladies' Uplift Circle are the spiritual rock which he believes comes nearest to the light of the Spirit.

Bro. Paul Benyola spoke on the role women play both spiritually and domestically. We cannot all be a Martha; we cannot all be a Mary. It is important to have a balance in our spiritual life. Serving God as a family unit results in a positive relationship with God as well as each other.

Former Ladies' Uplift Circle President Sister Mabel Bickerton, and former Vice President Ruth Akerman gave testimonies reflecting their thirty-one years of service to the Ladies' Uplift Circle. The current Circle president and vice-president, Sisters Arline Whitton and Lorraine DeMercurio, paid tribute to the works of our sisters, and asked for everyone's prayers to help guide them in their offices.

Bro. Samuel Dell closed the service by saying, "We should form a united front, putting all our talents to work for the Lord." We closed by singing *Then You Can Enter In*. Bro. Gerard Valenti offered the closing prayer. A wonderful spirit was felt, and we pray that God will bless Sisters Arline and Lorraine in their new endeavors.

Three weeks prior, on April 9, the Levittown Branch was blessed with the reinstatement of our Sister Margaret Lyn. She was the first to be baptized by Bro. Sam Dell when we were the Fairless Hills Mission thirty-two years ago. Her baptism took place on March 17, 1957.

When Sis. Margaret gave her testimony, she said that after a twenty-five year absence she wanted to give her life to the service of God. We all experienced a great joy in witnessing the return of our sister to the fold.

## Ordinations in San Carlos

We gathered at San Carlos, Arizona on February 19 to witness the ordinations of Brother Vernon James and Sister Ophelia James into the offices of deacon and deaconess. Brother Robert Watson addressed our brother and sister, as well as the congregation, and charged them with their respective responsibilities. The account of the first seven deacons was read from the Acts of the Apostles, and Brother Watson spoke of how we must be filled with God's Spirit and committed to the calling of that office.

A beautiful spirit came into our midst as our Brother and Sister James came forward to have their feet washed and be set apart for this great responsibility. Their hearts were desirous and willing to be used of God in any way that He would want to use them in His work. Bro. Norman James washed his son Vernon's feet and Sis. Isadora Kayson washed Sis. Ophelia's feet. Such a spirit of humility prevailed as we witnessed this scene. The ministry encircled the two candidates as Bro. Robert Watson ordained Bro. Vernon James a deacon and Bro. Dwayne Jordan ordained Sis. Ophelia James a deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

This would be the last time for many of us to fellowship, here on earth, with our dear Brother Norman James, as the Lord called him home during the month of April, just prior to our General Church Conference. As Bro. Norman's life ended, his granddaughter Cheryl's life was just beginning as she made her covenant with the Lord and was baptized the next day on April 23, 1989 by Bro. Dan Picciuto. She was confirmed by Bro. Larry Watson.

The American Indian Committee, along with the Southwest District Mission Board, met in San Carlos on June 3 and 4 to encourage the membership there and plan for the future development of their mission. Many brothers and sisters from San Carlos related sincere testimonies of the work there and the struggle they have had against the evil power continually seeking to destroy their peace, even with the passing of three ministers there in San Carlos over a fifteen-month period.

Just to show us how the Lord prevails in all things, another soul came to Christ Sunday morning.

(Continued on Page 8)

#### SAN CARLOS continued . . .

Bro. Norman James's grandson, Vernon Jr. (Sonny), surrendered his life to the will of God just as Satan was determined to take control of his life. Bro. Dan Picciuto baptized him and Bro. Wally Cihomsky asked God to bestow the Holy Spirit upon him. Another sister found her way back to the fold as she requested a renewal of her spiritual life. Truly, "there is no power that God cannot conquer." Praise God!!

Again on June 24 and 25, the Steering Committee of the General Church Mission Board held their meeting in San Carlos. The meeting began in prayer on behalf of the needs here in San Carlos, as well as throughout all the mission fields of the Church. Just having the brothers from all over the Church come to San Carlos was such a blessing and an inspiration to all of us. The preaching, exhortation, and sharing of the Gospel's message was indeed showered upon us by the Holy Spirit as the ministry administered to the needs and lives of the saints.

Bro. Dan Picciuto and his family, along with his son Bro. David and his family are desirous to move back to San Carlos just as soon as arrangements can be made for their relocation. Please pray with us that God's Spirit will allow this desire to become a reality.

# God lends helping hand in construction

By Jerry Morle

While many brothers and sisters were awakening to the Saturday morning of the May, 1989 GMBA Conference in Greensburg, Pennsylvania, major construction was about to begin at the church building site in Saline, Michigan. Those with a good memory will remember it being a wet, cool morning, but there was the bright sunshine radiating from the souls ready to lay the concrete floor of the new house of the Lord.

Orders for concrete are usually placed in advance, then confirmed

the morning of delivery. Every contractor had cancelled his delivery that morning except Bro. Pete Buffa, head trustee at the Saline Mission. He and the rest of the members had been praying fervently that the Lord would provide us with good weather for this very weather-dependent job.

This was also the only day that Bro. Ken Bruno of Detroit Branch 4 could provide us with a professional finishing crew to assist the brothers of the mission. The previous night's steady downpour failed to deter our faith, and it came as no surprise that the ground at the building site was only slightly muddy when the trucks began to arrive.

As the work began, we began to worry whether enough concrete had been ordered. Since all other jobs had been cancelled, our order was the only one that had been prepared. The second blessing of the morning was realized when the last load of concrete was delivered. Not only was there enough, but there was exactly one wheelbarrowful extra. None fell over the side, and none was wasted. Only that wheelbarrow served as a testimony of God's providence.

While the concrete began to cure, we all had lunch at the nearby home of Bro. Joe and Sis. Virginia Carlini. The sisters of the mission went out of their way to see that everyone had plenty to eat. The professional crew, not members of the Church themselves, marvelled not only at how they were being treated, but also at the love and fellowship the saints shared as we enjoyed each other's company.

It was after this grand feast, however, that the Lord worked His most striking miracle of the day. As the crew began finishing the floor, dark storm clouds closed in on the tiny site from the southwest. As we watched in amazement, the wave of clouds abruptly stopped, turned northward, and bypassed the freshly-poured concrete. We would see this same thing occur two more times, each time more distinctly.

Later, we heard reports of the heavy rain that fell in the town of Saline to the west, in Ann Arbor to the north, Ypsilanti to the east, and Milan to the south, but not one

drop of rain fell on the new floor until later that evening, when the concrete had already set up. Rain had fallen less than one mile away, yet a ray of sunshine managed to peek between the clouds, as if to confirm the Lord's presence with us as we labored that day.

Since that time, construction has moved quickly. By the end of June, the walls and roof were completed and ready for official inspection before siding and drywall could go up. We ask for your continued prayers on our behalf. Not only do we thank God for the miracles described above, but also for protecting us from serious injury and granting us the health necessary to continue working day after day. We also want to thank those who have supported us with their time and labor at the building site. We look forward to the day when we dedicate this structure to God, and begin in earnest the spreading of His Gospel in this area.

# Visiting brothers preach at Sterling Hts.

By Hazel Zoltek

On Sunday morning July 16, the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch was blessed with a visit from Brother Tom Everett of Detroit Branch 1 and Brother Dick Christman of Phoenix, Arizona.

Bro. Lou Vitto greeted all the visitors this morning, among whom were two Mormon elders, one from Vancouver, British Columbia and the other from Utah.

Brother Christman opened the service, speaking of two very strong emotions we experience in life. One, according to scripture, is Love. The other is Anger, and we have to deal with that. There is another emotion that is connected to these, and that is Zeal, as displayed by one who is active in the Church. All three of these emotions can be described as being intense, a word which can be connected to Christ's use of the word Desire.

Our brother read Luke 22:15, where Jesus said, "With desire I

have desired to eat this passover with you before I suffer." The Lord recognizes intense feelings, especially the love and desire we have to get close to Him. He does not want us to be lukewarm. Bro. Dick said that when He wants a cold drink, He wants the ice to be plentiful, and the hot drinks must be really hot. This is what God means when He says He does not want us to be lukewarm.

In III Nephi, Jesus told the people who He really was; He told them He came to glorify the Father. Jesus did everything with full purpose toward our welfare. He set the example that will last forever, the partaking of the bread and the wine.

God gave His very best when He sent His only Son, that we might be brought back into His presence. The fire of the Holy Ghost should burn within us with a great desire, with a joy in our heart to serve Him. We enjoy our natural food the most when we are hungry; so it is in our service to God. The Lord is consistent in His desire, but there are some people, sad to say, who at first burn with desire to serve God, but after a while, something happens and they are not fully possessed of that desire. Then they only love when they want to be loved.

Bro. Tom Everett continued on the same theme, speaking from Revelation 1 and 2, where Jesus dealt with the seven churches. The Church of Laodicea sparked dissatisfaction with Jesus; they were neither hot nor cold. The Church of Smyrna, although striken with poverty, were said by Jesus to be rich. They were zealous.

The Church of Jesus Christ is not a democracy; it is a body, the head of which is Jesus, and we take orders from Him. This Church continues in the doctrine of the Apostles, as taught to them by Jesus Christ.

Bro. Tom continued, saying that in the last days the devil will stir up the nations to anger against that which is good. Today we see people sinning openly. The devil will pacify hem and tell them all is well in Zion. The Lord will have to send destruction upon this planet to waken the people. He spoke of how

fervent our desire to serve God will have to be when the day comes that we are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Bro. Lou Vitto stated that the word desire means that we must be concerned and not take the Church for granted. The Lord Jesus Christ can give us everything that is good. Let us serve Him in sickness and in health. Let us keep that desire burning for the love and beauty of Christ.

## Baptism at Detroit Br. 2

On the beautiful morning of April 22, 1989, the brothers, sisters, young people, children, and friends of Detroit Branch 2 stood on the shore of Edison Lake and witnessed the baptism of Paula Hunt.

Two years ago, Paula came to a Sunday School picnic with Sis. Cindy Parravano. Paula immediately felt the warmth and generosity of the brothers and sisters. Because of this, she started attending church every Sunday and began to study the Bible and Book of Mormon. On occasion she also testified about how the Lord had blessed her and her children and how good she felt since she started coming to this church.

On Sunday evening, April 15, as Branch 2 was celebrating the 25th anniversary of the building, Paula stood on her feet, testified to God's goodness, and asked for her baptism.



Bro. Dan Parravano leads Paula Hunt to the waters of baptism.

Paula was baptized and confirmed by Bro. Dan Parravano

We thank God for the addition of Sis. Paula and her family to our branch and pray for His continued love and guidance in her life.

# McKees Rocks growing by leaps and bounds

The brothers and sisters of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch have been very busy this spring as the Lord has called new brothers and sisters into the fold, and has set others apart to minister to His Church in various ways:

On April 16, 1989 Suzan Trinh Ricci was baptized by Bro. Paul Ciotti and confirmed by Bro. John Manes.

On April 19, 1989 Elizabeth Benn Nolfi was baptized by Bro. Bill Colangelo and confirmed by Bro. Dick Lawson.

On April 30, 1989 Joseph Rogalla was ordained a teacher by Bro. Paul Ciotti after having his feet washed by Bro. Paul Ciotti, Jr. Bro. Joe was baptized on April 18, 1978.

John S. Manes was ordained a deacon the same day by his father, Bro. John H. Manes, after having his feet washed by Bro. Frank DiAntonio. Bro. John was baptized on May 1, 1988.

On June 18, 1989 Anthony Nolfi and Monica Ann Mitchell were both baptized by Bro. Bill Colangelo. Bro. Anthony was later confirmed by Bro. Dick Lawson, and Sis. Monica was confirmed by Bro. Paul Ciotti.

Continue to remember these brothers and sisters in your prayers as they endeavor to keep faithful to the commitments they have made.

# **Greetings from Glassport**

By Norma Wirbicki

We of the Glassport, PA Branch would like to lift up our voices in praise to God, as we were privileged to raise them up in songs of praise along with the many

(Continued on Page 10)

#### GLASSPORT continued . . .

saints who came and took part on the beautiful Sunday evening of June 25, 1989.

It was a lovely day at the Glassport Memorial Honor Roll, and we were given the privilege of having an open air Gospel Concert of songs taken from our Saints Hymnal, The Songs of Zion, and the hymns of our late Sister Esther Dyer.

As the breeze began to blow softly and visitors from the community stood about, we felt the joy that comes with being able to sing to the world and show them in song the Love of God.

For those who so graciously came, and those who offered up their voices, we thank you all and in closing we praise God for our land and town to be given this precious freedom! The doors of our branch are always open to you, our beloved in Christ, and to all our friends. May God richly bless you all till we may meet again.

#### **Baptism in Dallas**

By Stella Benyola

On Mother's Day of 1989, the members of the Dallas, Texas Mission enjoyed witnessing the spirit of repentance when Sister Janice Lovalvo asked for her baptism. On Sunday June 25, there was a repeat performance of this wonderful spirit, except this time the Lord called her brother, George.

George made it clear to all of us that he always loved the Gospel and always had a good feeling in his heart to be baptized some day and to experience that feeling of belonging—belonging and being part of the most wonderful Gospel on the face of the earth.

That desire became a reality on Sunday during our testimony meeting when George stood upon his feet and very sincerely requested baptism. He said it has been a constant battle for him, especially for the last three months, but this weekend the evidence of the Spirit of God influencing him to render obedience unto Him was stronger than ever.

The Dallas members had met in a fasting and prayer service on Saturday morning, and this was the first time that George had ever attended a meeting of this type. He said that this is where he felt the strong spirit of repentance. It was a compelling spirit which remained with him all day and throughout that night. When he walked into church the next morning, he knew that this was going to be his day.

His sister Janice also felt this was going to be his day, because before leaving for church on Sunday morning she thought to herself, "I'd better bring my flat shoes because George is getting baptized today." It's amazing how the Spirit of God works, because it turned out that this was indeed his day.

George also related a dream he had a month before while visiting in Florida. He dreamed that he was in a meeting in Dallas, and he saw the usual brothers and sisters including his sister Janice and her husband Duane. He also saw Sister Pam D'Orazio from Florida in Dallas dressed in a red dress and playing the piano. In his dream he asked for his baptism during the meeting. Exactly what he saw in his dream a month earlier became a reality on Sunday June 25.

Brother George, Sr. opened the meeting, using for his theme the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel. He explained how the true authority of the Gospel was removed from the face of the earth for a period of 1260 years, and then, through the mercy and love of God, His Church was restored again in 1830 for all those who had a desire to love and serve Him.

Our brother stated that for those individuals who reject Christ and His Church, the Restoration of the Gospel is in vain, as if it had never occurred. Brother George, Jr. said that these words pierced his heart, and he wanted to make sure that the Gospel Restored would become a meaningful and valuable part of his life.

May God bless our new brother for many years to come, that perhaps he might be used as an instrument in God's hands to help promulgate His Church.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

Isidro mentioned how it is necessary to emphasize the very basic doctrine which Jesus brought into the world. Adherence to the basic principles which Christ said were esential for salvation must be taught. Then the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel, and the promises of the future, are presented. Also, the place of the Seed of Joseph in God's great plan is later emphasized.

There were great liberty and joy in Brother Isidro's speaking about what God has done in Guatemala. He related many experiences, dreams, and visions. So deeply have the blessings been felt by those coming into the Gospel, that doubts and fears have been taken away. Overcoming these qualms is most important, because, as the Church believes, each person must feel and believe that God is calling him or her before being baptized into the fold.

#### DEVOTION AND DEDICATION

The courage and protection Goç has given the brothers and sisters in Guatemala are obvious. As is true in all new mission fields, devotion and dedication must be exercised. Their faith is that God will be with them in their labors.

It is important that we not only pray for our missionaries but also support them in any way possible. They are out there blazing new trails and working diligently to bring souls to salvation. They need our help!

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Jerry J. DiFede 764 Banyan Drive W. Palm Beach, FL 33415 Tel. (305) 683-6576

Joseph and Darlene Ignagni 905 Ellsworth, Apt. 6208 Arlington, TX 76066 Tel. (817) 277-0284

Merle and Geraldine Swanger 1209 Baker Lane Winchester, VA 22601 Tel. (703) 662-1576

# 50th Spiritual Birthday

Sister Grace Brutz celebrated her 50th spiritual birthday on February 5, 1989. The brothers and sisters of the San Diego, CA Branch honored Sis. Grace with a beautiful cake, and Bro. Louis Ciccati gave a wonderful overview of her life in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

From the age of five years, Grace started going to Muncey, Ontario with her parents, Brother Frank and Sister Rose Ferrante. She was baptized in the Church by her uncle John Dulisse. Her congregation, which eventually became Detroit Branch 2, was meeting at that time in an abandoned schoolhouse on the city's west side.

Sister Grace married Brother Anthony Brutz of Niles, Ohio in 1941. They had three children, Diane Surdock, Ronald, and James. She has twelve grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Throughout the years, our sister's children participated with her in the endeavors of the Church, which brought great joy to the family. Sis. Grace sang with many young people in the church choir, and they even sang on the Church's radio program, *The Gospel Hour*.

broadcast live from Sarnia, Ontario years ago. She also traveled to the Grand River Mission in Ontario to support the work of the Church there.

When her husband, Brother Tony, was called into the ministry, she supported him in his missionary efforts. This led to a move to California in 1955, to Tule River Reservation in the 1960's, to Wakpala, South Dakota in 1970, to San Carlos, AZ in 1972, Tucson in 1975 and finally, in their retirement, to San Diego in 1985. At the present time Sister Grace is still going strong, filling up her little apartment to overflowing with clothing and miscellaneous items for the needy in the Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico Missions.

Sis. Grace always loved being a part of the Ladies' Circle. The time spent there provided her with a special relationship with many of the sisters of the Church, in the mission field especially, as well as in the branches. She was called to be a deaconess in 1970, and assisted her husband in many ways in their commitment to the missionary work of the Church.

Sis. Grace speaks of her experiences in the Gospel with fond memories, and she always en-

courages everyone to keep doing their part, saying how she loves doing her part and feels God's direction to continue.

Sister Grace was healed of a rare blood disease several years ago, a healing for which she thanks God every day. This great miracle has given her both natural and spiritual strength, and greater incentive to work in the mission field.

Our sister desires to continue in God's service and hopes to prove faithful to the end, even with the challenges she faces every day as she and her husband grow older. We glorify God's name for her contributions to His great work.



Sister Grace Brutz

# \* WEDDINGS \*

#### ZANE-MANES

Mr. Paul H. Zane and Sister Linda S. Manes were married on May 6, 1989 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. John Manes, the bride's father, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by soloist Pete Giannetti Jr. and organist Nina DiCenzo.

The newlyweds will reside in Coraopolis, PA. May the Lord richly bless them in their new life together.

A beautiful selection of songs was sung by matron of honor Laurie Berg, Sister Donna Amormino, and Brother Bruce Picciuto. Piano accompaniment was provided by Brother Eugene Amormino.

As their wedding day proved to be perfect from start to finish, so too may their marriage and their love and service to God also be perfect. We wish them a lifetime of happiness, accompanied with God's richest blessings.

#### ALI-DRASKOVICH

Brother Larry Ali and Sister Vicki Draskovich were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, May 27, 1989 at The Church of Jesus Christ World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Brother Paul Gehly officiated at the ceremony, with the assistance of Brother John Ali, father of the groom, and Brother James Campbell, grandfather of the bride.

#### PERRI-SOLTIS

On June 24, 1989 at the Busch Campus Chapel in Piscataway, New Jersey, Brother Kevin Perri and Sister Maryann Soltis were united in holy matrimony.

Brother J. Joseph Perri officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were performed by Sister Tracey Francione of Detroit, Michigan.

We pray God will bless them as they venture through life together, united in God's love.

(Continued on Page 12)

#### BARNETT-JOHNSON

Mr. Maurice E. Barnett and Miss Doris Dee Johnson were married in Lorain, Ohio on July 22, 1989.

Brother Joseph Calabrese officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were played by Sister Katherine Cocco.

It was a joyful day for the young couple, and we ask that you would pray for them.

## **New Arrivals**

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

Michael MacKenzie to Bro. Richard Jr. and Sis. Jessie Bright Scaglione of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Stefanie Marie to Dexter and Sis. LuAnn Scaglione Carson of Monongahela.

Juliette Lynn to Bro. Brian and Sis. Kathy Smith of Monongahela.

Mary Beth to Bro. Paul and Sis. Connie Bright Robinson of Monongahela.

Jamie Ann to Bro. Robert, Jr. and Sis. Chris Nicklow of Monongahela.

Richard Louis III to Bro. Richard and Sis. Jessie Bright Scaglione of Monongahela.

Paul Joseph III to Bro. Paul Jr. and Sis. Susan Ciotti of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

Julius to Henry and Sandy King of Lorain, Ohio.

<u></u>	Address Change
Vame	
\ddress _	
hone	

# Children Blessed

Michael Joseph Coppa, son of Bro. Dean and Sis. Janice Coppa, was blessed on August 28, 1988 in Detroit Branch 4 by his cousin Gary Coppa, who was visiting from Branch 3.

Teal Rose Christoffersen was blessed at the Saline, Michigan Mission on January 1, 1989 by Bro. Jim Cotellesse. Teal is the granddaughter of Sis. Roseann Wood.

On March 26, 1989 Brittany Kristin Martorana was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ by her father, Bro. Wayne Martorana of Niles, Ohio.

On the same day, Joseph Steven Green was blessed in the Niles, Ohio Branch by Bro. Ron Genaro.

William Wright McDowell was blessed at Detroit Branch 4 on March 26, 1989 by Bro. Tullio LaCivita. He is the grandson of Sister Marie Fera.

On June 4, 1989 Allen A. Tegi and Matthew T. Bright were blessed by Bro. William Chepanoske in Monongahela, PA.

Michelle Renee Morle was blessed at the Saline Mission on June 25, 1989 by her uncle, Bro. Bob Nicklow, Jr. of Monongahela, PA. Michelle is the daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Tammy Morle.

Joseph Martin Tretter II, son of Joseph and Christi Tretter, was blessed on July 9, 1989 by Bro. George Johnson at the Monongahela, PA Branch.

On the same day, James Carl Snodgrass II, son of William and Sis. Shelley Snodgrass, was blessed by Bro. George Johnson in Monongahela.

On July 30, 1989 Eric Douglas Fox, son of Roland and Jackie Fox, was blessed by Bro. Gary Champine at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

# **OBITUARY**

#### JAKE COSALTER

Brother Jake Cosalter of the Greensburg, PA Branch passed away from this life on February 6, 1989. He was preceded in death by his wife, Sister Ann, who was called home by the Lord in June of 1988.

Brother Jake was born in Centerville, Iowa on October 22, 1913 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on April 11, 1976 by Brother Frank Calabrese.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Paul

Gehly.

Brother Jake was an inspiration to all who knew him. Although he suffered from many infirmities in his later years, never a complaint could be heard from him, but rather, Brother Jake would continually praise and thank the Lord for allowing him the privilege of belonging to His wonderful Church.

# The Gospel News The Church of Jesus Christ. Monongahela, Pa., USA.

October, 1989

Volume 45, No. 10

# Help Your Children Make the Right Choices

Dear Parents:

Greetings in the love of Jesus Christ. Children are their parents' most precious possession. Parents raise them for a short time, during which we try to provide the best for them. We send this letter of concern for the spiritual well-being of all children.

Each of you wholeheartedly support the education of children. When a child reaches a certain age, the law requires that a child's education begins. As children begin and continue through the educational process, their minds are open to be taught and their hearts are very impressionable. Parents do their best to be supportive of their child's education, school activities, and interests throughout the years. Our hope is for our children to become educated so they can occupy a productive place in society.

Today's educational system provides a child with the necessary curriculum in order to become fully educated. However, the child is likewise exposed to an undesirable element outside the classroom and the school setting that can have a detrimental influence upon a child's behavior. The public education ystem is responsible for the basic education of a child, yet the United States Constitution restricts the system (due to separation of church

and state) from teaching a moral education with regard to good and evil and the existence of God.

The influence of peer pressure and the serious social problems among teenagers exposes a child to an element of evil that he or she is not prepared to deal with, therefore some children are easily tempted to commit evil at a young age.

Current social problems among teenagers reflect a high rate of serious evils: Use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco, sexual promiscuity, pregnancy, suicide, fascination with devil worship, profanity, disregard and disobedience to parents, and other problems less serious that could lead to the more serious. Some parents are unaware of these evils influencing their child's life until after the facts are known, which is more often after the child's involvement and too late to prevent.

What can be done? What preventive action can be taken by the parent that would influence the child in the moral decisions he or she makes? How can you get a child to choose good when Mom or Dad aren't right there to influence their decisions? How can you educate your child to the consequences of choosing evil when tempted?

It is vitally important that a child, at the youngest possible age or at any age (it's never too late), begin their moral education. The

Church of Jesus Christ has auxiliary organizations that promote godly education and activities for individuals of all ages. The MBA (Missionary Benevolent Association) and Sunday School are structured to encourage the involvement of all who attend. For the children, teachers assigned to each class give each child the personal attention needed to maintain interest while the teachings of Jesus Christ are instilled within their mind and heart.

The young adults are presented with a variety of subjects and scriptural lessons on an informal basis that can easily relate to conditions and decisions they face daily. Adults can take an active part in open discussions relating to everyday living and scriptures that can further enlighten the path of life according to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

As your child is educated in the moral teachings of Jesus Christ, he or she will be better equipped to deal with the temptations of evil encountered. Through your example, instruction, prayers, and the influence of the Church in your child's life, he or she can receive the spiritual education necessary to maintain a moral well-being throughout the developmental years and into adulthood.

(Continued on Page 6)

# Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

May God be praised now and forever. May His peace abide with you.

If any measure of our faith towards God is failing to disturb the manner of the world, it may well be because our conditions of stewardship have been lowered. Is it not therefore time to reappraise the whole structure of our conduct of life and see whether a rededication is not appropriately needed?

We often slip a little at times, in such a small way that we fail to see altogether if it is a slip at all until our many little harmless-looking slips bring us closer in line with the ways of men rather than the ways of God.

When our friends and neighbors cannot see any difference in our ways than theirs, it is time for us to consider our ways. When we feel that we have labored much but have gathered little, we eat but our strength is weak, we pray but it seems that no one answers, we are anointed but are not healed, we speak of peace but we have no peace, is it not time to reconsider our ways? Is it not time to strive to reenter in at the strait gate and walk as Jesus walked?

Think on these things; it may surprise you the difference that it makes in you and those near you. "Watch and pray that you enter not into temptation," it says in Matthew 26:41. Is not this admonition of Jesus still valid?

Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time. Cast all your care upon Him, for He careth for you. Be sober, be

vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, walketh about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour; whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of grace who has called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that you have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. These words are found in I Peter 5:7-10.

What a blessed promise to us. Ought we not therefore to fight the good fight, that we may win a crown of life? May the God of peace grant you grace abundantly and help you overcome the world. 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 (found in I Corinthians 9:27).

I often remind myself of this hallmark of counsel, that I may obtain an incorruptible crown, yet not only I, but all men of good will.

# Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters throughout the Church,

I want to thank God and Our Lord Jesus Christ for the love and care you have all had towards my wife and me. I want to thank each one of you for your fastings and prayers in our behalf, the scores of get-well cards, the many, many telephone calls, and numerous floral arrangements we received. We exist only in Christ and in the fellowship of the saints. Without these our lives would be void and meaningless.

In April of 1989 my wife had carpal tunnel surgery on her left hand because of the pain and lack of mobility in it. Since the surgery, the pain has been excruciating and the mobility very limited. It is only recently that the pain has subsided somewhat, but she still does not have the full use of her hand.

However, since her surgery, a grave complication has set in resulting in much pain throughout her entire body. Therefore I seek

your continued prayers and your fastings in her behalf until she is made whole again.

As for me, I had a pacemaker implanted in June of 1989, but I am fully recovered thanks be to God and to you, my beloved brothers and sisters. I will have to keep this pacemaker in my chest for as long as I live. Nevertheless, I am grateful for the life that God through Christ has given me. I feel like the Apostle Paul, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." However, I feel very strongly that I have a lot of work to do for the Church before I join my Savior. I have kept the faith in the face of strong opposition, and will continue to keep the commandments of Jesus Christ as long as God gives me strength and the Grace of His Holy Spirit.

I bid you Godspeed and commend you to God in my prayers, counseling you to continue to live a life of righteousness acceptable to Him who gave His only begotten Son to die for us on Calvary's cross, that we might have an abundant life here and for all eternity. Amen.

Love in Christ to all, Brother V. James Lovalvo

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of my late husband Joseph and myself, I want to thank the brothers, sisters, and friends throughout the Church for their constant love and support during Joseph's lengthy illness. The comfort and strength we received was overwhelming, and because of it we were able to meet the challenge of Joseph's illness. Be assured that God heard and answered your prayers. I believe (as I know Joseph did) that God's hand was in this matter from the beginning.

At the very first God gave us each other; then Joseph accepted the Church and was baptized; and especially at the end the Lord gaus courage and blessed Joseph with

(Continued on Page 11)

# **MBA** Highlights

#### Phoenix Local

By Renee Scolaro

On May 27, 1989 the Phoenix Local MBA sponsored its annual graduation banquet for the Southwest District. Also honored were those members who have achieved fifty years in the Gospel.

The graduate honorees this year were Sis. Kim Griffith, Jason Gibson, and Arthur Landrey. The graduates were given an opportunity to express themselves relating their accomplishments and future expectations. They were presented with a Bible and Book of Mormon. Bro. Joe Griffith was the keynote speaker for the evening.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Loretta
Mazzeo were honored for fifty years
of service to the Lord. They also
were given the opportunity to express themselves. The banquet was
held at a buffet restaurant. After
dining we played a few games such
as "Guess which graduate said
this" and "Gospel Trivia."

# Our Women Today

# Florida circles organize as an area

By Judy Graziosi

The Florida Ladies' Uplift Circles organized as an area on July 29, 1989 at the Fort Pierce Branch. The sisters that attended were from Cape Coral, Fort Pierce, Hollywood, Lake Worth, Miami and Tampa. We also had with us General Circle President Sister Arline Whitton from Detroit, Michigan.

There was a short business session starting with the election of officers. Sharon Staley was elected as President, Susan Moraco as Vice President, Linda D'Orazio as Treasurer, Betty Ann Lowe as Financial Secretary, Becky Rogolino

as Secretary, Nancy DiFede as Assistant Secretary, Marilyn Carradi and Peggy Benyola as Auditors, Carmela Mazzeo as Historian, and Judy Graziosi as Editor.

Sister Arline spoke to the sisters regarding the organization of a Ladies' Circle at Cape Coral and Miami. She also encouraged everyone to study the scriptures and attend a Ladies' Circle retreat. She related many experiences, including the dream she had calling her as the new General Circle President. There was a season of testimony, giving the sisters the opportunity to express themselves, especially the ones that have been members for a number of years.

After the meeting a meal was served by the Fort Pierce Circle and some time was spent in fellowship. The sisters were thankful that Arline made the long trip to Florida to organize the Area Circle. They hope to grow not only in number but spiritually as well, that they can be a help to The Church of Jesus Christ.

# Notice

The General Church Board of Trustees informs all those interested in submitting bids on the General Church Blanket Insurance Program for properties and vehicles are requested to correspond with Chairman Richard Lawson. Interested parties will be sent Insurance Specifications for the present program. All bids must be submitted by December 14, 1989, as the new policy will go into effect on January 1, 1990. Send requests for Insurance Specifications to:

Richard W. Lawson 53 Norfolk Drive Coraopolis, PA 15108

Thank you for your assistance.

Joseph Ross, Secretary General Board of Trustees

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Mary Altomare Tel. (216) 282-4136

Marie Caldwell 41383 Rosewood Elyria, OH 44035 Tel. (216) 324-2427

Kerry and Isolina Carlini 2212 Moore Lincoln Park, MI 48146 Tel. (313) 382-3968

Felicia Ciminero 7123 Glendale Ave., Apt. 4 Boardman, OH 44512 Tel. (216) 726-0637

Dorothy Damore 3010 Flo-Lor Dr., Apt. 7B Youngstown, OH 44511 Tel. (216) 797-0193

Wendy DeAtley Salem Convalescent Center Salem, OH 44460 Tel. (216) 332-1588

Peter and Candace Genaro 506 Cabezon Ct. Gallup, NM 87301 Tel. (505) 722-5359

Gladys Gibson 33263 Vine St. #3 Eastlake, OH 44095 Tel. (216) 946-2028

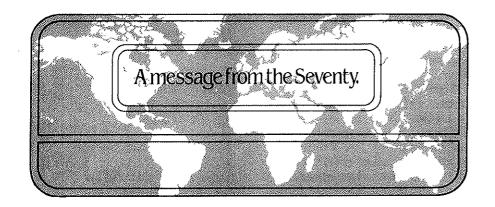
Frank Hufnagle Tel. (216) 486-4430

Rose Marie Manes 2306 Connecticut Ave. Youngstown, OH 44509 Tel. (216) 699-6234

Mark and Carey Beth Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

Jonathan and Sherry Olexa 91 Silver Lake Ave. Edison, NJ 08817 Tel. (201) 985-9425

Mario G. Zaccagnini Tel. (313) 853-9873



# African Missionary Reports on Ghana Trip

(Following is an article written by Evangelist Paul A. Carr Sr., Missionary to Nigeria, Africa, in response to the evangelist editor's request. He had completed his fifth year in Nigeria at the time of writing.)

My family and I first would like to thank each of you for your support of us in the mission field. It is our desire to continue in the service of our Lord, His Gospel, and His Church.

As we work among the people of the world, this desire to labor grows deeper and burns within even moreso in our hearts. There are countless thousands who are interested in knowing the Truth, and it is so good to tell them about it. The question was asked so many years ago, and it is repeated often today by the children of the world, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"

It is our opportunity, as members of the Church, to tell the story of Jesus to the nations. It is so important to talk about salvation because there are many of the children of men who are hungry for the Truth.

#### TRIP TO GHANA

In a recent trip to Ghana, my wife, Sister Thressa; our son, Brother John; our daughter, Penny; and I traveled from the capital city, Accra, to Kumasi after meeting our Brother Ford Boadu, the president of the Church in Ghana. We checked into the hotel, one of the city's finest, which is run by the

government. It was not anywhere near the standards of even the most economical American motels. Although it was kept clean, the air conditioning and hot water only worked every two or three days. Notwithstanding this, the cost was comparable to that of America's most expensive hotels.

The day after we arrived we started a light renovation project on our newly-acquired mission house, which also serves as Bro. Boadu's home office for the Church as well as a chapel. We began preparing three bedrooms, bath, and shower in the mission house. They were built to accommodate anyone who goes there on missionary work.

After two weeks, two bedrooms, the kitchen, the shower, and one bathroom had been completed. We give the honor and glory to our Lord and Savior for being able to complete this work in so short a time.

Brother John constructed the shelves, new doors, and a rostrum for the chapel, as well as installing the electrical and air conditioning wiring with our driver, who is a Ghanaian electrician. My wife put up the curtains, arranged the shelves, and organized the cleaning. When we were all moved into the mission house, we stopped and gave thanks to God for His guidance in preparing a place for the missionaries to stay.

Of course, Bro. Boadu and I worked on Church matters throughout the renovation work. On a daily basis we talked to people about the Church, revealing to

many the Truth and the Way of Salvation for the world through Jesus Christ.

#### EVENING MEETING

One afternoon, we informed the saints at a town I call DN that we were coming for an evening meeting, which was intended to make the townspeople more aware of the presence of the Church. We left at about 5:00 p.m. and arrived two hours later. The lights were all set up for us, as night falls early so close to the equator, lasting nearly twelve hours for most of the year.

People began to gather as we set up the P.A. system on the edge of a large rectangular dirt parking lot located in the center of town. Everyone brought their own chairs or benches to sit on for the meeting. They came from all over. There were young children, and men and women up to 100 years old.

Brother Ford and I took our places behind the small table before this group that was gathering. A quartet of brothers and sisters started singing beautifully in their native tongue, Ashanti. A quietness came over the crowd as they sang. I thought there were only a few in attendance, as I could not see the activity or tell how many were out there from where I was sitting, since there were no lights around other than the blinding spotlights directed at us.

As I stood and approached the rostrum, I got a better glimpse of the congregation and could hardly believe my eyes, as there were about 1,500 in attendance. I had thought to myself, "Well, if there are only five, we should be excited to speak to them," so you can imagine how I felt to have the opportunity to speak to so many about the Restored Gospel.

For the next 45 minutes to an hour, inspired by the Lord, I spoke on the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel. What a glorious evening! I later learned that about 40 new members had come into the Church in that town, with many more attending.

(Continued on Page 11)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 41825 Alden Drive Mt. Clemens, M1 48044

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 705 Division St. Aliquippa, PA 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 100 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN — ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

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

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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

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

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As we ponder over what must be accomplished by The Church of Jesus Christ before the Lord fully establishes His kingdom on the face of the earth, we naturally seek out some aspect of the work which we might be able to execute. While it is important for each of us to labor with our might for Zion, we must likewise bear in mind that it is the righteousness of the saints which will render Satan powerless in that great day.

Often our initial reaction to the word "righteousness" is an earthly one; the carnal mind conjures up an image of artificial perfection achieved only through the constant repression of even the most basic of human ideas and impulses. This erroneous definition of righteousness is further marked by an inability to tolerate any attitude, thought, or idea which differs from those of the observer. Much of the world—through the unfortunate example of many throughout history who have used religion to justify their own negative thinking patterns—now equates righteousness with no less ridiculous a character than television's Church Lady.

The Lord Jesus Christ taught us to be motivated by love, toward Him and toward our fellow man, in all that we do. While no list of "Thou shalt not's" can be found in the teachings of Christ, those who follow Him are careful to examine their words, their thoughts, and their deeds so that their very lives would honor and glorify His name, not out of fear or bondage but out of genuine love. As men and women further seek to follow His example set by Christ, they read of His forgiveness, of His love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, His faith, meekness, and temperance. All these things increase within us as we give way to the Spirit of God.

As stewards of the Restored Gospel, the members of The Church of Jesus Christ must abound in the kind of righteousness taught by the Lord Himself, filled with tolerance and compassion toward the dying souls of men in a troubled world. As human beings we must sometimes resist thinking and reacting like the Church Lady would, and remember instead the way Christ reacted to the situations He encountered. When we don't feel like forgiving or tolerating the mistakes of others, we must remember how much the Lord has forgiven us and how patient He has been with us. And as easy as it would be to publish and keep adding to a list of "Thou shalt not's" for everyone to follow, we must instead individually strive to keep the Spirit and the love of God stirred up and growing within us daily, that none of us would transgress His commandments. If we can accomplish this, His Church will rise up and bring forth Zion, God's kingdom, on the face of the land.

# The

## Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

Have you ever had people say mean things about you that aren't true? Did you ever have anyone lie about you or blame you so they wouldn't get into trouble? Maybe even you were the one who was afraid to stick up for a friend people were lying about.

Well, this is another kind of problem that you can tell Jesus all about. Because Jesus had His best friends turn away when He was in big trouble. He knows how you feel.

God's plan was for Jesus to be born on earth as a human, with all the same feelings and weaknesses that we all have. Jesus taught us all how to serve God, how to be bap—tized and forgiven of our sins. He taught us about talking to God and fasting and praying and most of all about love. Then Jesus allowed evil men to hang him on a cross to die. And then (best of all!) He returned from the dead to show us and prove to us that there is a heaven. His love makes us want to serve Him.

Jesus' love was powerful when He walked the earth as a human, too. Many men chose to follow Him. Simon Peter was one of his best and wisest followers.

On the dreadful day that Jesus knew He was going to be taken to be crucified, He went to the garden to pray long prayers of deep pain. He asked Peter and His other apostles to stay with Him to pray. They fell asleep.

Terrible soldiers came and took our peaceable Lord away. But Jesus, who had all the power of creation, did not fight or scream. Neither did He call for armies of angels to come fight for Him. Instead, all alone, He was taken to be



beaten, judged, and to have His body die.

Peter was terribly frightened when the soldiers came. As he waited to learn what would happen to Jesus, someone recognized him as Jesus' follower. They asked Peter if he was one of Jesus' friends and he quickly said, "No!" Two more times people asked him if he was connected with Jesus in some way and each time, fear came over Peter and he said, "No."

Jesus' dear friends had deserted Him when He needed them most. But God's own dear Son allowed His Father's will to be done. He was put to death and later appeared before Peter, and Peter was forgiven.

So, if your friends hurt you or are mean to you, or if someone tells lies about you, trust Jesus. Jesus has the power to hold you in His love until the hurt goes away. Jesus has the power to let people tell when someone lies about you. Jesus will tell you the best way to go when you are confused about what to do.

Just like *He* was strong inside, you can be made strong inside too. Remember the beautiful Bible scriptures, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Phillipians 4:13), and "Greater is He (Jesus) that is within you than he that is in the world."

With love and care, Your friend Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

JESUS	AFRAID
CHRIST	$\mathbf{EVIL}$
PHILLIPIANS	MEN
CHAPTER	FORGIVES
FOUR	$\mathbf{E}\mathbf{A}\mathbf{C}\mathbf{H}$
THIRTEEN	EVERY
POWERFUL	$\mathbf{TIME}$
LOVE	DIE
OF	AROSE
GOD	FROM
PETER	$ ext{THE}$
WAS	GRAVE

J	С	R	M	Е	L	w	Y	Н	R	S
F	Е	Т	E	Н	D	I	Е	С	N	N
0	A	s	N	Т	H	G	V	A	Е	N
R	F	I	U	Т	E	L	I	E	Y	Т
G	R	R	Y	s	Е	Р	Т	R	E	Е
I	A	Н	V	M	I	R	E	S	V	M
V	I	С	I	L	I	V	О	A	О	D
E	D	T	L	Н	Е	R	R	R	0	E
S	V	Ι	Т	R	A	G	F	G	V	M
С	H	A	P	$\mathbf{T}$	E	R	F	О	U	R
P	0	W	E	R	F	U	L	w	A	S

#### CHOICES continued . . .

An open invitation exists for you to bring your children to The Church of Jesus Christ. Please make regular attendance in the Sunday School and MBA part of their life and your life. Let this be a continuation of the educational process. It will equip both child and parent with the necessary spiritual education that will be a guide to choose good and refrain from evil.

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

God bless you,

Brother David Nolfi Glassport, Pennsylvania

# **Branch and Mission News**

# Detroit's loss is Dallas' gain

On July 23, 1989 the members of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1 bade a fond farewell to our Brother Joe and Sister Darlene Ignagni as they left for the Dallas, Texas area. Visiting in our midst this day were Brother Dick and Sister Pat Christman of Phoenix, Arizona and Brother Patsy and Sister Connie Marinetti of Tucson.

Bro. Christman extended an official welcome on behalf of the Southwest District to our Brother and Sister Ignagni, saying how the Dallas Mission was anxiously awaiting their arrival. He began his sermon with the given fact that as human beings we all make mistakes, as well as the fact that there is no way for God to make a mistake. As human beings it is hard for us to comprehend this at times, because we make mistakessometimes big, sometimes littleevery day. But we must come to the realization that if God indeed does not make mistakes, He must always be completely in control of the situation.

Bro. Dick went on to say that we have to cultivate the ability to wait upon the Lord. Again, as human beings we hate to have to wait for anything. Sometimes we catch ourselves saying, "Lord, I need patience and I want it right now!" But as we read the scriptures, we see that time after time the Lord is telling us to wait.

Waiting upon the Lord, our brother pointed out, is not like just standing in line and twiddling our thumbs. He cited the parable of the ten virgins, five foolish and five wise, all of whom were waiting for the bridegroom. Five were waiting with their lamps trimmed and burning, and five were just waiting. We must equate waiting upon the Lord with serving Him, as a waiter or vaitress serves.

These days we've learned to become more self-sufficient than ever before. Gradually we have begun to think that we can handle everything that comes up in our lives. But if we go back to the basic truth that we all make mistakes, and remember the basic truth that God doesn't, we must ask ourselves whom we would rather have handling the decisions in our lives. When we've done all we can, there comes a point where we must take it to the Lord and leave it in His hands. God knows the future, and we don't.

Our Brother Dick then told a career-related experience, wherein the Lord directed him to turn down a certain job opportunity. Shortly thereafter, Bro. Dick was promoted to a position higher than the one he would have been in had he taken the job.

As a Church, our brother pointed out, we need to learn to wait upon the Lord. The missionary work among the American Indian people is at times very difficult and discouraging, yet we know we must do it. We have God's plan in our hands—the Bible and Book of Mormon—but not His timetable. That's why we have to develop the important skill of waiting upon Him.

Brother Patsy Marinetti followed on a similar theme, citing examples from the scriptures of men and women who learned to wait upon the Lord. He directed our thoughts to Abraham, who was promised a son who would be the father of many nations. In the many years that transpired between the promise and its fulfillment, Abraham must have asked himself, "When is this going to happen? When am I going to have a child?"

Another man of God, Moses, spent 40 years in the desert before going before Pharaoh. The Apostle Paul had to learn patience as well. He was changed by the Lord from being a driven, impetuous man to one who could be used greatly by God. Joseph was falsely accused and cast into prison, where he, too had to learn to wait upon the Lord and trust Him.

The meeting was left open for

testimony, and we heard several beautiful experiences where brothers and sisters learned to patiently trust the Lord in times of adversity, and were able to praise and glorify His name for bringing them through their trials.

Bro. Joe Ignagni gave a farewell testimony to the Branch, and related how he applied for a teaching position at colleges and universities all over the nation, but prayed that the Lord would provide him with a job in a city where the Church was established. After many months of waiting, he was offered a job in Arlington, Texas. Before making a decision, he contacted schools in Detroit and Phoenix; school administrators in both places encouraged him to take the position in Texas.

Sister Darlene testified as well, telling how much each and every one at Branch 1 meant to her as spiritual mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters. She told of how, upon visiting the Dallas Mission for the first time, they both felt the Spirit descend upon them so strongly that they knew Dallas was where the Lord wanted them to be at this time.

As much as we at Branch 1 hate to see our beloved brother and sister depart from our midst, we know by the witness of the Spirit that the Lord directed them to Dallas, and we pray that He will allow them to be a source of life, strength, and blessing to the Church in that part of the vineyard.

# News from Sterling Heights

By Hazel Zoltek

Brother Gary Champine of Detroit's Inner City Branch visited our branch recently to bless a baby from a home nearby. Bro. Lou Vitto offered the opening prayer and read from Mark 10:13-16 and Moroni 8:10-12 concerning the blessing of little children. Then Ronald and Jackie Fox brought their infant, Eric Douglas, forward

(Continued on Page 8)

#### STERLING continued . . .

to be blessed. Bro. Gary took the little child up into his arms and offered a most beautiful, touching

prayer.

Our Brother Gary addressed the congregation, saying that he had his spiritual beginnings in this branch. He was baptized on July 24, 1977 by Brother Carl Frammolino and confirmed by Bro. Leonard Lovalvo of Modesto, California. He related to us how he met the parents of the baby that was blessed this morning. After tuning the piano in their apartment, Bro. Gary played some hymns and began a conversation with Mrs. Fox about the Church. She seemed very interested, and Bro. Gary told her about how we bless little children in our Church. She promised to call him when she had her baby, and on July 30, Mr. and Mrs. Fox came to our branch, along with about two pews' worth of relatives and friends, much to our delight. Bro. Gary planted a seed with this family, and now it is up to us to help water and nurture

Bro. Gary said it was difficult to express his feelings this day. God has changed his life so dramatically, and brought such joy to his soul. His great desire is to serve God, as it is so wonderful to live according to His word.

Our brother read from Matthew 7:18 how Jesus was transfigured, and how excited Peter became. He wanted to build a tabernacle for Jesus, Moses, and Elias, but God's voice was heard to say, "Hear ye my Son in whom I am well pleased." There are many voices and churches today, built by men and lacking the essence of what God established. People often become depressed and don't know where to go. Our desire is to worship Jesus Christ and our Church is built upon the solid rock.

Bro. Gary said that for many years, it was impossible for him to kneel and pray to God and expect Him to hear the prayer. How wonderful it is now that he knows that God hears and answers prayers. We must be concerned about our spiritual life, our salvation, and clear out all the dross so that we can have a clear under-

standing ourselves of what Peter saw and heard. He was a witness to a great event. We know it was a heavenly experience as he beheld the light of God's countenance.

Sometimes we feel that God is so far away from us, but it is we who move away, not God. There is no question whom we must hear and serve; we must pray that God will inspire us to understand.

We must be obedient to God. When Naaman, a Syrian general of valor, had leprosy, a servant maiden of his wife told him about the prophet who could heal him. Naaman went to Elisha, expecting him to just touch him and tell him he was healed. Not so. Elisha told Naaman to go to the Jordan River and dip himself seven times, but he refused, saying the Jordan was too dirty. After a while, however, he relented and did as he was told. He was cleansed after the seventh dipping, but first he had to obey.

We, too, have trouble in the area of obedience. We know what we want from God, but we aren't always willing to ask Him what He wants. Bro. Gary told us that sometimes he becomes angry when everything is not falling into place, but his wife, Sister Judy, is always there to comfort him and pray with him.

When we rendered our lives to God, we were all transfigured in a moment. Now let us work together, hear Him and go pray to Him to find out the answer for ourselves. We must set an example for others and let God put in their minds what is true and what is not. Our brother is thankful today for having the opportunity to share the Gospel with others as Bro. Sam DiFalco did with him more than twelve years ago.

## New member, singspiration in Modesto

By Valerie Dulisse

On July 9, 1989 Brother Elias Richardson was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Modesto, California. Bro. Elias was one of several young people at the California Campout who called for their baptism, but he desired that his grandfather, Brother Joe Lovalvo, would baptize him. Hands were laid upon Bro. Elias for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Joseph Bologna.

A couple of weeks later on July 26, 1989 the Modesto Branch hosted a very special singing event for the praise and honor of our Lord. Brother Eugene Amormino from the Detroit Inner City Branch and Brother David Majoros from Tucson, Arizona were our guests. The singspiration had a beautiful turnout; we had many visitors, and several of the saints who came in spite of illness and affliction received a blessing from the singing of praises to our deserving Lord. There was such great anticipation and excitement as the singing got under way.

Bro. Eugene's opening remarks included the fact that we all need to "work for the glory of the Lord." Bro. David had a similar message to share with us. He explained that, whatever our occupation in life, "we do what the Lord gives us to do." Although our two brothers have such great God-given talents, they dedicate themselves and their music to the honor and praise of our Almighty Father.

We were given a preview of some of the newer Songs of Zion chosen by the Music Committee for the Church. These were sung by Sis. Rose Lovalvo, Bro. Leonard Lovalvo, Bro. Eugene Amormino, and Bro. David Majoros together. What joyful songs they are!

Sisters Martha Picciuto, Eva Betancourt, Christina Vinsick, and Tina Picciuto were accompanied on guitar by Bro. Saul Betancourt as they all sang "How Great Thou Art" in both English and Spanish.

Bro. Tony and Sis. Lucy DeCaro from the Linday, California Branch joined us that evening, and together they sang Who Will Go and Work in My Field, another song from the forthcoming hymnal.

Our sister Rose Deulus accompanied Bro. Eugene on the piano as he sang *God's Touch*. Our brother requested that, if God has not touched us recently, we would get on our knees and ask that we would be touched, to have the joy of our salvation restored to us.

Bro. David Majoros sang *The Lord's Prayer* at Bro. Eugene's request. It was such a beautiful arrangement, and the words were so touching, that it deeply affected many of the saints, who were shedding tears.

The congregation joined in on the last verse of several selections presented by Bro. David. The faces of those brothers and sisters present reflected the ecstatic jubilation felt in their hearts while singing the hymns which glorify God.

Our future in Zion's fair kingdom was uppermost in our minds as we sang Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile! It is possible to have a taste of Zion while living in this day, when we are dedicated to the values and sentiments expressed in The Songs of Zion. I feel certain that our songs reached the throne of God. There truly is a blessing in singing a hymn; the Spirit of God washed over us, and our hearts were full of love and happiness as we left the meeting. If only we could repeat this celebration of our Lord every veek, because it brought a renewed sense of purpose and a greater desire to serve as the children of God. We hope to have Brothers Eugene and David as our guests again soon. They truly are a "singspiration" to us!

# Baptism in Meaford, Ontario

By Jane Elzby

"And He will bring the children home again, And He will bring the children home again."

The saints of the Meaford, Ontario Mission thank God that we have one more laborer in this part of the vineyard. The spirit of repentance was felt in our midst on Sunday, February 5, 1989 as Michelle Elzby made her wishes known to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. She is the first of the saints' children to be aptized in this area. Needless to say, it was a happy occasion for us all and our cups were truly filled to overflowing. There were many ex-

periences, given months before Michelle's calling, which were made known today to encourage our new sister.

Just before we went down to the water, Sister Betty Hewitt saw a beautiful white dove sitting in a tree. We pray that this "spirit of peace" may follow our new sister wherever she goes.

Michelle was taken into the icy waters of Lake Huron's Georgian Bay by her father, Brother Richard Elzby, who later also confirmed her into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Please remember Sister Michelle, as she is away from our mission during the school year attending the University of Western Ontario in London, Ontario.

"Wherefore let us go to and labor with our might this last time, for behold the end draweth nigh and this is the last time that I will prune my vineyard" (Jacob 5:62). Let us all labor together, brothers and sisters, in this vast vineyard.

# News from Millstone, New Jersey

By Carl Huttenberger

On Sunday July 22, we were honored to have more than 80 visitors from nearly every branch in the Atlantic Coast District. Brothers Sam Dell, James Speck and Lawrence King of Levittown, and Walter Cihomsky of Metuchen, were our visiting ministers today. We were also privileged to have Brother Bruce and Sister Darlene Large with us, having just returned from Guatemala.

This day we baptized Chris Perri into the family of God. Bro. Joe Perri, her father-in-law, baptized her. We praised God for the seventh convert baptized at the mission in the past year.

It was a hot and humid day, but Sister Chris had prayed the night before that the fair weather would hold out, and it did. It was a sunny day and we held our meeting outside, under a huge shady tree. God's natural beauty surrounded us as far as we could see in all directions; the ministry had a cornfield behind them. It was truly inspiring.

At the onset of the meeting, 13-year-old Janet Murillo recited all the books of the old testament from memory. She is part of our Sunday School, and her teacher, Sis. Mary Perri, presented her with a little gift. A quartet from Levittown sang several beautiful selections for us, accompanied by Sis. Kellie Speck on her autoharp.

The Spirit of God was already in our midst and the heat and humidity was forgotten by all as we basked in the warmth of God's love. Bro. Walter Cihomsky spoke to us about the waters of Mormon, and what transpired in that day and time. He posed questions to us just like Alma did, "What have you against being baptized?"

Sister Chris was confirmed in the Church by Bro. Jim Speck, and afterwards she and her husband Brother Greg offered their testimonies. During the testimony meeting several experiences were brought forth, confirming Sister Chris's calling. As usual we had visitors of the Seed of Joseph with us, as well as from Nigeria, Africa.

Sister Lucy Murillo related an experience in which the previous week, her husband Juan traveled to their native Mexico City. He brought the Gospel to Sister Lucy's father, who is a devout Catholic. After hearing the good news of Jesus Christ and of his heritage through the Book of Mormon, he was very interested and wants to



(Continued on Page 10)

#### MILLSTONE continued . . .

attend our Church in Mexico City. Gloria a Dios!

We had the kind of testimony meeting where many people found it difficult to stand up before someone else beat them to it, for which we thank God. It was also related that exactly 39 years ago this day, there were 20 baptisms in this part of the Church and many of those were in our midst today.

A sister was anointed for an affliction that was keeping her from concentrating on and enjoying the meeting. Her faith made her whole. She was healed instantly! Praise God. She also testified that she and her husband had never been to the mission and for that reason came very early in case they had trouble finding it. There are many farm houses on Roberts Road, but miraculously God gave them a feeling that this was the place, and when they knocked on the door, Sister Lucy welcomed them with open arms. Thank God for His direction spiritually and naturally!

We closed our meeting filled with God's blessings. We sang He Planted Me Deep. The words of this song express our desire for our new Sister Chris. After the meeting, we all enjoyed a delicious dinner, and many stayed to fellowship well into the evening. We were sad to say good-bye to Brother James G. and Sister Nancy Speck, who would be moving to Florida that week. Our blessings went with them.

It was understandably a day we will not forget. There are still many at the mission who have yet to make their commitment to God. But His Spirit has been pouring out on us week after week, and it's exciting to see God calling His laborers to work and to see them answering His call. Dios los bendiga!

# **Baptism in Detroit Inner City**

By Karen Mancinelli

Baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 2, 1989 was Mirtha Singleton. She was baptized by Brother Gary Champine and confirmed by Brother Eugene Amormino.

The week before she was baptized, Sister Mirtha testified that after attending several meetings she believed in the doctrines of the Church and she believed The Church of Jesus Christ to be the True Church of the Lord.

But she also expressed her concern to know if it was God's will for her to get baptized in this Church under the authority of this priesthood. She then related a dream she had shortly after questioning these things in her mind.

She dreamed that she was going to be baptized and that it was Brother Gary Champine who was leading her into the waters of regeneration. She expressed her desire to be baptized the following Sunday. After her testimony, Bro. Tony Gerace confirmed that he felt the Spirit of God working on her that day, and he proclaimed that there would be a baptism the coming Sunday.

On the day of her baptism, George Stojanovitch, who has been visiting our branch recently, testified that two weeks prior, as Sister Mirtha was being anointed for an affliction from which she was delivered, he saw a vapor of smoke enter her and he knew that it was the Spirit of the Lord.

As she expressed herself on the day of her baptism, Sis. Mirtha proclaimed that it was truly the hand of God that brought her into this Gospel, and she stated that there could have been no other way.

# Blessings in McKees Rocks

By Diane Ciotti

The saints of the McKees Rocks Branch rejoice in celebrating a 50th anniversary, witnessing a baptism, and sharing in a retirement.

Time was set aside at our New Year's Eve watch meeting to pay tribute to Sister Anna DiAntonio for reaching her 50th spiritual birthday. Sister Anna was given a corsage in recognition of this accomplishment. She testified, thanking God for 50 years in His service, and expressed a desire to be faithful until the end. Our sister was baptized on December 12, 1938 by Brother Phillip Mileco in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

On January 22, 1989 Sister Joyce Golden was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Paul Ciotti and confirmed by Bro. Bill Colangelo. Sister Joyce, fiancee of Bro. Tony Ricci, had been attending our services for several months. She testified that from the first meeting she attended she felt a conviction from God. Our sister related an experience she received several days before requesting baptism. She also testified of always having a desire to help people, and how she feels she can now do that as a member of the Church. We pray that God will continue to bless our new sister.

A surprise pot-luck dinner was held to pay tribute to Brother Dick Lawson on his retirement. Bro. Lawson decided to take an early retirement and thus be more free for the Work of the Lord. In the Sunday service as Bro. Dick was explaining his decision on retiring, Sis. Joyce Golden saw his entire body outlined with a bright light. To us this was an indication that our brother's decision was the will of God. Brother Dick thanked his family and the saints for their support and love. Our brother has been a dedicated and faithful worker for the Church for many years and does not let his own physical problems hinder his desire to work for the Lord, especially his involvement in the mission work in Elkins, West Virginia. Our prayer is that God will bless Bro. Dick with many more years in His service.

## Blessings in Lorain, Ohio

By Rose Palacios

We would like to share with you the blessings we have been experiencing here in the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Many prayers have been answered in behalf of the saints and friends of the Church.

Sis. Donna Kinser's son Tristen was attacked by a stray cat. There

was the possibility of a rabies infection, but our sister put her trust in God and had her son anointed. Later, as she testified her thanksgiving to God for coming through for her son, the Spirit spoke, "It's through God, My sister, that he is healed today."

The Lord has also come through for the father of Sis. Dora Palacios' fiance. A handkerchief was anointed and sent to him when he was scheduled for open heart surgery. Thanks to God, the need for surgery is no longer there.

Bro. Mike and Sis. Katherine Cocco's daughter-in-law also had a handkerchief anointed for the twins she gave birth to prematurely. With the help of God, they are all doing well.

We have had many different brothers in the ministry visiting with us, as well as brothers and sisters in our congregation. We have also had a number of children blessed. On the day that Sis. Iva Davis' granddaughter, Brandy, was blessed, Sis. Rose Palacios had a vision in which she saw a personage take Brandy to be anointed. On the following Wednesday, Brandy was taken to the doctor and given a clean bill of health. Although she too was born prematurely, her development is well advanced now.

We have been blessed with dreams and visions and different words of the Lord of encouragement to the saints, telling us to hold fast and to continue to draw near to Him.

For an entire week we held fast and prayer meetings for the Ohio District meeting of May 28. It was the first specially scheduled spiritual meeting of the year. The theme was "America, the Promised Land." We were taken on an historical journey by our Brothers Ron Genaro and Fred Olexa, who spoke that morning. The evening service was spent in community singing. Our guest speaker, Bro. Paul Ciotti, told a few experiences, and testimonies were given by a number of visiting brothers and sisters, for which we can say, "Blessed be the name of the Lord."

A dream was had where two men walked into the Lorain Branch with the revival meeting flyers in their hands, saying, "We've come to investigate what these flyers say." As this dream was told in a testimony meeting, the Spirit spoke, "Pray on, pray on. They are hungry. They want to be fed. I will open the heavens and I will touch the hearts of people to come."

An experience was given to show God's protection toward Sis. Iva Davis' son Todd. He was digging at his home and hit a power line that was not properly installed in the ground. Sparks shot upward four or five feet and the surrounding neighborhood was without electricity for the entire day.

A similar experience had taken place in the life of Sis. Iva's husband. He had once touched a 12,000-volt electrical wire with a rod. No harm came to him; not even a shock was felt.

Another experience occurred with Sis. Katherine and Bro. Mike Cocco's grandson. A piece of candy lodged in his throat to the point where he could not breathe. Sis. Katie cried out, "God, help us." The candy slid down his throat and he began to breathe again.

Sis. Rose Palacios related a

dream she had where the Lord would show forth His power to the world through the righteousness of the saints.

To summarize this article, we are reminded of the word of the Lord that came forth to Sis. Rose, "Prove me. See if I will not open the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing."

#### THANKS continued . . .

a peaceful departure from this life (from my arms to God's). It is important to me that we not question God's will or be discouraged, because Joseph's life was a testimony to the mercies and love of the Lord.

God bless you, Sister Carolyn Micallef

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

HARVEST GREAT

The harvest is truly ripe with so many wanting to know the Truth. I pray that we shall be able to meet the task set forth, not by man or any organization, but by the Lord Himself: "Go ye to all the nations."

I also would request that the reader consider the need to accomplish our desire to spread the Gospel. We do require your support in all the missionary fields. I am asking that you do something extra. If you want to designate an additional donation for the missionary work of the Church, I can assure you that this is where the funds will be directed, that they will go directly to the mission fields of the Church.

# \* WEDDINGS \*

#### PRESTON-MAGGARD

Jeffrey Alan Preston and Brenda Lou Maggard were married on July 13, 1989 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Joseph Calabrese performed the ceremony, with musical selections provided by Sis. Katherine Cocco.

The newlyweds are residing in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

#### SCHAFER-SURRENA

Mr. Robert Schafer and Sister Kimberly Kay Surrena were wed on August 5, 1989 in Hermitage, Pennsylvania by Brother Donald Pandone of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The couple will be residing in Kent, Ohio where both are students at Kent State University.

(Continued on Page 12)

#### WEDDINGS continued . . .

#### WATKINS-PAICH

Mr. Wesley R. Watkins and Miss Michelle Paich were married at The Church of Jesus Christ in Aliquippa, PA.

Bro. Charles Jumper performed the ceremony on August 12, 1989 assisted by Bro. Thomas Ross. Musical selections were provided by Sister Carol Jumper, accompanied by Sister Joyceann Jumper on the organ.

May God richly bless this young couple as they begin their new life together.

#### STONE-DiFALCO

Scott Brent Stone and Susan Angela DiFalco were united in holy matrimony on August 18, 1989 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was performed by Brother Sam DiFalco, assisted by Brother Richard Thomas, both uncles of the bride. Musical selections were provided by Brother Steve Champine, accompanied on the piano by Brother Eugene Amormino.

The young couple will reside in Harrison Township.

# **New Arrivals**

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

Nathan Alexander Teman to Bro. Alexander and Sis. Melissa Cherry of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Addres	s Change
ress	
ne	

## Children Blessed

Jamie Lynn Lewis, daughter of Kevin and Sis. Debra Lewis, was blessed by her great-grandfather, Bro. Bill Colangelo, in McKees Rocks, PA on April 2, 1989.

On April 9, 1989 Autumn Kathleen Kendall, daughter of Tobin and Kathleen Kendall, was blessed by her grandfather, Leonard Lovalvo, at the Modesto, CA Branch.

Brittany Lynn Picciuto, daughter of Mark and Karen Picciuto of Modesto, was blessed in the Church by her great-grandfather, Bro. Joseph Lovalvo, on June 4, 1989.

On July 22, Christy Lee Soltis was blessed by Bro. Sam Dell at the Millstone, New Jersey Mission.

On August 13, Erica Lynn Palermo, daughter of Kevin and Denise Palermo, was blessed by Bro. Louis Vitto at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

#### JOSEPH MICALLEF

Brother Joseph Micallef of the Windsor, Ontario Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to his eternal reward at the age of 31 on July 12, 1989 after a battle with cancer that lasted nearly four years. He was baptized on December 20, 1987 by Bro. Dick Lobzun and confirmed the same day by Bro. Louis Vitto.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Leonard A.

Lovalvo.

Bro. Joe is survived by his wife Sister Carolyn and her family, his mother and sister, seven nieces, and two nephews. He was also much loved by a host of brothers, sisters, friends, and acquaintances who saw his unwavering faith manifested in the positive attitude he carried with him to the end.

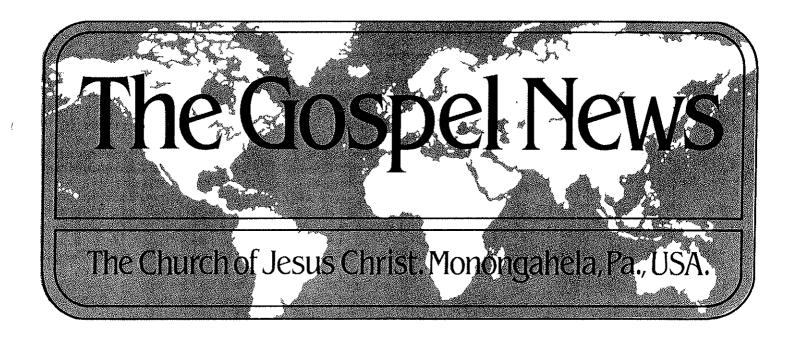
#### JAMES NERONE

Brother James Nerone of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed away on July 16, 1989. He was born August 26, 1918 and was baptized into the Church on June 16, 1978 by Bro. Russell Martorana.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Richard

Santilli and Ralph Berardino.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Irma, and his daughter, Patty Nerone. Brother Jim's warm personality and love for his family will long be remembered by all who knew him.



November, 1989

Volume 45, No. 11

## "Set apart, set apart, ordain, ordain."

By Ruth Gehly

As we watch our children grow, it is amazing to see the changes that take place with each passing year. Some grow in leaps and bounds, while others mosey along at what seems to be a very slow pace. Whatever the case may be, parents must nurture and stimulate their children as individuals, encouraging the growth and development of each one's unique talents at a complementary pace.

This same principle may be applied to the branches and missions of the Church. Each one has its own history, its own life cycle. And while some are very young and exuberant in their laboring, others are struggling to exist, relying heavily upon their faith in God and the help of stronger branches to see them through from week to week.

For many years the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch has been blessed to service the Lockport, New York Mission. We have taken the struggles of this aging mission to heart, and have offered our strength and support whenever possible. On August 13, 1989 we were especially blessed to travel there as a branch and witness the much-needed orlinations of Brothers Gus Giansante and Augie Fragale as teachers in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Lockport has been much in

need of help from within the mission for quite some time. But it was only two weeks prior to the ordinations of our brothers that Bro. Paul D'Amico received an experience to fill this need.

During the night of July 30, Bro. Paul heard a voice calling.

"Bro. Paul! Brother Paul!" the voice said.

"What do you desire?" Bro. Paul asked.

"Set apart, set apart, ordain, ordain." the voice instructed.

"Whom shall I ordain?" Bro. Paul asked.

"Set apart and ordain Bro. Gus Giansante and Bro. Augie Fragale as teachers," the voice answered.

Coming out of the experience, Bro. Paul realized he was in his bed and that the Lord had instructed him to ordain our brothers.

After considering this experience, Bro. Gus and Bro. Augie accepted the Lord's calling for them and the date of the ordinations was scheduled.

Bro. T. Dom Bucci of Erie opened the service, sharing an inspired message concerning the Restoration of the Gospel, Zion, the life hereafter, and how we should strive to live closer to God each day of our lives. Bro. Joel Gehly then washed our brothers' feet. Bro.

(Continued on Page 11)

# New Mission started in Ohio

By Ina Giovannone

On September 3, 1989 the Warren, Ohio Branch started a new mission in North Jackson, Ohio with Evangelist Frank D. Giovannone in charge.

It has been Bro. Frank's desire for quite some time to get something started in that vicinity, as several experiences have been given towards this work.

It is with great hopes and anticipation that we will be able to invite our relatives and friends in this area to come and listen to the Gospel Restored.

God has already shown His pleasure in this endeavor, as we have already received many blessings in getting the mission started, one of which is how God has provided us with a meeting place.

We are meeting in the Banquet Room of the Red Carpet Inn, 9694 Mahoning Ave., N. Jackson, Ohio (on route 18 adjacent to the Ohio Turnpike).

We meet there every Sunday as follows: Sunday School at 9:30 a.m., Preaching Service at 10:45, Fellowship around the noon hour.

We solicit your prayers, that God will inspire and direct us in this work, All are welcome to come

(Continued on Page 6)

# Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in Jesus, Lord and Savior of all that keep the testimony of love.

Life without challenge is not worth living, and faith without trials is like hidden gold undiscovered. God wants a tried people that are fit for His kingdom. We are the children of light. When our light shines, we witness on behalf of the kingdom of God and those who are in darkness see the glory of the Lord and bless God for us, but except the light is shown, how can they see?

Throughout history the Gentiles have been a poor show to the light of God. While manifesting self-holiness, they have not attended to the weightier matters of the law, which Jesus said are Truth and Mercy.

The Gospel was restored that

man may again show the light of God and manifest in deed the neglected parts of the law, Truth and Mercy. In 1952 a probation officer in the city of New York tried to place a young boy of twelve years in some religious organization for adoption. Officer Carro said, "I tried for one whole year to no avail.

organizations did not want him because they did not recognize his denomination. "He is not one of us, so to speak." This was very unfortunate because had they cared, the course of history would have been changed. You see, the boy's name

was Lee Harvey Oswald. The lives

There was not much that I could do

for him." Numerous large religious

of President Kennedy, Oswald, and Jack Ruby would have been spared. Much anguish could have been avoided had someone cared.

When a child's father does not care, and a mother does not play that needed role, then who does care? What was done with Lee Harvey Oswald is being done daily now to many like this boy. In our day we may not suspect what can happen tomorrow. Many tears will not help once things happen, nor will they bring solutions.

I pray that I may not be overbearing to you, whom I love in Christ Jesus, but such things can happen to us unless we are willing to practice what we preach. Remember the disciples coming to Jesus and saying, "We forbade him because he followeth not us." Because "he is not one of us, so to speak." Jesus said, "Forbid him not, for there is not man which shall do a miracle in my name that can lightly speak evil of me" (Mark 9:38-39). Another time Jesus said, "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." By the love of God we can best serve and make our modest contribution to our faith. and by practicing love when addressing others.

Most Christians have something in common with one another, and with Jews as well. By the love that God gave us, we will be able to win a lasting brotherhood among men of good will. We have fellowship with those who believe in a true, living God. We have no fellowship with unbelief. Ours is the destiny to build an enduring kingdom of God on earth, which will draw all men of good will together, into one fold, led by one shepherd, Jesus.

There is an untiring criticism against all religions. Some due to the divisions that exist among them and some due to the fact that some members do not live up to their claim. Oddly enough, this attitude is also among the inter-religious community, with some justification. However, we must remember that only the man who does nothing does not commit blunders, and only those who say nothing can altogether avoid talking some nonsense. The critic often reaches inverted conclusions. He may notice

only the nonsense and failures, and overlook the wisdom and the good.

We find some degree of comfort that the critic offers nothing but criticism. During the Nazi regime, Rabbi and Language Professor Leo Baeck was in the same prison camp as a German professor of philosophy who sympathized with the Jews. At the camp, they were both hitched to a cart and made to drag a large boulder from one end of the camp to the other. They had to unload it and load it again, and continue this task day after day. Baeck was asked later if this was not utterly intolerable to him, to have his human dignity trampled under foot in this manner. With his somewhat cool and yet singularly stirring voice he answered, "As a matter of fact, we were doing it

very well.

"We discussed the things we had in common, and learned a great deal from each other. By the fact that we believe in one living invisible, yet lovable Father, Creator of all things, we are hitched in the same carriage. Must we not discuss the things we have in common, and therefrom learn about each other?"

Leo Baeck survived the war, but refused to leave the city of Theresienstadt as long as there was one deportee who might need his assistance. The Jewish community believe that his escape was a miracle, amidst the prevailing unfathomable horrors. God is so distant, yet so close to man the creature, yet still ingenious Creator. So very near to all of us, so understanding, so forgiving, so compassionate, so loving, and longsuffering. Alas, how could we escape damnation if it were not so, seeing we are so imperfect and evil. Whoever has a spiritual hearing, let him hear the will of God and keep it. Whoever has spiritual eyes, let him see the glory of the Lord of the universe.

Under the Nazis, the Jews suffered the greatest holocaust in history, but those who lived saw the greatest miracle as well, in the formation and survival of the Jewish state. The greatest miracle is yet to come. Those who truly believe in God shall see eye to eye. Then they

(Continued on Page 11)

## 50th spiritual birthdays

By Linda Reynolds

On Sunday September 17 at the Bell, California Branch, we honored two saints who were celebrating 50 years of dedicated service in The Church of Jesus Christ, Sis. Goldie Jones from the Bell Branch and Bro. John Azzinaro from the Valley Branch.

Bro. Tom and Sis. Tava Jones and their daughter Sis. Kim, all from the Atlanta, GA Mission, came out for the occasion. Bro. Ken Jones closed the Riverside Mission to attend our meeting on this wonderful day. The Valley Branch closed and met with us for the day so that all could attend. We also had visitors from other branches, and some friends and relatives of the saints being honored this day.

Bro. Eddie Purdue of the Tijuana Branch opened in prayer, and the Mexican group from Bell sang two Spanish selections accompanied by a guitar. Bro. Ken Jones sang He's Only a Prayer Away in honor of his mother, Sis. Goldie.

Bro. Tom Jones was the first speaker for the day, and talked to us concerning several scriptures wherein it is mentioned to seek first the kingdom of God. He spoke of his early days in life, and how his mother was always there offering guidance and simplicity amid the complexities of life.

Sis. Goldie's children and grandchildren and their families sang her favorite song, Take Some Time to



Sis. Goldie Jones and Bro. John Azzinaro

Pray. The Valley Branch then sang a medley of Bro. John Azzinaro's favorite songs.

Our brother and sister were then asked to give their testimonies, and there were many tears and much joy felt as Bro. Harry Marshall closed our meeting in prayer.

We continued with fellowship in the dining room, thanks to the efforts of sisters from both branches who worked together to provide a beautiful lunch for everyone.

TESTIMONY OF SIS. GOLDIE JONES

When I was about 13 years old, we were studying in school about the Pilgrims, the Puritans, the Quakers, and Catholics.

Each one said they had the right religion. They had me very confused. I knew this could not be right. I wanted to know why there were so many different churches. I thought about it for a few days, and then one morning on the way to school I had a brilliant idea. Thinking teachers knew everything, I thought I would ask my teacher which of the churches was right.

My teacher told me she was partial to the Methodists. I had already visited the Methodist and other Christian churches, and did not find what I was looking for. I continued to visit churches of many denominations and read everything I could find about churches.

As years went by I was married, and I still kept looking for the right church. One day I went to visit my mother, Cora Marshall. She told me that she had found some nice people who were going to have a meeting in her home that evening, and she asked me if I would like to stay for it. She did not know that I had been looking for the right church, and I didn't think she was looking for one at all.

We both liked the people we met that night. I attended a few more meetings with them, and later went to their tiny church. If there were fifteen people in that building, it was crowded! But their meetings were nice; I kept going there whenever I could. Sometimes there was too much snow or our car wasn't working. We lived about fifteen miles away.

Then in 1935, my mother and dad were baptized. That was fine with me, but I still had to look. Two years later my brother Harry Marshall was baptized, but I still had to look. I told myself that I was going to find some fault with The Church of Jesus Christ if it took me the rest of my life. God must have been laughing up His sleeve. I think the devil was urging me to resist—I didn't intend to go against God, I just thought it couldn't be possible that I had found what I was looking for.

One Sunday, I believe it was Bro. Shazer who preached in Vanderbilt, PA and told us why there are so many different churches and why there can only be one church. It was beautiful! I was all ears, as that was what I had started out with wanting to know so many years before. Before going to sleep that Sunday night, I said to myself, "Well, if what he said is true," (and I believed it was) "This must be what I am looking for."

That night, as soon as I fell asleep, something hit me on my head and a man's voice said, "Wake up before it is forever too late." I tried to feel for the headboard, thinking I had jumped in my sleep and bumped my head, but I was down in the bed, some distance from the headboard. I thought it was just a crazy thing and forgot about it. But the next Saturday night, the same man's voice said to me again, "Wake up before it is forever too late," and at the same time the inside of my head lit up like turning on the lights in a dark room. Almost at the same instant the voice said, "You have to get baptized." After that, I awoke.

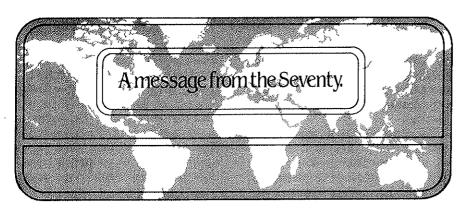
I was baptized the next day and stopped looking.

TESTIMONY OF BRO. JOHN AZZINARO

I was about six years old when my mother and father obeyed the Gospel and were baptized. I grew up in the Church, going to Sunday School, MBA, and church services, learning about the beliefs and teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ.

At the age of 16, while sitting

(Continued on Page 4)



# Eight New Evangelists

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Eight elders were recommended and approved for ordination into the office of an evangelist at the October General Church Conference.

They had been called in their respective districts and had their names submitted to the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, which passed on them at its semiannual meeting on October 4 and recommended them to the General Conference for approval. Experiences pertaining to the callings were also forwarded to the Quorum by the district evangelists.

The addition of eight brothers brings the quorum to its full strength. It has been several years since the number stood at seventy because of deaths and the retirements of some of the older brothers.

#### THEIR LOCATIONS

The new evangelists and their locations are as follows:

Vincente Arce, Mexico; Luis Pacheco, Pacific Coast District, who labors in Mexico; Joseph Ross, Pennsylvania District;

Philip Jackson, Ohio District; Peter H. Capone, Michigan-Ontario District;

Thomas Everett, Michigan-Ontario District;

Alex Gentile, Michigan-Ontario District; and

Peter Scolaro, Michigan-Ontario District.

All of the brothers mentioned

above have been in the Church for many years, and they have been in the priesthood for a total of 129 years. Their average age is 48, and they have been very active in missionary work. Ordination dates were set in their districts immediately after the October Conference.

The Quorum and its president, Isaac Smith, greeted the new evangelists warmly at a special brief meeting between Saturday sessions at the Conference. Brother Smith indicated the wonderful feeling felt by all that God has filled the number.

#### MISSIONARY ORGANIZATION

Other matters taken up at the Evangelists' meeting were primarily those pertaining to the missionary work of the Church. A lengthy, fruitful discussion was held about the recommended change, which was subsequently passed by the General Church Conference, that all missionary work be placed under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists.

A Missions Operating Committee was established with Quorum Vice President Thomas Liberto being placed in charge. The group includes Quorum President Isaac Smith, Committee Chairman John Griffith, American Indian Committee Chairman Dwayne Jordan, Foreign Missions Committee Chairman Joseph Ross, Worldwide Evangelism Chairman Leonard Lovalvo of California, Radio-TV and Media Communications Chairman

Carl J. Frammolino, General Church Development Committee Chairman Elmer Santilli, and Quorum Finance Committee Representative J. Fred Olexa. Plans to facilitate the change will be formulated in the next six months.

#### REPORTS

Reports from the Worldwide Evangelism, General Church Development, Visiting Evangelist Program, and Radio-TV and Media Communications Committees were presented and accepted.

Action programs were discussed and plans for their implementation were reviewed. The entire day's activities were challenging and uplifting.

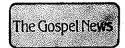
The focus has been more firmly set for the future. The addition of the new brothers will give the Quorum more inspiration and energy, and their help will contribute to the total overall effectiveness required.

#### BIRTHDAYS continued . . .

in a meeting one Sunday in the basement of the home of a sister in the Bronx, New York, I felt my heart pounding so heavily I thought it would burst. All of a sudden I found myself upon my feet asking for my baptism.

I have had many blessings and experiences during these 50 years in the Gospel. The Lord has been good to me. My desire is the same today as it was back when I was 16. I only pray to God that He will give me the strength to remain faithful all the days of my life, as many as the Lord will give me.

I'm happy to be recognized for 50 years in the Church by the brothers and sisters in my branch, but I'm happier to know that my name has been written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and I pray that it will never be erased, as my desire is to receive the greatest Honor of receiving the crown of eternal life. I pray to God for strength day by day, that I may remain faithful to Him until the end, and to be an example to all.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

ASSISTANT EDITOR Peter A. Scolaro 41825 Alden Drive Mt. Clemens, MI 48044

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 705 Division St. Aliquippa, PA 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

> FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN -- ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

OHIO
James P. Rufnagle
615 Birch Dr.
Euclid, OH 44132

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Menongahela, PA 15063

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

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

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

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

At a time of year when America pauses briefly to give thanks for her prosperity, we of The Church of Jesus Christ should be especially grateful, not just for natural sustenance, but more importantly for the hope we possess for what the Lord has in store for His people. We can look around us today with the understanding of the Restoration and see changes taking place, in the hearts of men and in the world, that fulfill prophecies that have been set down in the word of God.

After one reading of The Book of Mormon we can recognize in today's America a pattern emerging, similar to that which repeated itself time and again among the ancient inhabitants of this land. Material prosperity, bestowed upon a oncerighteous nation by a God pleased with their reverence towards Him, ironically causes mankind to forget God—to forget the fact that they need Him, to forget that it is *eternity* that counts and that this life is only a probationary state.

In this day and age, more than ever, it is a challenge for the followers of God to: 1) Constantly remind ourselves from whence all our good comes, and not just take a moment once a year to acknowledge the Source of all good, and 2) Not be swept away in the flood of material possessions, diversions, and distractions that not only have been made available to us, but are also incessantly vying for our attention. If we are not careful we can be tempted to "keep up" with those around us with regard to material things, at the risk of letting go of the things which truly matter, including our spiritual well-being.

We read in the scriptures how the Lord has, from time to time, called upon His people to move suddenly from one place to another in accordance with His will. Lot fled with his family to escape destruction, Moses led 600,000 Israelites to freedom from the slavery of the Egyptians, and Lehi brought his family forth out of Jerusalem shortly before it was seized and its inhabitants taken captive. In each expedition there were those who were ready, obedient, and trusting in God for His guidance and direction in their lives. There were also, unfortunately, those who looked back, those who yearned only for the things they left behind.

We in The Church of Jesus Christ, while we are thankful for and enjoy the abundance of natural blessings the Lord has given us, must be in our hearts and minds strangers in a strange land, firm in the knowledge that we have no constant dwelling place in this world. We must keep ourselves from becoming tied to our homes and our possessions to the point where, like Lot's wife, we would hesitate to leave it all behind should the Lord require it.

This Thanksgiving, let's ask ourselves what we're really thankful for. The answer to that question will tell us much about where our priorities lie, where our treasure is. That which we desire to possess above all else should be that which we carry within us wherever we go, that which no one can take away. Let us strive to minimize our ties to those external things in life which occupy and encumber us; let us allow ourselves to enjoy the Heavenly gift to the fullest.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

One of the funnest things to do in The Church of Jesus Christ is travelling together to visit other branches and missions of the Church. It's so great to have friends in the Church—you can count on them to be there when your other friends sometimes aren't. And as you grow older and become more involved in the Church, you'll have a network of friends across the entire country who are just as excited as you are about getting together to enjoy the blessings of God.

This past summer everyone at Detroit Branch 2, from the smallest two-year-old, through our young people and college students, to our "senior citizens," got into a bus and rode about six hours from Detroit to Palmyra, New York to see the Book of Mormon pageant. Some of the young boys and girls had saved up their money for two years so they could make this trip, and everyone was anxious for the pageant to begin once we arrived there on Saturday evening.

Trumpets sounded, lights began to flash, and as the crowds eagerly sat back on hard benches, all eyes were turned to the open-air stage on the side of Hill Cumorah. Mormon volunteers played the parts in a series of little acts that portrayed important parts of The Book of Mormon. The latest technology in lighting, special effects, and sound systems were displayed in front of our eyes.

But what I marvelled at and even rejoiced in was the thousands of people gathered in one spot to hear and learn about The Book of Mormon. The biggest thrill to me



was the amazing variety of cultures and languages that were gathered there. There were interpreters and special seating areas for people speaking Spanish, Italian, German, and many other languages.

We experienced an ethnic diversity that was a delight! Many nations were gathered together under the starlight. There was a friendly atmosphere as we sat together or strolled on the grounds prior to the performance.

We at Branch 2 had been notified that our brothers and sisters from Meaford, Ontario, as well as Bro. Mark Peltier and Bro. Larry and Sis. Cindy Henderson from Windsor, were also there amongst the crowd. "The salt of the earth," I thought to myself as I gazed about. When the Lord helped us find one another, we hugged joyfully and I heard the people behind us say they wondered who the Meaford brothers were when our brothers lovingly embraced them. "He must be someone important," I heard one person say.

I wanted to turn around and say, "You are important to us, too. The love of God makes each of us important to one another."

In my mind I could imagine the days when King Benjamin spoke to the crowds, and I also felt good that God had already planted seeds of belief in all of these people's hearts. I wished I could tell these people about the beauty and simplicity of the Truth—The Church of Jesus Christ. We know that all those who are truly sincere—whatever different faiths they may belong to today—will one day serve God together in His Church.

But the greatest blessing awaited us at the Rochester, NY

Mission the next day. We were saddened to learn that some of our older brothers were ill or had passed on, but the strength and power of God was felt in our meeting, and the love of God was present throughout the day.

After many moving testimonies of how God worked in our lives, one sister became very sick with a condition that doctors could not treat. Our ministers joined to kneel and pray for God's power, and a prayer was offered up asking God to relieve our sister. During this holy moment, a sister was given the privilege of seeing a personage of light among the elders as we all prayed. The holiness present in the room filled our hearts with joy.

We thanked God for the opportunity to serve and know Him. We were sorry to leave this beautiful place of worship. After a brief time of visiting and eating a delicious lunch complete with pies ("My idea of heaven," joked one brother), we bade our brothers and sisters a bittersweet good-bye, with many hopes of returning again some day—to the impressive pageant and, more impressive, the loving Rochester Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

I would encourage all of you girls and boys, if you ever have the chance to travel and visit the brothers and sisters and young people of the Church—whether at their branches and missions, or at Campouts and conferences—go, make new friends, and enjoy yourself. It may not be easy at first—everybody's shy at one time or another—but I promise you it'll be well worth the effort. Remember, the love of God makes us all important to one another, and that includes you.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

#### OHIO MISSION continued . . .

and visit us, and if you have any friends or relatives in the North Jackson vicinity, please let us know so that we can make contact with them and invite them to our services.

## **MBA** Highlights

# Atlantic Coast Area MBA News

By Alice L. Suska

We of the Atlantic Coast Area MBA have completed a special fivepart training program by Brother

Jerry Valenti.

This special training involved two phases of study for each part. The first phase of each session was individual study, which was done at home. Questions from prepared sheets covering approximately 100 pages of the Book of Mormon had to be answered.

The second phase of the program occurred at the scheduled meetings, where we reviewed the material in a unique fashion—by acting it out! All in attendance participated as we re-created scenes from the scriptures to reinforce what we had read at home.

Following our "performance," Bro. Jerry tested our knowledge with questions. Much to our surprise and satisfaction, recalling the answers was not as difficult as we thought it would be. The home study, the dramatization, and the review had all helped us to remember.

We're thankful for having had the opportunity to participate in these training classes. Our prayer is that the Lord will use us to present this precious Gospel to our friends and neighbors.

# Pennsylvania Area MBA News

By Lucetta Scaglione

The Pennsylvania Area MBA business meeting was held on September 29, 1989 at the Monongahela Branch. The officers for the next year are: President Brian Smith, Vice President Paul Aaron Palmieri, Chaplain Ed Donkin, Secretary Susan Ciotti, Treasurer Rich Scaglione Jr., Financial Secretary Jeff Giannetti, Historian Debbie Lewis, and Editor Lucetta Scaglione.

There were many forthcoming events and activities planned. On December 9, 1989 the Glassport local will host an area singspiration. There will be an area seminar in Monongahela on February 17, 1990.

March 30, 1990 will be the next area business meeting at the Imperial Branch. A pot-luck dinner will be held prior to the seminar. An area picnic will be held on May 28, 1990, with the Vanderbilt local in charge. The camp-retreat for next year will be held at Antiochian Village again, from September 14-16, and the cost will be \$46.00 per person. Brother Rick Markazene was elected camp director.

The cassette tape project to raise funds for the Pennsylvania Area MBA is still in effect. Anyone wishing to order tapes may contact Bro. Richard Scaglione. Tapes are \$4.00 each, and there are five different tapes with singing of our own people.

\$500 was donated to the Elkins, West Virginia Mission building fund. All locals were reminded to forward their \$2.00 per member per year to the Area, and to hold local business meetings by the first week in February and in August. Finally, \$394.50 was donated to the Pennsylvania District Mission Board from our fundraising projects.

## **Branch and Mission News**

## Ordination in the Bronx

By Lydia Link

The Bronx, NY Branch welcomed many visitors on February 12, 1989. All had come to show their love and support for Bro. Jim Suska, who was being ordained to the office of teacher. In attendance were saints from Brooklyn, Freehold, Levittown, Metuchen, and New Brunswick.

After prayer by Bro. Dominick Rose, Bro. Gerard Valenti addressed the congregation, reading from Ephesians 5:1-20, emphasizing that as dear children of God, we need to walk as children of light. And though at times the pressures of life seem to close in around us, we need not seek refuge through

foreign substances, nor have fellowship with the works of darkness. We need only to remember that Jesus has us in the palm of His hand, and by us calling upon Him, He will immediately come to our aid.

Bro. Jerry further stressed the importance of choosing friends and associates carefully. As children of light, we need to exercise wisdom and understanding of the will of the Lord. As the Lord enlightens our mind and the Holy Spirit guides us, we in turn can help others to see the beauty of the light of Christ.

Bro. Jerry was followed by Brothers Joseph Arcuri, the younger Jerry Valenti, Dominick Rose, Matthew Rogolino and Jim Sgro. Each brother encouraged, through the word of God and through testimony, the necessity and the beauty of displaying the light of the love that is within us.

Following the singing of I Love Him. Presiding Elder Salvatore Feola read from the gospel of John 4:31-38 and Psalm 126:5. He reminded us that the fields are white and ready for harvest. All have their responsibilities in the Church, no matter what the calling or office. We are farmers sowing the seeds of the word of God and working to gather souls for the Lord. Bro. Sal further advised us never to become discouraged if the fruits of our labors are not immediately seen. We should rather continue steadfastly, for the promises and blessings of the Lord are sure.

We then sang When Jesus Christ Was Here Below as Bro. Jim Link washed Bro. Jim Suska's feet. As the prayer of ordination was be-

(Continued on Page 8)

#### BRONX continued . . .

ing offered by Bro. Sal Feola, all of the elders joined hands and formed a circle around Brothers Sal and Jim Suska.

In his testimony, Bro. Jim expressed his gratitude for the blessings of God in his life. The Lord has spared his life several times and he was very happy that the Lord called him out of the world and brought him into the beautiful light of Christ. His desire is to do the work of God, but he confessed that without the prayers of the saints and the help of the Lord, he would be able to do nothing.

After our brother's testimony we sang If Jesus Goes With Me. The hymn Amazing Grace was solemnly sung as the Lord's Supper was administered.

This beautiful day of service and praise to the Lord came to an end and Bro. Matthew Rogolino closed with prayer. Everyone was then invited to retire to the all-purpose room to partake of natural food that had been prepared by the Bronx Ladies' Circle. It was a blessed day, both spiritually and naturally.

## Muncey, Ontario

By Sam French

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized . . . Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved" (Acts 2:41 & 47).

On August 13, 1989 the saints of the Muncey, Ontario Mission were most edified and blessed when Larry Snake asked for his baptism. Larry had been attending the meetings when he felt the calling of the Spirit of God upon his life.

He was taken into the waters of regeneration by Bro. Rodney Dyer and confirmed by Bro. Sam DiFalco. The theme song for that day was There's a New Name Written Down in Glory. Praise God. Bro. Larry later testified of God's goodness and how wonderful he felt, exclaiming what a huge family he now had.

Bro. Sam DiFalco spoke on how we should live our lives after we've rendered obedience to the Gospel, and on the simplicity of the Gospel. He read from Matthew 6:20 & 23.

Bro. Sam also stated that we should build our lives upon the Rock Jesus Christ, and touched upon the necessary steps of faith, repentance, and baptism.

Bro. Rodney Dyer followed, using Moroni 2 and speaking on the characteristics of the Holy Ghost. He declared that the Holy Ghost would lead and guide us throughout our lives.

Praise be to God, it was a glorious day well spent. Remember the Muncey Mission in prayer, and may God richly bless one and all.

# Addition to Edison Branch

By Mary Thickstun

The brothers and sisters of the Edison, New Jersey Branch have been fasting and praying for God to send us another member of the priesthood to assist our Brothers Phil Arcuri and Arthur Searcy. Indeed He answered our prayers.

Brother Jon Olexa, recently ordained into the priesthood in Monongahela, PA, and his family, are a very welcome addition. Not only have we been blessed with another elder, but God gave us an added gift—Sister Sherry and her talented piano playing.

We thank God for answered prayer. Welcome Jon, Sherry and of course, Aaron.

## Baptism in Levittown

By Walter Kowalsky

"There's a new name written down in glory, and it's mine, O yes it's mine." On July 16, 1989 Vivian Sweeney, now Sister Vivian, was baptized in the waters of repentance.

This day was a very cloudy and raining day. But the sun was shining very brightly in the hearts of all the saints. The opening prayer was given by Brother Gerard Valenti. We all sang the first two verses of *I Surrender All*. Then Vivian was led into the water by Brothers James G. Speck and Samuel Dell.

As Vivian was immersed into the waters of purification, she became one with the Lord. As she came out of the water, we all saw a new Vivian, one who was touched by the Lord. Then we all sang the last three verses of *I Surrender All*. The closing prayer was offered by Bro. Lawrence King.

We all returned to the church and Sis. Vivian was confirmed by Bro. Jerry Valenti. On this day Sis. Vivian could truly say, "There's a new name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and it's mine."

## Visitors at Valley Branch

By Linda Reynolds

We have been so truly blesed this year in our Valley Branch in Southern California. The months of July and August brought us many visitors from different parts of the country.

In July we welcomed Bro. Tom and Sis. Tava Jones from Atlanta, Georgia. On that same day Bro. Bob and Sis. Diane McDonnell from Bell attended. Both brothers spoke to us that day and brought forth very inspiring messages.

In August we had Sis. Elaine Jordan from Tse Bonito, NM, who sang a beautiful musical selection for us. We followed our service with a picnic in a nearby park, where we had dinner together, talked, and sat in a circle and sang with Brother Enos Genaro playing the guitar. It was wonderful seeing Sis. Elaine again, as many of us had grown up with her.

A week later we had her parents, Bro. Bob and Sis. Sarah Watson (also from Tse Bonito). They attended our Wednesday night service, and Bro. Bob spoke to us concerning the beginnings of the Church in the San Fernando Valley, and of all the blessings their family experienced in the Valley fo over 20 years. Also visiting with us that same evening were Bro. Phil and Sis. Ann Damore from the

Phoenix, AZ Branch, and Bro. Otto and Sis. Dorothy Henderson from Anaheim. We all had wonderful 'ellowship together and wished we could see more of them.

The end of August brought us many visitors as well. Bro. Tony and Sis. Lucy DeCaro and Sis. Lydia Cavallaro from the Lindsay, California Branch, along with Bro. Lou and Sis. Adeline Ciccati and Bro. Alfred and Sis. Josephine Dominico from the San Diego Branch. Another visitor was Sis. Grace King from Phoenix, Arizona. All three of our visiting elders spoke to us, one after the other, without any songs in between. Each one complemented the others in the subjects.

Later in the service Bro. Tony and Sis. Lucy DeCaro, along with Bro. Enos and Sis. Alyse Genaro, sang a few selections for us and we were truly blessed.

### Baptisms in Imperial

By Jan Cornell

Just as the theme for this year's GMBA Campout was "This is the Year," the brothers and sisters of the Imperial Branch have found this to be true. We thank God for His wonderful blessings and the souls that have rendered obedience to His word.

On February 19, 1989 Jim Godwin was baptized by Bro. Dan Buffington and confirmed by Bro. Jim Moore. On April 23, following General Conference, Ken Murray of Youngstown, Ohio heeded God's call and was baptized by Bro. Jim Moore and confirmed by Bro. Carl Frammolino.

Our July 4 picnic was rainy on the outside but filled with God's fire and blessings on the inside. April Murray, our new Brother Ken and Sister Sandy's daughter, expressed the need for Jesus in her life. On the way to the water, Eric Yoder petitioned "just as I am" and was also baptized. Bro. Jim Moore baptized both young people, and Eric vas later confirmed by Bro. Dan Buffington and April by Bro. Bob Buffington. There were several beautiful experiences confirming

these baptisms, adding to our joy and gratefulness to God that day.

We continue to praise God as Herb and Betty Buffington were reinstated, and at the GMBA Campout four of our teen-age girls were baptized: Lisa Nolfi, Jesse Painter, Mitzi Yoder, and Theresa Rattenni.

We still anticipate more of God's blessings as we have several months of "This is the Year" remaining.

## Baptism in Monongahela

By LuAnn Carson

A new name was written down in glory on July 23, 1989. John Demchak was baptized in Monongahela, Pennsylvania by Brother Brian Smith, and Brother James Campbell laid hands on our new brother for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Brother John's wife, Bea, has been a faithful member of our branch for many years. For a long time our branch has been holding fasting and prayer services on behalf of our loved ones, and we praise God that He has been answering our prayers. We are thankful that they who come in the eleventh hour, as our new brother did, receive the same heavenly reward as they who have borne the heat of the day.

## Blessings at McKees Rocks continue

By Linda Zane

The weekend of July 15, 1989 was a weekend of new beginnings for the members of the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. On Saturday, July 15, we were blessed to witness the marriage of Wally Wasik and Sister Sherri Reed. Bro. Paul Ciotti Sr. officiated at the ceremony, and Bro. Paul Ciotti Jr. and Sis. Nina DiCenzo sang four very touching musical selections. We rejoice along with Wally and Sis. Sherri as they begin their new life together!

The blessings of the weekend continued on Sunday with the or-

dination of Bro. Ralph Ciotti into the priesthood and the baptism of Bro. Patrick Monaghan. The Spirit of God was truly felt by all who were in attendance. We were fortunate to have visiting saints in our midst from most of the branches in the Pennsylvania District, as well as from Ohio, Michigan, and California. Sis. Rose Anderson, who is now living in Guatemala, was also visiting, as was Sister Mercy from Nigeria.

Bro. Frank Ciotti of Santa Ana, California introduced the morning service. He delivered an inspired message on the divine call of God to service, stressing the fact that God uses individuals to carry out His will; when God calls us to service, we *must* respond. Bro. Carl Frammolino followed with the encouraging words that if we are faithful to answer God's call in our lives, God will respond and walk with us always. The Spirit of God was obviously at work, as evidenced by Patrick Monaghan's request for baptism after the morning service.

The afternoon service was centered around Bro. Ralph Ciotti and the office into which he would be shortly ordained. District President Joseph Ross opened the service by explaining the duties of an elder, using scriptures from both Bible and Book of Mormon. Bro. Bill Colangelo then related to the congregation many experiences and revelations of God concerning Bro. Ralph's calling into the ministry. Bro. Russell Cadman continued by speaking on the history of the holy order of the priesthood. Bro. Paul Ciotti then washed the feet of Bro. Ralph. Bro. Frank Ciotti offered the ordination prayer, in which he petitioned God to give Bro. Ralph many spiritual gifts and the power to bring many souls to Christ. While Bro. Frank was praying, Bro. Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues, emphasizing the importance of what was being said in the prayer.

After a dinner which was graciously prepared and served to us by the sisters of the branch, many made their way to the Ohio River to witness the baptism of Patrick Monaghan. Our new brother

(Continued on Page 10)

#### McKEES ROCKS continued . . .

was baptized by Bro. Paul Ciotti and, after returning to the church, had hands laid on him for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Dick Lawson. During Bro. Dick's prayer, Bro. Paul Ciotti again spoke in the gift of tongues, following which he was given the words, "Retain in your heart the promise you have given Me, My child, and I will give you a place of rest." This promise, given by God, was truly a wonderful and blessed way to conclude a beautiful weekend.

Our branch was blessed a month later with the baptism of our sister Renee Zeh. Her baptism was the first performed by her newlyordained father, Bro. Ralph Ciotti. She was later confirmed by her grandfather, Bro. Bill Colangelo.

On September 10, 1989, our Brother Anthony Ricci was ordained into the office of a deacon in the Church. His feet were washed by Bro. Walter Laird, and he was anointed and ordained by Bro. Paul Ciotti. We praise God for His continuing goodness and mercy toward

# Baptism at Detroit Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On Sunday July 30, our Presiding Elder Richard Thomas announced that Allen Colpitts had asked for his baptism. The brothers and sisters were elated by the news, and the ministry was all fired up.

Bro. Peter Scolaro was inspired to preach, and he mentioned that he had a chance to talk to Bro. Allen earlier in the week. Bro. Allen had said, "I want to get baptized, but how do I know when I'm ready?" Bro. Peter told him that when he came to fully understand what it was that he had to do, then it was time.

So Bro. Allen told him, "I'm leaving it up to the ministry as to when they want to perform my baptism." He told Bro. Peter that he wanted to make a clean start with a new life. Bro. Peter put the ball

back into Allen's court, as it were, telling him that he had to declare his readiness to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. It was at that point that Allen asked.

You could tell throughout this day that Allen and his wife Vickie were deeply moved by the whole experience, and that Bro. Allen felt relieved, as though a weight had been lifted from him.

Bro. Tom Everett had felt in his heart to baptize Bro. Allen when he heard the news the previous Saturday morning at the month-end fasting and prayer meeting. But having made a previous commitment to help out today in the Inner City Branch, he thought it wouldn't be possible.

But the Lord certainly does work in mysterious ways. Bro. Tom walked into Branch 1 about halfway through the meeting and took his seat on the rostrum. At the close of the service, Bro. Richard mentioned that the priesthood had felt earlier that morning not to decide yet who should baptize Allen, and at this time asked whoever felt inspired to perform the ordinance to step forward.

At this point, Bro. Tom Everett got up and related to us that Bro. Peter Capone from Branch 3 showed up unexpectedly at the Inner City Branch and told Bro. Tom, "Go on back to Branch 1—don't miss the baptism."

So Bro. Tom baptized Allen in the waters of Lake St. Clair, which were particularly rough that day, and Bro. Louis Pietrangelo confirmed him. Bro. Allen's brother Dennis Colpitts, a deacon at the Sterling Heights Branch, felt very blessed to think that one from his natural family has come to understand the Truth, the Way, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### Visitors in Rochester

By Bob Batson

The annual Hill Cumorah
Pageant has historically produced a
windfall of visitors for the
Rochester, NY Mission, and 1989
proved to be no exception to the
rule. The blessings of God were

strongly in evidence as our mission hosted visitors from throughout the Lord's vineyard, including Niles, Warren, and Perry, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Windsor and Meaford, Ontario; Imperial, Pennsylvania; and Tucson, Arizona.

On July 22 we were privileged to hear Brothers Frank Giovannone, James Moore, Robert Buffington, and Ron Genaro exhort the word of God to us. We praised God in testimony and singing throughout the day, to the edification of all in attendance. And we were especially blessed to share the Lord's Supper with our visitors, many of whom we had not fellowshipped with in many months.

The following weekend brought a busload of blessings and, not coincidentally, a busload of saints from Detroit Branch 2 as well as visitors from Windsor and Meaford. We sang the Songs of Zion during Sunday School, and then listened to the heavenly messages of Brothers Alex Gentile, Leonard A. Lovalvo, and Rick Elzby. After the preaching service, the meeting was opened for testimony.

During this service a sister war suddenly stricken by a nerve disorder which caused her to become paralyzed. The ministry reacted quickly, anointing our sister with the blessed oil as the congregation intuitively knelt in prayer. Praise God that He heard and answered our prayers, and that our sister recovered immediately, to the point where she was well enough to stand on her feet and testify of God's goodness. During the prayer one sister saw a man dressed in white standing over the brothers as they knelt and anointed our sister. We cannot contain our joy when we think of the many times God has blessed us!

On both weekends we were reluctant to close the meetings because of the Spirit which prevailed. Our desires focus on the time when God's people shall "meet to part no more," when we would no more need to bid the saints farewell. In that same spirit, we enticed our visitors to fellowship just a little bit longer by providing the with a meal before they made their way homeward.

We wish to express our

gratitude to each and every soul who visited with us. Our minds and hearts are still stirred up by remembrances of our time together. We look forward to many more blessings in fellowship with our brothers and sisters as they come to spend time with the brothers and sisters at the Rochester Mission.

## News from Herndon, VA

Brother Chat and Sister Hythia Young of the Herndon, Virginia Mission were blessed as their oldest daughter, Chatavia, was taken to the water's edge. Sister Chatavia Young was baptized on July 2, 1989 by her father, Bro. Chat. It was a beautiful day for a baptism. The lovely weather was matched by the beautiful presence of God's Spirit. Sis. Chatavia was confirmed by Bro. Paul Carr.

Bro. George Timms recently celebrated his 50th anniversary in the service of the Lord. Brother George was baptized on July 6, 1939 at the Greensburg, PA Branch by Bro. John Mancini at the age of fourteen. We congratulate Bro. George on his 50th spiritual birthday.

#### ORDAIN continued . . .

Paul D'Amico anointed and ordained Bro. Augie, and Bro. Dom anointed and ordained Bro. Gus. A beautiful season of testimony was shared, in which our brothers related many wonderful experiences that have confirmed their choices to serve God in The Church of Jesus Christ. Joy was felt in the hearts of all those who attended.

The brothers and sisters of Lockport have served the Lord diligently throughout the life of their mission. At times they have grown by leaps and bounds. More recently, in their maturity, that pace has changed. But in their faithfulness, the Lord has doubly blessed them. He has filled a great need in their midst, and they have been revived. As the Erie Branch continues to nurture this mission, we pray that this time of renewal will help to sustain them and bring them continued growth for many years to come.

#### GREETINGS continued . . .

shall know their living Redeemer, Jesus of Nazareth. The believing Gentiles and Jews shall be one fold, with one shepherd. What a glorious day it shall be, when man will no longer be judged by his nation, color, or creed, but we shall be the children of God. Are you living with this blessed hope in you? What are you doing to bring this about? Begin by giving your life to God and making Him King in your life. Start in a small way, and grow in righteousness.

May God add His blessings is my prayer,

Mark Randy

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Ruth Donnan Colonial Nursing Home Colonial Drive Youngstown, OH 44505

John Finnick, Jr. Box 20473-10682 Quail Creda Dr. Grass Valley, CA 95945-2473

Samuel French 1018-30 Baseline Road West London, Ontario N6J 1V3 Telephone (519) 679-9269

James and Sally Hufnagle 615 Birch Dr. Euclid, OH 44132

Fearn Love Countryside Convalescent Home R.D. 7 Mercer, PA 16137

Brian and Rhonda Martorana 1393 Bittersweet N.E. Warren, OH 44484 Telephone (216) 856-4998

Ruth Mountain 8211 E. Garfield, Apt. 2106 Scottsdale, AZ 85257-3816 Telephone (602) 946-0935

## \* Weddings \*

#### <u>UBILES—CARR</u>

The members and guests of the Herndon, Virginia Branch were blessed to witness the marriage of Sister Cheryl Carr to Benito Ubiles. The blessing was made greater by the presence of Brother Paul and Sister Thressa Carr, Sister Cheryl's parents, who were in this ountry on leave from their missionary home in Nigeria, Africa.

The ceremony took place on Saturday, June 17, 1989. Brother Paul Carr officiated and was assisted by

Brother Jesse Carr, Cheryl's grandfather. Sister Thressa also participated in the ceremony by singing a selection.

Although it rained a little as the ceremony was almost over, the sun seemed to shine throughout the remainder of the day. God certainly smiled on this union.

A small reception followed the ceremony at the Herndon Community Center. May God bless the new couple in their marriage.

(Continued on Page 12)

#### WEDDINGS continued . . .

#### ALESSIO-LIBERTO

On August 5, 1989 Brian Alessio and Sis. Lisa Liberto were united in marriage. Brother Paul Liberto officiated, and Brothers Lou Ciccati and Jerry Giovannone assisted in the ceremony.

Musical selections were offered by Sisters Lisa Hemmings, Nancy Hemmings, Lynn Womack, Debbie Jackson, and Diane Surdock, and Bro. Tom P. Liberto. Sisters Renee Scolaro and Wendy Jordan provided instrumental accompaniment.

The newlyweds are residing in San Diego, California.

#### KEENAN-DiRADO

Bro. John Keenan and Sis. Lisa DiRado were united in holy matrimony on September 23, 1989 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit Branch 2.

Bro. Alex Gentile officiated at the ceremony. Bro. Andrew Parravano and Sis. Loretta Lovalvo offered the musical selections, with accompaniment by Sis. Olivia Parravano.

The couple is residing in Hoboken, New Jersey. May God's richest blessings be with them as they go through life together.

## **New Arrivals**

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

Rachel Yolanda to Bob and Pat Buffington of Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Andrew James to Tim and Becky Tarbuck of Imperial, Pennsylvania.

:	Address Change
; _	
ess	
е_	

## Children Blessed

Benjamin Theodore Beiswanger, son of Tim and Carol Beiswanger, was blessed on August 13, 1989 by Bro. Frank Natoli in the Rochester, NY Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Caleb Nathaniel Picciuto was blessed on August 27, 1989 by his grandfather, Daniel Picciuto at the Modesto, CA Branch. Caleb is the son of David and Lori Picciuto.

On September 7, Robert Leggs, son of Laura and Robert Leggs, was blessed by Bro. Stacey Light in the San Diego, CA Branch.

On the same day, Edrick Caballo, Emily Caballo, and Karen Caballo, children of Sylvia and Jose de Jesus Caballo, were blessed by Brothers Luis Pacheco, Paul Liberto, and David B. Ciccati respectively.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

#### HARRIET NEIDERMEYER

Sister Harriet Neidermeyer of Monongahela, Pennsylvania died on July 12, 1989. She was born on November 7, 1896 and was baptized on July 19, 1928.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Robert Nicklow, Sr. and Jr.

Sis. Harriet was a faithful sister and a blessing to all who knew her. We are confident that she has received that crown of eternal life.

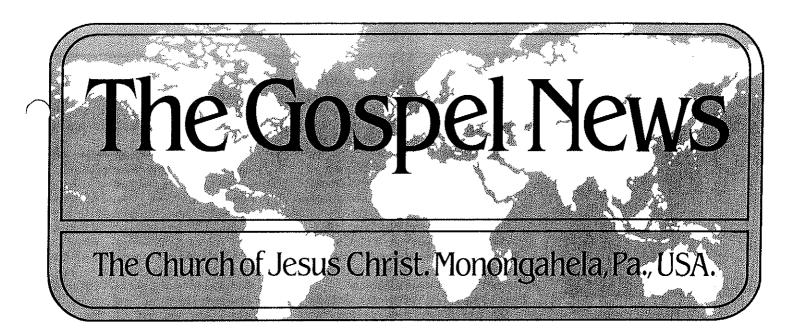
#### ANNE FAIR

Sister Anne Fair, a member of the Greensburg, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed from this life on August 20, 1989, only one day after returning from a glorious week at the GMBA Campout. She was born on April 26, 1919 in Glassport, Pennsylvania and was baptized into the Church by Bro. Paul Gehly on November 20, 1966.

She is survived by one daughter, two grandsons, and one granddaughter. Her husband, Brother Charlie, preceded her in death on September 26, 1983.

Brother Paul Gehly officiated at the funeral service. As he stated in his opening remarks, "We are here to pay tribute to a saint." Truly no other word could better describe our faithful and loving sister. At the Campout, she chose In the Upper Room with Jesus as her favorite song, and surely we know that as our Sister Anne slipped away from those here on earth who loved her so dearly, she arrived at that "upper room" to the waiting arms of the One who has loved her through all eternity!

It is our prayer that God will comfort her loved ones through this time of deep sorrow.



December, 1989

Volume 45, No. 12

## Evangelists ordained at district meeting

By Anthony J. Scolaro

About four hundred brothers, sisters, and friends representing every branch and mission of the lichigan-Ontario District gathered at Detroit Branch 1 on Sunday November 5, 1989 to witness the ordination of four brothers into the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists: Peter H. Capone of Branch 3, Alex Gentile of Branch 2, and Tom Everett and Peter Scolaro of Branch 1.

To open this special service, presided over by the district evangelists, the young people came forward and sang If You Would Labor in Zion and Keeping Step, with the congregation joining in on the chorus. The power that we felt in singing and hearing these songs united us together not only in voice, but in mind and spirit as well.

After the opening prayer by Bro. Dick Christman, who was visiting from Phoenix, Arizona, we were addressed by Bro. Joseph Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio, whose inspired words commanded the attention of the large congregation in attendance this day.

Bro. Calabrese spoke on the pecial calling we were about to witness this day, the call to preach the kingdom of God to the souls of mankind. It is always an important time, our brother apostle stated,

when men are called to preach the Gospel. This is a work that had its beginnings before the foundation of the world. Bro. Calabrese read several passages from the Book of Mormon which teach us how Abraham and those before him experienced the royal priesthood of the Son of God.

With Christ's coming, a new hope was brought to mankind—the hope of salvation—and in order to administer that hope, His Church was established. The Lord Jesus Christ was baptized, and soon afterward went out to look for men who would serve Him and do His work. He called His twelve apostles, and then sent out seventy men, two by two, to take His Gospel to the ends of the earth.

Our brother elaborated on the success these men had in their labors, and how God allowed His power to be manifested through them. He took us briefly through the pages of history, explaining the Apostasy and then detailing the return of the priesthood authority through the Restoration. Through this authority, The Church of Jesus Christ was re-established in its fullness.

Brother Calabrese emphasized to us the uniqueness that this priesthood authority brings to our

(Continued on Page 10)

# Ordination in Elkins, West Virginia

By Lucetta Scaglione

We would like to thank God for our little mission in Elkins, West Virginia. There are only a few members, and several are very afflicted. But when you attend their meetings you can feel the Spirit of God and the humbleness those few possess.

On October 15, 1989 a large group from Pennsylvania, including sisters from the PA Area Circle, traveled to Elkins for the ordination of Sister Hettie Benyola into the office of a deaconess.

Brother John Manes introduced the service, reading from Acts 9:39 regarding the role of women in the Church. He spoke of how Dorcas had died, and they called for Peter to come. When Peter arrived, he saw all of the women weeping and sorrowing for a woman who had been full of good works. The people had suffered a great loss, and now what could Peter do? We know that Peter worked a great miracle and through the power of God brought Dorcas back from the dead.

The women of the Church have a critical and supportive role to play. As mothers, they teach their children about God, just as the

(Continued on Page 11)

## Greetings in Christ



LEST WE FORGET

God sent His dear Son upon earth With joyful news of a new birth. Sent saints to touch the hearts of men, Reconciling them to their God again.

By Mark Randy

Greetings in Jesus Christ.

Apostle Ismael D'Amico, a great missionary with no equal in our modern history, was at one time a railroad worker, deeply religious, trying to convert Joseph Corrado—an atheist—to his faith, but to no avail. Corrado quit the job and was no longer seen by Bro. D'Amico for several years. Then suddenly he appeared on the railroad, looking for Bro. Ismael.

As they met, Joseph lost no time in telling Ismael, "You have been worshipping a dead God; I will teach you of a living God, a God who will answer your prayers." Ismael was shocked at this strange story. "Joseph, you were a renowned atheist and a chief among sinners; what made you change?"

Corrado went on to tell how his friend, Molinatto, who at one time was a greater atheist than he, found the living God earlier and led Joseph to Him.

Ismael D'Amico became a convert to a true, living God. His zeal more than doubled, and between Joseph Corrado and Ismael D'Amico, many Italians were converted to the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I have had the good fortune to know and have been taught by both these brothers, true and faithful to a living God. There was a burning desire in their hearts to carry on the good news of the Gospel, and to share their joy with whomsoever would hear.

It was Pat DiBattista who brought the testimony to Detroit, Michigan. Three asked to be baptized. Not being an elder, Pat could not perform the baptisms, but wrote to Glassport, Pennsylvania requesting ministers to come baptize Ralph and Anna Frammolino and their eldest daughter.

Ismael D'Amico and Joseph Dulisse volunteered, leaving their families behind. That the Church at this time was in no position to support them financially did not stop them from making the trip. Two more were baptized in Detroit, making a total of five converts who had to face the trials and ridicule from relatives and neighbors steeped in traditional religion.

Ismael and Joseph could not find work at first; discouragement began to grip them. The two missionaries resorted to prayer and fasting, and each had a dream. Joseph dreamed of a man in an ancient garment showing him five bushels of wheat and telling him, "Eat of this wheat, more is coming." Ismael dreamed of having a pigeon in his hand. As he walked the streets of Detroit in his dream, the pigeon would often fly into a house and speak, saying, "Peace be in this house." I remember years later driving Bro. Ismael to visit our home. He said to me, "Don't tell me which house is yours; I want to see if it is one of the houses where the pigeon spoke peace." As we drew near the house, he pointed and said, "This is the house that you live in," and indeed it was.

Ismael D'Amico was responsible for bringing the Gospel to Michigan, Colorado, and New York State, and Joseph Corrado was instrumental in establishing the Church in Ohio, New Jersey, and New York City.

These two apostles were assisted by other brothers such as Dulisse, DiBattista, Peter Garofalo, and Gabriel Mazzeo in traveling and spreading the Gospel to others. In Youngstown, Ohio, Corrado and Garofalo walked all day, knocking

on doors and talking about the Gospel to those who opened. None accepted. They grew tired towards the evening, being hungry and having nowhere to go.

As they walked and spoke with each other of their weariness, a woman standing outside of her house thought they were beggars, and called them to come into her house. "I'll give you something to eat," she said. Of all the people they had visited, none had offered so much as a glass of water, but this one, whom they had bypassed, welcomed them not only to eat but also to stay and rest for that night.

As Corrado was praying for the food before dinner, the woman said, "I have a daughter who is ill. Won't you pray for her?" Bro. Corrado anointed the young girl and prayed. The girl's fever left her. The woman, Mrs. Anna D'Amore, said, "I perceive that you are men of God. You may stay here for the night, but please do not make any noise, because my husband works afternoons and comes home late; he too needs rest."

That night, Anna heard them singing. She was upset at their disobedience. At breakfast the next morning, she said, "Didn't I tell you to be quiet last night? How is it that you sang hymns all night long?" "But we did not sing," they insisted.

When the woman's husband got up later that day, he was fully rested and had not heard any singing. Anna D'Amore asked to be baptized, becoming the first convert in Ohio.

These two apostles have bequeathed to us a noble example. Their deeds, far more than their words, speak of their labors, their sacrifices, and their true dedication to the Master Jesus Christ. "Jesus was the beginning of a new era." We can finish nothing in this life, but we may follow that beginning and bequeath the same noble example to those who follow us.

May God bless you; the greater is yet to come.

Mark Randy

### Anniversary observed at the Bronx

3y Lydia Link

May 7, 1989 was a special Sunday for the saints of the Bronx, New York Branch. This was the day we were commemorating Sister Anna Pinto's fiftieth spiritual birthday. We were pleased to have visiting with us Sister Anna's son and daughter-in-law, Joseph and Alice. Also visiting were several elders and members from throughout the district. All had come to help make this day extra special.

Bro. Julius Kovacs of the Brooklyn Branch addressed the congregation, directing our attention to Romans 9:20-26 and reminding us that we have a loving God that formed us, not one that is vindictive or partial. Our Lord has mercy for all, regardless of race or nationality, and we should do likewise. After carefully reminding us of our responsibilities to our God, to one another, and to ourselves, Bro. Julius gave thanks and praise to God for the ability to stand before us expressing himself so freely. Recently, our brother had undergone surgery for removal of a brain tumor, which the doctors had suspected to be malignant.

Thank God, the operation was successful and the tumor benign! After surgery, our brother had difficulty remembering many things. He discovered that trying to recall even one passage of scripture was impossible, so Brother Julius prayerfully started over from the beginning. Soon the Lord began bringing things to his remembrance, and he confessed that only through the grace of God was he alive not only in body, but in mind also.

Brother Dominick Rose spoke next, posing two questions: "Are we doing our best?" and "Have we found our mission in life?" He then encouraged us to listen intently to the voice of the Lord, and to allow Him to mold and use us as He would. As we take hold of the Lord's hand and speak with Him, 'e will guide us through each day

le will guide us through each day and direct us along the path of our service to Him.

Brother Jim Crudup continued, stressing that as long as we are

shaped into vessels of honor, we need have no fear of earthly pains or problems, for the Lord has given us the promise, "Ask and it shall be given unto you," and the promises of God are sure. Brother Jim encouraged us to be the workers that our Molder would have us be, and to continue throughout our years to give Him praise and honor.

Brother Jim Link then presented a synopsis of Sister Anna's life. She was born on January 9, 1906 in New York City. She received the testimony of the Gospel from Sisters Genoeffa Mazzucci and Gelsomina Rotella, who were members of the Bronx Mission. They invited Sister Anna to attend services, which at that time were being held in the home of Sis. Rotella. At this first meeting, our sister was led by the Spirit to recognize that she was hearing the Gospel of Truth.

Sister Anna was baptized and confirmed on April 23, 1939 by Brother Eugene Perri, Sr. She was three months pregnant when she went into the waters of baptism. Earlier, the physicians had tried to convince our sister that she could not conceive, but the Lord revealed to her that she would indeed give birth, and that it would be a boy. Sister Anna freely spoke of the Church to her family and friends, and through her testimony, her father, Brother Pompeo Pompilio, came into the Church on September 14, 1952 and on May 1, 1955 her son Joseph was baptized.



Sister Anna Pinto of the Bronx, New York Branch.

Through the years, Sister Anna remained active and supportive of all Church activities. She is numbered among the Charter Members of the Bronx-Brooklyn MBA, which was organized on September 9, 1955. Being blessed with a soprano voice, our local choir came to depend upon her to strongly support the high parts of our hymns.

Every meeting was important to our sister. When fasting and prayer services were called, our sister and her companion were among the first to arrive. If the need for prayer was expressed by anyone, there was no doubt that she would be petitioning the Lord that evening at 9:00, this being the hour she set aside for prayer on behalf of others, a practice she still exercises today at the Somers Nursing Home where she resides.

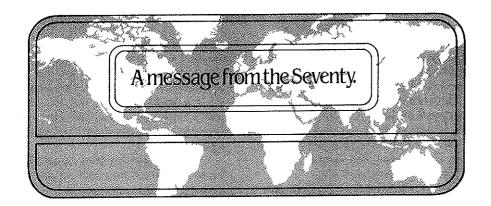
All at the nursing home know that Sister Anna is a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Whenever someone from our church visits, she doesn't hesitate to introduce them as "my Sister . . .", or "Brother . . .", or "minister of my church." All are aware of her abiding faith in the power of prayer, and the goodness that the Lord has extended unto her and her family.

We sang and heard a number of Sister Anna's favorite hymns, after which Bro. Salvatore Feola spoke, bringing our attention to the many changes, both technological and social, that have affected our lives and the world over the past fifty years. Our brother emphasized that one thing was sure, that our Lord has never changed, and will never change. God's love for all mankind will remain as it was yesterday, is today, and will be tomorrow. We thank God that over the last fifty years our Sister Anna has not changed her lifestyle in following

Sis. Anna expressed her thanks unto the Lord for the many blessings she has received throughout her life. She mentioned that as a young girl, her desire was to serve God, and she remembered how, after first visiting our church, she went home and told her parents

(Continued on Page 11)



### Two enter the fold in Kentucky

Brothers Elmer Santilli and Mario Milano of Ohio made a trip to Elizabethtown, KY, about 150 miles south of Louisville, last July 12-14 to fulfill a request for baptism.

The trip provided some interesting insights into the teamwork of the Church today. It demonstrated the role of the General Church Development Committee, which Brother Santilli heads. It also showed the overall cooperation which can be and usually is achieved through the combined efforts of individuals laboring in different parts of the Church.

Following is Evangelist Santilli's account of the visit, along with a vivid experience which occurred during the actual baptisms. He had been contacted by Evangelist Matthew Rogolino of the Atlantic Coast District about making the seven-hour trip. The Kentucky brothers and sisters have since been assigned to the Ohio District.—Evangelist Editor

Brother John and Sister Shirley Hill, who had been baptized in New Jersey, have been living in Kentucky for the past 10 years. Most recently, they have been holding fasting and prayer services on Tuesday nights and Saturday mornings in their home. They have also been listening to tapes of the New York City radio broadcasts sent by Brother Rogolino. These programs have allowed them to be more in touch with the ministry's presentation of the Gospel. Brother Matthew and Evangelist Dominick Rose have been participating in the broadcasts.

God has been blessing Brother and Sister Hill in Kentucky, and in one of their meetings, Dorothy Miller, a regular visitor, asked for her baptism. While they were praying in that meeting, Dorothy felt the power of God come upon her as she had never felt before. When she arose, she told Brother Hill of her desire to become part of the body of Christ. Thereafter, the arrangements were made to meet on Wednesday and Thursday evening at Brother and Sister Hill's apartment.

#### WAITING OUTSIDE DOOR

When Brother Milano and I arrived early Wednesday evening, Brother John was waiting outside his door. Though we had never met before, the Spirit acknowledged that we were brothers in Christ. Brother and Sister Hill, along with their son Ronald, were very receptive.

Approximately a dozen people were in the apartment for the service, and it was good to meet with them for the first time. Brother Mario and I gave our testimonies and spoke briefly upon the coming forth of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The meeting was then opened for all to express themselves, and Dorothy Miller gave a beautiful testimony. Before she sat down, she again stated that she desired to be baptized, and the Spirit of God was felt by all.

Ronald also expressed himself and requested his baptism, that he might serve God in the days of his youth. Brother and Sister Hill thanked God for calling them into the Gospel some 20 years ago, both bearing wonderful testimonies.

#### POWERFUL EXPERIENCE

Around 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, we assembled at a beautiful nearby park, where we had received permission to baptize at a boat ramp. The conditions were ideal.

After I immersed our young Brother Ronald into the water, I immersed him again because I thought part of his head did not get completely covered. When I placed him deep within the water, I could see a look of fear come upon his face while he was under the water. It appeared that he was fighting me and was in danger of slipping away under the water. I quickly exerted more force and brought him up out of the water. When I asked him if he was all right, he said, "Yes," but I noticed a red mark on his neck and thought I must have used too much force when I pulled him

Brother Mario baptized Sister Dorothy, with my assistance. As we made our way to the shore, Bro. John said to me, "Brother Elmer, did you see what happened?"

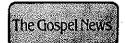
I asked him, "What's the problem?" He told me to look at the red mark completely surrounding his son Ronald's neck. As I again looked upon him, I could see a two-inch red mark, like a ring, completely around his neck. For a moment I thought I had done that with my fingers, but quickly realized that my one hand could not have gone completely around his neck.

#### RELATED VISION

Brother John then related a vision that he had seen as his son was going into the water. He saw satan in the form of a serpent swimming in the water. When his son was immersed, the serpent wrapped itself around Ron's neck and was attempting to keep him down in the water to drown him. He then saw the power of God descend upon me so that I was able to

(Continued on Page 11)

December, 1989



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Peter A. Scolaro
41825 Alden Drive
Mt. Clemens, MI 48044

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Leonard A. Lovalvo

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Jeffrey Giannetti 705 Division St. Aliquippa, PA 15001

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliguippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

FLORIDA Joseph Graziosi 7304 Deland Avenuc Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN - ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

OHIO James P. Hufnagle 615 Birch Dr. Euclid, OH 44132

PACIFIC COAST Kenneth R. Jones 2239 El Capitan Riverside, CA 92506

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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

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

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A notable and perhaps historic occurrence took place in the Church within the last few months when a special appeal was made to its members and friends for additional funds with which to continue its approved spending plan. This emergency situation has caused us not only to take a look at our present circumstances, but also to look ahead and see what we can do to prevent a similar crisis from occurring in the future.

Chief among the causes of the Church's financial shortfall is the increasingly active, aggressive role we are taking in spreading the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Certainly this must be looked upon as a positive thing, the very thing we have been preaching about and praying for throughout the years. Recently, many new committees and programs have taken form in an effort to reach the dying souls of men with the sound of the Restoration. Many doors have been opened to countries around the world where people are clamoring for the Gospel to be brought to them. As we become more and more aware of the magnitude of the Great Work of the Lord, we are faced with the reality that, in order for Salvation to go out freely to men and women around the world, somebody has to pay the freight—and that somebody happens to be the Church.

We may be tempted to find fault with the way things are being done, especially when more is being asked of us than we are accustomed to giving. But we must realize that we as a Church are just beginning to take on the tremendous task which the Lord has placed before us. If there was ever a time for us to be pliant and willing to make adjustments, it is now, as the Lord's plan begins to gain momentum.

Our individual response to the increased financial needs of the Church—inasmuch as we are able—could very well have a determining effect on where we will find ourselves in the future, when the Lord's work is moving forward at full speed. Will we have been following closely, "keeping step," staying in touch with where the Church is headed naturally and spiritually? Or will we find ourselves standing, figuratively speaking, in a cloud of dust, wondering where the Church went without us?

While it is important for us as members to support the Church in its endeavor to grow and move God's kingdom forward, we must also be intensely vigilant, in a day of wholesale swindling taking place in the name of religion, in remaining entirely above reproach, especially with regard to the use of the funds which our brothers and sisters have freely donated. For them to feel that they are truly giving to the Work of the Lord, their confidence and trust must be established and maintained, to a large extent, through the actions of those responsible for allocating and spending the funds they've placed in the stewardship of the Church.

As we end the year 1989 and look to the future, let's try to be aware of how much work the Lord has in store for His Church, and how very much the progress of that work depends upon how willing we are, as individuals, to return to God that which He gave us in the first place.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

## A Special Man

Dear Friends,

How would you feel and what would you do if someone you loved very much and planned to marry told you she was going to have someone else's baby? Then what would you do if they told you this was God's plan for you?

Well, when Joseph was engaged to Mary this happened to him. The Bible tells us that he was a fair man, a "just" man. In those days a girl who had a baby without being married could be put to death by people throwing stones at her. But Joseph must have cared a great deal for Mary; he decided to "put her away privily" or privately, not marry her.

Joseph must also have had high values about right and wrong. How his heart must have ached when Mary first told him her secret. But as Joseph was planning what to do, an angel of the Lord came to him.

The angel told Joseph, "Don't be afraid to take Mary for your wife. The baby she is carrying is from the Holy Ghost. She shall have a son and you shall call him Jesus. He will save his people from their sins." And the angel reminded Joseph that many, many years before holy men who told the future, prophets, said that Jesus would be born like this.

Joseph did as the Lord told him, and took Mary for his wife. Many months later while they were in Bethlehem to pay taxes, the beautiful Christ Child was born! Angels sang to shepherds, and wise men from far away came to bring gifts to the precious baby Jesus.

When the wicked king of the land, Herod, heard about the wise



men searching for a special newborn who would someday rule the world, he was furious! He sent soldiers to the city of Bethlehem to kill every single baby two years old and younger in that city.

A second time God sent an angel messenger to warn Joseph in a dream to hurry and leave Bethlehem. The angel appeared to Joseph and said, "Arise, take the young child and his mother and go to another country. Stay there until I come again to you, because Herod will try to find the baby and kill him."

Joseph did not wake up and argue with himself. He didn't say, "Oh, that's just a dream! Even if it was true, God could protect the baby," and he didn't say, "No! I can't leave for another country! I don't know their language! What would happen to my business? After all; I'm my own boss. I have carpentry customers to think of! I'd better just hurry and go back to my own city."

Instead, Joseph had faith and trust in God. He got up, packed up Mary and baby Jesus and left in the night. There were no telephones or televisions or newspapers and magazines in those days. When Herod sent soldiers to Bethlehem to murder the other babies, news traveled slowly. We can imagine how frightened and heartsick Mary and Joseph's families were while they awaited news and wondered what had happened to Mary's baby.

We don't know how long Mary and Joseph's families waited to see them again. We only know that they lived in a faraway land until God told them it was safe to return. For the third time, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Take the young child and his mother and go into the land of Israel, for Herod, who tried to kill him, is now dead."

So Joseph again trusted his spiritual dream, and he took his family and came into Israel. But when Joseph heard then that Herod's son was ruling, God warned him in another dream, and he turned and went to Nazareth. This was another thing that the holy men of God had said years before. They said, "He [Christ] shall be called a Nazarene [from Nazareth]."

God must have carefully selected Joseph for his faith and his strength to follow God's messengers. Not everyone would have a dream and then follow it. It must have taken courage to go live in a strange country far from home, waiting patiently for another dream to tell you what to do.

The man who loved and raised the baby Jesus must have had energy—how quickly he moved to pack up and leave in the middle of the night. This was the man who

#### (Continued on Page 11)

#### WORD SEARCH

JOY	KING
SPECIAL	$\mathbf{HEROD}$
FATHER	$\mathbf{HATED}$
ANGEL	FEARED
WARNED	BABY
FLEE	JESUS
TO	GOD
EGYPT	SAVED
WICKED	HIM

D	E	R	Α	E	F	Y	M
P	В	M	Y	R	s	0	G
E	E	W	I	E	U	J	0
K	G	C	О	Н	S	Н	D
I	Y	N	I	Т	E	A	0
N	P	N	Α	A	J	Т	R
G	Т	J	K	F	L	E	E
Ι	С	K	E	D	0	D	Н
A	В	Y	D	E	V	A	S
	P K I N G	P B E E K G I Y N P G T I C	P       B       M         E       E       W         K       G       C         I       Y       N         N       P       N         G       T       J         I       C       K	P     B     M     Y       E     E     W     I       K     G     C     O       I     Y     N     I       N     P     N     A       G     T     J     K       I     C     K     E	P       B       M       Y       R         E       E       W       I       E         K       G       C       O       H         I       Y       N       I       T         N       P       N       A       A         G       T       J       K       F         I       C       K       E       D	P       B       M       Y       R       S         E       E       W       I       E       U         K       G       C       O       H       S         I       Y       N       I       T       E         N       P       N       A       A       J         G       T       J       K       F       L         I       C       K       E       D       O	P       B       M       Y       R       S       O         E       E       W       I       E       U       J         K       G       C       O       H       S       H         I       Y       N       I       T       E       A         N       P       N       A       A       J       T         G       T       J       K       F       L       E         I       C       K       E       D       O       D

## Our Women Today

By Mary Tamburrino

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at the Edison, New Jersey Branch of the Church on October 28, 1989. The building was filled to its capacity with sisters from California, Michigan, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

Sister Arline Whitton, the president, greeted everyone. She emphasized that everyone is important and everyone has a talent; all one has to do is look for it. Success for a member of the Circle means how a person can serve. The scripture was read from Romans 12:5-18.

Business started with the roll call of officers and reading the minutes of the last conference held at Levittown, PA. It was learned that the hymn books in Spanish were completed, and clothes are needed for the children in India. Men's clothing is also needed for the work in New York's Bowery. Sacrament cloths requested for Africa were sent there.

Atlantic Coast, Southeast, India, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, Pacific

### Circle Conference at Atlantic Coast

Coast, Pennsylvania, and Southwest Circles gave their reports on both local and area levels. Sister Pierina DiFalco, General Circle Card Sender, sent 36 appropriate cards.

The answer to the question, "There was a man who had six fingers on each hand, and six toes on each foot, making a total of 24. To whom was he born and what happened to him?" was found in the Bible, I Chronicles 20:6-8.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of the following: Herman Barnhart, Rocco Biscotti, Dan Casasanta, Louis Cerone, Loretta Corrado, Mary Criscuolo, Dorothy Dunfee, Margaret Easter, Angeline Gioia, Leonard Griffith Sr., Charles Harris, Marlene Hixon, Catherine Lipscomb, Evelyn Perdue, August Perlioni, Evelyn Reed, John Romano, John Schaeffer, Christine Taormina, Frank Thomas, Kenneth Timms, and Pauline Wooley.

Contributions were made to the General Church Treasury for: Africa, Missions Research, India, Italy, the Radio Committee, Indian Missionary work, and over \$1500.00 for the families of missionaries, which was a special fund-raising project for the past six months.

The officers were all re-elected with the exception of the Librarian: Sister Rose Milantoni was elected Circle Librarian and Sister Laurie DeSantis was elected her assistant.

The next Circle conference will be held at the Detroit, Michigan Branch #3 on April 28, 1990. The General Ladies' Uplift Circle will celebrate its 70th Anniversary at that time.

A vote of thanks was given to the Atlantic Coast Circles for their hospitality. They presented a program called "An Answered Prayer." Each sister took a number, and when her number was called, she told of an experience wherein prayers were answered. It was uplifting to hear how many prayers had been answered by the Lord. The sisters of the Atlantic Coast then sang We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord.

As one of the sisters stated, "The Ladies' Circle is to the Church as the wife is to her husband."

## **Branch and Mission News**

# Ordination, baptisms in Metuchen

The tiny Metuchen, NJ building was filled to capacity on March 19, 1989 as many brothers, sisters, and friends came to witness the ordination of Brother Ken Lombardo as an elder in The Church of Jesus Christ. Special visitors included Brother Ken's mother, Sister Lydia Lombardo, his brother Tom and sister-in-law Nancy Lombardo, and his grandfather, Brother Antonio Molisani from Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

The meeting was opened by Bro. Joe Arcuri, who spoke on several examples of Christ calling His disciples. Even as those men were called, so was our Brother Ken. Bro. Joe continued by saying that the responsibilities of the priesthood change a person—now, God and the Church must come first over everything else in Bro. Ken's life.

Bro. Isidro Gonzales continued, reminding us that Christ questioned Peter three times, "Do you love me?" Every time Peter answered, "Yes, I love you." Jesus then commanded Peter to feed His sheep. Even such is the commandment now to our Brother Ken.

Brother Ken spoke to us next, telling us of his grandfather's conversion into the Church after hearing of the Gospel only once, and of his own conversion, which took place in California when he was 19 years old. He then sang a beautiful hymn, Consume Me, Lord, which

spoke of his desire to work for the Lord.

Bro. Jim Sgro spoke next, about the priesthood of the Church being after the order of the Son of God. He stated that before the world was, God set up the priesthood of Jesus Christ, and went on to say how Bro. Ken's ordination was a part of the fulfillment of God's wonderful plan.

Next, Bro. Walter Cihomsky continued on the theme of the day by talking about Paul's conversion. Although Saul was persecuting the saints, Christ saw some good within him, and called him to service.

Bro. Phil Arcuri continued on Alma's words of wisdom to his son, Helaman, in Alma 37:32. Alma exhorted to Helaman to learn wisdom in his youth and be directed by the Lord and counsel with him. These words inspired us all to draw closer to God.

(Continued on Page 8)

#### **METUCHEN** continued . . .

Brother Walter Cihomsky then washed Bro. Ken's feet, and Bro. Saverio Risola from Florida ordained him.

In the testimony service that followed, many brothers and sisters testified of examples of Bro. Ken's good works. His counsel, advice, and wonderful spirit are all parts of his ministry that began long before this day. We were all blessed as our brother passed the Lord's Supper for the first time, and was able to serve it to his mother and grandfather.

As Jesus said, "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest." We at Metuchen praise God that another laborer has been ordained for this great work which faces The Church of Jesus Christ in the latter days.

The Metuchen Branch has continued to be blessed as two souls have rendered their lives to the Lord.

On May 14, 1989 John Keenan asked for his baptism, after attending the Church for about two years with Sis. Lisa DiRado and being touched by the love of the saints. The next week, on May 21, we met at the water's edge. It was such a beautiful day-and so peaceful at the lake as we watched Bro. Ken Lombardo baptize Brother John. Later that day at the branch, Bro. Tony Vadasz confirmed our new brother. When the testimony meeting started, Bro. John was the first to rise on his feet and thank God for blessing him with the knowledge of the Lord and His wonderful Church.

On September 3, 1989 Sue Curtin was baptized. Brothers Ken Lombardo and Joe Arcuri spoke that morning concerning the simplicity of Christ's doctrine—how we should repent and be baptized. Our sister heard God's call and, after the morning service, asked to be baptized. After lunch we met at the water's edge, where Bro. Ken baptized her.

We met back at the branch, and Bro. Walter Cihomsky confirmed our sister into The Church of Jesus Christ. That day we had an afternoon of beautiful testimonies. Sister
Sue spoke of how she considered
baptism throughout the week, and,
through our brothers' exhortation,
she felt that today was the day.
Her husband Steve also gave a
beautiful testimony. He knew of his
wife's struggling and had prayed
for her during the week. He also
asked for prayer from the ministry,
that God would grant him a greater
understanding of His will in his life.

Surely God has been good to us at Metuchen. It is such a joy to see young people in our midst surrendering their lives to Him.

# Missionaries depart for San Carlos

By Mark Randy

Sunday, October 1, 1989 will be long remembered as a day of sad departures for the Modesto, California Branch, but a day of rejoicing for San Carlos, Arizona. Daniel, Delores, Tina, David, and Lori Picciuto have won our hearts over the years. The sweet memory of the occasion will remain; most of the Picciuto family were present this day.

Evangelist Tony Picciuto delivered an inspiring sermon of hope and concern; hope because we who believe in a Creator feel the evidence of God's presence in us by His Holy Spirit. And concern because Christianity, already a minority in the world's religions, cannot even speak with one voice, "joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10).

Bro. Tony related to us that the six educators who have the power to dictate their will in the state of California regarding what should and should not be taught in the schools, unanimously voted to teach the Evolution of mankind from lower animals as a proven fact. Not one voice was raised in defense of Creation by one God. It is indeed a sad day for all believers in one God as a Creator. This is another blow against the Judeo-Christian belief in Creationism.

Brother Tony urged us to stand up for what we believe. He strongly stressed the need to stand up as God's children and show our faith in our Creator by our deeds of love. I would like to add the words of Paul, written in I Corinthians 2:7 & 8: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory," which would include these six so-called scientists of California.

This gives us the opportunity to return to placing the rightful responsibility on the shoulders of the parents, to teach their Godgiven right to their children that the Creator is the true author of everything that is, and we came forth from God, and are not the result of millions of years of evolution.

After our meeting this day a pot-luck luncheon was served by our MBA, with a turnout much greater than expected. The Riverbank Mission also joined with us in feasting together. Two plaques were presented: one to Bro. Daniel and one to Bro. David Picciuto, wishing them our best for their success as they endeavor to return once again to the mission which Daniel and Delores founded many years ago. Delores' mother will also be residing there.

Brothers Daniel and David testified of their strong desire to be a blessing to the San Carlos Mission. Also Sisters Delores and Tina thanked us and pleaded for our prayers. David grew up in San Carlos, and will be a blessing to those he went to school with. He was a teacher in the Modesto Branch, and Bro. Dan was President of the District Evangelists. We feel the sadness of their departure, yet we feel the joy that they are filling a great need in the Lord's work.

Some of us have experienced some of the missionary's blessings and trials and tears. I would like to include the following words of advice to all would-be shepherds and missionaries:

- 1. Make your unique contribution; there is no retirement in God's labor.
  - 2. Always find some joy in your

labor; be positive and be loyal.

3. Teach your people the fundamentals of winning in Christ. Build leadership and teamwork.

4. Above all else, be an example and train your people how to treat all equally, as God's children, a family of God indeed.

5. Last but not least, don't ever quit; always find something to do. There are no lazy people in God's kingdom. "Remember, you lose when you stop."

Jesus came to create a winning assembly. When Jesus Christ lives in us, we are winners. Make this the top priority.

Never mind what someone else does or will do, you have your own unique duty. Fulfill it.

May God bless the reader is my prayer.

## Blessings in Greensburg, PA

By Darlene Markazene

What incredible love and compassion God has for His children! We, the members of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch experienced this on Sunday August 27, 1989. We arrived at our church that morning feeling such a heaviness of heart as it had been only one week since our wonderful Sister Anne Fair had been called "home." We knew the tremendous loss we were going to experiencehow could that void ever be filled? but God proved to us that day that He knows all and is in control. All we have to do is trust in His love.

Brother David Nolfi of the Glassport, PA Branch was visiting with us and preached a most beautiful and appropriate sermon using Mosiah 16:1-13, where Abinadi spoke of the everlasting life and happiness that will be ours if we prove faithful to the Lord Jesus Christ. Through our Brother David, God truly provided the comforting words that were needed. But God did not stop there—His love and mercy continued to amaze us.

Returning to our midst that day after an absence of many years were Brother Paul and Sister Margaret Bright, During our

testimony meeting, both arose and asked to be reinstated into the Church. Bro. Paul Gehly reinstated Sis. Margaret, while Bro. Paul was reinstated by Bro. Dan Todaro. Then, at the close of our meeting, Jim Draskovich asked for his baptism! We gathered together again that evening to witness the beautiful ordinance as Bro. Paul Ciotti of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch took our young brother into the waters of baptism. Bro. Jim was confirmed by his grandfather, Bro. James Campbell of the Monongahela, PA Branch.

Through the mercies of God, a day that began with sorrow and sadness was turned into one of joy and jubilation; our Heavenly Father had called one home to be with Him, but in her place, He provided

three new saints!

## Muncey, Ontario

By Samuel French

"For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad" (Luke 8:17).

On September 3, 1989 we of the Muncey Mission were happy to have Bro. Jerry Benyola and his wife Sister Rose visiting with us from Detroit Branch 1, along with Bro. Doug Ford from Meaford. What a blessing it was to have fellowship with the brothers and sisters whom we love and care for in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Jerry's topic was entitled "Secrets," and I'm sure that those who sat under the power of this message were touched by the Spirit of God. It was a topic which burned home to me, and I'm sure to many who heard that day.

Bro. Jerry said that God sees all. Regardless of what we do. He is able to read our mind and thoughts. and there is nothing that can be hid from Him. He knows the secrets of our hearts.

Bro. Rodney Dyer followed, speaking upon secret combinations and oaths. We find that there are many of these things in the world today. We who are the saints of the most high God must look to Him every day of our lives. There are times that we must take a fearless and moral inventory of ourselves.

David wrote, in Psalm 139, O Lord, You have searched me and known me. You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue but behold, O Lord, You know it altogether. You have hedged me behind and before. and laid your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain it. Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

May God richly bless all.

## Ordination in Quincy, FL

By Meredieth M. Martin

On August 27, 1989 Sister Rhonda Hester was ordained a deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. A fervent spirit of love and desire toward serving God enveloped the building as Sister Margaret Baldwin so humbly and sincerely washed Sister Rhonda's feet. After being thus set apart, she was ordained into the office of a deaconess by Brother Cleveland

Earlier in the year, our sister was blessed with four dreams which clearly spelled out to her the work that the Lord had in store for her. First, the words came to her, "Yes Lord, yes Lord, I'll do what you want me to do." Later she dreamed that she and a sister deaconess had purchased identical white chairs. People began to doubt whether or not she had really purchased her chair, and she herself began to doubt, too. In the dream she searched through her purse and found the receipt showing she had indeed purchased the chair.

Still somewhat uncertain, she prayed further on the matter. In a third dream, Brother Cleve Baldwin

(Continued on Page 10)

#### QUINCY continued . . .

said to her, "What's the matter, don't you want the job?" She answered, "Yes, I want it." "Well," he stated, "it starts early, and don't be late."

In Sis. Rhonda's fourth dream, she found herself rejoicing and singing hymns in church when the Spirit of the Lord filled her from the top of her head to the soles of her feet. She stood up, overcome by the Spirit, and cried out, "Yes Lord, yes Lord, I'll do what you want me to do."

Sister Rhonda is prepared now to fulfill her words, and to sit among the deaconesses in that beautiful white chair that she purchased.

### Baptism in Youngstown

By Saundra Cardillo

Wednesday September 20, 1989 was the day that Felicia Ciminero chose as her spiritual birthday. The warm fall evening set the stage for a beautiful baptism.

As I stood watching Brother Ralph Berardino preparing the baptismal site, I noticed how full of life the lake was. Fish were leaping out of the water in the distance. In my heart I felt how full our young sister's life would be because of the living waters of baptism.

Sister Felicia was surrounded by many witnesses at this sacred ordinance. Many of her friends, coworkers, and family members stood on the shore as her uncle, Bro. Ralph, took her gently into the lake.

After being confirmed by Bro. Don Pandone, Sis. Felicia testified of how she had spent much of her time and energy on adventures that had left her both unfulfilled and disappointed. She was getting nowhere, and was frustrated with herself. Having been raised in the Church, she knew down deep inside that God's way truly was the best way.

Her desire now is to learn more of God's word and to be used however the Lord sees fit.

We of the Youngstown, Ohio

Branch thank God for our new sister, and pray that she will use her talents and teaching profession to help further the work at our branch and wherever God may send her.

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Norman and Rosalie Campitelle 1700 W. Sanderling Lane Fort Pierce, FL 34982 Telephone (407) 595-1986

Dewayne and Colleen Eutsey 1217 N.E. 5th Ave. Cape Coral, FL 33990 Telephone (813) 772-2358

Milford, Jr. and Hope Eutsey 430 N.W. 5th St. Cape Coral, FL 33909 Telephone (813) 574-5804

Mark and Kelly Kovacic 3640 Terrapin Lane #609 Coral Springs, FL 33067 Telephone (305) 341-6865

Rose Marie Manes Telephone (216) 799-6234

Ruth Mason Colonial Nursing Home Colonial Drive Youngstown, OH 44505

Ken, Sandra, and April Murray R.D. 1, Golden Age Trailer Park 25 Pulaski, PA 16143 Telephone (412) 964-8252

Fred Musolino 829 Pearson Circle #2 Boardman, OH 44512 Telephone (216) 726-0594

Irene Perry 250 Viola Ave. Hubbard, OH 44425 Telephone (216) 534-3623

#### **EVANGELISTS** continued. . .

Church. It is the very same priesthood that was established from the beginning of time, still blessed with the privilege—and burdened with the responsibility—of carrying this Gospel forward to the

ends of the earth. "Are you or are you not going to put this Church first in your lives?" our Brother Jos asked us. "It's not just another church around the corner," he added.

What a shame it would be if any one of us, as members or friends of this Church, were to think of The Church of Jesus Christ as being merely one of a large group of organizations holding similar beliefs and teachings. While we know God hears the sincere prayers of all who call upon His name, it is important that the joys, the opportunities, and the duties that come with knowing the fullness of the Restored Gospel must not be taken for granted by any of us. The Church of Jesus Christ, with headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, is the only true Church.

District Evangelists Chairman Anthony R. Lovalvo spoke briefly of these brothers' calling into the quorum, how through diligent fasting and prayer over a number of years the Lord revealed to the evangelists of the district those whom He had chosen to join their ranks.

Bro. Dominic Thomas, president of the Church, spoke on the duties of an evangelists. He referred to the work of an evangelist as a move out into the vineyard, beyond what the brother has already done. Bro. Dominic quoted several past presidents of the Quorum of Seventy, giving powerful words of exhortation and commission to our brothers who would be ordained this day. But the words he spoke were not only for these four brothers; they applied as well to the entire membership of The Church of Jesus Christ.

At this time preparations were made for the actual ordination of our brothers. Bro. Pete Capone's feet were washed by Bro. Leonard A. Lovalvo, and he was ordained by Bro. Nephi DeMercurio. Bro. Spencer Everett washed the feet of his son Bro. Tom Everett, who was later ordained by Bro. Dick Christman. Bro. Peter Scolaro had his feet washed by Bro. Paul Vitto, and was ordained by Bro. Nick Pietrangelo. Bro. Alex Gentile's feet were washed by Bro. Louis Vitto, and he was ordained by Bro.

Dominic Thomas. Prior to the anointing of our brothers, a special prayer was offered by Bro. Dominic Thomas for the Lord to seal this office upon our brothers.

All told, we spent a blessed day in the house of the Lord. Our prayers go with these brothers, and all those who are called to carry forth this precious Gospel to the dying souls of men.

#### ELKINS, WV continued...

mothers in the Book of Mormon taught their 2000 young stripling sons. We must all be supportive of the Church, that the work might go forward and souls would come to the knowledge of the truth.

Brother Matthew Rogolino addressed us, saying that we can't be something we are not. We can't do things in the Church just because someone tells us to do them, but we must do them because we believe in them. They have to become a part of us, and genuinely come from the heart.

Brother Raymond Cosetti thanked God for bringing him through a recent illness, and Brother Joseph Bittinger said there is nothing which satisfies or brings as much peace and joy as serving God. Brother Bill Colangelo was thankful for those in attendance and for their desire to travel to Elkins to be with the brothers and sisters there. He also thanked God for the support of the Area Ladies' Circle. After Brother Scaglione read the duties of a deaconess, Sister Chris Colangelo washed Sister Hettie's feet and Brother Rogolino ordained her.

After the ordination there were many beautiful testimonies and the group from Elkins sang *One Drop of Blood*, written by Sister Viola White. The congregation sang *God Be with You*, and Brother Dick Lawson closed the meeting in prayer.

#### ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

that she had found the True Church of Jesus Christ.

The meeting was then left open for the congregation to express themselves. Many gave thanks for blessings received and reflected upon past experiences shared with Sis. Anna. Following several beautiful testimonies we prepared ourselves to receive the Lord's Supper, during which we sang *There Is a River*.

After closing remarks by Bro. Sal Feola, the meeting was dismissed in prayer by Brother David Catalano, who was visiting from the Metuchen Branch. All were then in-

thankful for those in attendance

Metuchen Branch. All were then in
THE CHURCH OF
ISUS CHRIST

ICE SAT. 7.00 PM
SUN 10:45 AM

Members and friends of the Elkins, WV Mission.

vited to remain and take part in a delicious meal prepared by the sisters of the Branch. After dessert, Sis. Anna was presented with a cassette tape recorder/player and several tapes containing *The Songs of Zion*, and General Church Conference Sunday meetings. This day ended with much joy and thanksgiving to God.

Anyone wishing to send Sister Anna a note or card may write to:

Mrs. Anna Pinto Somers Manor Somers, NY 10589

Our sister isn't able to attend Branch meetings very often, and she misses the communication with the saints.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

raise his son out of the water.

We all marvelled at this experience and began to put our individual thoughts together. I told Ron that I thought he was fighting against me, and he said he was wondering why I was pushing against him! We thank God for His goodness, and for the knowledge that we serve a God who is all powerful.

Everyone then returned to Brother and Sister Hill's place, where our new members had hands laid upon them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Afterward, we served the Lord's Supper and enjoyed a time of fellowship. The next morning, Friday, we headed for home.

Remember our members in Kentucky, that God might bless them in that new part of His vineyard.

#### **CHILDREN'S CORNER continued**

would teach his young son how to be faithful to the God of Israel. He was a father who took his son on a long journey to save his life, and on another long journey to go to the temple in Jerusalem. He was the man that the young Jesus looked to as an example. The carpenter Joseph was indeed special.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

## \* WEDDINGS \*

#### CAPONE-BROWN

Mr. Peter A. Capone and Miss Lori G. Brown were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 30, 1989 at The Church of Jesus Christ Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Peter H. Capone, with the assistance of Bro. L. Dan Parravano. Musical selections were provided by Sis. Olivia Parravano, with Sis. Vanessa J. Watson of Tse Bonito, NM as soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Harper Woods, Michigan. May the love they solemnly vowed one another before God grow more precious, and may His Spirit accompany them on their journey through life together.

## Children Blessed

Elizabeth Anne Graziosi, daughter of Bro. Joe and Sis. Judy Graziosi, was blessed on July 23, 1989 in Fort Pierce, Florida by Bro. Sam Costarella, her great-grandfather.

On August 6, 1989 Jamie Jonathan Humphrey, son of Kelly and Samantha Humphrey, was blessed by Bro. Duane Lowe in Tampa, Florida.

Joshua Devan Corley was blessed on August 13, 1989 by Bro. Frank Rogolino in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Cody Alan Preston, son of Jeff and Brenda Preston, was blessed by Bro. Joseph Calabrese in Lorain, Ohio on October 15, 1989.

Bianca Rose Haudek, daughter of Leo and Sabrina Haudek, was blessed on September 24, 1989 by Bro. Mike LaSala at Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

Address Change	
!	
ess	
2	

## **OBITUARIES**

#### LORETTA CORRADO

On June 13, 1989 Sister Loretta Corrado of the Niles, Ohio Branch passed on to her eternal reward. She was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on September 16, 1902, the eldest of seven children. In 1919 she was married to Daniel Corrado and they moved to Niles, Ohio where they shared 66 years of wedded bliss. Sis. Loretta was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in 1925. She was ordained a deaconess in 1951, an office in which she served as long as her health permitted.

Her husband, Evangelist Daniel Corrado, Sr., preceded her in death in 1985. She is survived by two sons and four daughters, eleven grandchildren, fifteen

great-grandchildren, and two sisters.

Our sister was bedridden for many years, and therefore unable to attend church services, but her love for the Lord remained. She was a strong and faithful sister in The Church of Jesus Christ. She was also a very loving family member. Our sister will surely be missed by her family and her brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### ANTHONY ENSANA

Brother Anthony Ensana of the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch, passed away on July 4, 1989 after a prolonged illness. He was born on May 26, 1926 in New Brunswick, New Jersey and was baptized on July 18, 1948 at Perth Amboy, NJ by Brother Patsy Rogolino.

He was ordained a teacher in 1952, and an elder in 1957 and was transferred from Edison, New Jersey

to Fort Pierce, Florida in September, 1972.

Funeral services were officiated by members of the General Church Board of Trustees, on which he actively and faithfully served for many years.

Survivors include his wife, Sis. Elsie; a son, Gary; a daughter, Sis. Mary Ann Donkin; two grandchildren, and two sisters, Sis. Mamie Funkhouser and Sis. Betty D'Orazio.

Brother Tony was a wonderful brother and a friend to all those who knew him. He will be greatly missed, as he was a hard worker and a true follower of the Lamb.

### KENNETH SWIHART

Bro. Ken Swihart, 72, from Lake Worth, Florida died unexpectedly on September 2, 1989.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers John

D'Orazio and Eugene Perri.

Survivors include his wife, Evelyn; one sister, and two daughters. Our brother will be missed very much by the Lake Worth Branch. He did much to help the widows and others, giving of himself by repairing articles to sell at church fund-raising sales.