

The Gospel News

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

January, 1990

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"Lord, who am I in these changing times?"

By Sis. Ruth Gehly

Today the air is brisk and cool. Gray clouds blanket the sky allowing small patches of blue to break through here and there. The deep warm greens of summer are only a memory as the earth sleeps through the winter . . . Our lives, like the seasons, are filled with constant growth and change. New opportunities arise each day allowing us to expand our horizons, to explore all the wonder life has to offer, to become all that God intends for us to be.

But in reaching out and experiencing change, we expose ourselves to the wily hands of the devil. Always ready and waiting, Satan creeps into our lives with obstacles and temptations which often cause us to question and doubt who we are, as well as doubt God and His plan for creation.

How we face this day and time of increasing change and doubt was the topic addressed at the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch by Evangelists Rusty Heaps of Anaheim, California and Tom Liberto of San Diego on September 9 and 10, 1989. Along with a handful of visitors from the surrounding community, saints from many parts of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Districts joined the Erie Branch in welcoming our brothers and this message of such great

timeliness and importance.

Amidst changing times, our brothers encouraged us to be content with who we are and all that God has blessed us with. As the children of God, we should find assurance in the simple knowledge that God has created us and that He loves us. Too often we search for life's meaning by grabbing hold of earthly things. By blending into the traditions of the changing times, we seek to judge ourselves by the light of the world rather than by the light of Jesus Christ. As a result, in trying to "find ourselves," doubts and questions fill our hearts, drawing us away from God, His Church, and the people we love.

Having questions and doubts is a very natural thing to experience, and can be very good, for it is in asking and probing that we continue to learn and grow. However, when we become obsessed by these questions and doubts, we prevent God's Spirit from fully dwelling within us and we begin to stray from the path that Christ established for us to follow. As Satan's grip becomes tighter around us, several things can happen:

First, we may lose our effectiveness in spreading the Gospel. Instead of unconditionally offering

70 years in the Gospel

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was 13 years old when I was immersed into the waters of Lake Glacier at Youngstown, Ohio on December 14, 1919. My father was baptized also, and the next day my mother was baptized. It has been 70 years as of December 1989, and I have never regretted that beautiful day that changed my life and gave me a wonderful spiritual family.

The Youngstown Branch honored me with a luncheon on December 3, 1989 after the Sunday morning service.

My family has also been blessed with the love of God. My husband, the late Bro. Dominic DePiero, helped me raise my brothers and sisters after the death of my father and mother. They loved and respected him as a father and me as a mother. I have two children, two grandsons, and seven great grandchildren.

We were only five members of The Church of Jesus Christ here in Youngstown when I was baptized, and we would meet in our homes. I remember meeting Bro. Alexander Cherry, then president of the Church, who passed away in 1921.

I have always enjoyed church gatherings, conferences, campouts, and especially our weekly services.

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*Campout 1989***"He touched me"***By Paul A. Palmieri*

The 1989 GMBA Campout was held at Cohutta Springs in Crandall, Georgia from August 13-18. A good representation of the districts throughout the United States constituted our camp's attendance. At our first service, the Sunday evening meeting, GMBA President Paul Ciotti welcomed us and encouraged attendees to enjoy one another and the blessings that God had in store for us. We followed Bro. Paul's advice, and were not disappointed.

Bro. Brian Martorana introduced the opening service. We felt a sweet, sweet spirit that evening as we listened to our brother's exhortation to seek the Lord in all things. Several other brothers related that they felt inspired to speak on the same subject and scriptures, confirming the Lord's direction in the service. We spent the latter part of Sunday evening becoming acquainted with the camp and our camp director, Bro. Jeff Giannetti.

The camp's physical display was breathtaking. Its three central motel buildings were surrounded by beautiful lakes and rolling mountains. We began several mornings at camp with beautiful fasting & prayer services, some of which had over 100 people in attendance. Our daily routine was the normal schedule, consisting of chapel, seminars, recreation, arts & crafts, and an evening meeting.

We did experience some exceptions to the norm, however. First, this was our first GMBA Campout at a facility which served a diet void of meat. The only meat at this campout was provided by the Lord. Second, our seminars were started each day in chapel with exercises to get our physical bodies ready for spiritual training. Finally, each morning the camp committee had greeting signs posted in our doors, listing a schedule of the day's events.

Our seminars were developed to help the students utilize our spiritual tools. We all have different "tools" and gifts for the betterment

of God's kingdom. We were taught how to get our spiritual lives in shape, how to utilize our gifts from God, and how to work together as a team to achieve victory. Our victory is our individual salvation and the conversion of souls of every nation and people throughout the world, according to the teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our evening meetings were touched by the Spirit of God as we felt His wonderful power. Monday evening was dedicated to the observance of the Lord's Supper. The Spirit of God was evident as our brothers administered the bread and wine to the saints. After our meeting, Sister Lisa Miller was moved upon by the Lord and she requested baptism. Her baptism on Tuesday morning was the beginning of a wonderful day. Later on that morning in the 15-18 year-old seminar group, five sisters requested baptism as the Lord moved upon the hearts of the young people. Sisters Lisa Nolfi, Linda Ali, Mitzi Yoder, Jessie Painter, and Theresa Rattenni all were baptized before our Tuesday evening service. A beautiful sight was witnessed as our sisters were all confirmed into God's Holy Church that evening.

The Lord moved upon many of our young people at our campout. Many were prayed upon, that the Lord would draw them into His kingdom. One of the young people who was seeking the Lord, Bro. David Gibson, found his desires granted when he asked for his baptism following our Tuesday evening meeting. Many of the young people desire to follow the footsteps of our young saints. Let us pray for these young, and all who are seeking the Lord, that they may find the real joy of life.

The 1989 GMBA Campout had many special features which will remain in our memory. One evening, for example, after the evening meeting, the men escorted the women to the dining hall for a sit-down snack. The women were serenaded by the men with songs, which drew a loud ovation from them. Our arts and crafts featured many special projects, including a seminar on hairstyling.

We had many other unique features at the camp, too many to

mention. However, many facts about campout remain the same from year to year. All camp attendees renewed old acquaintances and established new friendships. We all were able to learn more about the great plan of God, in our individual lives as well as for His Church. We were witnesses to the change that occurred in the lives of our new members. We also were able to witness God working with many other people, who hopefully will be able to obey the Lord. In conclusion, we thank all brothers, sisters, and friends for your attendance at a campout where we all were able to say, "He touched me."

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many who sent me cards of encouragement and get-well wishes during my recent illness. My wife and I were deeply touched by your concern, and we appreciate the many prayers that were offered in my behalf. I'm certain that they played an important part in my recovery, and thank God that He heard and answered your prayers.

Brother Jim Alessio
Lorain, Ohio

Church Calendars Available

1990 Church Calendars are available for \$5.00 each. They can be obtained from a representative in your district:

Michigan/Ontario—Cindy Everett
Ohio—Rhonda Martorana
Pacific Coast—Carol DiBattista
Pennsylvania—Paul Aaron Palmieri
Southeast—Sandy Smith
Southwest—Michelle Mazzeo

The calendars are illustrated with photographs by Bro. Mark Mancinelli of Detroit, Michigan.

More Time Than Money

MONEY . . . Is there anyone who doesn't need money? In the scripture it tells us that money answereth all things; therefore, we say to ourselves, "It is good to have money." Yes, indeed—the more we have, the more we can give to the Lord. A question we might ask ourselves is, "Does the Lord need money to do His work?"

There was an excellent pamphlet put out by the Church on free-will giving at one time, and it would appear that in a natural sense, the suggested goal would be 10% of our income for the Lord's work. Of course the Lord requires that we give it *freely*, without guilt, resentment, pride, regrets, or fear, and without expecting anything in return. For all of you who have accomplished this in your life, I say, "God bless you."

When we stand before our Lord He will ask us to open our heart, not our purse. So I say to you, whatever you give, make a commitment to God and to yourself and stick to it—no ifs, ands, or buts! A friend of mine taught me a motto once, "No excuses." I've taken this phrase and put it in my imaginary pocket, and have used it on many occasions. Remember, it's not the amount of money that you give that counts, but how freely and how consistently you give it that matters.

For some of us it's a matter of getting into the habit. Make an affirmation to do it today! Say to yourself, "I will give \$_____ or _____% of the income I receive for the Work of the Lord. It is the first thing that I will allow for in my budget, and I will do it without any reservations."

TIME . . . As I sat and pondered these things, I believe the Lord instilled in my heart a postscript to the above message. I'm sure we have all heard or used the phrase, "I have more time than money." Great! There's good news for you! The Lord has offered to those of us who feel that way Plan B. It's quite simple.

Start by making yourself a Time Budget. There are 168 hours in a week. Let's say we sleep 56

out of those 168 hours. That leaves us with 112 waking hours. And if you work eight hours a day, five days a week, that leaves 72 hours. Let's allow one hour for each meal That brings it down to 51 hours a week for personal goals or leisure time. Ten percent of 51 is only five hours and six minutes a week to dedicate to the service of the Lord. We can't really include time spent in church as part of our service to God—that's where we gather to worship Him.

Let's divide our five hours and six minutes into seven days. That amounts to about 44 minutes each day. What can you do to donate 44 minutes a day to the service of the Lord?

God says in His word that obedience is better than sacrifice. Some scriptures that come to mind are exhortations to visit the fatherless and widows, read the scriptures, visit the sick, distribute to the needs of the poor, remember your parents, visit those in prison, etc. Can you think of any more? Which one can you do *freely*?

I love IMA's motto, which says, "It's a shame to do nothing because you can only do a little—Do what you can." Remember, God created you to have your own free will. What you exchange for your life is your business. As you read this article, do you know how many grains of sand in the hourglass have your name on them? Can the statement "I have more time than money" possibly be true? Can you afford *not* to give any of the time or money allotted to you for the service of the Lord?

The scriptures teach us to strive to find a balance in all things. Find your balance, my friend, and make affirmations that will enrich your life and the lives of others. Do all things on a "want to," "choose to," "like it," or "love it" basis. Remember that we are here on earth to spread the Gospel. And last but not least, remember my friend's motto.

Love and prayers,
Sister Flo Benyola

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70 YEARS continued . . .

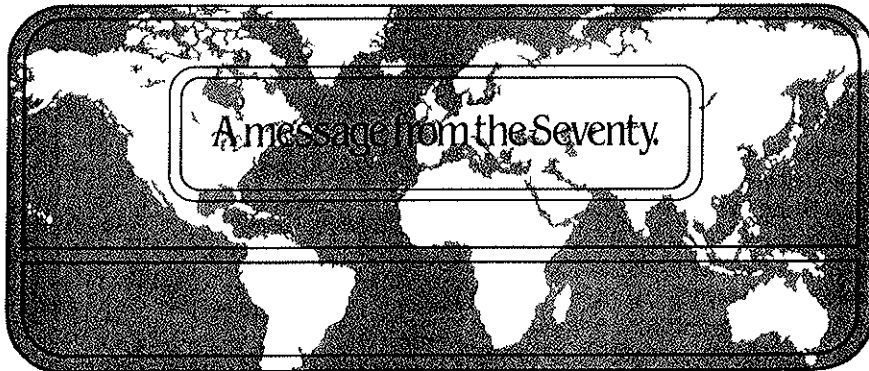
I have a great deal of respect for the priesthood of the Church, and announce the goodness of God wherever I go. I have enjoyed being active and working in the Youngstown Branch through the years.

During my recent eye surgery on July 16, I touched the doctor's hand and asked the Lord to bless him, to give me eyesight, as I was blind for two years. God has surely been good to me. Please pray for me and my family.

With love in Christ,
Sister Minnie DePiero



Sis. Minnie DePiero of Youngstown, Ohio.



God's Preparation for Trip to India

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

How the Lord is with His missionaries was once again revealed on the recent trip to India by Brothers Joseph Calabrese and William Colangelo. From their departure on November 15 through their return on December 6, 1989, there were many instances of how He had gone before them.

The events on the first day were remarkable, and illustrated how God prepared the way and accompanied them throughout the journey. Brother Colangelo was to leave from Pittsburgh on an afternoon flight to meet Brother Calabrese, who was departing from Cleveland, Ohio, at Kennedy Airport in New York. From there, they were to travel to India together.

Brother Colangelo's flight to New York was cancelled because of fog at Kennedy Airport. It appeared he would be unable to meet Brother Joe on time. A flight to the other major New York airport, LaGuardia, was hurriedly booked and taken; but on arriving there, Brother Bill still had the problem of getting to Kennedy.

A large crowd was gathered for the commuter to Kennedy Airport and time was fast slipping away. Suddenly, a man spoke up and said he had room for only one more person and Bro. Bill was permitted to get in. As he stated, "It was amazing that one seat was there for me. We made the trip to Kennedy, where Bro. Joe was getting ready to board the plane to India in five minutes. We thank God for His

allowing us to start off together."

A group of people was awaiting the brothers' arrival in Madras, India, the first location visited. After driving to the hotel, they all formed a circle and offered prayer, thanking God for their safe arrival.

The next day, Saturday, the brothers were taken to the church in Madras. It is on a roof! The open-air space is enclosed with a covering of bamboo and palm leaves. It is very comfortable. Brother Babu is in charge there.

Ten people were baptized. Included among the baptisms was Brother Babu's 70 year-old mother. The new members were confirmed at the Church. A new deacon was ordained and two children were blessed. As at all services, anointings for various major afflictions were performed.

On Sunday November 19, the brothers were taken to Ayalur, over which Brother Dev presides, 50 miles away. Ten people were baptized and confirmed here also. Communion was served and many were anointed.

In the afternoon, Sister Mary Devanandam held a Ladies' Circle meeting, which the visiting brothers were invited to attend and speak at. The sisters thanked Brothers Calabrese and Colangelo for the many children's clothes which were sent to them through the General Ladies' Circle.

A youth meeting was then requested, and the brothers obliged by informally organizing a unit of the Missionary Benevolent Associa-

tion (MBA), one of the Church's auxiliary organizations. Many young people were in attendance.

Incidentally, in this area three more sewing machines were purchased that Tuesday so that the members can now produce items to sustain themselves. They now have five sewing machines.

TOURED SCHOOL BUILDING

On Wednesday, the brothers toured the new Church school building. It is an outstanding school, with a lower kindergarten, an upper kindergarten, and first standard (equivalent to first grade). There are 66 students in all and a child-care group of 30 to 40 daily. There is also a sewing school, with ten students.

Later they visited the landlord of the village, who had sold the Church the school property. He said the school was highly valuable, and asked that the school be extended to include all the grades necessary to accommodate the children. Coming from him these compliments were significant, as the village is predominantly Hindu.

There were six more baptisms, including Sister Mary Devanandam's sister, a registered nurse, who has been attending all the meetings for some time. She asked to be baptized because she had an experience that, as she takes care of the sick naturally, she should help to bring souls to God spiritually. The new members were confirmed in church after being baptized.

Brothers Joe and Bill flew to Bangalore next, where six new members were baptized on Saturday. A tent shelter was set up for the Sunday service. The new members were confirmed and two ordinations, that of a teacher and a deaconess, were performed. Communion was served and many other anointings were administered.

Later in the day the brothers flew back to Madras. The next evening they assisted in organizing the Ladies' Circle there.

OFF TO TADEPALLIGUDEM

On Tuesday, they were off to
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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As necessary as it is for us to contribute naturally toward the Work of the Lord, we must also be aware of the need for each of us to contribute to the spiritual prosperity of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Church's temporal needs, important as they are, would be a vain pursuit indeed if we neglected the spiritual needs of the Church. But how can we as individuals meet those needs? After all, don't we look to the Church to supply our *own* need for spiritual sustenance?

Because the Church is composed of people, its spiritual level depends upon the spirituality of its individual members. While each of us experience periods when we rely on the strength and support we receive from the Church, we cannot expect the Church to remain a source of strength to all of us if we only draw from it and none of us contribute spiritually.

How can one person add to the spiritual prosperity of the Church? Prosperity comes as a result of diligent labor over a period of time. There must be a seven-day-a-week effort put forth by each of us in order for the gifts and blessings with which the Church is adorned to come forth in their fullness. Each of us must determine for ourselves what we must do in order to draw closer to God, to be a source of strength to the Church. And each of us can only be responsible for ourselves.

Our natural tendency, as we seek to sanctify ourselves, to prepare ourselves for the blessings of God when we gather in His house of worship, is to look at others, and perhaps ask ourselves what *they're* doing to contribute. We may wonder if perhaps they're hindering us from achieving the spiritual heights that we have striven to attain. While these attitudes make perfect sense to the natural being, they are not in keeping with the ways of the Lord.

When we begin to look at the Church into which we were baptized as a hindrance to our own spiritual growth, we must stop and ask ourselves whether we are really operating under the Spirit of God and its attending Charity, which would fill us with nothing but love, concern, tolerance, and patience toward our fellow-servants who struggle, as do we, with the calling of a saint.

When He walked the face of the earth, the Lord taught His followers to look *inward*, at themselves, before looking anywhere else for improvement. By concentrating our efforts on improving our own walk with God, we will avoid the temptation to put the responsibility for the Church's spiritual health—and ours—on others.

Once we have walked away from the water's edge, we must all take on the responsibility of building our own personal relationship with the Lord. To take things a step further, we must use that relationship to strengthen and enhance His Church. If we can all do this, The Church of Jesus Christ will grow, spiritually, by leaps and bounds.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



What do you do when you are in the Lions' Den?

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes when I'm praying with my daughter Leah, I'll hear one of us ask the Lord, "Don't let anything bad happen to us," as part of our prayers. Later I'll think about all the great followers of God in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Joseph was sold as a slave and thrown into prison, but God delivered him (rescued him) months, even years later. During the time he was in prison, as we read in Genesis 39:21, "The Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison. . . ." The Lord was with Joseph, and whatever Joseph did, the Lord made it successful. Later, Joseph used everything he learned in prison to run the country of Egypt and save thousands upon thousands of people from starving to death.

Noah spent years of his life working with his family to build a huge boat many miles away from any big ocean. Then he began filling it with every kind of creature that lived upon the face of the earth. We can imagine how people must have laughed at him for being so different. The Bible tells us that the other people living at that time had hearts that were full of evil continually. I can imagine Noah patiently working, encouraging his sons, and praying with his wife.

After all of their work and years of effort, God's plan became clear. The evil people were drowned and swept off the earth. Noah's family, who served God, were saved. For months they lived in the

ark with the animals. Even then they must have worked hard feeding and caring for all the animals. They must have prayed and trusted God as their great boat bumped around in the dark waters. Yet God brought them through safely; God delivered them.

In The Book of Mormon, King Mosiah loved God greatly. But as his sons grew up, they began to do evil things. They let the evil one, that ugly devil, convince them to do wrong things. They even went so far as to try and get other people to follow their evil ways. We can imagine their father and mother's shame and heartbreak as they realized how far their sons had turned away from the good things they had been taught.

As the months passed, this good man of God, Mosiah, fasted and prayed to the Lord to change his sons. The Lord heard those cries and sent a mighty angel to shake the earth and give the young men the choice to stop their evil ways or die. They were awakened to the evil they had been chasing and repented. Later, God used all four young men to serve as missionaries and bring thousands to know God.

When Daniel served God, the Lord gave him much wisdom and power. He, like Joseph, worked for a king in ruling a nation. But other people were jealous of Daniel. They tricked the king into making a new law that said no one could pray or ask any man or God anything for one month, or else they'd be thrown into a den (an underground cage) of lions. They knew that Daniel prayed to God openly three

times each day, and would thus break the law. Can you imagine how Daniel felt when he heard of this new law? Sometimes I wonder if he thought maybe he should pray in a hidden spot, or pray in his heart. But Daniel trusted God's will and prayed openly.

When he was arrested and thrown into that dark, smelly hole full of dangerous lions he trusted God. Hour after hour passed and the Lord sent an angel to shut the lion's mouths; they never hurt Daniel. How he must have been rejoicing! The Lord can do all things.

So sometime, somewhere, when you or someone you love are in your own kind of lions' den, your own prison, or on dark stormy waters, remember Psalms 34:17 & 18, "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles . . . he saveth those who have a contrite spirit [those who are sorry for what they've done wrong]." Call on God, tell Him you are sorry for the things you have done wrong. He loves you and hears your prayers.

WORD SEARCH

TURN	LOVES
HE	YOU
SAVETH	DANIEL
THOSE	LIONS
CONTRITE	DEN
SPIRIT	JOSEPH
CRY	IN
UNTO	PRISON
THE	MOSIAH
LORD	NOAH
YOUR	DARK
GOD	WATER

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

MBA Highlights

Pennsylvania Area MBA Retreat

By *Lucetta Scaglione*

Over 200 people gathered at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, PA on the weekend of September 15-17 for the Pennsylvania Area MBA Retreat. Everyone came in anticipation of receiving a spiritual blessing, and no one went away disappointed. There was a representation of every age group, from little babies to those in their eighties, and many in between.

Brother Chuck Jumper opened the Saturday morning chapel service, speaking on the seventh chapter of Alma. He encouraged us to hold fast and to serve God faithfully, so that we would endure to the end. He also gave an invitation to those who had not yet made a commitment to come and partake of the blessings of God.

After chapel, everyone went to their respective seminars. The topic was "Putting God First." From the

remarks heard the remainder of the day, it was evident that everyone had an interesting and lively seminar.

In the afternoon some enjoyed sports, others participated in crafts, and then there were those who just enjoyed relaxing and maybe even a little nap.

As we gathered for the Saturday evening meeting, you could feel the Spirit of God and the excitement in the air. Many beautiful songs were sung, including several by the young children from the Monongahela Branch.

After a rousing sermon by Bro. Dick Lawson reminding us all to try harder to live closer to Jesus, there were testimonies and many went up to the ministry for prayer. Everyone there could feel the calling Spirit of the Lord. As Carolyn Parravano was being prayed for, Sis. Tanya Wood had a beautiful experience. She was asking God to use her as an open vessel and began to weep. She then saw clouds and an opening in them, like the gates of heaven. She bowed her head and asked the Lord, "What is it?" When she looked up again, she saw the same clouds and opening.

As Bro. Paul Ciotti was praying

for Carolyn, he spoke in the gift of tongues. Immediately, Bro. Tony Ricci looked up and had a vision of Bro. Paul and Carolyn by themselves along a riverbank. They were dressed in baptismal clothes, and Bro. Paul was still praying over Carolyn. The atmosphere in this vision was calm and peaceful. The next thing he knew, Bro. Tony was back in the meeting.

That evening there were three young people who asked for their baptism: Carolyn Parravano, Shannon Lambert, and Felicia Ciminero.

Sunday morning found a very large group assembled together, including many visitors. Bro. Paul Palmieri read from Alma 46, starting with verse 12. He spoke of how Moroni rallied the people for the cause of Christ, and how we too should prepare ourselves to take up that same cause.

As the weekend drew to an end, God's love flowed as we bade one another farewell. We all returned to our branches and missions with a greater determination to get closer to God. Since this beautiful weekend, a number of others who were in attendance have also asked for their baptism. We praise God for His great blessings.

Our Women Today

The Era

By *Sister Mabel Bickerton*

After the new president and vice-president of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle were elected (namely President Sister Arline Whitton and Vice-President Sister Lorraine DeMercurio), I had the following given to me.

I was thinking about the many years I had served as president of the General Circle (31 years). Also the many years my mother, Sister Sadie Cadman, served (37 years). These seemed like a very long time for any sister to hold an office. But the answer seemed to unfold to me.

In 1920 my mother had a great desire to have an organization for women in The Church of Jesus

Christ. This was new, and perhaps would not be accepted by many. The Lord had inspired Mother to express her thoughts to Brother Alexander Cherry, then President of the Church. Permission was given and a date set to meet with the sisters in the area. A new era began, a foundation was started, and aims were discussed, as well as ways to help the Church spread the Gospel through missionary efforts. The little group of sisters felt the blessing of God that day. The first Ladies' Uplift Circle was organized in June of 1920.

The foundation was built upon love, unity, prayer, and perseverance. The sisters depended upon the Lord for strength and guidance, which was given in dreams, the gift of tongues and its interpretation, and visions. Some of the things instituted back then we still follow today, such as searching the scripture, the order of conduct-

ing Circle meetings, helping the missionary work financially, giving priority to the Indian Mission, and sharing and caring for others.

After 37 years, the foundation was built strong and firm. It was now time to go on to the next phase. From June of 1957 to 1988 will be known as the Era of the Builders. How wonderfully the Lord opened doors during the many years of building. Blessings were showered upon our Circles as we went throughout the Church. An example was set in the first era, and we had proved that the Ladies' Circle was a great help to the Church. Now our funds were multiplied and we were able to donate thousands of dollars to Church missionary work. Circles were organized in many new places, and the message of our good deeds went to foreign countries. Soon the

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Branch and Mission News

Teacher ordained in Cape Coral

By Hope Eutsey

On Sunday, July 2, 1989 the Cape Coral, FL Branch gathered together in a joyous spirit. After we sang *To the Work* and opened our service with prayer, Bro. James Sheffler read the duties of a teacher. Brother Norman Greg Swanger was then set apart by the washing of feet by Brother George Timms of Herndon, VA. Bro. James Sheffler then ordained our brother into the office of a teacher.

After the ordination, Brother Frank Rogolino of the Fort Pierce, FL Branch addressed us, reading from the third chapter of I Samuel, regarding the calling of the prophet Samuel. He then related many wonderful experiences to us. We then sang *Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown*.

Bro. George Timms followed, speaking on III Nephi 19:28 & 29. Afterward, the meeting was given over to a beautiful season of testimony. In dismissing our meeting, the congregation joined hands in a circle and sang *First Love*.

Brother Norman Greg Swanger closed our meeting in prayer. We pray that God may bless our brother in his new office.

Visitors in Tampa, FL

By Sharon Staley

Tampa has had the privilege of welcoming many visitors in recent weeks! Sister Arline Whitton, General Ladies' Uplift Circle President, had come to the Fort Pierce Branch on Saturday, July 29 to organize the Florida Area Circle. The following Monday she was able to spend time with the sisters and friends of the Tampa Circle. During our local meeting, Sister Arline showed a videotape of the General Circle Conference held this past April at Levittown, PA. The

brothers from our branch were welcome at this meeting also, and we were able to view Sisters Mabel Bickerton and Ruth Akerman honored for their 31 years of dedicated service to the General Circle.

Later in the week, August 4, 5, and 6, our branch hosted the annual meeting of the General Church Finance Committee. Members of this committee represented the Southwest, Atlantic Coast, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Southeast Districts of the Church. Although the brothers spent many long hours completing their scheduled business, we were able to fellowship with them as they stayed in the homes of the saints.

Our Sunday service began early, in anticipation of being able to hear from all of the visiting elders. We were also pleased to have visitors from Cape Coral with us this day. Brother Paul Whitton introduced the preaching service, using the book of Enos as his text. He spoke concerning the hungering of Enos' soul, how he wrestled with God in prayer, and how he heard the voice saying, "Enos, thy sins are forgiven thee, and thou shalt be blessed."

Bro. Paul related to us that while heart disease is the number one natural illness we face today, there are many spiritual diseases of the heart—greed, deceit, malice, etc. Purging these diseases requires a daily effort. We must be in constant communication to keep our heart right with the Lord. Bro. Whitton told of his personal calling into the Gospel, and how his heart was touched by a powerful experience. He concluded by exhorting us to live the life of Christ, that by love, patience, and understanding, we might help to heal the hearts of those around us.

Brothers Jerry Valenti and Paul Pezzenti further expanded upon this theme, exhorting us to continue in love and prayer, that we may gain eternal life.

At this time, we paused to witness the blessing of Jamie Jonathan Humphrey, the son of

Kelly and Samantha Humphrey, performed by Brother Duane Lowe.

Brother Art Gehly spoke briefly, reminding us that where our treasure is, there our hearts shall be. He then presented us with a solo, *My God and I*.

After Brother Alan Metzler offered the closing prayer, we shared lunch and more fellowship together before our many visitors began leaving for their respective homes. Truly it was a day well spent in God's house.

Testimony from Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday afternoon, we at Detroit Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan experienced a beautiful testimony service. What seemed so wonderful was that many brothers and sisters and even friends testified of experiences their children had encountered. Many of these were blessings, containing messages of peace and comfort. The following experience, related by Sister Brenda Capone, was one of these.

The Spirit of God is working with our children today. Children have minds that are very absorbent, and messages impressed upon them tend to last. Children are also very innocent. One cannot help but wonder, in this world where people are hustling and bustling about and have very little time to serve God, that perhaps we as adults have lost the innocence required for God to work with us and in us. Our minds and our concentration are focused on other areas of our lives.

Our children represent the future of the Church. Let's take the time to concentrate our efforts more on God—lest it be too late and we end up "missing the boat," as well as blessings we could be receiving right now.

AN EXPERIENCE

On May 14, 1989 my family was watching television. My three daughters were eating popsicles. Melanie, at five years old my