

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

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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 oportunity 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

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Richard, Annabel, and Richard Jr. Santilli 143 Hickory Lane Youngstown, OH 44515 Tel. (216) 799-1770

Kimberly Schafer 1029 Carrol Lane Hermitage, PA 16148 Tel. (412) 981-3568

Anthony and Marie Scarsella 801 Wilkinson Ave. Youngstown, OH 44509 Tel. (216) 799-0202

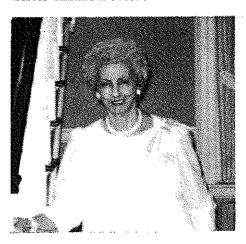
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70 YEARS continued . . .

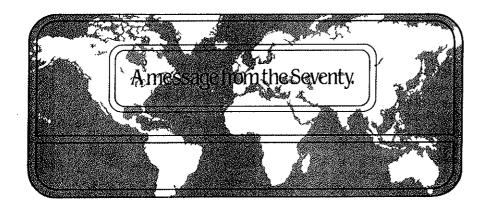
I have a great deal of respect for the priesthood of the Church, and announce the goodness of God wherever I go. I have enjoyed being active and working in the Youngstown Branch through the years.

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 (Continued on Page 10)



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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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. Huinagle 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

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

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

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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

youngest daughter, got up to throw away her popsicle stick. She went through the dining room into the kitchen, and came back to the living room. She came and sat down on the couch by me and my husband, Tim. Then she looked up and said, "Daddy, there's someone in the kitchen."

Tim and I looked at each other, and he said, "Melanie, there is no one in our house." He then went into the dining room, turned on the light, and then walked into the kitchen and turned on that light. He called Melanie to come to him and said, "See, there's nothing in here."

As they returned to the living room, I could see their shadows on the floor and I said, "See, Melanie, that's probably what you saw. You never have to worry in our house." Melanie looked at the shadow and said, "No, it wasn't that."

The next day, while my other two daughters were in school, Melanie and I were cleaning upstairs. Melanie was sitting on the bed. She said to me, "Mom, you know when I saw that person in the kitchen last night?" I answered, "Yes," as I listened in anticipation to hear what she wanted to tell me. She said, "He had a lot of colors on." I questioned, "He did?" and Melanie replied, "Yes."

Later that day, I had some errands to run and on the way back I decided to give Melanie some crayons and paper, and I asked her to draw what she had seen the night before. Now granted, my daughter draws like a five-year-old, but she did not hesitate one bit in completing the picture. When she finished, she looked up at me and said confidently, "That's him."

What Melanie had drawn was a person with long dark hair and a long robe or coat. She had colored it several colors. I then asked her to show me where he was when she saw him and what he was doing. She showed me that when she entered the dining room, he was right beside the doorway. He then walked into the kitchen. After that, she could not tell me what he did or where he went.

My daughter was never frightened throughout this experience. She slept well that night. I asked her if the man she saw was ugly or pretty. She exclaimed beyond any doubt that he was "pretty." I felt such a peace in my daughter's vision. What a beautiful experience for such a little girl.

My husband and I both felt that she had seen Joseph in his coat of many colors. Whomever she saw, I know it was someone good and peaceful. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless all my children, and that these things will never leave them. All three of my daughters have been blessed with beautiful visions, dreams, and experiences.

Colleen, my oldest daughter, asked, "Mom, what does it all mean?" I looked at her and my other daughter, Lisa, and said, "It means, God's still on His throne." Praise God, He truly is!

Calling to the ministry in Rochester

The saints of the Rochester, NY Mission looked forward to the weekend of September 23 & 24, 1989 with great anticipation for God's blessings. Many visitors were expected to witness the ordination of Bro. Bob Batson as an elder in the Church. With respect to both blessings and visitors, we were not

disappointed. Visitors from Erie, Cleveland, Niles, Warren, and Lockport graced our mission with their presence on this special weekend. The blessings began on Saturday night as we gathered together to fellowship and prepare our hearts and minds for the Sunday meeting and ordination service. Bro. Joel Gehly of Erie, PA opened our service, speaking on the excitement he felt in being part of the stone kingdom which Daniel saw. Our brother expressed his joy that God was calling another laborer into the vineyard, and that the little stone was continuing to roll to its ultimate destiny. Bro. Jim Hufnagle of the Cleveland, OH Branch continued the theme and the spirit of the evening, much to the edification of all who had gathered. As Bro. Frank Natoli brought our service to a close this evening, he encouraged each of us to expect the blessings of God in

our Sunday service and to prepare accordingly.

On Sunday we began our day by singing praises to our God in lieu of our usual Sunday School lesson. As we began our preaching service, the lot fell upon Bro. Ron Genaro to open. He spoke from I Peter, the fifth chapter, and began an historical overview of the ministry in the Church. Our brother graphically portrayed to Bro. Bob the weight of his calling, but as well, told of the unique blessings bestowed upon those who hold this office. Bro. Brian Martorana, also of Niles, followed, reading from the Book of Mormon and stating that the work of God is not finished, because He continues to call men into the ministry of reconciliation.

Bro. Frank then asked all those present who had received an experience relative to Bro. Bob's calling to share them with the congregation, that we might reaffirm that The Church of Jesus Christ is a church founded upon the revelation of God. Several sisters in attendance took the opportunity to express their experiences.

As we sang Ye Who Are Called to Labor, Bro. Joe Genaro of Niles, Ohio felt inspired to wash Bro. Bob's feet. As he descended from the pulpit, a sweet spirit filled the house, and enveloped the two brothers participating in particular. As Bro. Joe called for God's blessings to come upon our Bro. Bob, the gift of tongues was manifested with the interpretation given that the Lord would be with him (Bro. Bob) and He would never leave us alone. Then the brothers of the ministry surrounded Bro. Bob and Apostle Paul D'Amico poured oil on our brother's head, invoked the authority of Jesus Christ, and pronounced upon Bro. Bob the office of elder with a spirit-filled prayer. After the prayer, Bro. Bob embraced each of the ministry and tears of joy flowed.

Bro. Bob, given the opportunity to express himself, offered thanksgiving to God for the calling, and to his brothers and sisters who had come to support him. He related receiving a special blessing in having his father-in-law, Bro. Joe

(Continued on Page 10)

ROCHESTER continued . . .

Genaro, present to see this day, as God had preserved Bro. Joe's life after a severe heart attack a year earlier. Also, he related an experience which God had given him this very morning which confirmed God's calling to him. Bro. Bob stated that as his ordination day approached, he petitioned God to confirm that he was being called by Him. As our brother prepared to leave for church this morning, he opened the Book of Mormon and his eyes fell immediately to Alma 5:38, which states in part, "the good shepherd doth call you. . . ." How great is the God we serve!

As the meeting was left open for testimony, many rose to their feet and expressed their joy in the blessings of the day. Several came forth to be anointed, including Sis. Ruth Batson, Bro. Bob's wife. The brothers asked that God would strengthen our sister, that she might continue to support her husband in his new role. Bro. Frank and his new co-laborer Bro. Bob then passed sacrament to the congregation.

Before the meeting closed, Bro. Ron observed an important point the importance of our personal testimony to others. He stated that Bro. Brian must be very gratified to have witnessed the calling of Bro. Bob and Bro. Frank into the ministry, since it was Bro. Brian who had introduced the Gospel to both of these brothers. It is truly amazing to think how God had worked with these two brothers, who were not raised in the Church, to bring them both from Ohio to Rochester, New York, that together they might further God's kingdom in this part of His vineyard.

When we finally parted company, we did so begrudgingly, but satisfied that we had indeed sat in heavenly places.

CHANGING TIMES continued...

the Gospel to a needy world, we prejudge others with regard to what they "might" think of the Church, and hide away the most precious gift we have. Our faith becomes dormant and we coast along through life in neutral. When this is the case, Satan has opened the door of apathy, and we lose our desire to share the love of God.

Second, as we coast along, we may even give way to the more enticing charms of the evil one. Searching to find ourselves or hide away from our problems, we may turn to drugs, fornication, alcoholism, the occult, possibly even suicide. Again, Satan pulls into the lead by tightening his grip through addiction or even death.

Third, we may face "change" by endeavoring to draw closer to God. How? Through fasting and prayer, through studying His word, through gathering with the saints in uplifting fellowship, through heeding the inspired messages of God as given by a ministry diligently seeking to touch and draw the souls of mankind unto salvation.

We need one another, our brothers exhorted us. More importantly, we need God to get us through the difficult trials of today's life. If we are to find fulfillment in a world where change is continual, we must passionately seek a higher spiritual mind as well as the most perfect Gospel, which has been restored.

We will never know the answers to every question we have, nor will every doubt we experience be fully laid to rest. Instead, we must rely heavily upon our faith to carry us through. For it is when we humbly submit to the will of the Father that He gently gives His direction for our lives.

Nature displays four seasons of change, but despite the changes taking place, we know that the seasons will always be subject to one constant order: spring, summer, autumn, winter. Likewise, time will continue to bring changes until the end of creation. Some of these changes will be to the honor and glory of God, while others lead to destruction. As individuals, we must make a choice in how we deal with the change surrounding us. We can choose to blend in and face away, like one season giving way to the next. In so doing we may even become lost in the shadows of eternal death. If this is our choice, then Satan has won. Hopefully we will choose instead to dedicate our time, talents, and obedience to God, briliantly displaying His light to all the world.

Our lives will always be subject to change. But as the children and saints of God, we have been chosen to serve Him and, as a result, are called to stand apart and be different. How can we remain different in a world where almost anything goes? Stand firm upon the foundation of God's unconditional love and forgiveness through the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ; have faith and believe in the Word of God as found in the Bible and Book of Mormon; and rest assured in the knowledge that God is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Perhaps, as we search to find our place in this changing world, rather than asking, "Lord, who am I and where do I fit in?", let us offer, "Lord, here I am. Mold me and use me to fulfill Thy will." Then and only then will we find the peace that passeth all understanding and our lives will be made complete.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Tadepalligudem where Brother Livingston is in charge. The orphanage there now has 30 children. The hospital, which was closed for five years, is now open.

The brothers then proceeded to Gollagudem, one of the new locations for the Church to be established. They were met there by more than 100 people. Both brothers spoke to the congregation there, and all in attendance declared that they were richly blessed since coming to The Church of Jesus Christ. This was one of the villages that was hit by a monsoon rainstorm. We had sent them help, and now they acknowledged it and thanked the brothers for that help. It was the first time the people of this village saw white missionaries, and they were very well received.

On Thursday, the brothers were driven over to Singarajupalem, where the first Church of Jesus Christ building in India had been dedicated. It too had been hit by the monsoon storms, and we had sent them help for which they now

thanked the brothers for us. There was a large group of people there.

Friday, December 1, the missionary brothers traveled to a new village, Medinavaripalem. Bro. Livingston had baptized 23 people there, and they were told that at least 40 or 50 more would be baptized. Bro. Livingston started this work while Brothers Calabrese and Colangelo were in Madras. The place is very rural and far removed (7 miles) from the main road. Our brothers spoke to the congregation here about the Gospel being the Treasure and the Pearl of great price spoken of in the scriptures.

The next day they took off for Ramanujapuram, a village about 40 miles away, where the service was held in a humble hut. The brothers spoke on the Lord's words about the wise man and the foolish man who build their houses on rock and sand. Both brothers had been directed to this scripture. Bro. Livingston also said he felt to speak on the same scripture at length in his own language, Telegu. He was genuinely inspired, as beautiful liberty was enjoyed by all three brothers.

The last Sunday there, December 2, the brothers traveled to Nallamaadu. They arrived to find the church building full, with over 200 present. This building had been dedicated during the last missionary trip to India by Apostles Calabrese and Palmieri. Brothers Joe and Bill spoke from Matthew 6 on the Lord's prayer, confirming the power of prayer.

On Monday December 4, Bro. Livingston drove the visiting brothers to Gopalapuram. They saw the church building there, a beautifully well-built structure, for the first time. It was filled to its approximately 300-person capacity. Visitors from other villages were in attendance. The dedicatory prayer was offered by Brother Colangelo. Both the natural and the spiritual houses were discussed.

BLESSINGS ENUMERATED

As the fifth trip to India ended, the blessings were as follows: 55 people wre baptized; two teachers, one deacon, and one deaconess were ordained; and Brother Livingston has at least 40 to 50 more to baptize.

On December 5, Brothers Calabrese and Colangelo started their journey home. The messenger that Sister Carmella D'Amico of Rochester, New York saw with the brothers did indeed accompany them all the way. God's preparation had been experienced everywhere.

The brothers considered it an honor to serve the Church again in

the land of India. It was the fifth trip there for Brother Calabrese and the first for Brother Colangelo. As Brother Joe stated, "Progress has been made, rather slowly, but surely. If we continue to follow the Lord's direction, it will grow into one of the largest works in the Church."

THE ERA continued . . .

sisters in those places wanted a Circle. With the help of our brethren we were able to organize in four foreign countries. It brought joy when we were able to help take the "Good News" to the Seed of Joseph. Again we had showers of blessings.

Now the Builders' Era has come to a close. I meditated on this. I asked, "What shall this new era do? The foundation has been laid and the Builders have done their part." The answer came, "This Era is a time of strengthening. The foundation is solid, the building is sure, and now we need more unity and love as we continue to work together."

May the Lord bless this new era as He has in the past. Let us work with the new officers as we have supported those in the other eras.

* WEDDINGS *

CAMERO-GUERRA

Ruben Camero and Sister Laura Guerra were married on April 15, 1989 in Visalia, California. Evangelist Anthony Picciuto officiated at the ceremony.

PEREZ-KRASNASKY

Raul Perez and Sister Kelly Krasnasky were united in holy matrimony on September 2, 1989 in Visalia, California. Evangelist Anthony Picciuto officiated at the ceremony, and musical selections were provided by Brother Anthony and Sister Lucy DeCaro.

PROVOST-WAGNER

Mr. Daniel Provost and Miss Sonja Wagner were united in marriage on October 28, 1989 at the

Rochester, New York Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Frank Natoli officiated at the ceremony, with musical selections provided by friends and family of the bride and groom.

The newlyweds are residing in Canandaigua, New York.

New Arrivals

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

Robert Michael to Robert and Kristy Rodriguez of Lindsay, CA.

Aliza Rochelle to Robert and Anita Ford of Madera, CA.

Raquel to Rafael and Rosa Pacheco of San Diego, CA.

Isaac to Humberto and Sonia Gonzalez of San Diego, CA.

Joanna to Ricardo and Anna Nava of San Diego, CA.

Children Blessed

Samuel Michael Creager was blessed by Bro. Lou Ciccati on July 16, 1989 in the San Diego, CA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He is the son of Daniel and Mary Creager.

Ashton Taylor Picciuto was blessed by her uncle, Evangelist Tony Picciuto, in the Lindsay, California

Branch on July 23, 1989.

Candi Rae Russell, daughter of Steven and Traci Russell, was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. Frank Ciotti, in Santa Ana, CA on October 15, 1989.

Joseph James Coppa, son of Brother Joseph and Sister Sandy Coppa, was blessed by Brother Frank Mazzeo on Sunday, October 22, 1989 in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

On October 29, 1989, Christopher Salvatore Rosa was blessed in the Church by Brother James Benyola

at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch.

Ashton Ruby Fuller was blessed on November 12, 1989 by Bro. Frank Altomare in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

OBITUARIES

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

SAMUEL BENYOLA

Brother Sam Benyola of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch departed from this life on September 26, 1989. He was born on February 20, 1918 and served for many years as a deacon in the Church.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Sam's son

Leonard and his nephew Paul Benyola.

Our brother is survived by his wife Sis. Mary, a sister, three children, four grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Brother Sam was a faithful member of the Church. His warm smile spoke louder than 's. He set a fine example, and his presence will be ly missed.

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HERTHA JONES

Sister Hertha Jones of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on October 31, 1989. She was baptized on July 17, 1931 and she remained faithful to her calling throughout her life.

Brother Richard Scaglione officiated at the funeral,

assisted by Brother James Campbell.

Left to mourn our sister's passing are one daughter, one son, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

We praise God for our Sister Hertha's endurance in her service to Him, and pray that He will comfort all who will miss her.

JAMES CROSIER

Brother James Crosier of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his heavenly home on November 8, 1989. Bro. Jim was baptized on April 13, 1961 and was an ordained teacher.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Bob

Nicklow, Jr.

Our brother is survived by his wife Sister Ethel, a daughter, Sister Holly, two sons, Brother Dean and Park, and one granddaughter.

May God bless and comfort his family.

ROSEMOND CALABRESE

Sister Rosemond "Romy" Calabrese passed from this life to the next on November 9, 1989. A member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, she was born on May 15, 1921 and was baptized into the Church on March 4, 1951.

The funeral was conducted by her brother-in-law,

Apostle Joseph Calabrese.

She is survived by a son, Bro. Tony; a daughter, Sis. Sherry Scott; four grandchildren; two brothers; a sister; and a stepmother. She was preceded in death by her husband, Apostle Frank Calabrese, in 1986.

Sis. Romy was a beautiful sister, a faithful member, and a very good example to all here in the Lorain Branch. She always had a kind word to say about everyone, and encouraged the sisters whose husbands were in the ministry to uphold their companions' hands as they labored for the Lord. She and her husband, Bro. Frank, will surely be missed.

ALBERT D'ANGELO

Albert D'Angelo, 64 years old, passed away on November 9, 1989. He was a native of Italy and came to the United States as a child with his parents.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Paul

D'Amico.

He is survived by his mother, Sis. Francesca D'Angelo Bosciani of the Lockport, NY Mission. Albert was deaf and unable to speak all his life, and Sis. Francesca took care of him. February, 1990

Volume 46, No. 2

GMBA Conference

We are not ashamed

By Ken Lombardo, GMBA Editor

Every so often the Lord works in such a marvelous and concise way that it causes us in retrospect to marvel over and over again. As we examine His movements and trace His hand, He blesses us with the knowledge that He, indeed, is still very much in control. I feel that way about this last GMBA, as from about two weeks prior to our trip from New Jersey, the Lord placed on my heart a scripture from the Old Testament concerning the children of Israel and the miracle of the manna. It was a scripture that I considered to be intended for the saints in our branch at some future meeting.

As the days continued, these verses never found the right time or place. I began to be given the thought that, perhaps, the Lord had designated them to be for the conference in some way or other. Having been ordained into the ministry only recently, this was the first GMBA that I was attending as an elder, but I left it in the hands of God, and figured that, if it was His will, then He would provide the way for His message.

We traveled on Friday night to the hotel, speaking of God's wonderful grace with a new convert from out branch, Brother Scott Culver, and all the while, this scripture nagged at me. We have enjoyed some rich blessings lately in our branch and looked forward to the conference with great anticipation. I believed that the Lord was going to accomplish His will, yet never realized it would be at the end of a long string of wonderful blessings.

On Saturday morning, as we gathered in the Conference Center for the first session of conference, GMBA Chaplain Brother Ken Staley read and exhorted us from the first chapter of Romans. Reading only the sixteenth verse, he remarked that we, like Paul, should not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Immediately, all of the choir members from the Atlantic Coast Area searched around the room for one another to nod and smile for the blessing we knew was sure to come later.

Our business was conducted with a smoothness and a unity that I'm sure most of us wish we could enjoy in our daily jobs. We voted to elect Brother Fred D'Antonio as next year's GMBA camp director, and voted that the camp would be held at the Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania on August 19-25. We thanked Sister Karen Progar for her faithful years of hard work as she stepped down from the post of GMBA secretary. The General Church Conference of October 1989 voted to accept our

request to allow the GMBA officers to preside over the Sunday morning service at GMBA Conferences. We donated monies, allocated funds, heard reports from our Area presidents, and elected and reelected officers.

When supper was over, we gathered back in the main room for our evening session, which began with a program, entitled "Jesus, the Light of the World," that was prepared for the conference by the Atlantic Coast Area Choir. Here we began to see the marvelous movement of the hand of God. As the choir director, I confess that at our last practice, we encouraged one another that despite our small number and meager voices, somehow we would muddle through, and with the help of God, perhaps make an acceptable presentation. But as we began to sing, there was a tightness, an order, a unity that we never felt at our rehearsals. From song to song, I was amazed that each one was anointed with the Spirit of God and full of beauty.

As we turned to our last song, I looked over to where Brother Ken Staley was sitting. He was in line with and close enough to read the title off of my sheet music: We Are Not Ashamed. And as the tears streamed down his face, he realized that God had brought the day around full circle to the scripture he

(Continued on Page 2)

Hasta Luego, Brother Tony

Parting of friends is always difficult. This is especially true when we are not certain if and when we will meet again. Friendships develop over a period of time, and will usually last a lifetime. Our friendship with Brother Tony Ensana was no different. As a board of trustees, we worked with him for many years and worshpped together many times as brothers in Christ.

The Gospel binds all of us together as a family of God. As trustees, we often functioned as members of a family. Sometimes we disagreed about an issue, but we were always able to remember that we were brothers. Our miniature family often laughed, and yes, sometimes cried over situations that confronted us or blessings we shared.

Our responsibilities brought us together many times throughout the years. Sometimes we traveled many miles together to visit various branches and missions. We came to know each other even more than the usual close friendships we develop in the Church. We became acquainted with each other's families, and shared in the associated joys and problems as well. We always requested each other's prayers when we had a problem, and knew that as a family and as brothers, we could rely on the support of one another's prayers.

Each of us have our own memories of Tony and how he impacted our lives. Those memories are etched in our minds based on incidents we recall from a trip or meeting together. While Tony has left us, we recognize his contributions to our board, and to the Church as a whole. In fact, it was Tony's intention to do the electrical work on the addition at the World Conference Center, just as he did on the Greensburg Branch building as well as many other projects. We valued Tony's input and unique ability to assist our efforts as a board.

We recognize his wife, Sister Elsie; his children; grandchildren; and the rest of his family miss him. As part of his family, we miss Tony as well.

Rather than say good-bye, we say, "Hasta luego," or, roughly translated, "See you later, Tony."

Bro. Dick Lawson, for the General Board of Trustees

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I wish to take this opportunity to convey to all of you my gratitude and appreciation for their concern and prayers during my recent surgery of November 27, 1989. Also, for their phone calls, the beautiful cards, and the visits.

I am getting along very well and my recovery is good, for which I am very thankful to God.

With Love, Your Brother in Christ, Frank D. Giovannone

ASHAMED continued . . .

had read. Afterwards, he confessed that in the morning the Lord had given him that verse, but he was hard pressed to understand why, and felt uncomfortable about just how he was going to expand on it. In fact, he even discussed it with the saints who were riding with him in his car, with hopes of generating some thoughts or understanding. But following the strong prompting of the Spirit, he used that verse to open our confrence, and God used it to close. The rest of the meeting was spent hearing the beautiful testimonies of our 11 newlybaptized young people, and sharing the goodness of our God.

After the service, the GMBA sponsored the first Mexican Fiesta to be held in the World Conference Center, with the cafeteria decorated with piñatas and photographs of the Church's missionary work in Mexico and Guatemala. We ate cake and burritos, and had a wonderful time just socializing with one another.

I followed the sounds of singing

at the piano, and enjoyed blending my voice with the Giannetti brothers. In the back of my mind, I pondered over what might be in store for the next day, and presumed that, since the GMBA officers were leaving for the night, Sunday's activities must have already been discussed. I accepted the scripture which the Lord had given to me weeks before was just going to have to be filed in my mind and be used whenever He saw fit. Just then, I felt a touch on my arm, and looking up, I saw Brother Ken Staley motioning for me to have some words with him.

He said to me that during the day, he had spoken with the other GMBA officers and they felt to extend an invitation to me to open the service the next morning. He said they wanted to tell me the night before so that I could, perhaps, prepare my mind with a scripture. Then it was my turn for the tears. I told Brother Ken that the Lord had prepared me two weeks before, and explained my experience. We rejoiced in the providence of our allseeing God. That night, I re-read the words and prayed that His message would be delivered the next day; however I could see no clear outline for a sermon.

The next morning as I approached the podium, I felt as if I was coming with a bunch of disiointed pieces. I knew that the Lord had selected the subject of manna, and the children of Israel in the wilderness, but, quite frankly, I failed to see the connection with what He had given us the day before. Brother Ken had dreamed of a beautiful lake that night, and as I opened my mouth to speak, God began to weave the messages together. He took the pieces He had prepared in the first place and put them into His order. I only had to ride the wave. The Israelites found themselves complaining so often about the very things that God had miraculously provided, and needed to learn to value what they had, just as we in our modern day and age must learn to value what He has blessed us with, regardless of our circumstance. He has given us His very Son to die for our sins,

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It Is Written



By V. James Lovalvo

The Sabbath Day

Is the Sabbath Day the first day of the week (Sunday), or is it the seventh day of the week (Saturday)? This question has become a controversial one from time to time, as various churches have come forth proclaiming that the Christian world is wrong in observing Sunday as the Sabbath instead of Saturday.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes that Sunday, the first day of the week, should be observed as the Lord's Day. This belief is based upon scripture and church history, which show that the observance of the first day of the week as the Sabbath was approved by the Lord

and His holy apostles.

Although one of the Ten Commandments given to ancient Israel was to keep the Sabbath (seventh) day holy, it should be noted that Jesus said, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matthew 5:17). Readers should consider this statement well, for it is truly an important one. In no way were the law and the prophets to be destroyed. for God's word is never destroyed but is rather fulfilled. And it was in Christ Jesus. The following are a few examples: The law of sacrifice was fulfilled in His sacrificial death. The Passover became the Lord's Supper. The law "Thou shalt not kill" was superseded by the more perfect law "Whosoever is angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment." "Thou shalt not commit adultery" was extended to

"Whosoever looketh upon a woman to lust after her hath already committed adultery with her in his heart.'

Study of the 5th Chapter of Matthew reveals clearly how completely Christ fulfilled the Law. Also, in the Book of Mormon, Christ said, "In me is the law of Moses fulfilled" (III Nephi 9:17). The Bible tells us that Jesus preached in the synagogues on the Sabbath day. This He did because He came to fulfill the law. He was obedient therefore, even in observing the Sabbath day. However, as His commandments fulfilled and went beyond the rest of the Law, so it is believed that because the day of His resurrection occurred on the first day of the week, it supersedes the old Sabbath day (seventh day). An attempt will be made to substantiate this belief in subsequent paragraphs.

To complete or fulfill the Law does not destroy it, but rather enhances it by the more glorious teachings of our Lord, Jesus. Of the Sabbath Law, He once said that "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath," Note that the authority of Christ extends to the fulfillment of the Law, including the Law of the Sabbath. This does not mean that Christ denies the divine law of the Sabbath; it only means that He boldly proclaims that He, as the Word of God made flesh, is the Lord of the Sabbath, even as He was Lord of all the Law and the prophets.

In Jesus Christ then we see a fulfillment of the Law (including the Sabbath Law), and the birth of a New Testament, of which He was the Giver, Mediator, Instructor, and Divine Beginning. History gives us conclusive evidence that the Christians of the Apostolic days observed the first day of the week as the day of worship and partaking of the Lord's Supper in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ. This day. Sunday, the first day of the week, was referred to by the apostles and the Christians as "The Lord's Day." This term was unquestionably used by the Apostles and Christians, as attested to by the following Bible verses: "And upon the first day of the week when the disciples came together to break

bread . . ." (Acts 20:7), "Upon the first day of the week . . ." (I Corinthians 16:2), and "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day . . ." (Revelation 1:10).

Moshiem, in his Ecclesiastical History, Century II, Book I, Chapter 4, writes, "The Christians assembled themselves for the worship of God in private dwelling houses, in caves, and places where the dead were buried. They met on the first day of the week (Sunday), and here and there on the seventh day (Saturday), which was the Jewish Sabbath."

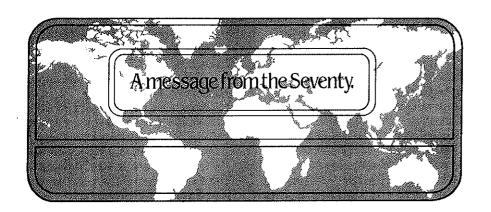
Observe that the historian emphasizes that the Christians met on the first day of the week for the worship of God. And this continued from then on. Notice that the seventh day is referred to as the "Jewish Sabbath," and that the Christians met "here and there" on that day. But, most importantly, they assembled on the first day of the week (Sunday), thus indicating that the first day was superseding the seventh day as the day for wor-

shipping God.

Moshiem, in Book I, page 178, writes, "[T]he Christians celebrated the Lord's Supper, which they were accustomed to do on Sundays. . . ." He then describes the manner in which they administered the Lord's Supper. It had now become a custom to worship God and partake of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week (Sunday). Although some of the modern theologians claim that the Sunday worship is wrong, the Word of God and ecclesiastical history support those who worship God on Sunday. If Sunday worship is in error, the early followers of Christ were also in error. We do not think they were wrong, because they were, without a doubt, men endowed with Divine inspiration. Surely, if they had been in error, God would have corrected them.

Justin Martyr, near the close of his Apology, which he presented to Antoninus Pius in A.D. 150, gives the following account: "On the day, which is called Sunday, all, whether dwelling in the towns or in the villages, hold meetings; and the memoirs of the apostles and the

(Continued on Page 11)



African Trip Successful, Potentially Far-Reaching

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

A very successful and perhaps far-reaching African missionary trip was made by Evangelists Joseph Ross and Joseph Perri last October 23 through December 9. Besides visiting existing Church locations, they went to a potential future field in Cameroon.

From the time they landed in Lagos, Nigeria on October 24, they were extremely busy, spending three days in Lagos and ten days in Ghana. Then they had to drive through the nations of Togo and Benin to go back to Nigeria because all flights had been cancelled. They spent the last five days in Cameroon before returning home. The brothers covered a total of 20,000 miles in this trip; 16,300 by air and some 3,700 by car.

Evengelist Paul Carr, the Nigerian resident missionary, met the brothers in Lagos and accompanied them until they left for Cameroon and home. This was the fifth trip for Brother Perri, and the second for Brother Ross.

GHANA

In Ghana, the three evangelists held meetings with members, officers, and visitors. They attended church services and had a Saturday conference for all. While there, they stayed in the mission home in the Church Center.

The brothers assisted in drawing up attachments, financial statements, and revising the Church

Constitution to meet government requirements. They also visited a hospital in Kumasi, and spoke to the head medical officer and nurses about an outpatient clinic to be established.

The government is interested in having churches set up human needs projects to help the people. It was determined that, for a cost of \$300 to \$350 per month, a medical clinic can be established.

NIGERIA

In Nigeria, the itinerary included attending the Nigerian Church Conference on November 11, 12, and 13; setting up five districts within Nigeria; visiting as many branches as time permitted; participating in a meeting of all Nigerian Sunday School teachers; and touring the Church's secondary school. They also visited the International Medical Assistance (IMA) clinic. Noteworthy was that the brothers carried approximately 40 sets of communion cloths for the Nigerian churches which were sent by the Ladies' Circle in the United States.

There were 1,501 people attending the Sunday Conference services. The brothers' speaking was translated into two languages, Efik and Ibo. On the Conference Saturday, the three American evangelists sat on the ministerial board, which questioned and approved nine brothers for the ministry.

Various needs came forth at the conference. One in particular was a request for a multi-purpose building on the church schoolgrounds. It would serve as a chapel for the students, a training center for ordained officers, the headquarters and office of the Church in Nigeria, and a nursery school for the children of the saints. The estimated cost for the structure is \$35,000.

The organization of the Church in Nigeria into five districts was received with overwhelming approval. The brothers traveled to five different locations in decentralizing the 54 branches and missions in Nigeria, and they held conferences at each location with the ordained officers. The five districts and their presiding officers are as follows:

Abak — George F. Arthur Ikono/Itu — Jackson Udofia Eket/Etinian — David Udoh Lagos — Adrian Etim Imo — Israel Irobi

The president of the Church in Nigeria is Evangelist E. A. U. Arthur. Although 107 years old, he is still active in leading the Church there. He is also Paramount Ruler in that nation's government, and has jurisdiction over five million people.

The brothers attended four of the five Sunday District Conference meetings. They witnessed 13 baptisms in Imo state, and participated in the confirmations.

WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

A wonderful experience was related at the Sunday service in Imo. A first-time visitor expressed a desire to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. The District Presiding Officer, Israel Irobi, told him he would have to go through the training given to "members to be." This instruction involves teaching the faith and doctrine, Law and Order, and membership responsibilities.

In response, the man said that two weeks before he had been in a coma when a heavenly messenger appeared at his bedside. He related, "I saw my spirit come out of my

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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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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 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

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

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When we think of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to others, deterrents immediately face us: They won't want to hear about God, they'll reject the Book of Mormon, etc. The beliefs, thinking, and spiritual status of people vary so much from one individual to the next that we would quickly be exhausted if we had to design a "perfect" presentation of the Gospel for each one. Yet we are commissioned to bring this Gospel forth, to the best of our ability, to men and women throughout the world.

More important than any studied approach we may take in spreading the Gospel are the principles we uphold, the priorities we set, and the daily evidences of Christ's presence in our life. These are things that we don't need to point out to those around us. Showing forth the Light of the Gospel by our example has gone largely unrecognized as the most effective method of reaching others. We can arouse the curiosity and genuine interest of people not so much by our efforts to do so as by the life that we lead and the manner in which we react to situations and interact with our fellow man.

Being filled with the peace, the joy, and the love of God is not an automatic result of being baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. After the initial "glow" of the new convert burns off, a sustained effort must be put forth for the same amount of Light to be shed continually. Only through daily prayer, fasting, meditation, reading of scriptures, and vigilance in keeping the commandments of God do we render our bodies capable of housing a measure of the Spirit of God sufficient to overflow onto those around us.

Complicating our endeavors to spread the Gospel are the obstacles and adversities each of us faces in our own lives, things which must be overcome in order for us to effectively work for the Lord. One of the Songs of Zion tells us, "Leave your troubles all behind. No time for that, there's souls to find." A determination to forsake the things which so easily beset us is essential in trying to accomplish anything for the Lord. We do not need to wait until we have overcome all things before we can shine the Light of Christ to the world. Rather, the spiritual strength and fortitude that is gained through our daily battle with the flesh will only increase our ability to work for the Lord and testify of His goodness in our lives.

While the life of a saint will do much to draw others to the Truth, we must keep in mind that no matter how much we may plant and water, it is God who ultimately does the converting. We must at times be willing to restrain our zeal, as the Spirit directs, when doing otherwise would drown the tender seedling, or prevent the young plant from taking root. If we can allow God's Spirit to flourish and increase within us to the point where people are drawn to us, we will know where to walk, who to tell, and when to speak.

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends.

Have you ever heard someone get excited and say, "Oh! Let me see the newspaper! I want to check my horoscope," or have somebody ask you, "When were you born? What astrological sign are you?" Did you know that some people actually plan their lives around things that astrologers tell them, and that some confused people actually believe in wizards and witchcraft? Plainly and clearly—this is not God's way. This is evil.

In the long-ago days of the Bible, a king named Manasseh began to rule when he was only twelve years old. We don't know who led him to do wrong (because his father, King Hezekiah, had served God before he died), but Manasseh experimented with all sorts of evil and used witchcraft and enchantments. He allowed people who called themselves wizards and astrologers to rule his life. He tried to contact spirits and brought statues into God's holy temple.

As the years passed, Manasseh grew more confused and fell deeper into believing these empty, evil religions. Soon he forced his children to practice walking over coals of fire and to pray to empty statues made of wood and stone and metal. Sin grew quickly, and soon Manasseh's whole kingdom was full of people who had forgotten the clean, strong, good laws of God. But God had not forgotten His people.

The Lord sent seers (people who serve God and can see into the future) to warn the people and King Manasseh to turn away from their evil. But they would not listen. So the Lord sent an army to fight them.



King Manasseh was captured and thrown into chains and carried far away to another country. Now who do you think Manasseh prayed to? Did he pray for help from his wizards, or from his big and little statues made of pretty wood? No—Manasseh truly knew that God was the One Great Spirit, the power of all.

Manasseh cried unto God and begged for forgiveness. He promised to serve God in truth. And what do you think God did? God heard him and forgave him and made a way for him to return to his own country. This time Manasseh did the right thing. He cleaned up his church and destroyed all the false religions that worshipped statues, and he led his entire country to return to serving God. Manasseh ruled in truth until he was 67 years old.

But when King Manasseh died, his son Amon ruled in the old wicked way. He'd been taught bad ways by his father, King Manasseh, when he was young. God allowed Amon's servants to make a secret plan to kill him, and that's what they did.

King Amon's eight-year-old son, Josiah, ruled the country now. And Josiah knew the good ways of his grandfather, King Manasseh. He returned his country to serving the one true God.

In our lives today, each of us will have choices. Children today are surrounded by a world where television cartoons and video games are filled with wizards and magicians and pretend magic. They will know all about astrology and confused religions. You all will have many chances to tell your friends about the one, real, true God, the God of love who has power over

everyone. Many of your friends won't know about The Church of Jesus Christ, or how the Lord can and will protect them. Tell them. Show them. Love them and don't be afraid.

With care, Sister Jan

II Chronicles 33

WORD SEARCH

KING	GOD
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WAS	FALSE
EVIL	IDOLS
CAPTURED	RETURNED
BY	\mathbf{TO}
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SORRY	AMON
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ASHAMED continued . . .

and we must not be ashamed of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is indeed the power of God unto the salvation of our souls. May His name be praised forever, and may we never take it for granted.

Our Women Today

PA Area Circle Meeting

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Circle meeting was held at the Monongahela Branch on November 4, 1989. Circles from Aliquippa, Glassport, Imperial, McKees Rocks, Monongahela, and West Elizabeth were represented there. Sisters Rose Ali of San Diego, CA and Florence LaRosa of Gastonia, NC were also in attendance.

Everyone was involved during the devotions. Each local read about the character of a woman in the scriptures, and the congregation guessed who they might be. Mary and Martha, Eve, Sara and Hagar, Mary and Elizabeth, Miriam, and Esther were described. Characteristics such as obedience, trustworthiness, faithfulness, and patience were noted in the lives of these women. Scriptures were read ar 'songs were sung also.

Sister Karen Progar, chairperson, welcomed everyone. All of the officers were present, and the minutes of the last meeting were read. The fund-raising project for the benefit of the Pennsylvania District missions was a huge success, with a total of \$848 collected. Donna Bogel reported that the Area Circle Retreat will be held at the Ciotti Manor in Butler, PA on March 24 and 25, 1990. A mother and daughter dinner will be held at noon on Saturday, May 5, 1990 at the Monongahela Branch Building.

Karen Progar was elected chairperson, Diane Ciotti was elected secretary, Jan Cornell as treasurer, and Margaret Roscart as auditor. The next conference will be held during the retreat. A vote of thanks was given to the Monongahela circle for their hospitality and for taking care of the potluck lunch.

The desire of each sister is to be as the sisters we read of in the scriptures; with God's help it can be done.

Pacific Coast Circle Field Trip

By Lydia Knowles

A wonderful time was had when Mexicali and the Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle came together in a united effort to break through some barriers and really get acquainted as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Several families from the Anaheim area drove to the San Diego Branch to meet with the brothers and sisters there. After a word of prayer, five carloads caravaned to Mexicali with great anticipation of the Lord's blessings.

There was a special feeling that day when all arrived. Because of the language barrier, the goal was to tear down walls and build up bridges. The goal was accomplished that day, as we visited each other and made lasting relationships.

The brothers and sisters of Santa Ana surprised everyone by joining them later that afternoon.

Time passed quickly, and everyone was beginning to get hungry. All of us, including the children, got into cars and vans and toured the colony, passing the homes of the brothers and sisters. Such poverty! Many of the homes were nothing more than huge cardboard boxes. The more fortunate had homes made of adobe brick.

After touring the colony, we drove a half hour to a beautiful Chinese restaurant in the heart of Mexicali, where reservations had been made by Sister Julia Pacheco. One hundred fifty-two people attended. We walked through an archway into a beautiful garden with fountains of running water.

Many of the saints from Mexicali had never been to a restaurant, let alone a Chinese restaurant! It was a thrill and a privilege to see their awe-filled reaction to the sights and flavors of food other than their standard frijoles, arroz, y tortillas (beans, rice, and tortillas).

They returned to the church building with the leftovers so that they could be eaten the next day. We sang songs and some gave their testimony, dismissing the day's field trip in anticipation for Sunday morning.

Branch and Mission News

Brothers visit Portland, Oregon

By Mark Randy

To love is to care. When you love people, you care for them. Acts of love follow so naturally that they at times are taken for granted. One may not even perceive what you do as demonstrations of love. Just visiting and being with loved ones offers comforting reassurance. You do things together, sensitive and

responsive to the source of all love. When a loved one is lonely or sick, love is the one indispensable ingredient in the healing process. Love promises assurance, hope, and restoration of wholeness. Your presence can be a source of caring. So are the visits to missions without a resident pastor.

On August 12, Tom Liberto of San Diego, along with Daniel Picciuto and Mark Randy of Modesto, visited the brothers and sisters in Portland, Oregon. Brother Dean Longrie and his beloved wife treated us to a royal supper. A meeting was held at Brother and Sister Lassen's home both on Saturday night and on Sunday morning.

Our meetings were presided over by Brother Liberto. Judy Hartvert, daughter of Sister Mabel Lassen, was present; she has a beautiful voice. The subject discussed by Bro. Liberto was "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewal of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. Our life is exemplified by our new walk in

(Continued on Page 8)

PORTLAND continued . . .

Christ," he said. "People will know us by what we do as well as what we say; we are the light of Christ."

Brother Picciuto also spoke on this important subject of being transformed. This would probably be his last trip to Portland, because he would soon be moving on to San Carlos, Arizona. We all wish much success to Dan on his new endeavors in San Carlos.

Everyone at the meeting gave their testimony, including Judy. A phone call came in from Sister Sharon Withrow asking us to pray for her husband, Delbert. He had a heart attack while driving, resulting in an injury.

After the service, the three of us went to the local hospital, where we met Sharon. Delbert was in the intensive care unit. Tom Liberto and I anointed him, and the nurse reported soon afterwards that Delbert could breathe on his own for the first time since the accident. For this we are thankful. In the company of these two inspired brothers, I was in good hands.

50th Anniversaries at Glassport

By Norma Wirbicki

In the Glassport, PA Branch we have two sisters who, as of October 22, 1989 completed 50 years in the service of the Almighty God. Namely, they are Sisters Ruth Akerman and Elizabeth "Suds" Staley. To their surprise that Sunday evening at our evangelistic service, they were presented with a bouquet of white carnations as a small token of the love we as a Branch have for them. In return they gave a short testimony of their love for the Lord.

Sister Ruth, was never married but has been a mother to her many nieces and nephews, providing shelter, goodly words, and direction to them and all who passed her way. She devoted over 30 years of service to both the General Missionary Benevolent Association and the General Ladies' Uplift Circle, holding the offices of GMBA Secretary and Ladies' Circle Vice President for over three decades. To recap Sister Ruth's life in a few words, I would say, as I have heard her say so often, the Lord has been all things to her, and she continues to have that faith in Him both for her natural and spiritual life. God has healed her many times, and delivered her from the valley of the shadow of death.

As for Sister Elizabeth, she has been a wife and mother of 4 sons, 2 in the Gospel and 2 "pending." Her husband Bro. Tom has been by her side for 43 years. Today, through many trials and afflictions, they are serving God together.

Both of our sisters are fighting the good fight; they have freely given to many the shelter and bounty of their homes. They have been a joy to our branch. I pray that the Lord may grant them more time to bear their testimonies, to uphold that which they have learned these past 50 years, and to continue to share their lives with all to the honor and glory of God.

We have all agreed to work for that penny at the end of the day; so far our sisters have worked many hours for that penny, but it's been worth it all, for their paths have been blessed with bountiful joys, mercies, and grace. As the poet has penned, "For mercies so great, what return can I make, for mercies so constant and sure." Along with our sisters, we at the Glassport Branch would also raise our voices to thank and praise God to have shared thus far the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Love and prayers to all.

Mexican fiesta held in Millstone/Freehold

By Carl Huttenberger

On Saturday evening October 21, the Millstone, NJ Mission held a Mexican fiesta at the Freehold Branch. For two weeks prior to this event, the mission went into fasting and prayer that this fiesta would bring in those who are searching for the Lord to be in their lives. We handed out hundreds of flyers and talked with many people in the city

of Freehold. We were privileged to have Bro. Luis Marroquin from Guatemala assist us the first weekend.

On the night of the event, we were thrilled to see all the visitors who showed up. Our sisters had spent many hours preparing authentic Mexican dishes, and were really blessed to see how the visitors enjoyed the food. We also had a narrated slide show of the Church's work in Guatemala. We did some visiting and talking with the visitors, and found them to be honest, sincere, and truly searching for solid ground in such an uncertain world. We shared with them the solid ground we have found: Jesus Christ.

The next day the mission, which now meets in the Freehold Branch at 1:00 p.m., had Brothers Paul Benyola and Sam Dell visiting with us from Levittown, PA. Again we were excited to see many visitors walk in who were at our fiesta the evening before. They even came up front to sing with us.

Bro. Sam Dell explained the basics of serving God, enumerating the ten commandments, and then giving the two commandments that Jesus Christ taught. Brother Benvola followed along the same lines. Our Brother Mario Morales interpreted for those who understood only Spanish. During the course of the meeting a sister from Freehold related a dream in which she opened a hymnal at the church building and saw the songs written in two languages. The Spirit revealed to her that they are the same in God's eyes. Incidentally, she had this dream before she even knew that the Spanish mission was planning on meeting at Freehold and preaching to the Seed of Joseph in that city.

There have been other experiences given confirming that our mission is following God's direction. In addition, God's Spirit, which is overwhelming at times, confirms that He is pleased with our efforts. One of our Mexican sisters had a dream in which she walked into another church filled with the Seed of Joseph; she noticed much confusion and arguing taking place. In her dream she yelled out and rebuked the evil spirit she felt there.

She turned and walked out, and when she did, many of the Spanish-speaking people followed our sister out, and went with her to The Church of Jesus Christ, Praise God!

We recently had a miracle healing as well. A friend of our Sister Lucy Murillo had been coming to the mission for several months. She is expecting a baby, and developed a virus infection that would certainly have been fatal. We went into fasting and prayer on Sunday. That very next Tuesday, she returned from the doctors rejoicing. The test results were negative-every one of them! The doctors were so stunned that they continued to take tests because they couldn't believe that the virus just disappeared. We could never thank God enough for this miracle in our friend's life. If we only have the faith that God can do anything, if it be in His will, He will do it!

For two Sundays in August, we had visiting with us Brother Isidro Dominguez from Guatemala. What a blessing he and Bro. Luis Marroquin have been to us here! During the visits they did much in the way of missionary work. We thank God that they took the time to visit with us. Brother Luis expressed that before he decided to come to New Jersey, he felt God prompting him very strongly to do missionary work somewhere in the eastern United States. God brought him to our mission shortly thereafter. Gloria a Dios! God bless you all as you strive to do God's will.

"And he gathereth his children from the four quarters of the earth; and he numbereth his sheep, and they know him; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd; and he shall feed his sheep, and in him they shall find pasture" (I Nephi 22:25).

Blessings in Hopelawn, New Jersey

By Linda Calabro

The Lord truly blessed the lopelawn Branch on Sunday, November 5, 1989. Our building is designed with the main floor high above ground level, with steps on

the outside leading up to the front door and down to the basement door. As a result, many of the elderly brothers and sisters have been unable to attend meetings because of difficulty in ascending and descending the stairs.

It was proposed, as a solution, that we build a ramp designed for the handicapped. For many months the construction took place. Finally we reaped the benefits of having the ramp when Sister Betty Davis, who suffers from severe arthritis, was able to worship with us this day. Sister Betty had been absent from our midst for approximately two years.

Ås we sang the opening hymn, Brother Jim Benyola was thinking of the 17th Chapter of Alma. When he aproached the pulpit, he opened right to this scripture. Bro. Joe Pittius later testified that he opened right to the identical scripture before Bro. Jim indicated what the text would be. This reaffirmed that the Lord had a message for us.

Bro. Jim spoke of Ammon, the son of Mosiah, and the choice he faced in becoming a servant to King Lamoni rather than marrying one of the King's daughters. The underlying theme of his sermon was the power of God. Brother Jim stated that this was evident as the scripture further explains that the Lamanites were unsuccessful in scattering the King's flocks, and Ammon could not be physically harmed. Brother Jim stressed that God's promise to Mosiah, that his sons would be delivered out of the hands of the Lamanites, was fulfilled in this scripture.

During our testimony service, the power of God was truly evident. Sister Betty Davis testified that as Bro. Jim spoke, she saw a bright light outlining the ministry. Sister Rose Laessig also related a vision that she had during the preaching service, in which she saw a personage behind Bro. Jim. She also saw a bright light outlining the ministry in addition to the light around Bro. Jim in the shape of a helmet and a coat of armor.

We enjoyed a beautiful day of worship. We are happy that the Lord has provided a means for our sister Betty to fellowship with us, along with the other brothers and sisters who have been absent from our midst because of afflictions. All day I reflected upon the following verse: "And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it, or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it" (I Corinthians 12:26).

Kent, Ohio Mission rejoices over ordination

By Betty Santilli

The anticipation of a blessing was evident on the faces of the many brothers, sisters, and friends who gathered at the Kent Labor Temple Hall on Sunday morning October 1, 1989. There were representatives from branches and missions throughout the Ohio and Pennsylvania Districts of the Church, including 22 members of the priesthood.

Brother Mario Milano, Presiding Elder of the Kent Mission, made the introductory remarks and announcements for the day. He welcomed everyone who had made the effort to travel the many miles to be present for the special occasion of the ordination of Bro. Adam Costarella into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio opened the morning service by bringing forth the 18th Chapter of Helaman and the 13th Chapter of Alma concerning the High Priesthood after the order of God's Son, Jesus Christ. He told of the events leading up to Christ's ministry and how, as a young boy of twelve years, Jesus was already about His Father's business in the temple at Jerusalem. There Jesus spent time with the holy men of Israel and expounded to them the holy scriptures and prophecies.

Bro. Vince Gibson of Cleveland continued on the subject of the calling of God's Son, Jesus, into the holy priesthood here upon the face of the earth. Likewise, in The Church of Jesus Christ, men are called by God to be in His royal priesthood. The nation of Israel could not see Christ as the Messiah because the

(Continued on Page 10)

KENT, OH continued . . .

religious leaders were teaching their own thoughts and opinions. They could not accept Christ's humble birth, nor the plan of redemption that would be brought forth by Christ's ministry.

The afternoon meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. with Apostle Paul Palmieri of Aliquippa, PA presiding. Bro. Palmieri presented a list of qualifications for the making of a good servant (minister) of the Church. Some of the qualifications were: Praying for guidance; fasting and praying frequently; must be understanding and reliable; must be confidential about what he hears from people, and use discretion in what he tells people; must be a good servant of God and set an example for others to follow, etc.

Bro. Adam Costarella then had his feet washed by Bro. Joe Genaro of Niles, Ohio, who offered a wonderful prayer. The elders then formed a circle around Bro. Adam and a special prayer was offered by Bro. Vince Gibson. At this point, Bro. Elmer Santilli was about to place his hands upon Bro. Adam's head to ordain him when Bro. Frank Altomare of Lorain, Ohio saw a vision of an angel and said, "I see an angel of God." He then spoke, under the inspiration of the Spirit, "I have told him (Bro. Adam) to be in this Priesthood." Truly everyone felt a special blessing, and many shed tears of joy.

Bro. Elmer Santilli then proceeded to ordain Bro. Adam, offering a very beautiful prayer in which he asked God to bless Bro. Adam with the spirit of prayer and preaching which his late grandfather, Bro. Frank Wooley, carried with him during his ministry. At the conclusion of the ordination prayer, the word of the Lord came forth once more, through Bro. Frank Palacios of Lorain, Ohio, "This is my will, saith the Lord. I have called him.'

Bro. Adam then expressed how he came into the Church and the experience of his calling into the ministry. He related that two years ago it was told to him, by an angel of the Lord, that he would be called into the priesthood. His experience

confirmed the manifestations of God's Spirit that we witnessed today. Many other wonderful testimonies were given by the brothers and sisters following Bro. Adam's words. Several further confirmed God's hand in the things that took place this day. The blessings of God and tears of joy came forth continually throughout the entire day. The Kent Mission truly appreciated the presence of all who came for the gathering (approximately 200 people). We ask for your prayers, that the Lord may continue to bless the mission in Kent.

MESSAGE continued . . .

body and the messenger and I stood looking at my body. The messenger said to me, 'You will receive your life again only if you get baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ,' and he said that The Church of Jesus Christ is in Umapara, a village located miles from my home. The messenger said, "There is only one Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, that belongs to Christ.'

"I promised I would be baptized in that church if my life were

returned to me. The messenger said, 'Good.' I saw my spirit reenter my body, and I immediately awoke. Today I have come to The Church of Jesus Christ as commanded by the heavenly messenger."

At Imo, the brothers also attended a "Foundation Ceremony" of a new church building being constructed at Itungwa, and each brother participated by laying a foundation stone. Our Nigerian brothers and sisters are financing the construction of the building.

In March of 1988, there were two branches in the Imo District. Today there are sixteen. The Church is growing rapidly in Nigeria, as the emphasis has been placed on evangelizing the Restored Gospel.

CHURCH SCHOOL VISITED

While in Nigeria, the brothers visited The Church of Jesus Christ Secondary School. Morning devotions are still held with all students, teaching the Church's faith and doctrine. The school was selected by the governor to host the state-wide sporting competition in January 1990.

The IMA Clinic is still maintaining its excellent reputation among



Church in Nigeria. Deacon (standing) monitors behavior. Women sit separate from men, typically cover their heads.

the Nigerians in that area. It is also involved in a government immunization program to help the people. Although independently run, the efforts and humanitarian work being done at the clinic have furthered the positive image of the Church in the eyes of the Nigerian people.

STOP IN CAMEROON

The last place Evangelists Ross and Perri visited was in Cameroon. They had been requested to go there by a young woman by the name of Laurentine, who had attended services one Sunday in McKees Rocks, PA in the summer of 1988. Sister Mary Joswiak of that branch had given her her testimony.

Since her return to Africa, Laurentine had been in constant touch with the McKees Rocks Branch, asking that the visit be made. The brothers felt directed to go there, and they spent five days telling as many people as possible about the Gospel. No doubt, if it is the Lord's will, this work will fle rish in the future.

As Brothers Ross and Perri returned home, they expressed their gratitude for God's preparation, direction, and protection. They stated that they are very enthused about the Lord's work being done in Africa.

Brother Ross, who is chairman of the Church's Foreign Missions Committee, also indicated that Brother Paul and Sister Thressa Carr and their family will be returning to the United States in April, having served seven years in Nigeria. The African Committee coordinators are seeking replacements. Anyone who is interested could contact either Brother Joseph Ross or Nephi DeMercurio.

A slide presentation of the African work is being readied. Any branch or mission wanting to show it should contact Brother Ross.

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

writings of the apostles are read. . . . We all commonly hold assemblies on Sunday because it is the first day on which God converted the darkness and matter, and framed the world; and Jesus Christ, our Savior, on the same day arose from the dead."

Again note that in A.D. 150 the disciples were still meeting on the first day of the week, plainly called by them "Sunday." The writer Justin Martyr compares the resurrection of Christ, which took place on the first day of the week, to God's conversion of darkness and matter on the first day of Creation.

In the beginning of Creation, on the first day God said, "Let there be light." And so it was. His first work was to create light, because it is essential to life and progress. Without light there can neither be life nor progress. Darken the light of the sun and all life would quickly perish, and deterioration would set in and shortly the earth would die.

Likewise, if Christ had not risen, the world would have remained in spiritual darkness. But Christ arose on the first day of the week and the glorious light of His love and life began to illuminate the entire world. Now, at His resurrection, life and progress really commenced, on the first day, or Sunday. (Concluded in next month's column.)

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Mario G. Zaccagnini 23150 Urban Drive Mt. Clemens, MI 48045 Tel. (313) 598-9224

Kimberly Schafer 1089 Carrol Lane Hermitage, PA 16148 Tel. (412) 981-3568

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* WEDDINGS *

De ROO-GERACE

Brother Chris De Roo and Sister Rebekah Gerace were married on August 26, 1989 at Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Bro. Eugene Amormino officiated at the wedding ceremony, with musical selections sung by Sis. Donna Amormino and Bro. Steve Champine. Sister Tracey Francione was pianist.

The couple are residing in the Detroit area. May the Lord bless them in their new life together.

HARRIS-BATALUCCO

Mr. Tom M. Harris and Miss Deana L. Batalucco were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, September 2, 1989 in Saline, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo and R. James Cotellesse. Musical selections were sung by Brother Leonard A. and Sister Loretta Lovalvo, accompanied by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

The couple is residing in Ypsilanti, Michigan. May God's richest blessings be with them always.

(Continued on Page 12)

WEDDINGS continued . . .

ROGOLINO-MAGARA

Brother Thomas Matthew Rogolino and Sister Michelle Ann Magara were united in marriage on Saturday, September 30, 1989 at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Paul Benyola officiated at the ceremony. Bro. James L. Speck of the Levittown, PA Branch was soloist. Special appreciation is expressed to Richard Benyola for his musical selections at the organ, in light of the fact that he had experienced the loss of his father earlier in the week.

The young couple will make their home in North Brunswick, New Jersey. May God bless them.

New Arrivals

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

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

Leah Lynn to Melvin and Karen Bickerstaff of

Glassport, Pennsylvania.

Samantha Erin to Michael and Jan Capone of

Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

Chelsea Alexandra to Joseph and Darlene Ignagni of Dallas, Texas.

Children Blessed

Joshua Gordon Morris, son of Gordie and Sister Monica (Manes) Morris, was blessed on December 24, 1989 at Kinsman, Ohio by Brother Philip Jackson.

Add	ress Cha	inge
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OBITUARIES

SARA SISLEY

Sister Sarah (Pierce) Sisley passed from this life on September 28, 1989. A member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, she was born on September 25, 1915 and baptized into the Church on June 2, 1935. She was ordained a deaconess in 1971.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Mat-

thew Laktash and John Kendall.

Our sister is survived by two sons, three daughters, fourteen grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren, as well as two brothers and two sisters. May the Lord comfort those who feel her absence.

CLAIR MOREY

Brother Clair Morey of the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to his eternal reward on October 21, 1989. He was born on January 23, 1910 and was baptized in July of 1982 by Bro. Mark Kovacic.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers

Harold Burge and T. D. Bucci.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Ethel, a son, and a daughter.

JOHN FANTAZIER

Brother John C. Fantazier, Sr. passed away on December 7, 1989. A member of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch, he was baptized on July 23, 1939. At the time of his death he was 75 years old.

The funeral was officiated by Brother Leonard

Benyola.

Our brother is survived by his wife Mary, two daughters, a son, three sisters, and ten grandchildren.

Brother John's life was taken very quickly, as by a thief in the night. Though he is missed by his loved ones, the memories of his kind words and friendly smile still remain.

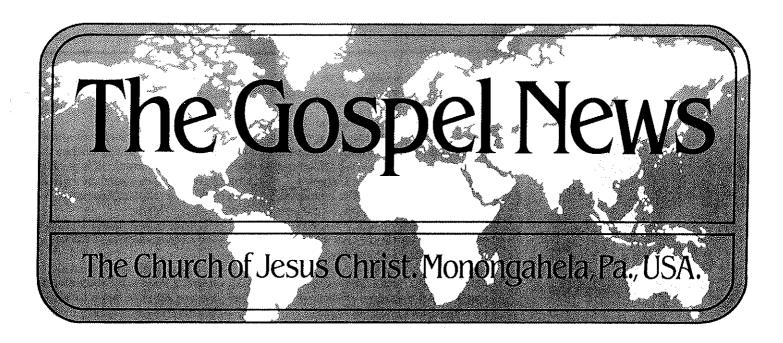
JOSEPHINE BENYOLA

Sister Josephine Benyola of the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on December 12, 1989 at the age of 80. She was baptized on October 11, 1931.

Brothers James Benyola of Hopelawn and George Benyola of Dallas, Texas officiated at the funeral.

Our sister is survived by four sons, Paul, James, George, and Philip; two daughters, Mary Persico and Carol Higgins; two brothers, three sisters, twenty grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

Sister Josephine never failed to give her testimony in praise to God. She was loved by many saints, and her absence is greatly felt. May she rest in peace for eternity with the saints who have passed on.



March, 1990

Volume 46, No. 3

Evangelist Ordained

By Jeffrey Giannetti

On Sunday, October 22, 1989 Brother Joseph Ross was ordained a member of the Quorum of Seveny Evangelists. This, of course, was a very special day for the members, friends, and family of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch as we, along with visitors from Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, celebrated the calling of another worker into the quorum.

With much anticipation, our day began with an address from General Church President Dominic Thomas. Our brother read from the New Testament account of the Lord sending out the seventy and the report of their glorious experiences. Brother Dominic explained the power present in that day and time is the same power our priesthood is equipped with today.

Our brother continued, instructing us to rejoice in the knowledge of this power. But, as the scripture states, we must take even greater joy in the knowledge that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. Bro. Dominic encouraged us to do all we can to ensure that our names and the names of others will never be erased from that book. We greatly enjoyed the words of our brother and thank God for the inspiration He gives.

Following our Brother Dominic

in speaking were Apostles Russell Cadman, Joseph Bittinger, and Paul Palmieri, each adding their thoughts to the chosen topic and adding to the blessings of the day. The Giannetti brothers followed the speaking with an appropriate hymn, Consume Me Lord, which speaks of giving ourselves completely to God for His use and purposes. A timely message for the day's events.

It was now time for the ordination to take place. Following the reading of the duties of an evangelist and several powerful experiences confirming our brother's calling, Bro. Richard Lawson of the McKees Rocks Branch washed Brother Joe's feet. He was then ordained by Bro. James Moore, Jr. of the Imperial Branch.

We thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ, to whom the Lord has entrusted the furthering of His kingdom on earth. And, we praise God, for He continues to call laborers to spread this Gospel and bring the news of salvation to the four quarters of the earth. As Brother Ross expressed himself, all could feel the Lord had truly called another worker. We adjourned our day with a delicious lunch and with continued prayer for our brother and his added responsibility. May we continue to remember Brother Joe, along with the many other newly-ordained evangelists. Theirs is truly a great work to do.

Dallas, TX becomes established mission

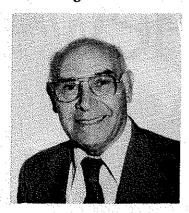
By Darlene Ignagni

The Dallas, Texas Mission has much to be thankful for in reflecting on the past year. After much fasting and prayer by a diligent few, Dallas has seen great growth. Bro. George Benyola, our presiding elder, and his wife Sis. Stella, had the joy of seeing two of their children baptized. Sis. Janice and her husband Bro. Duane Lovalvo moved to the Dallas area this past summer. God has blessed them with jobs and a new home. Bro. George Benvola, Jr. moved back to the area, soon to be joined by his fiancee Sis. Pam D'Orazio from Florida. God also paved the way for the Huttenberger family: Bro. Jim, Sis. Lynette, and their two children to leave California and make Texas their new home. All in all, there have been eight new members added to the Dallas family of Christ.

Due to this growth and the addition of another elder, Dallas was ready to become an established mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. This historic event took place on October 29, 1989. Brothers Isaac Smith and Barry Mazzeo traveled from Arizona to aid the mission in this effort. It was to be a weekend

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Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Does Jesus care when my way is dark, with nameless dread and fear? As the daylight fades into deep night shades, does He care enough to be near? Oh yes, He cares, I know He cares. -By F. E. Graeff

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid" (Isaiah 12:2).

Shortly after we came to California to begin a new mission, we received a telephone call from Fort Ord Marine Camp. The voice was Anthony Picciuto of Ohio, who had served time in the tragic war of Korea. By this time several had been baptized and we held meetings in a rented hall.

It was then that we had read of one of the miracles in that war. We had read in our local news how God gave two good friends courage to do the impossible.

The place was over North Korea, during a bombing mission. These two good friends, Navy pilots, were returning from that mission when suddenly an antiaircraft shell ripped open the cockpit of Ensign Kenneth Schecter's plane. Jagged splinters of steel slashed into his face and embedded themselves into his flesh. Although dazed and bleeding, he pulled back his stick to climb out of danger before blacking out.

Moments later he revived, only to face a greater horror. Panic-stricken, he cried out, "I am blind! Help me! Please, help me! I am blind!" Flying below him, Lt. Howard Thayer heard the cry for help over the radio. With a prayer

in his heart, he accepted the responsibility of going to the rescue of the wounded pilot.

Schecter was so weak and dazed that Thaver's first task was to rouse him and make him respond to flight instructions. At first he did not follow orders. Then Thayer identified himself, and the sound of his friend's name revived Schecter's hope for survival. They were buddies on the aircraft carrier Valley Forge. He had faith in Thayer; now he pulled his plane out of its climb and leveled off. As Thayer flew alongside the damaged plane, he was shocked to see how badly wounded his friend was. He could not imagine him landing the plane. Quietly he suggested that he guide Schecter to an area over water, where he could bail out and be picked up by a Navy destroyer. "No!" Schecter shouted over his radio. "Get me down! Let me land! Let me land!"

The nearest army base was thirty miles away. Thayer directed Schecter and got him on course, but within minutes he saw that the wounded pilot was weakening rapidly and couldn't stay conscious long enough to fly that far. There was only one choice left-an emergency landing. Fortune was on their side. A clearing below proved to be a small abandoned airport cared for by a few soldiers. The rough gravel runway was short, and hardly the best choice even for an able-bodied pilot. But it was Schecter's only chance.

Now the real ordeal began. Shecter's life was entirely in Thayer's hands and God's. There could be no trial run. One error in judgment could mean Schecter's life. With a prayer, Thayer began giving landing instructions; weak as Schecter was, he drew on that inner source of strength, which "God gives to his children in a moment of desperate need." With complete faith he followed Thayer's instructions. The plane dropped down lower and lower. He cut the engine. This was the crucial moment. Would he make it, or would he crash?

He skidded in on the plane's belly. It lurched—slid—yards and yards, and then, finally stopped. Kenneth Schecter was safe!

With the help of God and a friend he had done the impossible—he had landed blind. "Does Jesus (care?"

So trust in God, however dark the way, and wait with patience for the morning to break: Cling to His hand until the dawn of day. In His own likeness we shall then awake. —By A. H. Ackley

"Why are you fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:40).

Brother Anthony Picciuto's visits were a blessing then and still are, as are all who come to visit us.

We will trust in God no matter what comes against us and not be afraid.

When Schecter head the sound of Thayer, his friend's voice revived his hope for survival. They were both men of prayer.

How about you and me? Are we revived at the name of Jesus, our friend and Lord?

May God bless the reader.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Armstrong, Dora (Palacios) 1303 W. 37th Street Lorain, OH 44053 Telephone (216) 960-0453

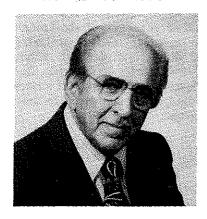
Calabrese, Joel & Edna 1244 W. Main Street Ashland, OH 44805

Nardozzi, Leonard & Tammy 1875 E. 30th Street Lorain, OH 44055

Palacios, Joann 4401 Tranquility Lane W. Lorain, OH 44053 Telephone (216) 960-1497

Vitto, Paul & Mary 16587 Congress Dr. Mt. Clemens, MI 48044

It Is Written



By V. James Lovalvo

The Sabbath Day

Is it any wonder that the apostles and disciples of Jesus worshipped on the first day of the week? They understood the Divine significance of His resurrection on the first day. Hence, they called it "The Lord's Day," in His honor. The seventh day was superseded by the first day, Sunday. Let us continue with a little more history.

It is written in Moshiem's Ecclesiastical History, Century I, Book I, Chapter 4, Paragraph 4, "The Christians of this century assembled for the Worship of God, and for their advancement in piety, on the first day of the week; the day on which Christ reassumed His life. For that this day was set apart for religious worship by the apostles themselves, and that after the example of the Church in Jerusalem, it was generally observed, we have unexceptionable testimony."

Gabriel Albaspinaeus, in his Ecclesiastical History, Book I, Page 53, writes, "In vain some learned men labor to persuade us, that in all the early Churches, both the first and last days of the week were held sacred. The Churches in Bithynia, mentioned by Pliny, devoted but one day to their public worship; and beyond all controversy, that was what we call the Lord's Day, or the first day of the week.

Eusebius, in his *Ecclesiastical History*, Volume I, Page 168, writes, "So then, synods and assemblies and bishops came together and unanimously drew up

in letters an ecclesiastical decree for the faithful everywhere, to the effect that the mystery of the Lord's resurrection from the dead should never be celebrated on any other day but the Lord's Day (Sunday), and that on that day alone we should observe the close of the Paschal feast."

We believe we have given the reader sufficient proof, biblically and historically, that the worshipping of God on the *first* day of the week, or Sunday, does not constitute a breaking of the Sabbath Law as given to Moses, but rather a fulfillment of it, and that it was taught by the apostles and observed by the early Christians. We believe the observance of Sunday worship was given by Divine inspiration; if not, God would have revealed otherwise.

We write this article with prejudice toward not church or person, but only in the hope that this controversial subject can be cleared up in the minds of any who may be confused over it. For the members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we say in conclusion that when the Gospel was restored, the Lord blessed the saints as they met on Sunday. If god had wanted us to worship Him on the seventh day (Saturday), He certainly would have revealed it. As a Church, we counsel all our members to keep our "Sabbath" (Sunday) holy unto the Lord. As a word of warning, be not attracted to the world, but rather live so the world will be attracted to the Lord by our righteous example.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has come to my attention (and others') recently that the question of whether Saturday is the true Sabbath or whether Sunday should be the Sabbath of the saints has arisen again. The initiation of this subject has caused some consternation among many of our Church members.

As a point of information, if any church (or individual) is persuaded to worship on Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath), then the *whole* law of the Sabbath, as recorded in the Old Testament, should be kept inviolate. Do not be deceived, my brothers and sisters; those who believe in keeping holy the seventh day (Saturday) as their Sabbath are still under the law of Moses, and therefore should live according to the law of Moses. Following are some scriptural prohibitions for those Christians who believe in worshipping on the seventh day (Saturday):

"Ye shall kindle no fire throughout your habitations upon the Sabbath day" (Exodus 35:3).

the Sabbath day" (Exodus 35:3).

"And on the Sabbath day two lambs of the first year without spot, and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering, mingled with oil, and the drink offering thereof; This is the burnt offering of every sabbath, beside the continual burnt offering, and his drink offering" (Numbers 28:9 & 10).

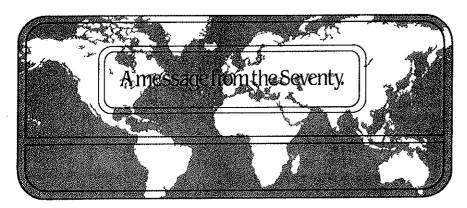
To those who say that Christians should keep Saturday as their Sabbath, no gas, oil, or coal furnaces or stoves may be lit on the Sabbath, for heating nor cooking, lest the occupants of the home be guilty of breaking the law. In addition, they must offer up two lambs and two tenth deals of flour for a meat offering every Sabbath.

These laws are just a very few of the many that Sabbath-keepers must observe to do. Read Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Numbers, where all the laws of the Sabbath are written.

Christ came to fulfill the law; and His resurrection brought about a new day, as I have written in the above article, The Sabbath Day.

In conclusion, permit me to repeat what I have written in the article, i.e., if the Lord wanted Saturday to be kept as His Sabbath, He would have revealed it to Joseph Smith when the Gospel was restored. Also, if Saturday was to be God's Sabbath for us, He would have revealed it to William Bickerton and those with him before The Church of Jesus Christ was organized in 1862.

The evil forces have many ways to attempt a deception against the people of God. Let's be on the alert and guard ourselves against the encroachments of evil. The Lord will protect all those who love and serve Him.



Why Be Missionary-Minded?

By John Manes

(The Church of Jesus Christ is involved in missionary work in many places around the world. Efforts are being expended close to home locations as well as many miles away in different lands. Reasons for these endeavors are explained by Evangelist John Manes, Chairman of the Pennsylvania District missionary activities, in this article.—Evangelist Editor)

Without the Spirit of God in our lives, we would probably tend to be selfish individuals. We would be without insights of spiritual goals, the joy of salvation, and the plan to benefit the human family. Overall, there would be no spiritual guidance.

Christ paid the price at Calvary, where He died so that men and women could have the opportunity to know God and reap the benefits available through Him. He desires that we enjoy blessings in this life, and then be with Him and our Heavenly Father for eternity.

Through our conversion into the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we have been imbued with the love of God. This is a love that has no bounds, and which manifests itself to the human family through compassion—concern for others, which includes their spiritual needs. If, indeed, we possess the love of God, we love as God loves us; and His love is boundless. It follows, then, that we would want to tell others about God's love and how He demonstrated this, as recorded in John 3:16-17:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

REASONS FOR MISSIONARY WORK

Our thoughts for others, therefore, are that we would want them to know about salvation and how it can be achieved. The way of salvation must be presented so those who are interested in following it may do so.

Should the question of why the Church is so devoted to missionary work be asked, you need only refer to Mark 16:15, where Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection. He told them to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.

Today, His commission remains the same. God's plan to restore the human race into a divine relationship with Him for eternity has not changed. It is our duty and responsibility to make an attempt to impart this joy to others, whether at home or in foreign lands. We have received the knowledge of God's plan, and thus we should tell others about it.

After the conversion of the sons of Mosiah, they were very desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, for they could not bear the thought that any human soul should perish. Because of the

love of God which motivated them to be concerned about others, they received permission from their father to go among the Lamanites to preach the Gospel to them (Book of Mormon, Mosiah 28). Although they experienced hardship, God blessed them with great success in seeing many converted to the Gospel.

VALUE ON BLESSINGS

How much value do we place upon the blessings of God in our lives? We know they are the greatest treasures we can have. The pattern to obtain eternal life, the peace which God grants in our lives though there may be turmoil around us, and the comfort He gives us in our hour of need are just three benefits we can quickly identify. Of course, there are many others.

It has been proven that, as we extend ourselves toward people, God will extend Himself more abundantly towards us. Although this is not the primary reason for our spreading the Gospel of Christ through missionary activities, it is nevertheless an irrefutable benefit which we receive. As evidence in the Church, it has been found that a branch which is oriented toward missionary work is a branch which God blesses immensely.

Though we might not all be able to travel many miles away on missionary endeavors, we can be supportive to those who receive it. Our monthly fast and prayer services in all branches and missions certainly can be used as a joint effort, as they have in the past, to move the Hand of God on these matters. How marvelous it is to know that God answers our prayers!

Giving of resources also goes a long way toward permitting missionary workers to get out into the fields. Their success depends largely on it. Requests are coming from various parts of the world, and many people are asking important questions about how they can receive salvation. Our financial assets directed toward missionary endeavors become investments in souls, and should not be considered

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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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR Mary Tamburrino 160 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 615 Birch Dr. Euclid, OH 44132

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

With a few exceptions, the branches and missions of The Church of Jesus Christ today consist of a majority of brothers and sisters who were born and raised in the Church, with considerably fewer members who became acquainted with the Gospel later in life. This condition may at times lead newly-baptized members, eager to please God and find their place in the Church, to conform to the ways of their new brothers and sisters, and change their lifestyles accordingly. As easy as these "obedient" members might make things for those of us who are responsible for teaching them the ways of the Gospel, the idea of conforming to group behavior—even if that group is the Church—is not, and never will be, a substitute for keeping the commandments of God and serving Him in Spirit, in truth, and with understanding.

When we encounter new converts from outside the Church who feel less of a need to conform to group behavior, many of us in the Church may be guilty of thinking, from time to time, how wonderful it would be if these new members would "fall in and tow the line" as readily as others might seem to.

As upright and outstanding as this desire initially appears, we must be careful that we are not fostering puritanical, dictatorial, traditional attitudes that have little or nothing to do with the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. These teachings crowd out any opportunity for the Liberty of the Spirit and the Joy of the Gospel to come shining forth. If we can only allow the Spirit of God to be a common denominator in all of us, we will be able to judge motives rather than actions, and be more tolerant of ways different from our own. The Spirit of God will give us a desire to listen to and understand one another, a respect for our fellow laborer's desire to serve God, and above all, a love for all mankind that will transcend the petty differences that arise when we, as unique individuals, gather together to worship Him.

The work of spreading the Gospel is gaining momentum, and those of us who were born and raised in the Church will one day find ourselves *very much* in the minority. It would be foolish for us to imagine that in that day we will be looked upon in the Church as some kind of privileged, high-born class of people. Rather, we will need to become expert at not being easily offended by the non-traditional ways we will encounter as the tide of new brothers and sisters comes in. We will be called upon to teach them the ways of the Lord, *not* our own ways or the ways of our grandparents. Every tradition that we were ever taught, if it is not part of the Faith and Doctrine of the Church, will be questioned and challenged by thousands of men and women whose desire to serve the Lord will be every bit as strong as our own.

When that day comes, the phrase "because that's the way we've always done it" will have no meaning. In preparation for that day, let us be certain, especially when teaching our new members, that we are separating sound doctrine from mere tradition and opinion, and that we are using that sharply-honed two-edged sword, the Word of God, to make the distinction.

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock



The Best Value Is a Belief in God

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you heard the new popular song on the radio that says, "Opposites attract"? The song is about two people who are interested in and value totally different things. The song wants us to believe that it is fun and exciting to be with or to be in love with someone who has opposite values from our own.

Have you ever had a friend that you wanted to be with who never could be counted on to want to play the same things you do, or see the same movie or go to the same place? Do you remember at first how you would try to talk them into liking (valuing) the same things? Do you remember how it feels to try really, really hard to get them to join you and have them say "no" and hurt your feelings?

Well at first it may be exciting and interesting to see just what a person who valued opposite things would do. But then it gets upsetting and discouraging. The Bible tells us in II Corinthians 6:14 not to try and be with or work with people that do this to us.

It is especially important for you to keep safe the treasure that God has given you, which is the love of His powerful Son, Jesus. Jesus will always be there for you, in the dark, in the night. But no one person can ever be.

Think now about what things in your life are really, really important to you. If you had to pay money for them, what things would have the greatest value to you? Make a list of ten things that you value. Remember values like your family, having a safe home, having true

friends that won't lie to you or hurt you.

It's important for you to know your own values so you know what to look for in a friend. It's a happy, safe feeling to share the same things. Write down what you like to do with your free time. Do you value animals, or like to read? Do you like puzzles or talking? Do you like to sing or do you like lots of peace and quiet?

Think about what you want in life. Then go find a friend who will help you be you. Find a friend who feels good about your values, and will help you do what is best for you, and share with you.

You can't change people, no matter how much you love them or care about them. But they can change themselves. Figure out your values and share them with someone new. You might just have a new friend.

And remember that some values will change. Something you might like this year may be something you don't value next year. But some things you value will never change. Especially Jesus. His love for you will never change. His power to help you will never change. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. His value is above gold.

WORD SEARCH

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Our Women Today

Meaford Ladies' Circle Weekend

By Marilyn Juniper

Recently the Meaford, Ontario Ladies' Circle gathered at Destination Inn in Owen Sound, Ontario. The weekend was set aside that they might study God's word, fellowship, and put aside the daily tasks. The brothers kindly consented to take care of home and children.

Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, General Circle Vice President, was the guest speaker. She related that though she traveled from Ann Arbor, Michigan by herself, the trip was peaceful and trouble free. The Lord was with her.

On Friday evening Sis. Lorraine shared some of the experiences she had during her stay in Africa. Saturday morning after breakfast there was a seminar on the topic of Ruth and Naomi, led by Sister DeMercurio. Sister Marilyn Juniper prayed and Sister Jane Elzby welcomed everyone. Each sister was given a small craft project to put together and take with her for a keepsake.

We viewed some photographs taken at different Ladies' Circle functions, and fellowshipped together. The sisters truly received a beautiful blessing that weekend.

Branch and Mission News

Sterling bids farewell to two sisters

By Hazel Zoltek

On Sunday night, November 26, the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch had a special meeting to bid farewell to two of our sisters, Diane Hawkins and Tamara Brown. We had visitors from all the nearby branches.

Sister Diane had transferred to Sterling Heights from Branch 3 in 1980. At the time we were in desperate need of a piano player, and Sister Diane fulfilled that need. We have greatly appreciated the contribution of her talents to our branch. She has a beautiful voice, and has sung solos for us on many occasions. Over the years, she helped make our Sunday School Christmas programs a success, and has helped with the Vacation Bible Schools as well.

On two previous occasions our sister's husband was advised that he would be transferred to another location on his job. Sister Diane implored the brothers and sisters to pray that this would not happen. The prayers were answered and the transfers were cancelled. But now John, who was chief pilot in Detroit for a corporation's private fleet, was promoted to a management position at the corporate head-quarters in East Hartford, Connecticut.

There is no branch or mission of the Church there, and our sister knew she would miss the Church desperately. But the sun broke through the clouds when Diane was advised that an elder of the Church, Bro. Henry Cardillo, and his wife, Sister Saundra, will be moving to Hartford soon because of a job transfer. Let us pray that a mission will be established there. They have an elder there and a piano player—all they need is a congregation! There is nothing that Jesus cannot do.

Secondly, our Sister Tamara (Tamy) Brown transferred to Sterling Heights from Branch 3 in November of 1984. She is leaving the Detroit area to live in Modesto, California with her new husband, Brother Samuel Camarda, who happened to be Sister Diane Hawkins' first cousin. The two sisters had been close friends for years, and now, as Sister Tamy testified, she will be adopted into the family through her marriage to Bro. Sam.

Brother Steve Champine sang a special song and dedicated it to the sisters, and then, by special request, he and Sister Diane sang The Lord's Prayer as a duet. This writer feels that no one can sing it as they do. Brother Lou Vitto asked both the sisters to give their testimony, and both were very tearful. We all sang God Be with You Till We Meet Again to dismiss our service.

We retired to the basement for a social. The branch provided a huge cake, decorated with the names of our departing sisters. A feast of desserts, spread out for everyone to enjoy, was provided by the sisters from Sterling Heights and Branch 3.

We will miss our two sisters very much, and we know that their families will miss them even more. We all wish them much happiness in their new homes.

Ordinations in Lorain

By Iva Davis

On Sunday, August 6, 1989 Bro. Joe Calabrese opened our meeting on the topic of the structure of our Church. He encouraged Brother Leonard Nardozzi, who was being ordained a deacon this day.

Bro. Joe read a couple of experiences, and Sis. Tammy Nardozzi, our brother's companion, also related a dream she had had, in which a man dressed in a military uniform arrived in a jeep. He was like a commander-in-chief. She saw Bro. Leonard get in the jeep with him. He was wearing the same kind of uniform as the man. This man placed one hand on Bro. Leonard's

shoulder and said, "There is so much work to be done, and so few to do the work," and then they drove off together. Bro. Mark Naro washed our Brother Leonard's feet and Bro. Joel Calabrese ordained him.

On Sunday, September 24, 1989 we witnessed another ordination. Brother Mark Naro was called to be an elder. Bro. Joel Calabrese washed Bro. Mark's feet and Bro. Joe Calabrese ordained him. Bro. Frank Altomare had had a dream in which he saw two trees. These trees were in bloom. He felt at the time that these trees represented Brothers Leonard and Mark being called into these offices.

Bro. Mark's calling was confirmed when a brother spoke under the inspiration of the Spirit just as Bro. Mark was getting up from the chair he was ordained in. The word came forth, "He is mine, saith the Lord." Shortly afterward, another brother spoke, "As long as you will follow My commandments and teachings, that tree will bloom."

Our prayer is that these brothers will continue to bloom spiritually and labor to increase God's kingdom.

Visitors at Modesto, CA

By Mark Randy

"Rejoice in the Lord always: And again I say, rejoice" (Philippians 4:4). We truly rejoiced on Sunday, November 5, 1989. We had the joy of seeing Bro. John and his beloved wife, Sister Carol DiBattista for the first time, and another beautiful surprise greeted us when we saw our beloved Apostle Paul Palmieri of Aliquippa, PA in our midst.

Brother Paul's subject was Bartimeus, the son of Timeus, who sat by the highway begging and heard the great crowd passing by; Jesus of Nazareth was there. The blind man cried, "Jesus, son of David, have mercy on me" (Luke 18:41). In writing on the same subject, Mark witnessed that Jesus stood still. He commanded that the man who was

(Continued on Page 8)

MODESTO continued . . .

crying out be called forward. Casting away his garments, Bartimeus came to Jesus; it was a joyous experience.

Bro. Palmieri proceeded to read Luke 19:1, in which Zaccheus, a small rich man who wanted to see Jesus, climbed into a sycamore tree. Jesus also stood still for this chief of publicans, and called to him, "Zaccheus, come down, for today I must abide at your house." While Bartimeus was blind, and his eyes were opened, Zaccheus' eyes were also opened when, after dining, he said to the Lord, "Behold Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor: and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore to him fourfold." Then Jesus said unto him, "This day salvation comes to this house.'

Our brother went on to tell of his parents' coming into the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and how his life was affected by it. He related a personal experience: Upon completing his college degree, he applied for a job and had to take an examination. One question on the exam was not familiar to him. He excused himself, and went into the restroom where he prayed, "Lord, I do not know the answer, but I do need the job; help me, that when I complete the exam, you would make up the difference." After they looked at the exam he was asked, "When can you start work?"

Bro. Paul told us, "I have learned to do my best, but God always makes up the difference." He urged us to trust in God; He makes the difference in our lives.

Brother John DiBattista expressed himself following Bro. Paul's message, saying that the love of God toward us, and the love of God we show toward one another, does make the difference, when we trust in God.

Bro. Joe Lovalvo spoke in Italian, as we had two Italian visitors in our midst. Love was not just talked about, it was felt in our hearts. The testimonies we heard seemed to top it all.

Presiding Elder Leonard Lovalvo gave the final address, exhorting those who have not yet been baptized to make Jesus Christ their Lord, and prove Him. "He will make the difference in your life," he said. And indeed He does. This was a beautiful day, indeed. Jesus "stood still" for us, and we invited Him into our hearts. King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.

Jesus Christ does make the difference in your life at home, at school, and at work. Believe, and it will come to pass. The grace of Jesus Christ be with you.

Detroit Branch 4 visits Kirtland, Ohio

By Betty Santilli

"Welcome to The House of The Lord" are the words inscribed on a plague inside the Kirtland Temple, located in scenic Kirtland, Ohio. On Saturday afternoon October 22, a busload of brothers and sisters traveled from Michigan to Ohio to spend some time viewing a very important location in the history of the Restoration. A tourguide from the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ escorted the brothers and sisters to the museum center where they viewed a film on the background of Joseph Smith, Jr. and other prominent people involved in the translating of the Book of Mormon and the building of the historic temple.

On Saturday evening my husband and I, along with my parents, Brother and Sister Mario Milano, met with the brothers and sisters at a nearby restaurant to become acquainted and to enjoy a nice dinner. It was wonderful to meet some of the saints for the first time and to be able to sit and get reacquainted with our cousins of the LaCivita and Nerone families.

The weather was crisp, but the sun was shining very brightly on Sunday morning as the brothers and sisters of Perry, Ohio anxiously awaited the arrival of the bus that was bringing the Detroit saints in for the worship service. This was the first time that a busload of people had come to fellowship with the Perry Branch. Yes, it was history in the making! We felt such a love as the brothers and sisters of Detroit came through the front

door of the church. The Perry Branch also has a plaque on the wall of the entrance that reads, "Welcome to The House of The Lord."

The first speaker of the morning was Bro. Kerry Carlini from Detroit. He related that he had learned much history during this weekend and that he, likewise, had much history to bring with him. His grandfather, the late Brother Emil Carlini, had, along with other brothers now departed, plastered the walls and created the beautiful cornice adorning the interior of the Perry church building. It was indeed wonderful to hear our recently-ordained elder tell of his grandfather's natural and spiritual works. Bro. Kerry spoke from the 4th Chapter of Malachi, verses 1 through 6, concerning the wrath of God that is coming upon this continent. He urged all of us to "prepare ye the way of the Lord." We must all prepare ourselves for the coming forth of Zion, and realize that God's word is being fulfilled.

Bro. Adam Costarella of Kent, Ohio followed, saying, "We must have that simple faith in God to help us prepare ourselves for the things that are to come." He stressed that we must live close to God. Bro. Tullio LaCivita of Detroit spoke next, stating that if we are serving God, we need not fear the events that are to come. He told us to uplift one another, and to give 100% of ourselves to the Lord's work.

Bro. Richard Santilli of Youngstown was visiting in Perry that day also. Bro. Richard reminded us that it was the Spirit of God that led Christopher Columbus to the land of America. He also thanked God that He had led our parents—and our nation's founding fathers—to this blessed land of promise.

"Prepare yourselves for the tasks that are at hand," were the words Bro. Mario Milano of the Kent Mission related as he addressed the congregation. "We have all been called for the marvelous work in these the Latter Days; for God will bring about His purposes and reveal them very rapidly."

Bro. Elmer Santilli of Perry

was the final speaker that morning. He told us how *The Songs of Zion* foretell the events that will take place upon this land. If we are listening, we will understand the message that they are bringing forth today. We truly enjoyed hearing from all of the elders; it was a delightful feast of God's words.

The remainder of the service was spent in listening to the many beautiful testimonies of the visiting saints, as well as those of the Perry Branch. A special love was felt as the Lord's Supper was shared by the two branches. Reluctantly we brought the service to a close; however, we were able to spend a couple of hours over supper with the brothers, sisters, and friends who came to join us for the special occasion.

We want to thank Bro. Roger and Sis. Josephine Pepper of Branch 4, who made the travel arrangements for the weekend. Above all, we thank God and His Son, Jesus Christ, for the Spirit that we all felt that day. Until we all meet again, God bless you and keep you in His care.

Lorain, Ohio

The following article appeared in the Lorain Journal following the wedding of Sister Dora Palacios to John Armstrong.

"Wedding bells ring despite bomb threat"

By Evan Lance Petee

Lorain—A young couple refused to let their love for each other be held hostage.

Despite the fact that just a couple hundred yards away a man was holding police at bay by threatening to blow up his home, Dora Palacios and John Armstrong decided to go ahead with their Sweetest Day wedding at The Church of Jesus Christ on Broadway.

"They were bound and determined that nothing was going to keep them from being married," said Brian Cornelius, who attended the wedding.

Cornelius said police told the

wedding party to be careful, stay inside, and lock the church doors during the ceremony. "I'm sure it is a day they will never forget. The police did a real good job here, the wedding went on without a hitch," he said.

On Sunday October 22, 1989, the day after the wedding, Bro. Joe Calabrese stated, "In all the years I've been in the Church and all of the weddings I have performed, never has anything like this taken place. Surely Sister Dora and John's wedding will well be remembered."

In spite of what was happening outside, we were determined to have a wedding that day. The police department, a SWAT team, the fire department, and ambulances had the entire area blocked off. The last thing the police wanted was to have people come into the blockade and gather in the nearby Church building. But we were all anxious to see this wedding.

Once inside, we forgot all about what was going on in the world outside. We felt the Peace and blessings of God as we witnessed Sis. Dora Palacios and John Armstrong exchange their vows. And we praise God that He saw us through that day.

As Bro. Larry Champine said in his testimony, "The righteous need not fear."—Sis. Iva Davis

The following letter from the Lorain, Ohio Police Department was addressed to the presiding elder of the Lorain Branch. During the wedding, the police had used the church basement as a local head-quarters and communications center.

"Dear Pastor: On Saturday, October 21st, the Lorain Police Department, along with its SWAT team, responded to a high risk incident on West 27th Street. The situation developed into an all-day affair, with a lone armed man who barricaded himself in his home and held police at bay.

"After nine long hours, the suspect was apprehended and taken into custody where numerous felony charges were filed against him. Fortunately, only one officer received minor injury during this stand-off.

"At this time, we would like to

personally thank you for your assistance provided to our men. Your cooperation and concern were greatly appreciated. In such extreme emergency situations, we never know what to expect. Through such joint efforts of cooperation, it made our job a little easier to gain control of the situation.

"If we can ever be of assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call on us. Sincerely, Chief John Malinovsky"

Rejoicing at Detroit Branch 2

By Loretta Lovalvo

We could feel the spiritual excitement in the air, building from many weeks of glorious meetings filled with inspired preaching, beautiful testimonies, and the wonderful love of God. We knew our young people were beginning to think seriously about their spiritual status, and soon something great was going to happen.

On the weekend of September 16-17, 1989, many of our young people went to the Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout. While they were there they enjoyed many blessings, and as a result Carolyn Parravano and Shannon Lambert asked for their baptisms. They were baptized the following Sunday, September 24, with all of Branch 2 and many visiting brothers and sisters and friends witnessing the beautiful event. Carolyn was baptized by her father, Bro. L. Dan Parrayano, and Shannon was baptized by Bro. Dominic Thomas.

The confirmation service was that evening, with many young people in attendance. The meeting was spirit-filled as the young people sang and testified to God's honor and glory. Many asked for prayer that the Lord would give them the strength to lead righteous lives. One of those who asked for prayer was David Lovalvo, struggling with indecision—once he made the commitment, could he keep it all his life?

(Continued on Page 10)

DETROIT BR. 2 continued . . .

The confirmations took place. Sis. Carolyn was confirmed by Bro. Jack Pontillo and Bro. Alex Gentile confirmed Sis. Shannon.

After the beautiful meeting everyone went home filled with the Spirit of God and with much to think about.

The following week brought much excitement. On Monday, David asked for his baptism at work. When Lee Hunt heard the news, he felt a spirit of repentance and also asked for his baptism. That Wednesday night at a fasting and prayer meeting for the young people, Daniel Parravano asked for his baptism, and on Saturday morning at a fasting and prayer meeting in Saline, Shannon Wood asked for his baptism. Needless to say, we all rejoiced.

The baptisms of these four young men took place the following Sunday, October 1, again at Edison Lake with a very large number of brothers, sisters, friends, and young people in attendance. David was baptized by his father, Leonard A. Lovalvo; Lee by Bro. Alex Gentile; Daniel by his father, Bro. L. Dan Parravano; and Shannon by Bro. Jim Cotellesse of Saline.

The beautiful spirit continued on into the afternoon confirmation service, where Bro. David was confirmed by Bro. Anthony R. Lovalvo, Bro. Daniel by Bro. Peter H. Capone, Bro. Lee by Bro. Reno Bologna, and Bro. Shannon by Bro. Louis Pietrangelo.

All but one of these six young people were born and raised in The Church of Jesus Christ, which gives encouragement to young parents to "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Lee was introduced to the Church by Paula Hunt, which gives us all encouragement to tell everyone we know about the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

God has truly blessed us so much that we can hardly contain it. Please help us pray for our new converts, that they may keep their commitments, and pray also for those who have not yet had the courage to make theirs known.

I have a great desire to express the love and appreciation I have for the saints of God. If I can do nothing else, I can at least thank you for your continual prayers and support on my behalf. I am often reminded by the Lord that your prayers and His great mercy are what brought me into the Church.

I know now that your prayers have always been with me, and how important and powerful prayer is. I'll never forget the love that the saints of God have shown me. Continue to pray for me, that I might remain faithful until the end.

May the love of God shine bright within each and every one of your lives. God bless you all.

-Brother David Lovalvo

Ladies' Circle visits Edison, NJ

On October 28 and 29, 1989 the conference of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle of The Church of Jesus Christ was held in Edison, New Jersey.

Sisters from Florida, South Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, California, Ohio, and New Jersey were gathered on Saturday and Sunday. God's blessings were with us Sunday morning as our Brother Paul Whitton opened the service using scriptures found in John 5:51-58. He spoke on how to treat our souls in this life so that they may live forever. We must hold fast to the body and blood of Jesus Christ, and also must love and support one another. Through these things we have a hope for our soul.

Brother Raymond Cossetti followed, stating that we must not follow Jesus just for the natural bread, but for the spiritual bread. Through this we have eternal life.

Brother Joseph Bittinger continued, saying that the sisters have done so much for the Church over the years. He thanked them for their hard work, and prayed that the Lord would bless them.

Brother Paul Benyola followed, telling how happy he was to see everyone. He is very excited about the work God has for His people. He spoke on having compassion for others. Can we feel compassion for our brothers and sisters? If not, how can we go forward?

A sweet spirit was felt by everyone as communion was passed.

At the close of the meeting, Bro. Philip Arcuri stated that it was a privilege to host the Ladies' Circle Conference and thanked all the sisters for their efforts.

Spiritual birthdays in Monongahela, PA

By Chuck Kogler

On Saturday December 2, 1989, we at the Monongahela, PA Branch honored twelve saints who were celebrating 50 years or more of service in The Church of Jesus Christ with a dinner and program. The honored members were:

60 yrs. Joe Scaglione Rose Scaglione 59 yrs. Mabel Bickerton 59 yrs. Ruth Kirschner 58 yrs. Sara Vancik 58 yrs. Alma Rouse 54 yrs. Elizabeth Wooley 54 yrs. Dorothy Curry 54 yrs. Molly Koslosky 51 yrs. Ellen Martin 51 yrs. Idris Martin 51 yrs. Nancy Surace 50 yrs.

Some relatives and friends, along with many brothers and sisters, came out for the occasion. All of those honored were presented with a corsage, and those who could not be present received a floral bud vase of gold and greenery.

After dinner, the program was opened by Master of Ceremonies Bro. Chuck Kogler, who asked our sisters to take their minds back to when they stood at the waters of baptism. We continued with the song *I Surrender All*. Bro. Chuck then read Romans Chapter 12, in which the Apostle Paul stated, "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."

We followed with the song Shall We Gather at the River. Our sisters were then asked to look back over their years in the Church and reflect on what prompted them

to ask for their baptism, and what advice they would give each of us so we can reach 50 or more years of service.

Many beautiful testimonies and experiences were told. Special numbers were sung by our little children, and a solo was presented by Jonathan Nath. In closing, we asked our guests of honor to sing I'll Follow Thee. We pray the Lord will continue to bless our brothers and sisters in their service to Him.

Christmas program at Muncey, Ont.

By Sam French

On December 19, 1989 the Muncey Mission held its Christmas program. Many of the children who attended The Church of Jesus Christ Sunday School throughout the year took part, from the youngest to the oldest. They related the Christmas story, and what a blessing it was to see each time Christ's name was glorified through the children! I'm sure that each parent was proud to see their child stand before the congregation and each do his or her part well. Praise be to God.

Bro. Rodney Dyer stated that we should not hinder our children from wanting to do something which is good. Our brother also spoke on such a time in the life of Christ, when His apostles tried to shoo the children away. The Lord's words to them were, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for such is the kingdom of God."

Bro. Sam DiFalco then spoke on how Christmas was set aside as a very special day. He stated that many would be giving gifts to express their love toward one another. Bro. Sam also said that we as a people have been given one of the greatest gifts, that being Jesus Christ and His Church. Our brother then wished everyone a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. At this time the children were given their gifts. We wish to thank everyone who donated the funds for the children's gifts.

All told, there was a good turnout. Later we enjoyed a very good dinner, which was most filling and satisfying. Thank God for everyone who made this program a success, as well as the fellowship that was enjoyed by the saints and visitors.

Truly it was a very good day in the house of the Lord. May God richly bless one and all.

Teacher ordained in Tse Bonito, NM

Through God's word and His will, on September 24, 1989 Brother Alan Metzler was ordained a teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Skip Smith and his family were visiting from Lakeside. Arizona. Bro. Skip opened our service with the scripture in Isaiah 54:16, "Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work. . . . " Bro. Skip spoke of how God brought forth His Son Jesus Christ as the smith that uses the fire of the Holy Spirit to bring forth servants to do His work. Each of us is fashioned in a manner fit for God's purpose and design, as our Brother Alan. God has called him this day to be an instrument of righteousness.

Bro. John Mancini focused his words on our Bro. Alan, concerning his faithfulness in the Lord's work, from II Timothy Chapter 1. He likened Bro. Alan's faith to that of Timothy and his forbears.

As Alan came forward, Bro. Larry Watson read the duties and responsibilities of a teacher, among which some of the most important were loving the flock and tending to their spiritual needs. At this point, Bro. John Mancini washed Alan's feet to set him apart for this calling. The ministry then knelt in prayer to ask for God's inspiration in this ordination. Bro. Peter Genaro felt inspired to pour the blessed oil upon our Brother Alan's head, raising his hand and calling upon God to bestow His power and authority upon our brother in his office as a teacher.

Alan's wife Bonnie came to the front to greet her husband along with their three newly-adopted children from Colombia. Alan related some experiences he had had over the years pertaining to his calling, in addition to experiences had by individuals in Glassport, Pennsylvania. Brother Dwayne Jordan's experience confirming Alan's calling came when Alan and Bonnie were on a missionary trip to Guatemala with several other brothers and sisters.

Your prayers are requested on Alan's behalf, that God will direct him in his new calling and responsibility, as he and his family reside in the state of Utah.

MESSAGE continued . . .

as an economic burden. As a brother once remarked, "There is no price which can be placed on a person's soul."

Let us reach out as a mighty spiritual force for the cause of Christ, to rescue souls from the bondage of the powers of darkness and bring them into the marvelous light of the Restored Gospel! Then we shall be fulfilling the commandment of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to go throughout the world preaching salvation to all people. It is our responsibility and our joy to do so! In this way, we will surely be sharing our love.

May God bless each of us as we strive to please Him.

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 performed on July 13 & 14, and 17-21.

This scripturally accurate pageant has been seen and enjoyed by many of our brothers and sisters over the years. Its proximity to the Lockport and Rochester, New York Missions makes for an enjoyable weekend trip.

For additional information, telephone (315) 597-6808.

* WEDDING *

NEZ-TSOSIE

Randy B. Nez and Cornelia Tsosie exchanged vows on October 21, 1989 at the Tse Bonito, New Mexico Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, while a large crowd of Navajo families and friends witnessed this touching scene. Our happy couple were the first ever to be married in our Church building since it was built in May of 1984.

Songs were sung by Donna Dante, Diane Surdock, and Peter and Candace Genaro. Peter Genaro addressed the couple regarding the importance of this holy union and its honorable estate. Dennis Calabrese united the bride and groom in wedlock.

May the Lord bless this couple in their life as hus-

band and wife.

Children Blessed

On December 10, 1989 Brian Edward Beam, son of Brian and Shelley Beam, was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ, Greensburg, PA Branch, by Brother Paul Gehly. Our members felt a special blessing as Brian was brought forth, as much fasting and prayer had been offered throughout Brian's difficult birth.

December 24, 1989 held a double blessing for the members of the Greensburg Branch. We not only thought upon and praised God for the birth of our Lord and Savior through program and song, but we also rejoiced in the birth and blessing of another precious infant. On this day, Jacob Bradley Mellor was brought forth by his parents, Brother Brad and Sister Kim Mellor (Cleveland, Ohio Branch), to be blessed by Bro. Fred Olexa.

On January 7, 1990 Perlina Evelyn Shaffer, daughter of William and Mary Shaffer, was blessed in the Greensburg Branch by Bro. Paul Gehly.

	Address Change
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OBITUARIES

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

JAMES PRESUTTO

James Presutto passed from this life on October 12, 1989. Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Frank Altomare of Lorain, Ohio officiated at the funeral.

Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Dorothy, three brothers, a sister, two sons, a daughter, and two grandchildren, as well as a host of friends. A beautiful service was held in his behalf.

JOHN BRADLEY

John F. Bradley passed away on December 25, 1989. The funeral was conducted by Bro. Joseph Calabrese.

He leaves to mourn a mother and three brothers, as well as many friends. May the Lord comfort the family left behind.

ANTHONY DeCREDICO

Anthony DeCredico passed from this life on December 25, 1989. Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Frank Altomare conducted the funeral.

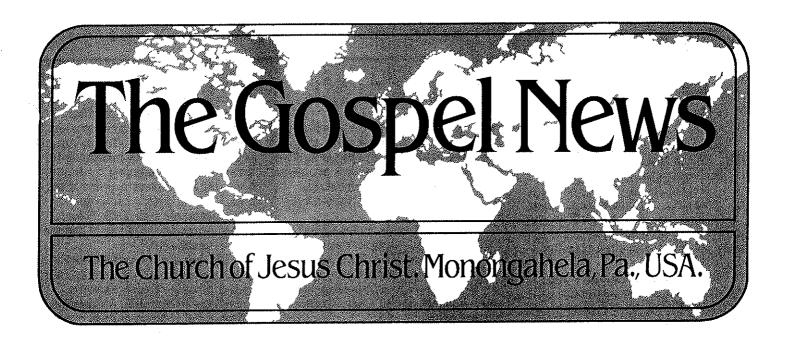
He is survived by two brothers, a sister, two sons, two grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

DALLAS continued . . .

of hope and commitment on the part of all Dallas members to spread the Gospel in this part of the vineyard. Our organization meeting on Saturday night was encouraging, as each member eagerly took positions and offices for the betterment of God's Church. Later that evening we spent time in fellowship, enjoying the company of our visitors and awaiting the coming of the Sabbath Day.

On Sunday, our brothers from Arizona spoke to us with a message on faith. It was because of the faith and persistence of the few members here in Dallas that God has blessed them with a great work to do and the laborers to tend to that work. We enjoyed the Spirit in the meeting and the faces of our visitors from Arizona and Ohio. The testimonies confirmed God's intervention in bringing people here to do His will. The singing was filled with joy, and all who came left with a newly found dedication to the Work of the Lord.

There is much to be done here in Dallas. We feel that God has given us the tools and the desire to tell others of His plan of salvation. We ask a continued interest in your prayers, that we will meet that great responsibility to the best of our ability.



April, 1990

Volume 46, No. 4

Christmas in Guatemala gets television coverage

By Rose Ciotti Anderson

The Christmas season in Guatemala was an especially memorable experience. We received many blessings as we rejoiced in remembrance of our Savior's birth. The spirit of His love was so great among us, and our desire was to share this love and the spirit of giving with as many people as possible in the land of Guatemala.

The week before Christmas we began to prepare food baskets for distribution to the families of our church. The "baskets" were large plastic tubs which could be later used for washing clothes. Twenty heaping baskets were prepared. Items consisted of black beans, rice, coffee, pastries, a variety of fruits, cookies, candies, and various other food items. Brothers Luis Marroquin and Isidro Dominguez prepared a message for insertion in each basket. Just before Christmas the baskets were delivered to the homes of the brothers and sisters. It is difficult to express in words what we felt as we visited each home. They know the love we have for them, and their gratitude overwhelms us.

Our Christmas program was again a huge success, as it was last year. Sisters Darlene Marroquin and Marisela Dominguez put forth much effort in preparation for the program. Approximately 35 of our children participated in this event. The scenery and costumes were outstanding, and the children received so much joy in presenting the story of our Savior's birth. The parents also received a special blessing in seeing their children's involvement.

A Christmas party was held for the children of The Church of Jesus Christ. A special gift was presented to each child. What a joyous experience to see the joy on their faces as they opened their gifts. Our special thanks to the brothers and sisters in the United States who made donations to make it possible for our children to receive these gifts. What makes it so much more meaningful to them and their parents is to know that these gifts are given to them with love, and that there are brothers and sisters in the United States who do think about them and care for them. Therefore, these gifts have a special meaning to them.

Our hearts went out to the children in the very, poor areas who would not have the opportunity to experience the joy of receiving a gift in love. We came up with a plan. We were able to obtain hundreds of inexpensive toys. We went into the poorest of the poor areas, where some of our brothers and sisters live, and passed out presents

to hundreds of children. A little joy was brought into the lives of many people that day. We also used this opportunity to pass out hundreds of invitations to attend our church services.

We videotaped all of our activities and gave a copy to the largest television station in Guatemala. They were very im-

(Continued on Page 11)

GMBA Conference Notice

The May 1990 GMBA Conference will be held in Dearborn, Michigan on May 20 and 21. The Michigan-Ontario Area MBA is hoping to see brothers, sisters, and friends from near and far come and share the good things of God at this conference.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to come up and enjoy the hospitality and the fellowship of the saints during this May weekend. For accommodations and other information, see your local MBA secretary or representative, or call Dawn Powell at (517) 423-1199 or Jerry Morle at (313) 572-0421.

Afraid of People

By Bro. Samuel French

Once upon a time, there was a house who decided to be afraid of people. Because of the fear, the house decided not to trust. Due to this insecurity, the house needed to protect itself, so it turned off all its lights, closed all the windows tight, locked all the doors, then boarded everything up.

Soon the house became stale, dry, dusty, and dark; and soon there was a very eerie feeling of loneliness and misery all over this house. But the house still believed

it was important to hide.

There was a nearby source of energy who never gave up on the house—a tree. The tree was always there, whispering in the air, telling the house, "Let go, open up your doors and windows. Reach out and grow. Mature. Let the fresh air remove your stale air. Change."

But the house decided to ignore the tree. The house would watch bitterly through storm after storm, after storm. And with each storm the house told itself, "With this storm I will surely be beaten and

done in."

Then one day, much to the house's surprise, he couldn't help but notice that the tree would bend with the wind, and always ended up looking proud after a storm. So the house asked the tree, "How do you do that?" The tree told him that he had roots to depend on for balance. "And with these roots, I can nurture myself during the storms." The house sadly said, "I wish I had roots." The tree said, "You do! You have what's called a foundation, and great strong beams to hold you up—no one can take these from you."

So the house decided to rely on this foundation and risk trusting. The house decided to surrender, and open the windows and doors, and also to allow people to come live in the house. With these people, the house was painted and renovated and decorated to its finest.

That house soon looked proud and noticed the sunshine more than the storms. The people felt warm, cozy, and secure inside, and the house became a home. And the house and the tree were friends forever.

When we were in the world, we were like the house; we were closed to people because of hatred and bitterness, therefore shunning people away from us. We became stale, dry, musty, and dark, very lonely and miserable.

The tree, who is Jesus Christ, whispered to us many times to let go, reach out and He would change us if we'd let him. How many times did we ignore His whispering, and went through storm after storm without him?

Then one day we say how the saints of God would brave each storm and end up looking proud after each one. We, like the house, asked one day, "How do you do that?" and we were told, "Come and see." We came broken-hearted and sad, and we were told that we had roots which would give us balance, and that there was a foundation and great strong beams to hold us up.

We decided to rely on this foundation, and decided to surrender and open up our hearts and allow people to come in. How our lives were then changed and we began to look good, and we ourselves noticed good things around us which we never noticed before! We were baptized and became members of The Church of Jesus Christ, and the Lord became Number One in our lives. He is our foundation, and will carry us through each storm.

The evil one is happy when we are knocked down by him. When we rise, it makes him angry, but God will give us strength to keep us on our journey. Praise be to God for The Church of Jesus Christ and for the fellowship of the saints. May God richly bless all.

Golden Wedding Anniversary

By Beverly Holt

Sunday October 22, 1989 was the 50th wedding anniversary of Brother Leroy and Sister Cora Love of the South Bend, Indiana Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. In their honor a surprise dinner was given by their children. A reading was given by their granddaughter on their courtship, marriage, and life. This being quite heart-touching and humorous at times was truly enjoyed by the brothers and sisters present that day. Visiting with us to help celebrate were Bro. Don, Sis. Teresa, and Bro. Michael Pandone of Youngstown, Ohio.

Brother Leroy and Sister Cora were married on October 22, 1939 in the home of Sister Cora's parents in Evansville, Mississippi. The Lord has blessed their marriage with nine children, 46 grandchildren, and 26 greatgrandchildren. Three of their children and one grandchild are baptized in the Church.

Our brother and sister expressed their love and gratitude to their children for the wonderful surprise. They also expressed their thanks to the Lord for His calling and blessings throughout their lives, and for His continued watch over them.

Sis. Cora was baptized on January 1, 1978 and was ordained a deaconess on May 10, 1981. Bro Leroy was baptized on May 14, 1978. They are both devoted to missionary work. May the Lord continue to watch over our Brother and Sister Love, and bless them with many more years of happiness and good health.



Bro. Leroy and Sis. Cora Love of South Bend.

Aliquippa members honored

By Jeffrey Giannetti

"And now, because of the covenant which ye have made ye shall be called the children of Christ, his sons, and his daughters; for behold this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him and have become his sons and his daughters" (Mosiah 5:7).

Many years ago, these words were spoken by King Benjamin to his people, who believed all that he had spoken to them. The description he gave them of their new commitment, as written above, was a very profound and accurate definition of what it means to dedicate your life to Christ. For fifty years, Brother Felix DiVincentis and sisters Josephine Ross and Olga Mavrich have lived their lives as sons and daughters of God.

On Sunday October 15, 1989, the Aliquippa Branch honored these three individuals for the fifty years of service to Christ. Brother Ken Staley, visiting from Tampa, Florida, spoke from the fourth chapter of Philippians, which tells of the strength we as saints can gain through our service to Christ. Bro. Ken related many experiences from the lives of our honorees as examples of this strength and the changes Christ can make. Our brother encouraged us to prove faithful and look to our older brothers and sisters as examples of what having Christ in our lives can do. We greatly enjoyed the words of our brother, and were happy to have Brother Ken and his Family with us once again.



Sister Vicky D'Antonio (50 years in 1988) with Sisters Mavrich and Ross, and Bro. DiVincentis.

Although this day was a celebration of many years, we were also privileged to witness a new beginning. Matthew and Debbie D'Antonio had their baby blessed by Bro. Paul Palmieri, starting the life of this child in the care of God. May the Lord bless this young family.

It was now time to honor our distinguished members. First a history of the life of Josephine Ross was given, and her favorite hymn, How Great Thou Art, was sung by her son-in-law Bro. Ken Staley. Our sister then expressed her thanks to God. The life of Felix DiVincentis was then recounted and his favorite hymn, Amazing Grace, was sung by Sis. Carol Jumper. Bro. Felix then expressed himself and thanked God for his goodness to him. Finally, we heard of the life of Olga Mavrich. Her favorite hymn, What a Friend, was sung by Bro. Pete Giannetti, Jr. Sis Mavrich then offered her testimony, glorifying God for all He had done for her.

This portion of our service was indeed a blessing. In hearing the events of each of the honorees' lives, we could see that they truly have been sons and daughters of God. On behalf of the Aliquippa Branch, we would like to thank these three individuals for their devotion to our branch and for the sterling example they have been. Our lives have been enriched by knowing each of them. Our hope is that all men and women would have the opportunity to meet Christ as we have, and become His sons and daughters.

To question God only weakens us

By Bro. Frank Natoli

1986 brought with it the birth of our first child—a girl, perfect and adorable. Like most new parents, we had no experience, only what we had read, and seen, and of course heard by way of advice. But through prayer in seeking direction, God had blessed us with love in caring for our new child.

1988 brought with it the death of our second child, only minutes

after birth. Once again, we had no experience in dealing with a situation such as this. We had exercised faith and truly believed that God had made everything perfect, just the way we wanted. And even though the doctors had identified problems, we believed that God had removed them. We were once again reminded that what we want isn't always what God wants. Soon, through prayer, we recognized that holding God or ourselves accountable was giving Satan the victory. God's ways are above our ways; to question, only weakens us.

And so, with apprehension and even a little fear, 1990 brought the birth of our third child—a boy, perfect and adorable. But unlike our last visit to the hospital, this time, we left with an infant in our arms, and with a deeper, richer appreciation for life, and a reminder of what a true blessing from God

really is.

Atlantic Coast Area Camp

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout will be held from Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28, 1990 at Fairview Lake Camp in Newton, New Jersey. This year's theme will be "Just Say Yes!" (to Jesus). We're looking forward to spending a long weekend of spiritual blessings and fellowship.

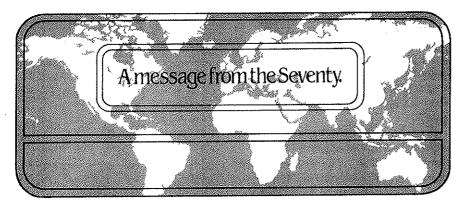
Last year, many wonderful blessings were felt at our camp. We truly felt the presence of the Lord instructing and blessing us.

Come and join us for one, two, or all three days. We'll be looking for you. For more information regarding the camp, contact Camp Director Sister Jill Ciccati, at (201) 603-8864.

There is so much good in the worst of us,

And so much bad in the best of us, That it is not necessary for any of us

To talk about the rest of us.



Orderly and Timely Transition Being Made

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

As reported in this column, last October's General Church Conference approved the placing of the General Church Board of Missions under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists with the understanding that it be done in an orderly and timely manner. The progress being made will be presented to the General Quorum of Seventy when they meet at the World Conference Center this April 19.

The importance of maintaining on-going missionary activities has been stressed, and the entire Board has been placed intact under the Quorum. The phasing in is thus being planned so that all operations can continue without interruption. The Board has now been designated the "Missions Operating Committee."

STEERING COMMITTEE

A Steering Committee was elected to help the transition and to coordinate all the working groups. Seventies Vice President Thomas Liberto was placed in charge. Other evangelists in this group are Quorum President Issac Smith, Missions Operating Committee Chairman John Griffith, American Indian Committee Chairman Dwayne Jordan, Foreign Missions Committee Chairman Joseph Ross, Worldwide Evangelism Committee Chairman Leonard J. Lovalvo, Radio-TV and Media Communications Chairman Carl J. Frammolino, General Church Development Committee Chairman Elmer Santilli, and Quorum Finance Committee

Representative Fred Olexa.

The committees represented all have different assignments, but they are all working, of course, to achieve the overall goal of The Church of Jesus Christ, which is to spread the Gospel throughout the world. While each group has distinct assignments which require differently defined duties and responsibilities, it must work in unison and in conjunction with the others. Analyzing and considering what each one is designed for will promote more total efficiency and effectiveness. Obviously, standardization of reporting, as far as possible, and any necessary realignment can then be made.

Many important factors are being analyzed. Communication and work flow between and through various committees are essential. What is being done by one committee could well have meaning and a bearing on what other units are doing. With appropriate and accurate interaction, good overall teamwork can be maintained.

The high priority placed on the Missions Operating Committee can be best understood when it is remembered that the American Indian and Foreign Missions Committees are under this group. The Church's commitment to the Seed of Joseph and to all the foreign missions stands high on the list of works to be perpetuated.

MANY PROJECTS

Many different missionaryoriented projects have been undertaken, and the appropriate committees, as named previously, have been established to follow through. (In the overall picture, the scope is being broadened which allows for greater and more far-reaching missionary activities.

God's direction and guidance are being sought. These are necessary whether they pertain to current or future fields. Where God wants the Church to go and when these moves are to be made are the primary considerations prior to launching out. As these are revealed, the work can proceed. As He has spoken to His people in the past, God can and does today!

To further ready the total forward movement, the brothers requested last October to have one or two sessions on April 19 devoted to missionary-oriented seminars. The theme for these sessions will be "Touching the Hearts of Men and Women."

Foreign and domestic efforts of the past will be reviewed and future hopes and desires will be highlighted. Tracing what has hap pened in the past will offer insight as to how to proceed.

The gifts, talents, and capabilities within the ministry and the laity are vast resources which can be used to further the Lord's work. These are present; it is a matter of analyzing them and making them functional wherever practical and possible.

OUTSTANDING EXAMPLES

In the past, personal sacrifices in missionary efforts have been made. These have resulted in the establishment of many new Church locations.

There are many outstanding examples of brothers and sisters who actually traveled to or moved to different locations to start the Church. They have done this both in foreign and domestic locations. By studying these endeavors, there is now a greater awareness of what must be done. Knowledge of needed preparation (both spiritually and naturally), planning to sustain the work, and allocation of necessary resources are now known definite

(Continued on Page 7)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32806 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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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
615 Birch Dr.
Euclid, OH 44132

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHWEST Frances J. Capone 8725 E. Hubbell Scottedale, AZ 85257

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

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Just as we must guard ourselves against becoming steeped in tradition to the point where our loyalty to form and convention in our worship and our service to God hinders the liberty of the Spirit, it is equally important for us to watch that we don't allow anarchy—the absence of government—to reign in the guise of spiritual liberty.

There is much edification to be enjoyed when the Spirit of God is allowed to flow unchecked from vessel to vessel. But just as Satan would sometimes try to impede the Spirit's flow by working through the tendency of some of us to adhere to the predictable and the structured, he is just as willing to tempt others among us to perceive any form of authority or regulation as a spiritual restriction and a violation of our rights.

The Lord Jesus Christ, through His Spirit, must reign and rule over His Church. When we allow Him to, we experience the unrestricted outpouring of the Spirit of God that is so vital to our spiritual health. The gifts and blessings and power of God are made manifest in our midst, and we enjoy the liberty and joy of the Gospel to its fullest. Above all, we experience what it is to be in one accord; our minds and hearts are united in the love of God. It shows forth in all that we do; we can even hear it in our singing. As we submit to God, we submit to one another through His love. The presence of the Spirit of God is accompanied by a peace and an orderliness that far surpass any man-made attempt to adhere to a structured program.

Just as the "traditional" person must beware of harboring certain attitudes that are not spiritually motivated, those of us who are most anxious to break with tradition must carefully temper our zeal and ardor with the gentleness, meekness, and longsuffering that bear witness to the presence of God's Spirit in us. We must sometimes ask difficult questions of ourselves: Are we truly seeking to have the Lord rule over us, or do we simply want *no one* to rule over us, using spiritual liberty to further temporal goals?

Clearly the Spirit must work with each one of us—gently prodding and softening the hearts of those who would stick to tradition, while at the same time bridling the natural spirits of those whose enthusiasm might not always be appropriate. There is a need for balance, for being neither too flexible nor too rigid, which can only be struck under the influence of the Spirit. While some might argue that equal numbers of both types of people can combine to form a balanced group, a more perfect way—God's way—would be for each one of us, in our minds and hearts, to allow His Spirit to conquer self, and let the balance be established within our individual beings. Then, when we gather together as a body, we'll all be willing to allow Jesus Christ to be our sovereign Ruler.

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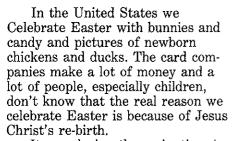
Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock

The True Meaning of Easter

Dear Girls and Boys,



It was during the springtime (as we know it here) that Jesus allowed people to nail His body to a cross until His body died. Then for three days a darkness fell upon the earth. The earth shook and broke into huge pieces. Earthquakes all over this promised land caused huge cities to break up and burn. Some big sections of earth fell into the oceans. Mountains appeared where the land had been flat and high places became low valleys.

There must have been a volcanic eruption too, because the Book of Morman tells us that in the darkness nothing could be lit (as though a heavy volcanic vapor covered everything). Can you imagine how you would feel if a huge storm came with clouds darker than fog and covered everything? If your house started to shake and lift up and down, and the ceiling and walls crashed down around you, what would you do?

The Book of Mormon tells us that the children and the grown-ups cried unto God. The lives of the most righteous, good people were saved. This group started fresh again. All the old sins and the people who wanted to do sinful, evil things were gone in the destruction. These people had been warned over and over again by God's followers



to stop doing wrong. They didn't care. They were swept away.

In Jerusalem, evil people plotted to capture Jesus and after a fake trial they murdered Him. Jesus had all power. He never stopped these evil people because of God's great plan—a plan from the beginning of the world. This was God's plan, to send His son Jesus to come and live as a man—to teach people the right way to live and love and forgive each other—then to physically die but spiritually live. Jesus let them put Him on the cross. He could have called a thousand angels to save Him, but He allowed His body to be killed. Then, three long days later, He reappeared. A new birth, the resurrection, took place.

And Jesus has taught each of us that we need to have a re-birth. When we are grown to know right from wrong, we have a choice too. We can call on Jesus, promise to serve Him and have Him as our best friend. He is our powerful loving friend. Then we are lowered into a watery grave and baptized.

So as we celebrate Jesus' rebirth at this time of year, thank God and thank Jesus that He came to save us from our ugly sins. With His love we are re-born. Over and over again, as we ask for forgiveness and correct our mistakes, the love of Jesus will guide us, strengthen us, and make us brave. Our spirits will enjoy the true meaning of Easter over and over.

With care, Sister Jan

What the Lord Has Done for Me

By Sis. Chantel Rhodes

While in the valley of deep despair He revealeth to me His loving care; And in my darkest and loneliest hour

My sorrow and woe doth He devour.

Because of Him, my life has not been the same,

So I will forever praise His laudable name.

In my search for some peace of

There was only the solace in Him that I could find.

When I could not find a life to keep me satisfied

My happiness and contentment hast He fortified.

And when to my old ways I would continually hold,

He, in His patience, granteth His mercy a thousandfold.

I often ponder on how my life used to be.

So filled with tiresome monotony: And then I think about where I am today:

If only the whole world knew, they would not want to stray.

I now have a potpourri of things to thank God for,

So I shall praise Him forever more.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Batson, Bob and Ruth 1605 Wheatstone Drive Farmington, NY 14425 Tel. (716) 398-2695

Else, Mary 420 N. Shirley Ave. Fresno, CA 93727 Tel. (209) 252-6042

Ford, Paul and Sandra 8717 Burkshire Place Lakeside, CA 92040 Tel. (619) 561-2428

Hawkins, Diane 159 Hampshire Dr. Glastonbury, CT 06033 Tel. (203) 657-2871

Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario Circle Activities

By Roseanne Mulla, Cathy Mulla, and Laurie DeSantis

Over the past year, the Michigan-Ontario Area Ladies' Uplift Circle participated in a number of activities and meetings that are worth mentioning and reviewing.

On May 15, 1989 a Mother/Daughter Banquet was held. The sisters who participated in setting up and preparing for the dinner added an extra special touch by decorating each table with pink, white, and red balloons, baskets of candies, and tablets of light and dark pink paper printed with a quote from Galatians 5:22.

Several portions of scripture were presented on the topic of Peace. Carnations were given to ladies fitting the description of certain categories presented. All those who attended received the blessings of God's wonderful Peace and Love throughout the evening. May Peace abide with us always!

On Sunday July 9, the Area Circle visited the Six Nations Mission where together the mission and the visitors acknowledged the departure of Brother Norman and Sister Rosalie Campitelle from Michigan to move to Florida.

Bro. Norman introduced the service by thanking the Ladies' Circle for their support whenever the mission requested anything. He mentioned how necessary the Circle, especially in its continued support of the Church in general. He then read from Alma 26:10-12, 14 & 15. He spoke about how we should be boastful of the Lord and His goodness toward us, and not to boast of or for ourselves. He related experiences that have occurred, and thanked God for both the good and the bad times at the Six Nations Mission, because it is from them that we learn, our faith is strengthened, we are better able to understand His way, and our spirits and souls are conditioned in the way we should be. Bro. Norman ended his message with the thought that although he and Sister Rosalie may be far away, the Six Nations Mission will always be near and dear to their hearts.

Bro. Tom Everett then referred us to a portion of scripture in Isaiah. He reminded us about how we all have a job to do for the Lord. It is not easy to do the work of the Lord, but God did not say it would be easy. We need to sacrifice for the Lord. We still will always need people to carry out the work of the Lord. The visiting sisters then sang the Be of Good Cheer from The Songs of Zion.

Sister Arline Whitton, president of the General Circle, testified about her life in the Gospel and the impact of the Ladies' Circle upon it. The goal of the Circle is to serve the missionaries. Mosiah 2:17 was quoted. Sis. Arline emphasized the fact that we are one Church of one love. The Ladies' Circle is always praying for the missions.

Sis. Mary Coppa, Michigan-Ontario Area Circle president, expressed her feelings and stated that the Six Nations Mission is thought about often and prayed for continually. Sis. Mary mentioned that the General Church is supported through our prayers. A season of sweet testimony was then shared by all in attendance. Also attending the mission this day was Sister Irene Rigby from Toronto. Closing prayer was offered by Bro. Bruce Jones from Detroit, Branch 1.

We enjoyed the blessings of God's Spirit this day, and ask that all who read this will keep a prayer in their hearts for the missions and missionaries.

On September 18, the Michigan-Ontario Area Circle met at Branch 2 for a spiritual meeting. Prayer was offered by Sis. Isabel Bologna. Sis. Mary Coppa read the following words from the book of Psalms: "It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord and to sing praises.' Many favorites were sung, and we enjoyed the peace of God's Spirit as we shared our testimonies with each other. A suggestion was made that we remember to pray for our young people, because it is extremely difficult to serve God in the world we live in today. Additional strength and courage is much in

need.

Sister Mary then expressed how the Ladies' Circle has become a major part of our lives. We love the opportunity we have to meet with one another and to express ourselves.

Sis. Salina Carlini read Psalm 100, which is a psalm of praise, It is praise for our heavenly Father that we have set out to accomplish this evening. Sis. Mary commented on how beautiful the Spirit manifested itself among us in this short time we were together. We enjoyed the expressions of praise and God's love among the sisters and friends joining us. Sis. Antoinette Ciaravino then closed the service in prayer.

We ventured back to our homes feeling uplifted and encouraged by God's Spirit.

To God be all glory and honor!

MESSAGE continued . . .

factors. Their essentiality becomes a main concern in performing the Church's missionary work.

Many willing workers are present in the Church today, and there is much good work going on. Many times it is simply a question of direction and movement. Confidence in doing God's work and feeling the calling to perform it must be prevalent.

The seminars are being pursued so that greater group experience and wisdom can become available to all. Also, how God has worked with individuals and groups can be shared further.

The scriptures have recorded how God has asked His servants to prepare to do His work. In doing so, they were able to do His will. Furthermore, how He has protected them and us today, opened doors where they had been closed, and readied the hearts of those who will hear give us great determination to go forth.

Unity and the desires of all working together, as the Steering Committee has found, are very valuable and very welcomed. Once again, prayers are being asked for all our undertakings!

Branch and Mission News

Senior members honored at Youngstown, OH

By Betty Gennaro

On Sunday December 3, 1989 the Youngstown, Ohio Branch honored thirteen members who have served the Lord for 50 or more years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The service was opened by singing If You Would Labor in Zion and Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown. Bro. Don pandone spoke on the parable of the talents, found in Matthew Chapter 25. "God has given us a responsibility in dealing with our soul. We have to account for our life. God gives each of us different gifts, and it's up to us to nourish them. We must continue on and labor for the Lord, as done by those honored today."

Bro. Mike Italiano followed, reading from John Chapter 12. "While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be children of God." Those honored today have walked in that light from 50 to 70 years. Times of the world change; service to the Lord does not change. They have carried the burden, and have continued on, serving the Lord."

Bro. Paul Palmieri then spoke, quoting the Apostle Paul, "Blessed and holy is he who is committed to the ways of the Lord." Our brothers and sisters have been tested many times, but continue to assemble with the saints because of the commitment they made to the Lord. Don't forget the goal:

Eternal Life!

Bro. Ralph Berardino then read the list of the Youngstown members who have served 50 or more years in the Gospel:

Minnie DePiero	70 yrs.
Rose DiFabio	65 yrs.
Anthony Costarella	65 yrs.
Mary Cossetti	60 yrs.
Raymond Cossetti	60 yrs.
Gemma Santilli	60 yrs.
Lillian Klein	57 yrs.
Fearn Love	57 yrs.
Dorothy Damore	55 yrs.
Mafalda Costarella	55 yrs.
Adam Costarella	55 yrs.
Lucy Costarella	51 yrs.
Irene Perry	51 yrs.
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The testimonies of the brothers and sisters followed, with tears of joy and gratefulness to God.

Sister Michelle Edwards then related an experience, wherein she felt the presence of the Spirit of God very strongly during the testimonies. She looked up and saw



Seven of Youngstown's senior members.

a rainbow at the front of the church, and above it were crowns.

What a beautiful confirmation to the testimonies of our long-standing brothers and sisters in their service to God.

Feet washing in Modesto

By Valerie Dulisse

"God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (I John 4:16).

On December 17, the Modesto, California Branch took part in the ordinance of feet washing. Before the service got under way, Brother Leonard Lovalvo led an interesting, thought-provoking discussion among both members and non-members concerning feet washing. Such questions as why do we participate, is this ordinance a direct commandment of Jesus Christ, who should be the more humble participant, and should one be inspired to wash the feet of a particular person, or simply alternate with the one who has washed your feet, were all asked and discussed. We also discussed how the actual ordinance should be performed, and the manner in which we might pray during feet washing.

Brother Leonard introduced the idea that we as saints are emulating Christ washing the feet of His apostles, and simultaneously taking the place of Christ in washing the feet of the saints. What a special privilege this is, and what a reverence this gives us for the sacredness of the act!

All of the queries brought forth were answered, many ideas were exchanged, and many comments were discussed. I believe that we are all more aware of the significance of the ordinance of feet washing, and many were given a greater understanding of the wisdom of Christ in establishing such a practice for our edification.

A wonderful spirit prevailed throughout the remainder of the meeting, during and after feet washing. All present felt uplifted in the beautiful wave of love and blessings which were poured out over our congregation. Several of our people requested to be anointed. There were two afflicted sisters, one brother, and two children, as well as an entire family who were prayed on for God's blessings upon them as they traveled to Mexico to spend the holidays with relatives.

We feel certain that the Lord heard and answered our sincere prayer for these concerns. God's great love and Holy Spirit were in our midst that day. We are so grateful for His presence and His mercy in our lives. What a comfort it is to know that His heavenly touch is only a prayer away, and that such a great outpouring of His blessing is possible when we observe His commandments and participate with the spirit of love which He intended for us.

Over the past few weeks we have been truly blessed with many healings in our branch. Our thankfulness to God knows no bounds, as He is using our ministry to nourish the saints. We witness His works, and know that God is still on His throne, full of love for all of His children, caring for their needs. Praise Him!

Apostles visit Spartanburg, SC

On August 19 & 20, 1989 we enjoyed a wonderful weekend. We were blessed to have two apostles and their companions visit us, Brother Gorie and Sister Antoinette Ciaravino, and Brother Joseph and Sister Vickie Calabrese. Evangelist Anthony Lovalvo and his wife Sister Anne, along with Brother Kerry and Sister Salina Carlini, accompanied the apostles.

We had visitors that weekend from six districts: Southeast, Ohio, Pacific Coast, Atlantic Coast, Pennsylvania, and Michigan-Ontario. The saints were encouraged to attain a higher spiritual level. In discussing this movement to a more righteous level, our brothers explained to the saints how to obtain a greater portion of the Spirit of God, and enumerated some of those things which would hinder one from achieving a greater level of righteousness. The saints were ad-

vised to beware of seemingly innocent things which ultimately keep one from drawing closer to God. Our Saturday evening meeting was a soul-searching, stirring, and profitable one.

On Sunday we met jointly with the Gastonia, NC Mission, whom we hosted in Spartanburg. Brother Lovalvo introduced the service, opening with the hymn Come and Dine and inviting all to dine this day. Our brother painted a beautiful picture explaining the hymns he chose, and read from Matthew 27 about Christ choosing fishers of men. Many beautiful words were brought forth, as we learned of the lives of the early apostles before receiving the Holy Ghost and their quick response to Jesus' call. They were all given a responsibility for the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, and the preaching of repentance, rather than fishing, became their chief occupation.

Continuing on the history of the Church, we heard how the Apostasy set in after the death of the apostles, and the priesthood authority was eventually withdrawn from the face of the earth. It took the voice of one young lad, Joseph Smith, to ask God where His Church was. The angel flew in the midst of heaven to preach to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people, and the Gospel was restored. Once again the priesthood authority was given unto men.

The Church was set up in its glory, as it was back in Peter's day. Man has tried to destroy the Church, but God would not allow it to be sawn asunder. A crown of twelve stars was given to this Church, and thank God once again that we're a part of The Church of Jesus Christ. The spreading of the Restored Gospel may have gotten off to a slow start, but oh, how fast we're moving forward, with missionaries going into various parts of the world.

Brother Gorie Ciaravino followed Bro. Lovalvo, speaking with much liberty on the topic of the Apostasy and Restoration of the Gospel. Bro. Joseph Calabrese also expressed his excitement about the chosen topic. The Church has great expectations and holds great promise; the Gospel will cover the

earth as the waters cover the sea, but in the meantime, we have so much to do.

We heard wonderful words from many of our other visiting brothers in the priesthood; it is impossible to share here all that was said. However, the words were very encouraging and inspiring. Our prayer is that you will receive the same blessing as you read this article as we felt in our fellowship with one another on that day. It was a glorious weekend.

Blessings in Gastonia, NC

By Donna Rossi

January 21, 1990 was an exciting day for the Gastonia, NC Mission as we held our first official meeting in our newly renovated building. We entered our meeting with much anticipation that day as we also looked forward to communion and the ordinance of feet washing. We were happy to have Brother Phil Jackson and his family visiting us from Kinsman, Ohio.

Bro. Phil reminded us in his sermon of the commandments to "do these things if you love Me." He instructed us in the methods of partaking of communion and participating in feet washing, telling how we should be truly humble servants before the Lord and before our brothers and sisters. God richly blessed us that day as we humbled ourselves and washed one another's feet. We felt such love and fellowship with the brothers and sisters whom we love and care for in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We closed our meeting with a very fitting and appropriate song, First Love.

As our meeting came to a close, we all felt very blessed and thankful for our beautiful little building, which the Lord had provided for us. We pray that each of us will be used mightily by the Lord to further His work in the North Carolina area, and we look forward to a spring or early summer date for our building's dedication. May God richly bless all of you is our prayer.

Fiftieth milestone passed

We had great cause to celebrate in the Vanderbilt, PA Branch on January 28, 1990. The Spirit of God was with us the entire day as we studied, listened to His word, partook of the sacrament in remembrance of His spilt blood, and fellowshipped with the saints. Among these great blessings we observed the spiritual birthday of Sister Kathryn King.

Sis. Kathryn was baptized into the Church on January 28, 1940 by Bro. Charles A. King, having been born on October 23, 1920. Over the years she has been a member of the Redstone, Roscoe, Vanderbilt, and Levittown Branches in Pennsylvania, and is currently an active member in Vanderbilt. She has remained constant and faithful for her entire fifty years in the Church.

The Ladies' Circle has been an important part of her life. She is one of the few remaining charter members of the Vanderbilt Circle, which was organized in 1952, and was the Word Giver of our local for over thirty years. She took pride in never repeating a verse, saving her lists. (Think how much searching and reading of the scriptures that took over the years!)

A corsage was presented to Sister Kathryn, as well as a 50-year pin, which we are sure she will be honored to wear.

Ordination at Sterling Heights, MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Sunday January 14, 1990 was a special day at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch as we witnessed the ordination of our Brother Joe Jenio into the office of a deacon.

Bro. Gary Champine, visiting from the Inner City Branch, spoke to us on the subject of hope. We need not fear, he stated, because Jesus Christ is sitting on His throne, and He sees us through all our problems. The Lord will take care of every situation; He is our joy, He is our strength. As we seek to follow the commandments of God, to carry this Gospel forth to

mankind, we know that we will be tempted and tried by Satan, as he tries to break through our armor and attack us in any way he can. But we must do good works nonetheless, and let our light shine. We must always remember that we live in the hope of resurrecting, as Jesus resurrected. He is the one who gave us that hope.

We live in an evil day, in which even our children are affected by the plagues and evils upon this land. We must pray that our children would be delivered out of the snares of the evil one. We must trust in God, and not allow discouragement to draw us away. Each of us, in our own circumstances, must fight to maintain a good, strong spirit. Jesus Christ is the source of all our strength. Let us set an example to those around us, and let our light shine. We must remember to talk to God periodically, and not lose the precious time to pray.

Bro. Louis Vitto stated that the world has no hope; let us not lose ours. We must trust in God and look forward to eternal life with Him.

We broke for lunch and prepared for the afternoon service. There was a beautiful cake decorated with the words, "Congratulations, Bro. Joe, as you are ordained a deacon."

As we met for the ordination, Brother Lou told us of an experience had by Bro. John Straccia as a sister was being prayed upon this morning. He heard the voice of the Lord saying, "My dear children, do not fear, but trust in the Lord; look not to the problem, but to Me, and you will glory in My workings." On hearing this, our sister arose and said, "My burdens have been lifted; I feel much better."

District President Peter Scolaro spoke on the duties of a deacon, and listed the attributes and qualities necessary to carry out the office. The calling into an ordained office is unique, as told in the Bible. In the early Church, the disciples found it impossible to do all the work, so they asked God for help, and were instructed by Him to select seven men to help out. The chief among the seven was Stephen, who died in the line of duty.

Bro. Steve Champine sang, I Will Do What the Lord Has Commanded, after which Bro. Spencer Everett read a couple of experiences pertaining to our Brother Joe's calling. At this time, Bro. Joe came forward for the ordination. His feet were washed by Bro. Frank DiDonato, and he was ordained by Bro. Lou Vitto.

Bro. Joe Jenio attended church for many years with his wife, Sister Ida, before asking for his baptism. However, he was always helping out any way he could, looking for something to do, and for a way to do it better. There is no limit to what he can do for the Church, as long as it is done through the Holy Spirit. This branch will be blessed through his calling.

Baptism at Metuchen

By Lisa DiRado Keenan

January 28, 1990 was a day filled with blessings for us at the Metuchen Branch as Brother Steve Curtin was baptized. The day began with a fasting and prayer meeting, during which Steve asked for prayer. Brother Tony Vadasz offered an inspired prayer upon Steve.

Brother Walter Cihomsky opened the morning service, reading from Matthew 18:3-6, which speaks of our becoming like children in order to enter the kingdom of God. Brother Joe Arcuri followed, reading Matthew 19:23 & 24 and continuing on the theme of what we must do to enter into God's kingdom. It was after the morning meeting closed that Brother Steve made his way to the front to ask for his baptism.

After lunch we met at the river, where Bro. Cihomsky baptized our Brother Steve. We went back to the Metuchen Branch for our afternoon meeting. The service started out with a beautiful season of singing. Bro. Jonathan Olexa, visiting from the Edison Branch, spoke on III Nephi 26, how Christ's arms are open to all. Our Brother Steve was then confirmed by Bro. Ken Lombardo.

Bro. Steve has been attending

with his wife Sue, who was baptized a number of months ago. Today, he was the first to rise to his feet with a testimony. He said that he didn't have a vision, hear a voice, or have a marvelous experience to convince him of the authenticity of The Church of Jesus Christ. God had given him an ability to read scriptures and understand them. It was this God-given understanding that converted our brother. This beautiful testimony was an inspiration to us all about the faith necessary to serve God. We at Metuchen praise God that Brother Steve has joined with us in our endeavor to serve Him.

GUATEMALA continued . . .

pressed, and reported our activities in a newscast that went throughout the entire country of Guatemala. The newscaster said that there is a church in Zone 5, The Church of Jesus Christ, that cares about people in Guatemala. He said the pastors are Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin. They then showed various scenes of giving out food baskets and giving out toys to children.

We were so pleased with all the events of the Christmas season. It was a blessed experience for us, as we received so much joy in giving and bringing joy into the lives of others. We are thankful for the op-

portunity that we have to continue to labor among the Seed of Joseph in this part of the vineyard. Please continue to pray for our ministry, their families, and our church here in the land of Guatemala.



Guatemalan Elders Dominguez (left) and Marroquin (far right) distribute Christmas food baskets.

* WEDDINGS *

FALOBA-CLUNIN

Mr. John Faloba and Miss Dorothy Clunin were united in marriage on December 16, 1989 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Richard Santilli and Adam Costarella. Sis. Betty Gennaro was organist, with Bro. Adam Costarella as soloist.

The newlyweds are residing in Salem, Ohio. John is the grandson of the late Bro. Sam Faloba of the Youngstown Branch. May God bless this young couple with a long life together.

LOWTHER-COYLE

Richard William Lowther and Vicki Lynn Coyle were united in marriage on January 20, 1990 at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch.

The ceremony was performed by the father of the groom, Bro. Richard Lowther, assisted by Bro. Robert Nicklow, Sr. Beautiful vocal selections were presented by Crista Cave.

The bride and groom are both in military service at this time. We wish them all of God's blessings.

New Arrivals

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

Michael John to John and Patti (Wright) Saliga of Guelph, Ontario.

Sarah Rose to Brian and Nancy (DiFalco) Lackey of Sterling Heights, MI.

Blessings

Allison Leanne Landrey, daughter of Bro. Mark and Judy Landrey, was blessed by Bro. Joseph Griffith on August 27, 1989 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Justin Del Keller, son of Delmar and Susan Keller, was blessed on January 7, 1990 by Bro. Lawrence King in Vanderbilt, PA.

Marcus James Natoli, son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Kathy Natoli, was blessed on March 11, 1990 at Rochester, New York by Bro. Frank.

OBITUARIES

MARGARET GIAQUINTO

Sister Margaret Giaquinto of Edison, NJ passed from this life on September 27, 1989. She was born on December 30, 1927 in the Bronx, New York, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 11, 1952. At the time of her passing, she was a faithful member of the Edison, NJ Branch.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Arthur

Searcy, Phil Arcuri, and Sam Dell.

Our sister is survived by two sons, two daughters, three grandchildren, a brother, Bro. Dan Stefani, a sister, Sis. Mary Thickstun, and many relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ. She will be missed by all who knew her.

ROSE ALESSANDRO

Sister Rose (Campitelle) Alessandro of Detroit, Branch #1 passed on to her eternal reward on January 2, 1990. She was born August 10, 1913 and was baptized September 18, 1932.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Anthony

Scolaro and Louis Pietrangelo.

Sister Rose is survived by her husband, Bro. Concetto, two daughters, three grandchildren, four sisters, and two brothers. She was known throughout the years for her generous hospitality toward the brothers and sisters from near and far.

RUTH MASON

Sister Ruth S. Mason passed away on January 10, 1990. She was born January 25, 1911 and was baptized on November 9, 1980. She was a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Ralph Berardino, Donald Pandone, Cleveland Baldwin, and

Bob Buffington.

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Sis. Ruth is survived by a daughter, Sis. Connie Smith, and a son, William D. Mason, Jr. She was a quiet, humble, and faithful member of the branch, much blessed by the Lord even in her long illness.

SAMUEL TAORMINA

On January 14, 1990 the Lord called Brother Samuel Taormina to his eternal rest. Brother George Johnson officiated at the funeral service, assisted by Brothers Richard Christman and Barry Mazzeo.

Brother Sam was born April 14, 1894 in Detroit, Michigan. He was baptized at Detroit Branch #3 in February of 1936. He and his wife, Sister Grace, were members at various times of Branches #3 and #1 in Detroit and of the Valley Branch in California. He died a faithful member of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch. On September 9, 1989 they celebrated 73 years of marriage—a beautiful record of love and devotion in itself.

Our brother is survived by his wife, four children, 16 grandchildren, 32 great-grandchildren, and one

great-great-grandchild.

A faithful and kindly brother, who had an interest in everyone—he surely was a blessing to family and friends alike. He will be greatly missed. Our sympathy and prayers go to his wife and family.

EMMETT DALE

Bro. Emmett Dale died on January 17, 1990 after an extended illness. His passing leaves a void, but his life shows how we can maintain our integrity, serve God, take care of our families, care about others, share our blessings, and be happy while doing all these

things

Bro. Emmett was an elder in the Vanderbilt, PA Branch at the time of his death, and his unique approach to problems and presentation of ideas will be sorely missed. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on September 16, 1940 by Bro. Fred Brewer, just a few months short of fifty years ago, in the old Redstone (PA) Branch. He served as a deacon and teacher, as well as branch secretary in that branch, before coming to Vanderbilt, where he was eventually ordained an elder.

Our brother developed a deep love for the American Indians, and visited the Six Nations Reservation in Ontario, Canada often. The day came when there was a need for a missionary at the San Carlos, Arizona Indian Reservation, and Bro. Emmet and his wife Sis. Evelyn, the love of his life, responded and spent three quarters of a decade there. He loved the

Indians and they loved him.

Sister Evelyn died at San Carlos and shortly afterward Brother Emmett came back east, making his home with his daughter in Cleveland, Ohio. In his last years he lived with his daughter Dorothy in Lowber, PA. We in the Vanderbilt Branch will all miss him—the way he smiled, his rumpled hair, the black band on his glasses. We would do well to emulate Bro. Emmett.

May, 1990

Volume 46, No. 5

A Commentary on the Second Chapter of the Book of Daniel

By Apostle Joseph Bittinger

"But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the King Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the *latter days*" (Daniel 2:29).

We who believe in the scriptures and prophecy understand that we are living in the latter days dispensation (of which this prophecy is speaking), that is, the feet of iron

mixed with clay.

I went to the Lord in prayer and asked Him for an understanding of what the clay represented in the feet of this great image. I was very serious and wanted an answer from Him, because I had never heard anyone speak on this subject to my satisfaction. Suddenly and clearly, a voice spoke within me and said, "Freedom." I immediately knew this was the answer to my prayers. I was stunned. I have never understood the versatility of freedom and liberty. Their use requires responsibility. They can be used for good or evil, to build up or to destory, for life or for death.

In order to understand this scripture, especially pertaining to the iron and clay, or Feet and Toes Era, it must be considered in two phases, those being the National and the Religious. I will take the

National first. The great image portrays the national kingdoms to the end of the gentile era; when the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands strikes the image on the feet that are part iron and part clay, breaking them in pieces.

"Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth" (Daniel 2:35). This is the end of the gentile dominion.

Under this long era of four world-ruling powers, the major part of the known world was subdued and brought under their dominion. "And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (Daniel 2:40). The legs of iron represented the Roman Empire.

And whereas thou sawest the feet and the toes, part of potters clay, and part of iron, the

kingdom/nations shall be divided; but there shall be in it the strength of iron." Men shall mingle themselves together one with another, but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

And in the days of these kings (the Feet Era) shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom (The Restoration) which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people (The Peaceful Reign).

The quest for freedom has been a long and costly struggle. Thousands gave their lives trying to obtain national and religious freedom from the yoke of bondage and slavery. During the 16th Century, freedom was reborn, bringing

(Continued on Page 2)

Dedication

The dedication service for the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission building will be held on Sunday, June 10, 1990. All are welcome to come from near and far to help make this a memorable occasion.

Those interested in attending should contact Sister Flo LaRosa for further information. Her telephone number is (704) 824-9358.

COMMENTARY continued . . .

the nations into the feet mixed with clay dispensation of freedom and democracy, versus autocracy.

This spirit of freedom and liberty has continued to grow until the present time, when there are 157 nations in the United Nations, plus a number of small nations that do not belong to that organization. Freedom and democracy have become the much desired and sought-after objective of many nations and ethnic groups in this world. A great struggle continues today, in 1990.

Most of the wars that have been fought in the last few centuries have revolved around freedom. Most of the great colonial nations have given up their colonies because of the demand of their people for freedom and selfdetermination. Our own country, The United States of America, gained its freedom from England by defeating them in war. For many, many years it could be said that the sun never set on the British Empire. Today its size has been reduced, and is very small in comparison to what it once was.

France, Germany, Spain, and several other countries had colonies under their control. They have had to surrender them, willingly or otherwise. Freedom has not brought to all of these countries the utopia that was expected. Some of them are worse off now than they were when subject to the hated colonial power. Their own native leaders have, in some cases, mismanaged their economy and exploited their wealth until the populace are in abject poverty, suffering, and death.

With freedom comes responsibility. It can be used for good or evil, to build up or to destroy. At this present time, many conflicts are being waged over freedom. For example, the deadly conflict between Israel and the PLO. In another instance, war has just ended between Iraq and Iran over a parcel of land.

The very sudden uprising of the people in many of the nations wanting their freedom from Communist rule in Eastern Europe and other parts of Soviet Russia is a current happening. As iron mixed with clay, they shall not cleave one to another.

The people in South Africa are endeavoring to obtain their rightful freedom and recognition as citizens with equal rights in their own native land. Their present government is an example of a gross misuse of freedom by the minority.

The recent tragic events in China to crush the movement of freedom that has grown among their people, and especially the students and younger generation, is yet another example. The movement has been stopped for the time being, but it is certainly not dead, as time will prove.

Since the rebirth of freedom and democracy in this Feet Era of time, many millions have suffered wounds that have left them handicapped and in pain for the rest of their lives. The most terrible and destructive wars in the history of mankind have only brought about unstable peace, for short periods of time.

THE TEN TOES NATIONS

As the toes of the feet were part of iron and part of clay, so the kingdom/nations shall be partly strong and partly broken. From all indications, they are the ten kingdoms spoken of in Revelation 17:12, ". . . [T]he ten horns which thou sawest are ten kings, which have received no kingdom as yet; but receive power as kings one hour with the beast."

"These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings; and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful" (Revelation 17:14).

". . . [I]n 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 . . ." (Daniel 2:44, referring to the dominion of Zion, The Peaceful Reign).

"Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children. Shall I bring to the birth, and not cause to bring forth? saith the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth, and shut the womb? saith thy God" (Isaiah 66:7-9).

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid: for the mouth of the Lord of hosts hath spoken it. For all the people will walk every one in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the Lord our God for ever and ever" (Micah 4:1-5).

The government of Zion shall be one of autocracy, with supreme authority by Jesus Christ, that will bring all other governments under His subjection and control.

"Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness" (Isaiah 1:27).

Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: So likewise ye, when ye shall see all of these things, know that it is near, even at the doors" (Matthew 24:32, 33).

And my people who are a remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among th flocks of sheep, who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. (III Nephi 21:12)

The Life of a Centenarian

y Lydia Lombardo

My father, Bro. Antonio Molisani, celebrated his 105th birthday on Sunday, March 4. What better way to start the beginning of another year in his life than to be in the House of God surrounded by his family and brothers and sisters in Christ! His son and daughter-inlaw. Salvatore and Alice Molisani, came in from California, and his grandson, Kenneth Lombardo, came along with his family from New Jersey. A dinner party was held with his five children, eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.

His life was a rags-to-riches climb. He had a very unfortunate beginning-he was born out of wedlock and, to save the reputation of his father's family, placed in an orphanage until he was taken in by some farmers whose only intention was to use him as a farm hand. He was repeatedly abused and nistreated, and literally lived in the Jarn with the animals. He slept in the hay loft, never had shoes, and never was allowed to eat at the table with the family. When he was 16 years old, a kind man in the neighborhood saw his condition and offered him enough money to go to America and make a new life for himself. He made the 22-day trip alone in the bottom of the Ship "Julius Caesar," where the livestock was slaughtered en route to feed those on the upper decks. He came to America with no education, money, or family, unable to speak English.

He had become an atheist—and no wonder. Many times he would tell himself that there was no God in heaven, because if there were, why was life so cruel to him from the time of his birth? But God had a plan. He never relized it until 1921, when he met with the missionary Brothers Ishmael D'Amico, Pasquale DiBattista, and Joseph Dulisse, who had come from Pennsylvania to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their families in Detroit, Michigan. Both the Raffael Frammolino and Giuseppe Giansante families were baptized, and five months later, my father joined

them. It was then that he finally found a family (the spiritual family) who truly loved him and brought peace and happiness as he had never before experienced in his life. As a child he never knew what it was to be loved.

In retrospect, after committing his life to Christ, he would have flashbacks of the many times he had cursed God for his misfortune, not knowing that the Lord was actually looking after him. At the age of 10 he tended sheep. He was responsible for taking them many miles to the next town for grazing. Walking with his flock, he would encounter wolves on the way, and his life was threatened many times. This and many other incidents made him realize later that the Lord had not abandoned him after all.

It is interesting to note that he has been drawing Social Security for 40 years (the Social Security system does not look upon him with much favor). He was born 20 years after the American Civil War, and he was 18 when the Wright Brothers made the first powered flight. Grover Cleveland was president when he was born, and Teddy Roosevelt was the first president he voted for.

His faith in God has sustained him through the years, and it is that same faith which he has tried to instill in his children and grandchildren. He has been in the Church for 68 years. I could write volumes on my father, but the best way to describe him is that he is a diamond in the rough—his principles are there even though the delivery is crude. In his own unpolished way he and my mother tried to teach us values-high morals, honesty, respect for all men, but most importantly, they gave us the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank the many who sent me beautiful get-well cards, and for the telephone calls wishing me well during my recent illness. Sister Millie and I were deeply touched by your concern and especially your prayers on my behalf. The doctors said my heart is as good as new again.

God bless you all,

Bro. Bob Ciarocchi Warren, Ohio

MBA Highlights

Pacific Coast Area

By Linda Reynolds

We had our Area MBA conference at the Bell, CA Branch on Saturday, February 17, 1990. We conducted our business meeting during the day, had dinner and fellowship at 5:30 p.m., and followed with a musical program hosted by the Simi Valley Branch.

Brother Emmett Hood conducted the program. The Simi Valley Choir opened up the program by singing in harmony, We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord. We then had the pleasure of listening to a piano selection by Michael Livesay called El Shaddai. An excellent pianist, Michael is the grandson of Sister Elizabeth Simpson and the great-grandson of Brother James Heaps.

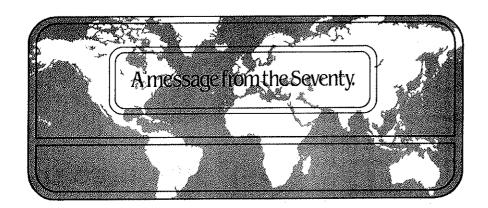
Bro. Anthony Azzinaro asked the congregation to sing *He Held His Arms and I Ran In*. The ladies sang the first verse, the men sang the second verse, and everyone sang the last verse.

Michael Buccellato recited a beautiful poem for us. Our younger children sang a little song about Patience backed up by our teenagers. Brothers Chris and Darren Surdock sang a duet, and the Simi Valley Choir ended the program by singing Let There Be Peace on Earth.

We look forward to our Area Campout, to be held again in Idyllwild, California from June 30 to July 5, 1990. We invite all to attend.

We had our annual ski trip to June Mountain in January of 1990.

(Continued on Page 7)



Reports, Progress, Seminars Presented at Quorum Meetings

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Reports and progress being made were detailed at the April 19 General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists' meetings at the World Conference Center. Among accounts presented were updates by the Steering Committee, the General Church Development Committee, and the Media Committee. Seminars were also conducted later in the day.

The return from Nigeria of Evangelist Paul Carr, who had served there for seven years, was a highlight. Quorum President Isaac D. Smith pointed out the devotion and dedication Brother Carr and his family have had, and he also reflected on the determination and faithfulness Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio and his family had exhibited when they labored there for the six years prior to the Carr's term.

Brother Smith also acknowledged the tremendous amount of work being done around the Church, and the enormity of the task which lies ahead. His principle comment was to maintain a positive attitude and to remember that God will always be with us.

Brother Carr stated that 108-year-old Evangelist E. A. U. Arthur, President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria, was gravely ill. He asked for prayers for Brother Arthur who, of course, has been a pillar there to the Church as well as the five million people over whom he is paramount ruler.

STEERING REPORT

The steering Committee, which had met earlier in the day, is analyzing the means to accomplish the interfacing of all missionary activities. The General Church Board of Missions had been placed under the Seventies by the last October General Church Conference, and it is now designated the Missions Operating Committee. Vice President Thomas Liberto, chairman of the steering group, reported that all missionary activities are being considered functionally, and are being accorded the same important priorities as in the past.

All mission, branch, district, and General Church undertakings will be continuing in the same way as in the past. In short, the spreading of the Gospel must go on without interruption; thus, the missionary efforts are being blended together as practical, with emphasis being placed on respecting the work of the past and keeping in place the workers who have been serving so capably.

The steering group will be meeting and formulating more plans and guidelines for presentation to the October, 1990 Quorum meetings and to the General Church Conference. The Results will then more specifically detail the overall structure.

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
Chairman Elmer Santilli gave a

report from the General Church Development Committee. He pointed out the status of the work in Independence, MO, where Brother Chuck Smith is the resident evangelist. He also talked about the preparation of an ordained teacher's guide, and the Visiting Evangelist Program.

A lengthy and informative discussion on the methods of presenting the Gospel then followed. The lessons learned at Independence and other locations were brought forth by the laborers in different areas. It was enlightening, and many essential and productive factors surfaced.

The Media Committee report detailed the status of the Radio Ministry broadcasts. Currently, broadcasts are originating from Tse Bonito, New Mexico; New york, New York; Levittown and Glassport, Pennsylvania; and on the Caribbean network.

The format, progress, success, and projections for each of these programs were outlined. Work on broadcasts which can be used by any Church location is also being done. This project was requested at the October, 1989 Quorum meetings.

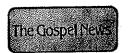
A finding of the committee is that there may be some radio stations which will air our broadcasts with little or no charge. This free air time may be for specified time frames, such as 15-minute periods, or for spot announcements. Whenever these opportunities are available, the Church branch or mission should contact the committee, and the radio group will attempt to assist in any possible to follow through in taking advantage of these openings.

Interestingly, there are many radio and television stations which have requested us to broadcast on their station. These possibilities, too, are being analyzed.

EVENING SEMINARS

Two seminars sections were conducted at the evening service. The subject was "Touching the Hearts of Men and Women," and they were led by Brothers Frank

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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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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 Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A closer look at the need for the presence of God's love in our lives was taken at this past April's General Spiritual Conference. As our brother apostles each explored different aspects of the love of God in the lives of His saints, a deeper understanding of this love and our need for it was gained by all who hear their inspired words. The manifold benefits of the love of God being manifested in His Church were discussed in depth, as they have been here in the past.

To increase in the love of God is not necessarily to become more "loving" as the world defines the word. We must learn that God's love is something spiritual, not natural, and that no human definition of love—nor the human characteristics of it—adequately describe or compare to the love of God. It is a love unlike any human feeling, a love which our minds are not fully capable of understanding, and which our hearts, without the Spirit of God, are not capable of possessing.

"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:35). The words Jesus used when He spoke of having love "one to another" are important. While human love is a feeling one has for another, God's love goes beyond mere feeling and manifests itself through action. If we take the time to reflect, for example, on God's sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ, we can begin to comprehend the nature of God's love for us. Unselfish, constant, and giving, even in the face of rejection.

To understand that God's love is spiritual in nature is to realize that we must become more spiritual, as individuals, in order for us to increase in the love of God. Our Example and Standard must be the Lord Jesus Christ; the most kind-hearted, caring people in our lives could not compare to Him. We must work as Jesus worked, through prayer and fasting, to be filled and guided by His Spirit in all that we do. We must not be daunted by the idea of possibly giving our very lives out of the love that dwells within us.

Christ's love for His Father and for mankind motivated Him to live as He lived and to do as He did until the time came for Him to glorify God through His death and resurrection. While much of what He did while on the earth was directed toward the needs of individuals, His primary purpose was to bring lost souls back into the presence of Almighty God. With more of God's love abiding within us, our primary goal, too, will be bringing souls to Chirst. It is perhaps not insignificant that in th course of a conference centered on the love of God, a strong affirmation of the Church's commitment to missionary work seemed to emerge as one of our principal themes.

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock

All Are Alike unto God

Dear Friends,

Have you ever thought that actually everyone is related to everyone else in the world, when we go way way back to the days of Noah and the flood? After the flood, people built the tower of Babel, and then God scattered everyone across the wide face of the world.

Some people went to live near the equator, where it was very hot, Little by little, each generation there that had darker skin burned less in the sun and lived longer, healthier lives. Brown skin protects the body from the rays of the sun. In the north countries, like Norway and Sweden, many fair-skinned blonde people survived well in seasons that were not full of hot, sunny days. Their light colored skin would have been seriously burned in sunny climates, and they would not have lived so long as someone whose skin tanned well.

Look at your skin. Do you know what countries your people, way back, came from? Are you freckled, like me, with ancestors who came from parts of Europe where there is much rain and a season or two of sun? Are you a person with healthy brown skin that tans very well? Did your people come from Italy or India, on a hot country near the equator like Africa?

In the Book of Mormon, God once changed the color of people's skin, too. Of the second group of people who came to the Americas with Lehi, all were from the same part of the world (near Jerusalem in Israel) and looked much alike. But they did not think alike.

When they landed in America they were fighting. One group of



these people (who are today Native Americans or Indians) served God with all their hearts. They followed a preacher called Nephi. The other group, also part of the people who became Indians, followed Nephi's older brother, Laman, and fought the people of Nephi.

God separated the two groups by changing the skin color of the followers of Laman, the Lamanites. God caused a skin of blackness to come upon them (II Nephi 5:20). In Alma 3:8, the Book of Mormon says that this was done so that the people of God would not mix with and believe in the incorrect traditions of the Lamanites, because if they did, it would lead them to destruction. It was easy at first for the two groups of people to tell who was serving God and who was not.

But things did not stay this way. Later on in the Book of Mormon, the lighter-skinned Nephites became proud and selfish. They took more than one wife, and quit serving God. God then preferred the Lamanite people over the Nephites.

God does not care about the color of someone's skin, or how beautiful, or thin, or how tall they are. He cares about who they are on the inside. In II Nephi 26:33 we are taught by the great leader Nephi that the Lord invites all to come to Him—He will not deny (turn away) anyone who comes to Him. "Black and white, bond [servants] and free people. . . he remembers the heathen [people who haven't heard about God], and all are alike unto God, both Jew and Gentile.

Don't ever think that one person is loved more by God because

of the way they look. God is pleased most when people's hearts are soft and full of love for one another.

WORD SEARCH

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Let Go and Let God

As children bring their broken toys with tears for us to mend,
I brought my broken dreams to
God, because He was my Friend.

But then, instead of leaving Him in peace to work alone,
I hung around and tried to help with ways that were my own.

At last I snatched them back and cried, "How can You be so slow?" "My child," He said, "what could I do? You never did let go."

-Unknown

PACIFIC COAST continued . . .

We had 15 people attending from three branches: Simi Valley, Anaheim, and Modesto. California has had very little rain or snow in the past two years, and especially this winter has been very light. We had prayed for snow and it snowed continuously for three days and nights. We thank God for the beautiful snow and for good weather as we made our way homeward.

Brother Emmett Hood of the Simi Valley Branch led us in a little Sunday service around the fireplace. We prayed, got to know each other a little better, laughed a little, and cried a little. We truly appreciate Bro. Emmett Hood and his love for our young people.

Southwest Area MBA

By Faith Hemmings

The Southwest Area MBA held an area activity at the Lakeside, AZ Branch during the weekend of February 9-11, 1990. God truly blessed everyone that attended.

Friday evening was a chilling but joyous time for the young and the young at heart, as we headed for the beautiful snow-packed mountains to cross country ski under the full moon and stars until 3:00 a.m.

Saturday was a day of rest for most, except for the children, who seem to have an abundance of energy. The afternoon was spent climbing hills and "tubing" down on inflated inner tubes. The evening was spent in singing and fellowship.

The brothers and sisters from the Lakeside Branch prepared a scrumptious variety of homemade pies, which were rapidly consumed. Luke Smith, David Jordan, and Issac Smith were the winners of the pie-eating contest.

Sunday, of course, was the best blessing of the weekend. Our building was full, with more than half of our attendance being from the seed of Joseph. We thank God for all those that took the time to come and fellowship with the Lakeside Branch. We pray that God will continue to bless the missionary work here in our district, as well as in other districts. May God bless you all until we can meet again.

Branch and Mission News

Baptisms and Ordination at Vanderbilt

November 5, 1989 must be labeled a banner day at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch. Three baptisms and an ordination took place, as well as a reunion day of old friends and brothers and sisters.

To begin the day, Tom and Peggy Stroko were baptized by Bro. Lawrence King, and Elmira Streit was baptized by Bro. Robert Nicklow, Sr.

After the baptisms, everyone returned to the church building for congregational singing and welcoming remarks. Many family members who are not members of the Church were on hand to witness the events taking place. One very special visitor among us was Sister Bertha Young, an 89-year old member of our branch who lives 175 miles away from us and who has had only a few opportunities to vist the Branch in her fifteen-year membership of the Church. What a joy it was to see Sister Young and our elderly Sister Mary Fleming greet each other!

Bro. Russell Cadman introduced our morning service, speaking about the Church, the Restoration, the Authority, and the Priesthood. Other brothers followed on the same themes until the noon hour, at which time lunch was served by the branch sisters.

In our afternoon service, our new members were welcomed and confirmed as members of the Church. Elmira J. Streit, who will be attending the Elkins, West Virginia Mission, was confirmed by Bro. Lawrence King. Tom Stroko was confirmed by Bro. Bob Nicklow, Sr., and Peggy Stroko was confirmed by Bro. Joseph Bittinger. We welcome our new brother and sisters into the family of God.

Bro. Richard Lowther's feet were washed by Bro. Chuck Jumper in preparation for his ordination into the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. James King offered the ordination prayer, and a wonderful spirit was felt by all. Bro. Lowther was presented with a small vial of blessed oil, to be used for anointing the sick.

Communion was served to the members present; a few testimonies were heard, and we prepared to bring our service to a close.

The meeting was especially precious to us in that we not only were blessed by one new elder in our branch, but the blessing was

doubled in that we also welcomed back Bro. Lawrence King and his family, who had been at the Levittown Branch for nearly two years. The Lord surely does see our needs and provides accordingly.

Ordinations at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

On the morning of Sunday, December 3, 1989 we of Detroit's Inner City Branch anticipated many blessings of the Lord to accompany the ordinations of our Brother Norman Seneca as a deacon and Sister Donna Amormino as a deaconess.

To share this special day with us were many visitors from such places as Ohio, Minnesota, Texas, Nebraska, Italy, and other branches throughout the Michigan-Ontario District.

At the beginning of the service, the granddaughter of Bro. Norman Seneca, Lydia Maria Jewell, was brought forward to be blessed. She was blessed by Bro. Tony Gerace. After Sis. Diane Hawkins sang Because He Lives, Bro. Joe Genaro of Niles, Ohio opened the service with a beautiful sermon on the power of God. After his sermon a

(Continued on Page 8)

INNER CITY continued . . .

visitor, Franca DeStefano of Genoa, Italy stood up and asked for her baptism. Due to the day's busy schedule, it was announced that she would be baptized the following Sunday. At the close of the morning service, we went downstairs for lunch.

The afternoon ordination service brought many more visitors from the various branches of the district. Presiding Elder Eugene Amormino welcomed all those in attendance. Bro. Tony Gerace addressed the congregation, expressing how the office of a deacon is a very important one. He told how a deacon watches over the flock, visits the sick, comforts those in need, and tends to the needs of the church building. All of these works lift some of the burden of tending the flock off of the ministry.

Bro. Tony reminded us that we are very fortunate that our deacons stand at the door of the church and welcome everyone in. The first person our visitors see as they come in is usually a deacon, and on many occasions newcomers have expressed the love they had felt as they entered the church.

Then, Bro. Gary Champine spoke on the office of a deaconess. He began by saying that the responsibilities of being called of God are great, but His blessings are great as well. He then read the general responsibilities of a deaconess, and the qualities and attributes that should accompany one called to this office. Bro. Gary said that it takes a mind of self-denial to serve God, to give oneself over so that another might benefit, which takes love—to give wholly of oneself, not expecting anything in return.

He referred to the many prayers and efforts that take place in these offices which nobody except God sees. Brother Gary reminded us that there are no parttime positions in the Church; that serving God is full-time work.

Bro. Eugene Amormino spoke next, expressing that as we grow in the Gospel we find the greatest blessings lie in being humble and by giving of ourselves to others. He then related that for the past two years the ministry of the Inner City Branch had been praying for God to send more laborers into the vineyard. Many times names were brought up in their meetings, but in their last meeting the names of Brother Norman and Sister Donna seemed to stand out.

After fasting and praying over the matter, the ministry agreed that these two were the ones whom God had chosen to be ordained into these two offices. "The Church ordains," Brother Eugene said, "but God calls."

Bro. Norman's feet were washed by Bro. Claude Champine, and Sis. Judy Salerno washed Sis. Donna's feet. We sang If You Would Labor in Zion. Bro. Norman was ordained by Bro. Joe Genaro, and Bro. Mike LaSala ordained Sis. Donna.

Bro. Norman has been a member of the Church for 16 years. Baptized at the Windsor, Ontario Branch, he is among the first of the Seed of Joseph to be ordained at the Inner City Branch. Sis. Donna has been a member of the Church for 27 years. She was baptized at Detroit Branch 4.

Bro. Steve Champine sang a beautiful song requested by Sis. Donna entitled *Eternal Life*. Our prayer is that God will supply our brother and sister with the strength and courage it takes to serve Him in their respective offices.

Teacher ordained in Windsor

By Kim Cuomo

January 28, 1990 was a very special Sunday at the Windsor, Ontario Branch. Brothers and Sisters from near and far gathered together to give their special blessing to Bro. Rick Lobzun, who was being ordained a teacher.

We had visitors from the Muncey, Ontario Mission and various branches from just across the border in Michigan. Bro. Bob Stanek spoke first on how important offices held in the Gospel are, and the blessings we all receive from them.

Bro. Tom Everett followed,

speaking on how we are called by God unto the Gospel, and called by God into various offices in the Gospel. He mentioned how Bro. Rick and his wife, Sis. Faith, have worked extensively with the Indians at the Six Nations Reservation, and have even taught Bro. Tom some things about Indian folklore.

Bro. Louis Vitto spoke next, on how thankful he is to be a member of this Body of Christ. The enemy of our souls would have us to say, "I can't," but God helps us to say, "I can!" We all should be on the side of the Lord.

At this point, Bro. Bob Stanek washed Bro. Rick's feet. Bro. Lou Vitto asked that all the elders kneel as the Lord was called upon to bestow His blessings upon our Brother Rick in this new position of responsibility.

Our meeting was closed in prayer by Bro. Mike LaSala. Afterward we went downstairs and partook of a beautiful luncheon. May the Lord bless our Brother Rick and his family is our prayer.

Blessings at Detroit Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On January 21, 1990 we at Detroit Branch 1 were blessed with a visiting elder who preached a powerful message. Bro. Sam DiFalco of the Sterling Heights Branch spoke about the saints who influenced him as a young man and led him in the right direction. He mentioned how important it is to work for the Lord. We must prove faithful till the end, so that we'll all be at that great supper.

Our brother read from Luke 14, about the master who invited a certain few to a great feast, but one by one they each found an excuse not to be there. So, being angry, he instructed his servant to go in the streets and tell all that are in need to come and dine, and his house would be full. And for those who were bidden and did not come, they would not taste of his supper. Likewise, we are invited to spend eternity with the Lord, but are we ready?

That was the question Bro. Sam was asking. We have to put the Lord first in our lives. The Lord never puts us second, but we, in this flesh, have the tendency to put Him second.

Bro. Richard Thomas followed, and had a wonderful experience to relate to us. The Lord had awakened him the night before our Sunday service and he began to read about the supper. He said he knew that day's sermon before it was even preached. The Lord was calling someone to come and sup.

At this time a sister stood on her feet and said she had a vision of a young man sitting in the corner with his hands tied. Bro. Richard began to call out to the congregation, saying, "I don't know who you are, but when the Lord knocks on your heart, listen!"

From the back row we heard someone say, "Bro. Richard, He's knocking, and I want to be baptized." What a wonderful spirit was felt in the Lord's house when Bro. Eugene McGregor asked for his baptism. He said that the Lord knocked once before and he ignored it, and he knew that this would be his last chance to open the door. So he jumped to his feet and surrendered all.

The brothers had to cut through eight inches of ice that day in order to baptize Bro. Eugene. Bro. Sam DiFalco performed the baptism and Bro. Tom Everett confirmed our new brother. Pray for our Brother Eugene, and all the saints of God, that we can stand the test of time, to receive that great reward.

San Carlos Mission organized

By David Picciuto

On Saturday December 2, 1989 the San Carlos, Arizona Apache Indian Mission was organized as an Established Mission, projecting our goals for the future in our service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The next day we had the privilege of having visiting brothers and sisters from Tse Bonito, Phoenix, and Lakeside. Brother Dwayne Jordan opened the

meeting, likening the San Carlos Mission to Ephesus in spiritual growth, as well as the young men's ability to labor as young Timothy. Bro. Larry Watson followed, mentioning those who assisted the Apostle Paul whose names are rarely mentioned, pointing out the importance of everyone. Bro. Bob Watson exhorted us to work to acheive our goals. We all thank the Lord for His many blessings and inspiration as He feeds His sheep.

On December 31, 1989 we gathered at the river to witness a soul surrender to the Lord. Judy Ross was baptized on a beautiful Sunday morning. As she came out of the water she said, "Everything looks so different; it's so beautiful and I feel so clean, born again." As hands were laid upon her for the reception of the Holy Ghost, the gifts of tongues was spoken by Brother Dan Picciuto. The interpretation, "This is the way unto salvation," was given to Brother Terry Ross. We thank God for such an opportunity; praise the Lord.

Please remember the San Carlos Mission in your prayers as we continue to strive to acheive our goals in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Golden Anniversary Observed

By Cathy Mulla

Sunday, April 9, 1989 was an important day for Sister Mary Coppa of Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan as she celebrated her golden jubilee. Several visitors, family and friends both locally and from as far away as Meaford and Windsor, Ontario joined our service today.

Sis. Mary had the honor of setting the sacrament table this day. Brother Rick Elzby then introduced the service. He reminded us that this was the season in which we celebrate Christ's birth and resurrection. It was through Jesus Christ and His Gospel that the word of God was first spread and continues to be spread throughout the four corners of the earth. God allowed time to be given to the gentiles until they are ripened in iniquity. It is

important to note that God loves each one of us, and gives everyone a chance to serve Him.

Bro. Rick read from Ezra 1:1-6 and Ezra 3:10-13. He remarked that if Moses had not brought forth the law unto his people, Ezra quite possibly would have. Today, in this world, there is no one out there who will deliver us. Nothing materialistic can help us. The worldly, materialistic and natural things of this world will not save our souls. For example, in days of old, Solomon's temple—in all of its splendor and beauty—was later torn down for lack of faith among the people and for the pride of their hearts.

Today, a spiritual foundation is needed to prevent us from falling away from the things of God. Bro. Rick pointed out that the Church is that foundation. If we build upon this rock (foundation) we cannot fall.

In the Church, we have an opportunity to feel and experience the Spirit and power of God. We are commanded to set aside Sunday in order to remember Christ and honor His day. We must glorify God and set ourselves aside to be a righteous people. We need the glory and love of God in our hearts, and the feeling of His kingdom on earth.

If we have God's love, there is nothing that can separate us from that love, neither depth nor height. Bro. Rick pleaded with us to show the Love of Christ to others. In effect, we would be giving others a

(Continued on Page 10)



Sister Mary Coppa

ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

foundation to build upon.

Bro. Peter H. Capone then followed, remarking on the prophent Nehemiah, whose writings follow Ezra's in the scriptures. At that time, according to the scriptures, the people were in captivity and bondage. Nehemiah prayed steadfastly to God (Neh. 1:11). He left all else behind to walk out in faith. He left his parents, family, and friends behind.

Sister Jane Elzby had the honor of pinning her mother, Sister Mary Coppa, with a corsage in honor of her fifty years of service to God.

Bro. Gary Coppa then presented a brief synopsis of Sis. Mary's life. She was born in Sudbury, Ontario to Salvatore (Sam) and Maria (Mary) Cuomo. She was baptized in Detroit, Michigan on April 9, 1939 by Bro. Tony Ruzzi, and hands were laid upon her the same day by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Bro. Mario Coppa chose Sis. Mary to be his wife, and they were married on October 14, 1944 by Bro. Frank Ford. The Lord blessed them with six children: Jane, David, Donald, JoAnn, Daniel and Dennis.

Sis. Mary has held many offices in the Church. She has been Ladies' Circle teacher and president for many years. At the present time Sis. Mary is the president of the Area Ladies' Circle. She has served on many committees, including the branch Vacation Bible School, for several years. On October 18, 1987 she was ordained a deaconess in the Church. Sis. Mary is truly a worker.

Today we gave honor and thanks to God for being with our sister these fifty years. Through His strength, she has remained steadfast unto her calling, and her good example cannot be forgotten. Our prayer is that God's Spirit will remain with Sis. Mary the remainder of her days here on earth.

Bro. Gary further noted that this day of jubilee should be viewed as a day of freedom. He mentioned that all of us should follow our sister's example by setting a goal and doing whatever we physically and mentally have to do order to see it through to its finish. Sis.

Mary is definitely a lively stone in the Church. All the Coppas then presented the hymn Standing on the Promises.

Sis. Mary was then given the opportunity to express herself. She stated that she had asked for her baptism one year after her father and six months after her mother surrendered their lives to Christ. Sis. Mary further pointed out that we do stumble and fall while we are here on this earth, but "where there is life, there is hope." Constant prayer is always needed. Sis. Mary concluded her testimony by imploring us to serve God to His honor and glory.

Bro. Paul Whitton then mentioned that God is a forgiving and loving God. We must not fear Him to the point that we think He is unapproachable. Glorify God's name this day!

After communion was served, we sang the hymn The Longer I Serve Him. Bro. Mario Coppa closed our service in prayer. Today truly was a day where God's blessings did abound. Praise God!

Deacons ordained in Aliquippa

By Jeffrey Giannetti

Sunday February 25, 1990 marked the day when two brothers who had joined the Church together ten years ago would now further their level of service to Christ and the Church together as well. On this day, Brothers Albert Giannetti and Joel Ondik were ordained as deacons in The Church of Jesus Christ. How glorious it is to know the Lord continues to call workers as the Church furthers its growth worldwide.

Our service was opened by Apostle Paul Palmieri speaking from the book of Numbers. Our brother recounted the report of the Israelite spies to their people concerning the bounty within the land of Canaan. Brother Paul explained how only two of the twelve spies had the spiritual vision necessary to believe the land could be secured for Israel's use. Like these two spies, we also must have spiritual

vision to believe and foresee this Church going forward to all mankind. Brother Paul encouraged us to live righteous lives, to increase our faith in Christ, and to focus our spiritual vision on furthering God's kingdom on earth. Our brother was indeed inspired by God. His words will serve as an encouragement as we look to the future with anticipation.

We followed our morning service with a delicious lunch. Afterwards, we enjoyed musical selections from the Giannetti Brothers and Sister Carol Jumper. Brother Joseph Ross then opened the afternoon meeting. Our brother spoke on the morning's topic, encouraging us to check and re-check our attitudes and be sure we are looking ahead with a positive outlook. Bro. Joe reminded us that all things are possible to those who love Christ and obey His commandments. With this attitude we cannot fail. Again we enjoyed listening to the inspired

words of the priesthood.

The Lord's Supper was administered next, and the Spirit of God was poured out abundantly as we observed this blessed ordinance. Following communion, Brother Anthony Ross read the duties of a deacon to the congregation. Brother Albert and Brother Joel were then set aside by the washing of feet, Bro. Albert by Bro. Andrew Gula and Bro. Joel by his uncle, Bro. Sela Palmieri. As the priesthood gathered around our brothers for the ordination. Brother Chuck Jumper offered a prayer petitioning God to bless the event about to take place. Bro. Joel was then ordained by his uncle, Bro. James Gibson, and Bro. Albert by his father, Bro. Pete Giannetti, Sr. Two more workers were ready to offer further service to God.

Following the ordinations, our brothers related the experiences confirming their callings and thanked God for His continued goodness towards us. We solicit your prayers for our branch and our two brothers as they endeavor to meet this added responsibility. We are thankful to serve a God that continues to manifest His will to us. May we always be willing to obey and follow the will of God. May God bless you.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Ciotti and Carl Frammolino.

Brother Frank presented historical data, illustrated graphically on the Church's population over the last 25 years. Overall and individual district statistics were illustrated to trace what has transpired. The emphasis was on learning from the past to proceed more effectively in the future. Experiences were cited to indicate what courses to follow.

Brother Carl then used a proposal that all branches and missions devote one night a week to outreach activities as a basis to evaluate what can be done. He presented twelve approaches which can be utilized. The group discussion followed, and the consensus was that projects which can be pursued within our Church buildings and/or within the area of our structures are preferable.

50-YEAR TRIBUTE

During the day, Brother Ike Smith announced that Brother Mark Randy has been an evangelist for over 50 years, and that he has worked diligently for the Church in various places. A motion was passed acknowledging Brother Randy's lengthy tenure. I say unto you that if ye should serve him who has created you from the beginning, and is preserving you from day to day, by lending you breath, that ye may live and move and do according to your own will, and even supporting you from one moment to another—I say, if ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be uprofitable servants. (Mosiah 2:21)

* WEDDING *

STOWELL-SMITH

Nuptials for Sister Tamara Smith and Eldon Stowell took place on June 17, 1989 in Pinetop, Arizona.

The bride's grandfather, Apostle Joseph Calabrese, offered prayer; Evangelist Harry L. Smith, an uncle, gave a beautiful sermon; and Tammy's father, Evangelist Isaac D. Smith, united them in marriage. Musical selections were presented by Brother Tom Smith, Brother Peter and Sister Candace Genaro, and Sister Wendy Jordan. We pray God's blessings for them.

CHAMBERS-KERSEY

Brother Keith M. Chambers and Sister Dawn E. Kersey were united in marriage at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on April 14, 1990.

Brother John Straccia, uncle of the groom, spoke to the young couple regarding the seriousness of the marriage ceremony. Brother Malcolm Paxon, another uncle, performed the wedding. Sister Donna Amormino sang musical selections, accompanied at the piano by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

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

New Arrivals

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

Brian John to Brian and Rhonda (Ross) Martorana of Warren, Ohio.

Children Blessed

Mark Anthony, Matthew James, and Michelle Renee Cappatocio were all blessed on December 24, 1989 at Detroit Branch 4 by Brothers Tullio LaCivita, Anthony R. Lovalvo, and Kerry Carlini respectively.

Lynette Pinal, daughter of Rex and Wynette Dahkoshay Pinal, was blessed January 28, 1990 by Bro. Isaac Smith at the Lakeside, Arizona Branch.

Bobby James Kendall was blessed by his grandfather, Bro. John W. Kendall, at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on March 11, 1990.

Adam Roy Coppa, son of Bro. Mike and Sis. Marlene Coppa, was blessed on Sunday, March 11, 1990 by Bro. Eugene Amormino in the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Nicole and Joshua Matteringly were blessed on March 11, 1990 by Brothers David Nolfi and Alma Nolfi at the Glassport, PA Branch.

On March 11, 1990 Brandon Thomas, Aaron Alan, and Garrett Lawrence Smith, sons of Grover and Susan Smith, were blessed at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch by Brothers Paul Ciotti, Carl Frammolino, and John Manes respectively.

Carl David, son of Robert and Sis. Kim (Surrena) Schafer, was blessed by Bro. Donald Pandone at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on March 25, 1990.

On March 25, 1990 at the Niles, Ohio Branch, Stacy Reeder was blessed by Bro. Russ Martorana, Kristin Rittenhouse was blessed by Bro. Wayne Martorana, Dominic Fennell was blessed by Bro. John Ross, Jim Maher was blessed by Bro. Brian Martorana, Jason Maher was blessed by Bro. Joseph Genaro, and Brian John Martorana was blessed by his father, Bro. Brian Martorana.

Anthony and Jennifer Malandro, children of Mark and Kathy Malandro, were blessed on April 8, 1990 at the Roscoe, PA Branch by Bro. John Kendall.

Chiara Yvonne Korotney, daughter of Ed and Pamela Korotney and great-granddaughter of Sis. Chiara Gentile, was blessed on April 15, 1990 by Bro. Alex Gentile at Detroit Branch 2.

OBITUARIES

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

SANTA STOYANOVITCH

Sister Santa Stoyanovitch passed on to her eternal reward on July 16, 1989. She was born on March 6, 1900 in New York City, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on August 1, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan by Brother V. James Lovalvo. Our dear sister served the Lord faithfully for 52 years.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul

Whitton and Peter H. Capone.

Sister Santa is survived by two sons, four daughters, 22 grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and a host of brothers, sisters and friends. Her husband and five of her children preceded her in death.

Our sister was a faithful member who was loved by all. She was full of good works and never hesitated to ask for a ride to Church. The most important thing in her life was God, and she always put Him first. Sister Santa testified often about Christ. She had little to give materially, but she gave *love* in every circumstance of life. Our sister showed others how to live by the example she set. She will long be remembered for her testimonies, her smiles, and her faithful service to God.

JOSEPHINE BUCOLO

Sister Josephine Bucolo of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed on to her eternal reward at the age of 89 on January 4, 1990. She was a member of the New Brunswick Branch for fifteen years before the Lord called her home.

She leaves to mourn one son, one sister, a daughter-in-law and a granddaughter. We will miss our beloved sister.

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WILLA STALLWORTH

Sister Willa Lee Stallworth of the Detroit Inner City Branch passed away on February 16, 1990. She was born on July 22, 1925 and baptized on June 14, 1987.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Gary

Champine and Tony Gerace.

Our sister is survived by two sons, a daughter, 16 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and one brother. Our hope is that Sis. Willa's family might remember the hope she had in Jesus, and seek to find that same hope through His Church.

HENRY BERARDI

Brother Henry Berardi passed on to his eternal reward in April of 1990 at Lockport, New York, after being ill for several years. He was born June 22, 1907 and baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ July 30, 1944. He was ordained a teacher in 1950 and an elder in 1958.

Brother Paul D'Amico officiated at the funeral. He is survived by his wife Elizabeth, one daughter, one son, and four grandchildren. May the Lord comfort

his family.

STEVEN HOYE

Mr. Steven A. Hoye passed from this life on February 7, 1990 at the age of 91.

Bro. Joseph Calabrese performed the funeral in

Lorain, Ohio.

Mr. Hoye is survived by a son, a daughter, stepchildren and grandchildren, and a host of friends. May the Lord comfort the family.

AUDREY MILLER

Mrs. Audrey Miller passed away on February 11, 1990. She was 69 years old.

The funeral was performed by Bro. Joseph

Calabrese.

She is survived by a daughter, two sons, five grandchildren, and a host of friends.

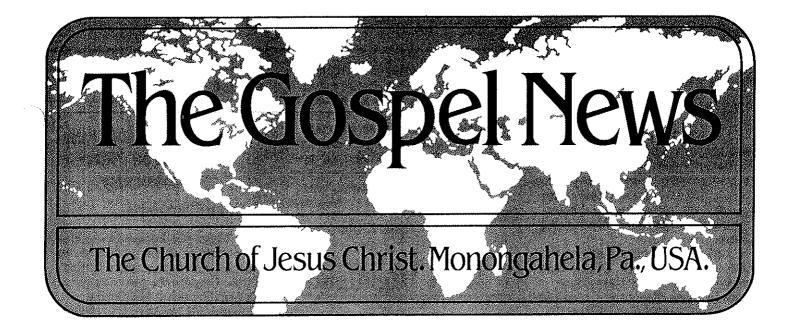
NEAL MYERS

Mr. Neal Myers passed away on February 12, 1990 at the age of 52.

Bro. Joseph Calabrese performed the funeral

service.

Mr. Myers is survived by three sons, three daughters, his mother, eight grandchildren, two brothers, and two sisters. May the Lord comfort the family.



June, 1990

Volume 46, No. 6

General Church Building Fund Growing

By Gary Martin

Thanks to the participation of 17 branches and auxiliaries, the General Church Building Fund is growing. Twenty-two separate deposits have been made to the Building Fund since the 1986 General Church Conference passed a motion to implement the program. The Joint Committee on Capital Expenditures implemented the plan to provide a source of funding for the building or remodeling of Church properties. The program had been under study since October of 1985. The Joint Committee comprises members of the General Church Trustees and Finance Committee.

The deposits to the Building Fund have come from 17 different Church entities, including branches, missions, auxiliaries, and trustees. The first deposit came in February, 1988 when Fredonia, Pennsylvania committed \$20,000 for a term of two years. Before 1988 was over, five additional deposits had been made, totaling \$73,456.00. By the end of 1989, \$89,434.00 had been added. The Building Fund through February, 1990 has accepted another \$65,000 for a total to date of \$227,890.00.

The money entrusted to the

Building Fund has not been idle. The program made these resources available to those entities within the Church who would otherwise have to go to financial institutions outside the Church to borrow money. Money has been made available to Lake Worth, Florida; Maine Mission; Lorain, Ohio; and to the General Church for the addition to the World Conference Center.

The purpose of the Joint Committee on Capital Expenditures was to find a way to satisfy the Church's need for building capital by pooling the money held in building funds and special funds throughout the Church. was to offer a fair rate of interest to the depositor, determined by the current rate being offered at the time of deposit. These deposits could be earning interest equal with bank rates, and be available for the financial needs of other branches and missions. The borrower of these funds would be charged a fair interest rate, determined by the current rates being offered at the time of the loan. This system allows the collective strength of many depositors to provide the money necessary for the building projects of the Church with no interest paid

to outside financial institutions.

The members of the committee wish to thank all those who have participated in the Building Fund for their support and confidence in this endeavor. We are pleased with the results thus far, and know there are more funds available to further assist in the financial needs of capital projects in the Church. Committee representatives are available to visit with you and explain or clarify the program:

Atlantic Coast

Bro.	Dick Lawson	412	859 - 6584
Bro.	Joe Ross	412	375-1648

Michigan-Ontario

Bro. Paul	Whitton	313 286-6183
Bro. Alex	Gentile	313 428-8826

Ohio

Bro.	Paul	Pezzenti	216	726-8678

Pennsylvania

Bro. Art Gehly	814 333-1670
Bro. Gary Martin	412 376-3365

Southeast

Bro.	Ken	Staley		813	684-2241
Rro	Sam	Risola	Jr	813	942-4200

Southwest/Pacific Coast

Bro.	Sam	Randy	209	526-2068

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank all of you for your prayers. I have been treated for cancer since January. I am receiving chemotherapy every three weeks. God is so good to me; I am getting back to using my talentplaying the organ or piano in many places.

I have heard from many of the sisters of the Ladies' Circle. I have received cards and letters from coast to coast. Recently, I received a cassette tape from Anaheim. It was of their church service of January 14-the day of my first chemotherapy treatment in the hospital. There have been so many who have helped me in so many ways; not only by sending cards.

May God bless you all richly, as He blesses me richly every day.

Yours in Jesus Christ, Sister Evelyn Crall, Oklahoma

A Great Healing

I have been doctoring since March of 1989 for sinus problems. I entered the hospital for what was to be minor surgery. While in the hospital, I contracted a deadly disease. When I came home I started to have horrible headaches. They were so bad I couldn't hold up

I entered the hospital again through the emergency room for more tests. The doctors found out that I had this disease in my head. It ended up that I had four more surgeries. There was a team of seven doctors who were very concerned that the disease had traveled to my brain. They told me that once you contract this disease, you can very rarely get rid of it.

In February of this year, the doctor said that I had more problems and needed to go back into the hospital. This would make six surgeries within the course of a

vear.

I went to God many days in prayer for His help and strength. During a church service, I went

forth to be anointed. Bro. Richard Santilli felt to say a prayer before he anointed me. What a beautiful feeling I felt during the prayer and anointing! I entered the hospital again and had the surgery on February 27, 1990. After surgery, the test report came back negative; the disease was completely gone. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Sister Kathy Vinsick

MBA Highlights

Pennsylvania Area MBA **Business Meeting**

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held their semi-annual business meeting on March 30, 1990 at the Imperial, PA Branch. After the opening prayer, Chaplain Ed Donkin read I Thessalonians Chapter 5.

Under unfinished business, the various officers' reports and reports on previous area activities were given. It was reported that the seminar held on March 7, 1990 was very well attended. The topic was "More Like the Master," and everyone seemed to enjoy their

classes very much.

The 1990 Area Campout was moved to September 21-23. It will still be held at Antiochian Village. Several special summer activities for the young people were discussed. A committee consisting of Chuck Kogler, Paul Ciotti Jr., and Jeff Giannetti was elected to take care of these activities. It was voted to have our 1991 Area Campout at Antiochian Village next September. We will hold an evening seminar in Aliquippa on August 4, 1990. Sister Karen Progar was put in charge of an area singspiration, perhaps in conjunction with the District Mission Board.

A motion was passed to forego the reading of the minutes at the area business meetings. They should be read and discussed when each local receives them.

After the meeting was adjourned, we enjoyed refreshments and fellowship.

Our Women Today

Ladies' Uplift Circle Observes 70th Anniversary

By Mary Tamburrino

Unity is a complete circle of love was the theme of the Seventieth Anniversary Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference held at the Detroit Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, MI on April 28, 1990, hosted by the Michigan-Ontario Area Circle.

A brief time was spent in disbursing funds. Donations were made to the General Church Indian Missionary Fund, Italy, India, Missionary Foundation, and Radio Broadcast Funds. Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in Memory of the following: Josephine Benyola, Samuel Benyola, Rocco Biscotti, Dan Casasanta, Filomena Cerone, Loretta Corrado, Anthony Ensana, Anne Fair, John Fantazier Cora Fowler, Joseph Mazzarulli, Joseph Micallef, Harriet Neidermeyer, James Nerone, Lillea Scherlinger, Santa Stoyanovitch, and Kenneth Swihart.

The special project for the next six months is to raise money for a motorcycle that is much needed in Africa. The next General Circle Conference will be held on October 27, 1990 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Sister Lucetta Scaglione read the Circle history from 1985 to 1990. During the memorial service, it was mentioned that 19 sisters had passed on to their reward. Their names were mentioned and for each, a rose was placed in a vase.

A delicious lunch was served and the afternoon meeting was introduced by Sister Mabel Bickerton speaking to us. She recounted the most important events of the seventy years which the Circle has been in existence. Most importantly of all, she said that there was unity from the beginning.

All of the Area Circles took

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Baptism at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Sunday morning, December 10, 1989 the brothers and sisters and friends of the Detroit Inner City Branch were gathered around the shore of the Detroit River watching with great anticipation as one of our deacons broke through the 14-inch thick ice. After the watery grave had been made for our sister-to-be, we sang Shall We Gather at the River and Bro. Tony Gerace opened in prayer.

Franca DeStefano of Genoa, Italy was led into the waters by Bro. Mike LaSala, who preformed the baptism in Italian. The deaconesses quickly wrapped our new sister in towels and blankets as she came out of the water.

Back at church, we sang Set Her Free and a score of other songs as we waited for Sis. Franca to eturn. When she arrived, Bro. Eugene Amormino welcomed her and told her that she has entered in at the straight gate which leads to eternal life. He then requested that we sing "He's Safe—Jesus Saved Him, and on the last chorus, we applied the words to our new sister by singing, "She's safe—Jesus saved her.

After the song, Bro. Eugene referred to Sister Franca as being born as a little sheep with a desire to do good. As a child she regularly attended church, and as she grew older she felt a need to do more for God, so she attempted to join herself to a convent.

Discovering faults within, she decided that the convent life was not for her. After that experience, she figured that it was not possible to fully serve God. Later she became a nurse to nurture her desire to do good, but she still was not quite happy in life. And finally she began to hear the voices of the world calling to her, telling her how to find happiness. Needless to say, these voices were calling her to the wrong kind of "happiness."

It was when she first came to America nine years ago to visit her cousin, Sister Judy Salerno, and her family, that a seed was planted deep within her heart. At first Franca didn't understand her American family's ways. They didn't "enjoy" life the way her family back home did, and they served God in a different way.

Many times through the years, Franca would question Sis. Judy and her family about their lifestyle and their seeming lack of "fun." And Sis. Judy would explain their beliefs and tell her that they don't find joy in the world, but they find it in serving Christ. Franca never fully accepted that way of life, and even looked upon it with disdain.

But it was during her latest visit with Sis. Judy that Franca began to feel differently. As she was learning more about God, The Church of Jesus Christ, the Bible, and the Book of Mormon, she began to feel something beautiful growing inside her. Sister Judy told her that what she was feeling was a love for God.

Franca could feel this love grow more and more, and she gave more thought to serving God. And as she did so, she realized that she had some habits she wanted to get rid of first. One of these habits was smoking cigarettes.

Franca smoked for most of her adult life, but she determined to quit smoking for the sake of the Lord. She knew she could not do this on her own, so she asked the ministry to pray for her. And many times, from the day that she quit to the day that she was baptized, the ministry prayed for her and she was able to withstand the temptations of the adversary.

It was about a month after she quit smoking when she stood up and confessed to the congregation in her native tongue that she wanted to get baptized. She asked for her baptism right after Bro. Joseph Genaro of Niles, Ohio exhorted us to exercise the Spirit and power of God in us, and work to get closer to Him and labor for that closeness, that we might become a vessel unto the Lord.

We also learned that on the day that she asked for her baptism, she felt powers struggling within her. One power was telling her to ask for her baptism, and the other power was telling her not to. But the power of Jesus Christ prevailed and set Franca upon her feet to ask for her baptism on that day.

After Bro. Eugene ended this account of our new sister's old life, hands were laid on her for the reception of the holy ghost. As she was being confirmed, a brother had a vision of five angels surrounding the ministry. One had a gold box, which he gave to Sis. Franca.

Our prayer is that the Lord will keep our new sister in His special care as she goes back to Italy, where there is no nearby Church or family of God to support and strengthen His new child.

Simi Valley News

By Linda Reynolds

NEW NAME

We in the San Fernando Valley, California Branch have changed our name. From now on you can refer to us as the Simi Valley Branch.

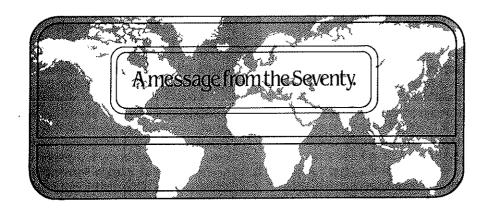
NEW BUILDING

After nine years of waiting for drawings, approvals, etc., our building is finally under construction. We broke ground in February of 1989 and after a few months of waiting, the building was framed in October of that year. Thanks to the efforts of the brothers in our branch who spend every Saturday working there, and to the efforts of brothers from other branches, we are getting close to being able to move into the church building.

VISTORS

Our branch was blessed with a few special visitors this past February. Bro. Paul and Sis. Orletta Liberto from San Diego and Bro. Elias Richardson from Modesto visited us. Bro. Paul

(Continued on Page 6)



Spreading the Word

By Evangelist Paul Carr, Returning African Missionary

In our April Conference we were blessed in that The Lord Jesus Christ visited us. Surely we have cause to spread the word about what was said and done.

This commission to spread the Gospel issued by Jesus Christ is, of course, the responsibility of all. We, my family and I, have had the privilege to serve the Lord and, in doing so, to serve His Church.

For the past seven years, I have been assigned by the Church as the resident missionary in Nigeria. When looking back, it's hard to believe that much time has flown by. At conference, a brother casually mentioned he thought seven years was a long time. As I pondered on what he said, I had to say it seemed to be like a twinkling of an eye.

In recalling some of our experiences, we do remember our first arrival. There we were: my wife, Sister Thressa; our three children, Paul Jr., Cheryl, and John; and myself in a strange land going through passport procedures, customs and currency control. Not having traveled with my family outside the United States, this surely was, to say the least, a new and different experience.

Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio, then the resident missionary, met us at the airport and took us to our hotel. Brother Nephi was in the company of another minister, Mr. Garrison, who, along with his wife and children, would become very close friends of ours.

While lying across the bed later, I turned my face to the wall and uttered a small prayer, asking the Lord to watch over us in that He had sent us to this place. The Lord spoke to me and said, "I will be with you even till the end of time." I wept softly so as not to awaken my family, for they had endured a long trip. That first trip was straight through, 18 hours on the airplane. From that day, time seemed to just slip away.

MADE US FEEL AT HOME

Our brothers and sisters made us feel right at home, and soon we were a functioning part of the community. Our role took us to many places, telling all who would hear that the Gospel had been restored.

Brother E.A.U. Arthur, president of the Church in Nigeria, was like a father to us. We were able to go to his home at any time and discuss the affairs of the Church, personal problems, fears, and anxieties. He was always there. Although he is the Paramount Ruler, the King of the Abak Local Government Area, he always had time for us. We truly thank God for Brother Arthur and his family's love towards us.

While there, Brother Paul Jr., Sister Cheryl, and Brother John received their high school diplomas through the University of Nebraska, corresponding with their high school courses. This truly was a blessing, for it was not easy learning without a teacher to guide them.

As time went on, we were privileged to work with our sisters from California with IMA Clinic, starting with outpatient care and developing into an officially recognized hospital. What a beautiful thing to see the people coming to a modern clinic; not only receiving the best of health care, but also being fed with the Word of God!

Many have come to the knowledge of the Gospel through IMA. I Recall one afternoon, a man came to me and said that, because of the love that was shown to him and his loved ones at the clinic and the love they felt, they wanted to be baptized. Seven members of the family were soon baptized. Isn't the love of Jesus something wonderful!

MIRACLE RECALLED

Once, in the middle of the night, we were called out to anoint a brother who was at death's door. We saw him the next morning in his garden planting food for his family, completely healed.

On another occasion, I was invited to speak to a group I had thought was small, but it ended up being a gathering of about 1500 people. What a joy it was telling others of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the first time.

We also want to recognize Evangelist E.A. Ebong in Nigeria for being so dedicated and doing everything and going everywhere he is asked. Brother Arthur's family, Brother Joe Arthur and Brother Ephraim Undo (sons) and Brother George Frank (a nephew), are without a doubt part of our extended family.

As many heard at conference, the Church has grown in Imo State from two branches to 17, and there is great potential to move into other cities. Our brothers are well trained, after being recommended, and sent out into the field. The desire to spread the Gospel grows deeper each day. We also have set up another mission house in the village of Ikutpa in Imo State, so

(Continued on Page 11)

we can stay ther longer than one



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 32806 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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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 Graziesi 7304 Deland Avenue Ft. Pierce, FL 34951

MICHIGAN -- ONTARIO Anthony J. Scolaro 32800 Kelly, Apt. 203 Roseville, MI 48066

> OHIO Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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BUSINESS OFFICE 9066 Austin Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (800) 334-1773

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As the time draws near when we reflect upon and celebrate the freedom that we in the promised land have, we notice how the annual celebration of freedom and independence seems to grow more spectacular with each passing year. Certainly, we have much reason to rejoice and be thankful when we consider the freedom that we are privileged to enjoy, especially when we compare our liberty to that of any other nation on earth.

One has only to review the pages of our nation's history, and read I Nephi chapter 13, to dispel any doubt that the Lord's hand guided our founding fathers when they met to shape the principles upon which their newly-formed government would be based. The motto, "In God we trust," and the pledge, "One nation under God" attest to the fact that these men sought and indeed fulfilled the will of the Lord when they set about to establish a nation that would encourage and preserve "liberty and justice for all."

While society noisily celebrates their freedom with more and more gusto each year, we cannot ignore the fact that, in our everyday lives, some of the basic freedoms which we hold dear are slowly being snatched from us, often in the very name of liberty. The notion of a God who asks that mankind be obedient to Him is likely to be met with violent outbursts from people who demand "freedom" from such moral constraints. The courthouses are filled with people who want the government to uphold their "consititutional right" to break the commandments of God, while those with the courage to stand against them are finding themselves being penalized for infringing on the rights of others.

As we see thousands of people cheering at the sight of fireworks in the sky above them, we are at the furthest point in time from the annual frustration we feel, six months behind us and six months ahead, when we realize that we are gradually being forbidden from mentioning the birth of Jesus Christ in public. Christmas, already little more than a field day for free enterprise, can no longer be mentioned in a public classroom without being equally balanced with the teachings of other religions, lest we be guilty of slanting our children toward a belief in the One True God.

"And if the time comes that the voice of the people doth choose iniquity, then is the time that the judgments of God will come upon you; yea, then is the time He will visit you with great destruction even as He has hitherto visited this land" (Mosiah 29:27). While the changes that we see are being implemented by a relative minority of the population, they will succeed in overtaking the majority if the majority allows it. We have been sufficiently warned, through the Book of Mormon, how the Lord will deal with people on this land who turn against Him.

Like Moroni of old, the time will come when we will have to take a stand—on big issues and on small ones—to uphold the liberties that God has granted us, and to fight against the permissive, licentious ways of the world. Let us be filled with the Spirit of God, and use it to discern which liberties are good and which are bad. The Lord will guide us, as long as we *seek* His guidance, in the liberties that we take.

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Be a Missionary

Dear Girls and Boys and Friends,

Have you ever thought what it would be like to have to hide your belief in God? What would it be like to have your neighbors spying on you to be sure you weren't holding a church meeting or praying or talking about God behind your closed doors?

For over two hundred years in the land of America it has been a law that people can worship however their heart and soul tell them to. But it is not like that everywhere.

In some countries today people are not allowed to even own a Bible or Book of Mormon. People are supposed to feel respect for their country's leaders and not for God.

If someone is sick and dying, no one is allowed to hold their hand and pray for God to help. If someone is scared and hurting inside, no one sings a song and teaches them to "take time to pray."

Missionaries are needed to tell these people all about Jesus. Missionaries are simply people that love the Lord and are willing to tell other people about how much God loves them. Some people don't even know that Jesus let people kill His body on the cross so He could come back and prove there was a heaven and show us how to love and live right.

Do you have any friends who have big problems going on in their families? Maybe they are sick, or their grandmother or grandfather is, or maybe there are big problems at school.

Jesus promised that if we ask God, He will help us. He will help your friends and even show you what to say or do to help. First, tell Jesus all about the trouble and if you've done any wrong things, tell Jesus you are sorry for that, too. Then tell Jesus that you'll help howeverer He wants you to. Ask Him what words to use. Ask Him to put words in your mouth to help your friend. Show your love and they'll feel the love of Jesus.

Remember that when the leaders of America had to decide upon coins for our country, they picked the saying, "In God We Trust." That saying is just as true for you and me today as it was hundreds of years ago when a new country named The United States of America made fair laws so that you and I could worship God in truth and freedom today.

Tell your friends. Remind them that America was a country founded by God, where people are free to serve Him. And God has promised that as long as people do serve Him, He will bless them and help them. If they don't serve God, then they will be wiped off the face of this land like the great Jaredite and Nephite nations were. Remind your friends to look at our country's coins, and think about who gave them their freedom and what they should do for it. Be a missionary with your friends today.

With care,

Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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#### SIMI Continued . . .

opened our service and spoke several words of encouragement to us about the future of the Church and of our branch. He spoke to us concerning the race of life, and how to be sure to win it.

Brother Al Milantoni from Detroit Branch 2 was also a visitor in our branch, and we enjoyed his testimony of how the Lord has given him a second chance and healed him of cancer.

Also in February, we had Brother Ken and Sister Diane Surdock visiting from San Diego. Sis. Diane and Sis. Alyse Genaro sang a beautiful duet, I Need Thee Every Hour. Bro. Ken opened our service in prayer and spoke concerning each of our lives and how we should live a christian life in hopes that someone will see us and want to change their lives. He took his text from I Nephi.

We all said a very sad farewell to our dear Brother Enos Genaro, who has moved to Florida. Bro. Enos has been an inspiration to all of us here in the Simi Valley Branch, with his ready smile and kind words. He an his wife Sister Alyse will be very much missed. Sis. Alyse plays the piano beautifully for us, and they often sang duets with Bro. Enos playing the guitar. We will also be saying farewell to Sis. Alyse and their daughter Jessica who would be joining Bro. Enos in a few months. We all wish them God's blessings as they make their new home in Florida.

## Elder ordained at Detroit Branch 4

By Marie Fera

On Sunday, September 24, 1989 our presiding elder, Bro. Tullio LaCivita, opened our morning service by greeting and welcoming all the visiting brothers and sisters from other branches. He explained the reason for this gathering and the excitement that everyone felt because our Brother Kerry Carlini was going to be ordained an elder on this day.

Bro. Richard Thomas visiting from Branch 1, spoke on III Nephi 12:1&2, where Jesus chose His twelve disciples on this continent. Bro. Richard drew our attention, through a powerful sermon, to the idea of being called and ordained of God for His service. He quoted the Apostle Paul, who said,

"Wherefore, I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given to me."

Our Brother Richard related his own experience of his calling into the ministry. His encouraging and inspiring words were all delivered with the sweet Spirit of the Lord. He also directed some advice to Bro. Kerry. He emphasized the responsibilities and reliabilities, and told him to be prepared to encounter many obstacles. His sermon was very enlightening and profound, and appropriate to today's occasion.

"Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16).

Apostle Dominic Thomas took

charge of the afternoon service. As several hymns were being sung, many more brothers and sisters arrived and the auditorium was filled to capacity. Bro. Dominic spoke briefly about the ministry and how important it is to see the younger brothers coming into the ministry. He acknowledged our brothers in the priesthood as "laborers for Zoin."

A sister spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation was given, "I am here; I have called my ministry; as I have called him today."

Bro. Kerry was then set apart by the washing of feet by Bro. Richard Thomas. Bro. Reno Bologna offered a prayer as the priesthood knelt around our brother, then Bro. Gorie Ciaravino anointed him with oil and, laying his hands upon Bro. Kerry's head, ordained him into the priesthood.

Bro. Kerry's parents and grandparents were all members of the Church. He was baptized on August 22, 1968 at the GMBA Campout in Nauvoo, Illnois along with 17 others, including his twin brother Gary. He transferred to Branch 4 with his wife, Sister Salina, early in 1985. He was ordained a deacon on June 16, 1985. Bro. Kerry and Sister Salina are very active both here at Branch 4 and in the Mexican work in Detroit's Inner City. They have been a trememdous help to our branch, and we pray that the Lord will always bless them. Truly this was a wonderful day of blessings for all of us.

## Ordinations in Hopelawn, NJ

By Linda Calabro

On Sunday, March 18, the Hopelawn NJ Branch received a double blessing as ordinations of a husband and wife took place. Colleen Pittius was ordained a deaconess and Joseph Pittius was ordained an elder. We had many visitors from Edison, Freehold, Levittown, Metuchen, and New Brunswick. The Spirit of God was eminent from the opening of Sun-

day School through the end of the day.

Brother Leonard Benyola made a few opening remarks and related many experiences that serve to confirm the calling of our brother and sister. One in particular was a dream had by a sister many months ago, in which she saw Brothers James Sgro, Tom Banyacski, Ken Lombardo and Joe Pittius as soldiers in God's army. With our brother's ordination today, her dream has come to pass.

Brother Joe Faragasso washed Bro. Joe Pittius' feet. The priesthood formed a circle around our brother, and Bro. Joseph Arcuri offered prayer. Bro. Paul Benyola then ordained our Bro. Pittius into the ministry. Then Sister Jennie Purkall washed her granddaughter Sister Colleen's feet. She was ordained by Bro. Leonard Benyola.

Bro. Paul Benyola, visiting from Levittown, then spoke from I Corinthians, Chapter 1. Bro. Paul's sermon centered around verse 17, "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect." Bro. Paul stated the importance of believing in Christ and the plan of salvation. He added that our priesthood is not schooled in the seminaries and theological universities of the world. We preach through the direction of the Spirit, and not through the wisdom of men.

Bro. Paul also stated that this was a special day for him because he blessed Sis. Colleen as an infant, he married Sis. Colleen and Bro. Joe, and he now had the opportunity to ordain Bro. Joe into the priesthood. This is one of many elements that make our church so special. It is not often that ministers of other churches know the members personally, and take an active part in the lives of the youth both naturally and spiritually.

We are thankful that the Lord has called our brother and sister to be laborers in His harvest. During the past six months, our branch has suffered the loss of three faithful members. We are thankful that our Great High Commander has recruited this young couple to serve as replacements in the front lines.

## Fundraiser in Monongahela

"The Little Hearts Gallery" opened its doors in February in Monongahela, PA. On display in the gallery were paintings, sculptures, pictures, and many other artistic creations done by the children of the Monongahela Branch. The talented young artists ranged in age from eleven months to twelve years.

Many members and visitors were able to browse through the "gallery" and enjoy the refreshments that were served. Almost every exhibit was sold; the proceeds will benefit the missionary work of the Church.

We commend the children for their tremendous effort and enthusiasm in this project, and we quote a familiar phrase, "Don't do nothing just because you can only do a little.

#### Visitors at Riverbank, CA

By Mark Randy and Barbara Parravano

On Saturday, February 3 our mission was visited by Brothers Frank Ciotti, Walt Jankoski, and Paul Liberto, the Pacific Coast District's officers. Their purpose in visiting was to meet with brothers Lou Parravano and newly-elected Presiding Elder Matthew Picciuto to get a better understanding of our needs in order to help fulfill them. Brother Parravano has presided over the mission from its beginning with the assistance of other enthusiastic brothers and sisters, some from as far away as Tijuana Mexico. Also attending were Brothers Joseph Lovalvo and Sam Randy from the Modesto Branch.

That evening there was a special meeting, to which brothers and sisters from both Riverbank and Modesto were invited. Also attending were sisters Carrie Jankowski and Orletta Liberto, and Bro. Ken and Sis. Mary Brown from Detroit, Mi Branch 3.

District President Paul Liberto

opened the meeting, while Bro. Saul Betancourt interpreted in Spanish. The text was taken from II Nephi 2:25, "Adam fell that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy." God intended for men to have joy, but sorrow was injected into the hearts of men when they transgressed by breaking God's command.

Bro. Jankowski followed, saying that when we fulfill the word of God, we find that joy. Brother Ciotti also enlarged on the beautiful subject, pointing out that "J" stands

and "Y" stands for you. Jesus brings us a more abundant life when we put others before self. When you go serve and carry the message of this abundant life, then joy becomes a reality.

Sunday morning both Riverbank and Modesto met together at the Modesto Branch. After many joyous hymns were sung, Bro. Jankowski opened the service, continuing on the inspired subject of the day before. He urged us to put joy back into our lives by putting Jesus first. Bro. Ciotti said that we can all receive the abundant, joyous life by becoming more involved in working and serving others. God's blessings are certain when our service to others is from the heart. A joyous message indeed.

## Deacon ordained in Saline, MI

By Gary Carlini

"Consume me, Lord, with the fire of Your Spirit. Consume me, Lord, make me more like Thee. Break me, Lord, and bless the broken pieces of my life. Let me be used, Lord, by Thee."

Prior to the ordination of Brother Ronald Morle in the office of a deacon, an ensemble of sisters sang Consume Me, Lord.

The morning service in the Saline, Michigan Mission on February 11, 1990 was opened with Bro. Reno Bologna's sermon on Stephen, the most prominent deacon, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, who did great

wonders and miracles among the people.

After many beautiful testimonies, sacrament was served and the meeting was dismissed with prayer.

We reconvened at 2:00 p.m. for the ordination service. By that time the building was filled with many visitors and brothers and sisters from the various branches of the district. Also in attendance were Brother Paul and Sister Eleanor Palmieri from Aliquippa, Brother Joe and Sister Vickie Calabrese from Lorain, and Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores Thomas.

Brother Thomas opened the afternoon meeting, mentioning how the Lord said, "Follow Me," and the disciples said, "I will follow Thee." He went on to elaborate on the spiritual concerns of the office of a deacon. Then he asked Bro. Ron to step up to the rostrum, where he thoroughly reviewed the responsibilities with him.

Bro. Peter Scolaro followed, further explaining the scripture about Stephen, and how the office of a Deacon is an important part of the Church. Kim Wood Christofferson, Tanya Wood, Leona Buffa, Tammy Morle, Tracey Francione, and Denise Bodo blended beautifully as they sang Consume Me, Lord.

Bro. Ron then had his feet washed by Bro. Gary Carlini, and he was ordained by Bro. Reno Bologna. He then expressed himself, saying how he wants to be used by the Lord.

Please remember our brother in prayer as he takes on the responsibilities of a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ.

### Ordination at Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

Sunday, April 1, 1990, will be a day long remembered here at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch, for it was a day filled with joy and happiness. Our Lord having called our young Brother James Michael Abbott into His ministry, we were witnessing his ordination on this day.

The Spirit of God flowed among us us as our brothers, sisters, family, and friends began to fill the house of God. Our singing was led by Bro. Bob Beam of the Greensburg, PA Branch. Bro. Charles Jumper of the Aliquippa Branch opened our service with a wonderful and beautiful prayer.

Brother David Nolfi from the Glassport Branch was our first speaker. He read and spoke from II Nephi 2:1-9. Bro. David was blessed with the Spirit of God upon him, and the words he spoke were filled with spiritual food for all that were present. Our Brother Apostles Russell Cadman and Paul Palmieri, along with District President Joseph Ross, each spoke to us, and the Spirit of God was felt in all the words that each of them uttered.

Before the ordination, Bro. John Kendall reviewed some things in Bro. Abbott's life. He was baptized on November 12, 1978 by Bro. J. Fred Olexa, and ordained a deacon on August 16, 1981. Today our brother's feet were washed by Bro. Olexa, Bro. Paul Palmieri offered prayer before the ordination, and Bro. Russell Cadman ordained him. The words in the prayers offered by these brethern surely were given to them by the Lord, and they were carried into our hearts by His Spirit.

Our newly-ordained brother was asked if he felt to speak a few words. He thanked God for all the blessings that He has showered down upon him, and recounted some things in his life. All the while he was speaking we could feel the meekness, love, and humility in his voice and words. Bro. Lawrence King of the Vanderbilt Branch closed our service with words that once again wonderfully touched our hearts. We had refreshments, and spent more time in fellowship one with another. Again, we must say, it was a day of rejoicing.

### Blessings at Niles, OH

"For God is Good. My Father, how He loves me." How can we measure or write the goodness of God and our Lord Jesus Christ to us His children! When we ask for bread He never gives us a stone. As we go to our meetings.

"... let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto Him ..." that we would receive that spiritual food for our souls, thus finding that "He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Sunday morning came, and as we gathered in we found that most of the elders present were young men. They preached a beautiful sermon unto us. Later that afternoon, one of our older elders began to express what a blessing he found in seeing these men labor for the Lord in their youth. We felt a sweet Spirit enter in. Another brother then related that during the preaching he received a vision:

"I saw two men enter the room and proceed halfway to the front and take a seat. They listened intently to the message; after each speaker they would look to one another and smile as if with approval. They were dressed in street clothes; they were fair-skinned with blond hair, but the beauty and illumination of their faces caused me to know that they were holy men. I asked God, "Who are these men?"

The vision ended without an answer. As our elder was speaking about several young members who had left our branch to work for the Lord, and she began to list them by name, the two men reappeared, standing by the ministry and still smiling in approval. While the names were being spoken it was revealed to me that these were two of the three Nephites."

After the experience was related, a third brother from the ministry said that during the preaching the Lord kept bringing to his rememberance an experience he had had about one of the three Nephites. He repeatedly inquired of the Lord, "Why are you inspiring me in this way? It does not pertain to the message you are sending my brethren." We all then understood—the vision was confirmed.

Praise to the Lord, for He is gracious unto us; His hand is not slack in blessing His children. Let us neither be slack unto the labor of our Lord. "Strong soldiers needed to raise up the standard. . . Stand with God's help, son, defending the title, with true men of valor, the best in the land. Teaching only pure doctrine, and sound revelation, and living with vision of peace in the land."

## Baptism at Detroit Branch 3

By Cathy Mulla

On Sunday, October 22, 1989, Brother Tony Ausilio of Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan decided to make Jesus his choice when he entered the waters of regeneration. Earlier during the week, Bro. Tony felt that he was ready to accept Christ into his life and called the Church building on a Wednesday evening when we were having our Ladies' Circle/Men's Night meetings. All hearts present were overjoyed in hearing the news that another soul surrendered his life to Christ

Bro. Dan Parravano of Branch 2 visited us along with his family this Sunday. He emphasized what a great day this was for Bro. Tony. He pointed out that we could never find God on our own. We could never be happy in life without God. After reading from I John 5:1-12, Bro. Dan stressed the fact that God sent His Son Jesus Christ that He might bear witness of His Father.

We must keep God's commandments. First, we must love God with all our hearts. And second, we must love our neighbor as ourselves. Anything we do, we must do with these two commandments in mind. Then it is possible to find happiness within ourselves. It is essential that we have our lives tempered with the Spirit of God so that we might have peace, happiness, and joy.

There needs to be opposition in all things. So, when trouble comes, there is a mighty force, the Spirit of God, against it. God's Spirit brings goodness, happiness, peace, and joy. Bro. Dan concluded his message by inviting all to come and find the love and Spirit of God.

Bro. Nephi DeMercurio continued with the message that Bro. Dan introduced. He posed the question, "What does our love for God mean in light of His love for us?" God sent His Son, who died for us. Sometimes we do not realize the greatness of His sacrifice. Without Christ in our lives, we can never have the possibility of overcoming

(Continued on Page 10)

#### **BRANCH 3 continued...**

evil. We are not just "nobodies." When we give ourselves to Christ, we become the sons and daughters of God.

What does God's love mean? That He has saved our souls and cares for us. Love comes from God, not from man. All that we have belongs to God. When we love each other, we truly love God. We cannot do anything without God. But we must have the ingredients of faith and humility. There is always room for change in our lives.

We are what we are by the grace of God, and we can do better by His grace. This process of change for the better is a constant process of shedding and working until our souls are cleansed an purified. Bro. Nephi implored us to walk a path that God is going to love us for, and make the necessary change today.

Later that evening, Bro. Tony was baptized by Bro. Nephi DeMercurio and was confirmed by Bro. Peter H. Capone. Bro. Tony waited several years to embark upon this new beginning in his life. Through. God's precious love for His children, we are born again! Let's rejoice in the promise that God loves us, and now it is up to us to love Him!

## Blessed day at North Jackson, OH

By Kathy Vinsick

On Sunday, March 3, 1990, we had a beautiful meeting at the North Jackson, Ohio Mission. Presiding Elder Frank Giovannone put an ad in the Youngstown Vindicator inviting people to come and hear about the Restored Gospel, and how the Angel has flown (Revelation 14:6-7).

Before the service started Sunday morning, two visitors came into our midst. One of the two women, whose name is Stella, said she had seen the ad in the paper and wanted to know more about the Angel that has flown.

As the meeting got under way, Bro. Frank spoke on the advertised topic. He also made much reference to the two sticks, as mentioned in Ezekiel 37, as well as other references to the Restoration of the Gospel. He was blessed with a good spirit of preaching.

Bro. Richard Santilli followed Bro. Frank, speaking along the same lines with good liberty. We then went into fellowship, with most all of the brothers and sisters testifying, and the two visitors expressed themselves as well.

One of the visitors, Stella, said that a couple of days before she had a dream in which she saw Bro. Frank Giovannone. In her dream she stood on her feet in a church service and said she was going to buy a church. The man in her dream whom she now recognized as Bro. Frank raised his arm and said, "Sister, we don't buy churchs, we pray for them."

In meditating on the meaning of this dream, Bro. Frank interpreted it to mean that no one could buy this church, and if Stella became a member of our Church, she was going to "buy" it with prayer and not with money.

Stella also stated that she was inspired by God to come to this meeting. In doing so, she felt her dream was fulfilled.

When Bro. Frank asked if anyone wanted to be anointed, the two visiting ladies came forth. God's Spirit fell down upon the whole congregation. There was a great blessing in listening to all the testimonies of how God has healed and blessed our lives. We all went home rejoicing.

In closing, we would like to ask all of our brothers and sisters to pray for our North Jackson Mission, that we will grow spiritually as well as in number. May God bless all of you.

### Freehold Spanish Mission

By Carl Huttenberger

Our Spanish-speaking mission, now meeting on Sunday afternoons in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch, has been greatly blessed with many visitors of the seed of Joesph seeking the Lord, as well as many experiences and blessings.

In our last attempt to bring those Mexican-Indians from the

neighborhood into our meetings through a Mexican Fiesta dinner, we were thankful that one young Mexican man kept coming back. A few small steps toward God result in giant steps by the Lord, in gathering Israel and bringing them to a knowledge of the Gospel. Inquiries about the Church by those of the Seed of Joseph in this area have been coming in at a very rapid rate as of late. For this we thank God. It's exciting to watch them learn about the Gospel and how God has moved so miraculously in opening their hearts and minds.

We were honored to have with us on February 11, 1990, Brother Dominick Rose of the Brooklyn, New York Branch. He preached in Spanish to our visitors, and we were thankful for his visit. Each week, on a Monday night, some young brothers have been visiting all of our Spanish-speaking visitors and trying to teach them, answer any of their questions, and encourage them. Even though there is always an interpreter, we have learned a lot of Spanish and they have learned much English. Along with our Monday night visits, we all gather every few weeks on a Saturday night for a "mini-fiesta," in which we meet at someone's home, enjoy the food and fellowship, talk about the things of God, and sig hymns in Spanish and English. These gatherings, as well, have been very beneficial in showing the visitors our love for them, which can only come by the love that the Lord gives to us. Praise the Lord for His mercy and the manifestation of His power from time to time. Remember us in prayer as we strive to accomplish the things that are on the Lord's heart to accomplish these last days. Dios los bendiga!

### Baptisms at Muncey

By Sam French

On Sunday, April 15, 1990, George Grosbeck went into the waters of regeneration at Muncey, Ontario, Canada. George had been attending the meetings steadily for nearly a year when he felt the calling of God's Spirit on his life, thereby entering The Church of

#### MUNCEY Continued . . .

Jesus Christ and the Gospel Restored.

The saints at Muncey and those who travel from afar were most edified by the entry of our new brother, who is of the Seed of Joseph.

Brother George has had many dreams and experiences before his baptism. He was baptized by Brother Rodney Dyer and confirmed by Brother Gary Champine. Much of the family and friends attended George's baptism, to witness one of the greatest miracles ever set forth by Jesus Christ while here on earth.

Bro. George testified and praised God for sparing his life through the years and bringing him through his heart surgery, and protecting him through this ordeal. Praise be to God that George is with us today, a new brother in The Church of Jesus Christ. May God's name be glorified.

Once again on Sunday April 29, 1990, God richly blessed us as a mission. George Grosbeck, Jr. was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. What a blessing it was to hear this young man rise to his feet and declare that he wanted to become a child of God. George Jr. is the son of Bro. George and Sis. Shirley Grosbeck.

The Spirit of God prevailed throughout the meeting. What a joyous peace was felt by the saints of God. Bro. George Sr. saw a band around the priesthood, and around various members of the mission.

As we departed to go to the river, a feeling of unity was felt by all. Our young Brother George was then taken into the waters of baptism by Bro. Sam DiFalco, and

later was confirmed by Bro. Rodney Dyer.

Our prayers are for the Grosbeck family, including Sister Shirley, that God will richly bless them throughout their lives. Remember to pray for us in Muncey, and may God richly bless one and all.

LADIES' Continued . . part in the program on Unity. The Southwest elaborated on "Our Mission," the Pacific Coast presented "Scripture Study," Pennsylvania talked about "Sisterly Love," Ohio spoke on "Faith," Southeast (Florida) had the topic of "Diligence," Atlantic Coast spoke of "Talents," and Michigan-Ontario finished with "Joy." The scriptures

were read and songs were sung pertaining to each subject. General Church President Brother Dominic Thomas spoke to the sisters, telling them to live

closer to the Lord. A circle of love was formed at the end of the conference while the Michigan-Ontario Circle sister sang Keeping Step from The Songs of Zion.

A vote of thanks was given to the area for their hospitality.

#### MESSAGE Continued . . .

day and help our brothers with their evangelizing.

This past February 3, we held the first Sunday School picnic in Nigeria at our secondary school compound. There were 1041 children; parents were not included. Games and Bible quizzes were played, sisters played a soccer (which they call football) match. The big event of the day was that all the children were fed. The menu consisted of beef stew, rice, a bottle of soda (which they call soft), and candy donated by Brother Ken.

Bruno. Everyone had a beautiful

#### CHURCH DEDICATION IN LAGOS

Last January 21, the Lagos church building was dedicated. The building was full for the dedication service. We wanted to introduce the Church to the local people, so we had a three-day schedule. Brothers from the headquarters church at Atai Otoro, about 600 miles away, were there to "warm the house," as they call it. This meeting was held on Friday afternoon and lasted well into the night. There were fastings and prayers that the Lord would accept the offering and dedication of the building. After the Saturday morning service, lunch was served outside the building. Mr. John Chucku, a christian friend, was the master of ceremonies for the afternoon. He appears on television in Lagos. A cake was supplied, and a formal cutting took place.

Sunday was another beautiful day. Our aim, as I stated, was to bring the local men and women to the knowledge of the Restored Gospel. This was done, as many local people speaking the local Yoruba language were in attendance and seven people were baptized.

I also want to mention the Brother Samuel Adekanola has assisted me for five years without tiring. I am very grateful for all he has done.

Our time in Nigeria has been extremely rewarding, for we were sent to spread the Word and have seen many come to the Restored Gospel, coming to the knowledge of Christ and accepting Him as their Savior.

### WEDDINGS

#### $FRAMMOLINO ext{-}BOTWRIGHT$

On September 2, 1989, Brother Carl J. Frammolino and Sister Nancy Botwright were united in marriage at Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Brothers Richard Christman (brother of the bride) and Robert Buffington officiated at the ceremony.

Bro. Carl and Sis. Nancy are members of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch. May God Bless them and keep them for many happy years.

#### FRENDO-DONEHOO

Kevin Alberto Frendo and Jodie Lynn Donehoo were joined in holy matrimony on April 7, 1990 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Louis Vitto performed the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sisters Carolyn and Olivia Parrayano.

The young couple will reside in Warren, Michigan. Kevin is the son of Brother Carmel and Sister Lillian Frendo.

### Children Blessed

Leanna Joy Valenti, daughter of Jerry and Patricia Valenti, was blessed on September 24, 1989 by her grandfather, Bro. Gerard J. Valenti at Levittown, Pennsylvania.

On February 11, 1990, Daniel Icedo was blessed at

Riverbank, California by Bro. Mark Randy.

Mirna Nadine Bravo was blessed on February 18, 1990 by Brother Matt Picciuto at Riverbank California. On March 25, 1990, Anaiy Luna was blessed at the

Bell, California Branch by Bro. Vincent Scalise.

Alysse Gabrielle Fallavollita was blessed on March 25, 1990 by Bro. Robert McDonnell at the Bell, California Branch.

Brother Robert Nicklow blessed Lindsey Ann Crosier on April 15, 1990 at Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Amanda Leigh Pitschman was blessed on April 15,

1990 at Monongahela by Bro. Brian Smith.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### DOMENIC CASTELLI

Brother Domenic Castelli of the San Diego, California Branch passed from this life peacefully on January 6, 1990. He was born on December 22, 1896 in Abruzze, Italy, and married his wife, Sis. Jennie, on October 17, 1922 in Detroit, Michigan. He was baptized on February 12, 1923 by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico and was ordained an elder in 1938.

	Address Change
Name _ Address	
Phone _	

The funeral was performed by Brothers Paul Liberto and Bob Womack.

Our brother is survived by two sons, a daughter-inlaw, seven grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews along with his brothers and sisters in Christ.

Bro. Domenic preached his last sermon two weeks prior to his passing, and it was a very special day with many brothers and sisters showing expressions of love and affection to our brother. We are all going to miss this humble pillar in our branch.

Diane Surdock

#### THOMAS STALEY

Brother Thomas Staley Sr. of the Glassport, PA Branch took his final flight on March 29, 1990 to his destination, the paradise of God, and the blessed rest of his soul after battling with heart problems.

Born in West Mifflin, PA on April 17, 1917, he was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 23, 1973 at the GMBA Campout by Brother Paul Palmieri, and was confirmed by Bro. Rocco Biscotti. He was ordained a teacher on December 9, 1979 by Bro. Alma Nolfi.

What did Brother Tom leave behind? Before I mention his family, let me say this: He left each of us at Glassport and all those who knew him a childlike, sweet love for each of us, a gift of peace that he spread about generously, not a complaining manner but just a desire for our prayers to see him through and his own prayers, given in very simple speech, for others in the love of God—which really is what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about.

His memorial service was conducted at the Glassport Branch by Brothers David Nolfi and Kenneth

Staley, his son.

Left with memories of him are his wife, Sister Elizabeth (Suds) Staley, sons Thomas Jr., James, Kenneth, and Anthony, four grandchildren, a brother, and a stepbrother. His presence will linger for some time, and may our precious heavenly Father comfort His loved ones with His healing balm.

Norma Wirbicki

#### JOSEPHINE DULISSE

Sister Josephine Dulisse of Detroit Branch 1 passed on to her eternal reward on March 29, 1990 after a painful battle with crippling arthritis. She was born on October 15, 1912 and baptized in Detroit, Michigan on June 20, 1926. Her parents, Brother Raffael and Sister Anna Frammolino, were two of the first five members of the Church in Michigan.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Tom

 ${f Everett.}$ 

Our sister is survived by her husband Nick, a daughter, a granddaughter, three sisters, and a brother, as well as many nieces and nephews and brothers and sisters in Christ. May the Lord comfort those who feel her loss most deeply.

July, 1990 Volume 46, No. 7

### Harvest time in Meaford, Ontario

The golden rays of the autumn sunshine have a special significance to the saints of the Meaford, Ontario area. It's harvest time in the orchards surrounding this little town and the valleys around the outhern shores of Lake Huron's Georgian Bay. This means that the bunkhouses on these orchards are filled with visiting migrant workers from many other lands and countries. These countries include Jamaica, Barbados, Mexico, and as far away as Trinidad. In years past we have visited a cross-section of these people, bringing with us Bibles and Books of Mormon, and Songs of Zion tapes. We have always tried to make the scriptures and these songs available to all who desired them from these visiting nations.

This year, however, we encountered a challenge. Early in September, we learned that a great many men from Mexico were working in our area. This meant finding Bibles, Books of Mormon, and music printed in Spanish. The greatest challenge of all, of course, was to be able to communicate with them in Spanish. As we began to visit them several nights a week, we could see the joy and happiness 1 their faces. Each night that we visited them, the sisters sent baked goods with us. This seemed to add to the hospitality of our visits. The

message of the Gospel was conveyed in our broken Spanish. Our time was spent in talking about our countries, our families, and language differences. Through our conversation and fellowship, the message of the Restoration was able to be expressed to them.

Before we realized it, we were visiting four bunkhouses with a total of 41 young Mexican men in them. They told us they were Aztecan, Incan, Mayan, and Oaxacan. Our greatest concern for these men became, of course, the welfare of their souls. As we read the Bible and Book of Mormon to them, we could see their interest.

Sister Olive Elzby had a dream during this time that conveyed to us that the Lord would provide a means for us to preach the Gospel more fully to these men. And shortly thereafter He did! Spanish Bibles came from many places, including as far away as New Jersey and Toronto. Books of Mormon. likewise, came from the General Church Print House and various other places. The Songs of Zion were sung continuously at each bunkhouse (in Spanish). Sister Arlene Buffington took the time to record tapes of the songs in Spanish so that each man was able to take a copy home to Mexico.

The next blessing that the Lord provided was reinforcements. When

Brother Flip and Sister Alma Palacios learned of the work we were doing among the Mexican workers, they had a strong desire to come and labor in this part of the vineyard. They decided to spend part of their vacation time in Meaford and visit the bunkhouses with us. Brother Flip brought his guitar with him, and we were able to sing some of the songs from our Church in Tijuana. Our Brother and Sister Palacios went to two bunkhouses with us on two separate nights, and as Sister Alma translated for us and testified to these men of the truth of this Gospel, we saw these men reaching out for it. They told us of how, when they were home in Mexico, there were no doctors to help them when they were sick or had broken bones. They told us that "music had taken away the pain." We could really relate to these men because of the words of The Songs of Zion.

The second night of Brother Flip and Sister Alma's visit, we found ourselves surrounded by sixteen men from the Mexico City area. This evening proved to be a great blessing, from the time we prayed when we left our home until 12:30 at night, when we finally left their bunkhouse. As the story of the Gospel came forth and the testimony of the Book of Mormon and the history of Israel was con-

(Continued on Page 7)

# Prayer

By Samuel French

What good do my prayers do for others, or for the work of God? Won't God's will be done whether I pray or not?

Many people fail to realize the importance of prayer—for others, for themselves, and for the work of

God.

In Numbers 14:11-16, God gives us a living example of how effective one person's prayers can be. Israel had rebelled. God was angry and was going to destroy the entire nation of Israel.

God asked Moses, "How long will these people reject Me? I will strike them with pestilence and disinherit them and I will make of you a nation greater and mightier than they."

This was God speaking. God had the power to bring about what He said, and He said that He was going to destroy Israel. But what

happened?

Moses, just one person, prayed for Israel and pleaded for them. He presented the whole situation before God and asked Him to have mercy. Moses was one person, but realize what God did because of this one person's prayer.

Then the Lord said, "I have pardoned, according to your word."

In James 5:17, Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, but did he use that as an excuse for not praying? Did Elijah say, "I'm just a weak human being; what good could my prayers do? I guess I'll just not pray"? No. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain.

God heard one person's prayers and listened because of it.

Your prayers are just that important. God will hear and respect your prayers. He will intervene if you pray. He will bless you, your loved ones, and this great work of spreading the Restored Gospel. Your prayers are needed.

We of the Muncey, Ontario Mission salute one and all throughout The Church of Jesus Christ. May God richly bless one and all.

### To Be a Saint

By Mike Coppa

"O the greatness and the justice of our God! For He executeth all His words, and they have gone forth out of His mouth, and His law must be fulfilled.

"But behold, the righteous, the saints of the Holy One of Israel, they who have believed in the Holy One of Israel, they who have endured the crosses of the world, and despised the shame of it, they shall inherit the kingdom of God, which was prepared for them from the foundation of the world, and their joy shall be full forever" (II Nephi 9:17 & 18).

O how great the holiness of our God, for He hath called us the salt of the earth, yea, even a light unto the world; that our light may so shine that we will bring praises unto our Father in heaven.

We being called saints, called with a holy calling, living in a world where a saint is believed to be someone who dwells with God above; yea, not in the flesh or on the earth below, but behold, the Lord shall glorify His name through the faithful few who will praise Him and keep His commandments while striving to be filled with righteousness and seeking to bring forth His Zion.

If the world only knew the blessings that are in store for the Church of the Lamb, if they only realized the greatness of our God who shall bring again Zion and gather those who have been scattered; would not all men be desirous to receive His Holy Spirit, to have the joy of the saints and to anticipate His great power that shall be shown as a testimony unto the world that He is God, and prove that His word will be fulfilled?

But how many will believe that God still reigns? O, how many will deny the existence of a Supreme Being, He who has given them the breath of life and has covered their shame and made a way that they may have eternal life to look forward to, knowing not the fear of death but only rejoicing, for a greater day is nigh? Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, lift up your heads and be of good cheer,

for our God reigneth and His hand is upon your heads, and His hand is upon us. The day draweth closer and closer when the Father shall prune His vineyard one last time.

Seeing that ye have heard these words, let us strive to be filled with the virtues of Christ, that we may be prepared to do the work that the Father has consecrated to be done, that the woman's tears will be wiped away by the laborers in Zion, and that Peace might flow from vessel to vessel, creating a great manifestation of the love of God, which love no power on earth can conquer.

Let us stand up today and be counted in the army of our God, the great Jehovah, that we can truly say that we have been called to be a saint.

### A Miracle

I'm sure that every once in a while we may have a feeling that perhaps the days of miracles are past. Not that we are worthy of such a blessing, for who of us is truly worthy of anything from our precious Savior. Recently we have had the privilege to be recipients of such a miracle in our life.

Bro. Frank Vitto has not been feeling well on and off for the past eight months. Lately he has been experiencing a crushing heaviness in his chest. This occurred more frequently than what we felt comfortable with. Consequently, we conferred with his cardiologist and Bro. Frank was scheduled for a heart catheterization. In the interim, he received another attack and the doctor admitted him into the hospital immediately and subsequently performed the catheterization. We anxiously awaited the results. My brother Peter Capone, my son Perry, and Bro. Gordon Ciaravino were with me. When the doctor informed us that there was a blockage and that Bro. Frank would definitely have to undergo openheart surgery for a second time, we were devastated.

We knew that the brothers and sisters were praying for him. I say the results of those prayers as Bro.

(Continued on Page 6)

# **MBA Highlights**

### GMBA Singles' Retreat III

By Karen L. Progar, GMBA Assistant Secretary

Singles from New Jersey, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, and Pennsylvania came together at Temple Grove Camp Grounds near Fredonia, Pennsylvania on the weekend of June 15-17, 1990. The camp boasts a small but beautiful lake located directly behind the meeting hall, which added to the picturesqueness of the campsite. Sis. Denise Fleming, coordinator of the event, greeted those arriving and arranged for a snack, after which we all played "Name That Hymn," a game which proved to be a great ice breaker.

The theme for the Saturday seminar session was SUCCESS (Singles Upholding Christ Courageously! Earnestly Seeking Salvation). Three seminar groups discussed SUCCESS in regard to their personal service to the Lord. The participants examined daily problems and set goals for their individual success. Dealing with the status of being single within the Church was discussed in depth, concentrating on using our talents for the benefit of the Church.

Seminar leaders Bro. Paul Aaron Palmieri (teenage class), Bro. Randy Cicatti, Sis. Jill Ciccati, and Bro. Larry Champine (21-25 year old group), and Bro. Brian Martorana and Sis. Karen Progar (26 years and over) commented on how much they enjoyed the seminar sessions. All of those in attendance were very cooperative and participated in the group discussions.

Saturday afternoon was spent in fellowship and recreation. Volleyball and canoeing were the activities of the day. The unseasonably hot weather did not seem to dampen the enthusiasm of the participants, nor did the large number of ducks which inhabit the

The Saturday evening meeting began early. We were pleased to hear from our young brothers, as

well as the testimonies of many members of the congregation. It was particularly moving, as a number of brothers, sisters, and young people asked for prayer for their needs. We also enjoyed a number of special vocal selections presented during the meeting. Following our service, Sisters Lisa, Nancy, Robin, and Brother Ralph Cartino served international refreshments in a hall attractively decorated for the occasion. Sis. Doreen Schmitt then organized some games in which everyone eagerly participated.

Just prior to the start of the Sunday morning service, we were blessed to see three of the Church's young deaconesses set the Lord's table. Bro. Chuck Jumper, former GMBA vice president, spoke to the group referring to the account of Lot and his family, comparing Sodom to the world today. He warned us not to think that we can be in certain places and remain unaffected, thinking that we are so strong that we can withstand the pressures of evil. Bro. Chuck reminded us that only Jesus changes hearts and minds.

Sis. Carol Jumper sang Jesus Is Lord of All, after which Bro. Brian Martorana, GMBA Vice President, continued on the subject of Abraham and his relationship with the Lord. God promised Abraham that if he followed His direction, the Lord would make of him a great nation. How many of us are courageous enough to give up the reins of our life, and go wherever God would have us to go?

Bro. Ralph Cartino expressed that he felt a blessing as soon as he arrived at the retreat, and Bro. Larry Champine stated that he was impressed with the way that he had been treated by the young people throughout the weekend. His hope was that we would all dwell on the successful experiences that the Lord gives us. Bro. Randy then noted examples of success throughout the congregation.

GMBA President Paul Ciotti summarized the weekend's activities, and thanked those who worked so hard to make the weekend truly successful. The Church has a wealth of enthusiasm and talent in its young people,

waiting only to be tapped. The GMBA hopes that these abilities can be maximized by The Church of Jesus Christ.

### 53rd Anniversary

On May 9, 1990, Evangelist Bro. Allen Henderson celebrated his 53rd spiritual birthday in The Church of Jesus Christ at Windsor, Ontario. Brother Allen was baptized by Bro. V. James Lovalvo and confirmed by Bro. Thurman S. Furnier.

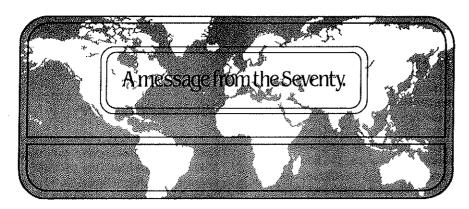
Our brother has many happy memories of experiences had in his past years in the Church. He is not able to attend church any more; he is 91 years old and now lives in a retirement home. He would appreciate your cards and letters very much.

> Allen Henderson Central Park Lodge 3387 Riverside Drive E. Windsor, ONT N8Y 1A8 CANADA



Evangelist Allen Henderson

"For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father" (Mosiah 3:19).



# People Need the Lord

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The theme of the program at the May 19 General Missionary Benevolent Association Conference in Dearborn, Michigan was "People Need the Lord." As the beautiful songs were being sung by the many voices under the direction of Sister Kathie Perkins and to the accompaniment of Brother Eugene Amormino, the listener could feel just how important this message is.

There were also brief skits of various plights of individuals. The song which followed each skit addressed the situation and how Christ could offer the solution. Broken lives, burdened hearts, repeated failures, dissipated dreams, and feelings of being lost were explored. The healing power and the forgiving love of Christ were then reflected in the beautiful musical selections presented.

If The Church of Jesus Christ had planned a presentation to the world, it could not have been done more perfectly. **People do need the Lord!** 

The Evangelists in their seminars on April 19, at their seminanual meetings had focused on the same thought of need and on "Touching the Hearts of Men and Women." How people can be reached with the message of salvation was discussed, and some outreach possibilities were analyzed. Many questions were asked and some solutions presented. Where do we go? What do we do? Whom do we seek to reach? How can this be done?

Ideally, it was agreed that it would be best to have activities and

projects which could be held in our church buildings. Series of church services, projects which may enrich the community, and addressing meaningful local concerns were explored. Realistically, there must be a means to draw people to the Gospel so that their needs may be met. If these kinds of local activities are not feasible or should be supplemented, the brothers talked about other avenues to pursue. Perhaps, as suggested, it would be advantageous if branches and missions could devote one night a week to a specifically planned activity. Some of the proposed undertakings follow.

### PROJECTS

Projects may include those on regular visiting schedules. These can be made to facilities which would welcome visitation programs, such as hospitals, nursing homes, and youth homes. Of course, there may be other institutional places which would extend the opportunities to offer good cheer and spiritual hope. For example, some branches have gone to nursing homes rather successfully, and the songs, sermons, and testimonies presented were uplifting and helpful to the residents. Favorable comments were even made by their families who had attended and become familiar with our people.

Other kinds of campaigns mentioned involve direct personal approaches. They range from going door-to-door to inviting relatives, friends, and acquaintances to our

homes to tell them about ourselves. Other suggestions were to make phone calls or set up appointments to go to people's homes to tell then about the Gospel message.

There are many variations to the direct approach, but perhaps the most significant factor is that it requires determination to continue without becoming overly concerned about immediate results. In any kind of direct work, there usually is a small percentage of success, and a seemingly overwhelming number of negative responses. The key is that if one soul comes to the Gospel, we can count it a success. That is one more than was in the fold before the effort was made.

Repeat visits or phone calls may be needed in some cases. Friendly indications or requests for additional contacts should be followed-up. It is important that we try to maintain further interaction so that the complete presentation on salvation can be made. The underlying thought is to invite and actually get the visitors to come to our church services. Sometimes picking them up and bringing them may be necessary.

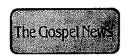
A good starting campaign would be to visit or call all relatives and friends who have either been connected with the Church, or have attended our services. Letters may also be sent to them, and special services may be held to welcome them back as a group. Some locations have already done this.

### SERVICE-ORIENTED

Besides the visitation and personal contact endeavors, serving kinds of activities can be used to help people and to show them the light. Among those who really need the Lord are the ones who are hurting. They can be found in many situations.

Seeking to find individuals who are ill and asking whether our ministers may go to anoint them is a most caring and sincere way of showing our love. This same kind of deep concern can also be shown to those who have lost loved ones, as we seek to visit them to offer comfort and company. In addition,

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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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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 Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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BUSINESS OFFICE 9066 Austin Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (800) 334-1773

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

People react to life's trials in a number of different ways, depending upon their natural and spiritual outlook. For those whose personal relationship with God is a distant, unfamiliar one, the reaction to a challenging situation might be, "Why me, Lord?" When good things happen to this same group of people, however, "Thank You, Lord," is seldom heard from their lips.

Those of us who have come to know the Savior should react very differently. Rather than concentrating and dwelling on the situation that surrounds us, we must take the time to look inward and examine our personal walk with God. Are we doing all we can to serve Him? Are we making an effort to grow even closer to Him than we may already be? Is there something in our life—perhaps something we never noticed or considered before—that stands in the way of our drawing as close as we possibly can to the throne of God?

These questions, difficult as they may be for us to face, must be confronted and addressed by us if we are to successfully serve God. They are questions that we might never bother to ask if we did not have things that cause us, from time to time, to feel the need for a greater measure of God's presence in our lives. Perhaps we are never more willing to open ourselves to the direction and the will of God than when we face something in our life which weighs on our mind day and night.

The enemy of our souls would have us expend all our thoughts and energies looking backward, trying to find the root cause of the problem, trying to pin the blame on someone or something, dwelling on our sorrows, pining over "what might have been." We must fight these feelings, and instead be filled with the Peace of God, which does more to comfort and uplift us than any understanding of the reasons behind our problem. Our efforts, our prayers, our service to God must go out on behalf of others—those who need the Lord, those who may need our help in facing trials of their own.

Having the Lord in our lives greatly simplifies the choices we have in reacting to adversity and setbacks. We learn to no longer look at situations as barriers between ourselves and our natural and/or spiritual potential. The Lord once said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Knowing that through Jesus Christ, who strenghens us, we can overcome any obstacle, we can grow to perceive these things merely as opportunities for God's power to show itself in and through us. Only if we are being totally honest with ourselves, however, can we be sure of His divine assistance.

# The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever had a problem and wished you had some way to know what to do? Did you ever wish you could ask your mom or dad, but were afraid they would be upset with you? Did you know that there is someone who truly knows all things, including your future, and who likes you and loves you no matter what you do? His name is Jesus Christ. He can direct you.

Sometimes God and Jesus, who is God's son, have directed people and shown them where to go by speaking to them. For example, Noah prayed to God and God told him how to build an ark and collect animals. Moses led the Israelite people to a Promised Land where they would be free by following the Lord's cloud by day and fire by night.

But my favorite story is about the family of Lehi leaving Jerusalem. It took them eight years in the wilderness jungles to find the ocean and sail to the Americas. They had to cross through a wilderness with tigers—and they had no guns; with millions of insects—and they had no bug spray; needing a fire-but they had no matches. They learned how to make their own clothes and catch and kill animals for food. They did this while they were walking through jungles and crossing rushing rivers with rafts they built, and climbing up dangerous mountains.

They were traveling over land and across rivers with no roads or bridges. In the thick forest a person cannot see the stars at night to tell what direction he is traveling. But God knows all of this. He prepared a special tool for them, and called it



a beautiful name—the Liahona—to tell them where to go.

The Liahona was somewhat like a compass that we have today. It was made of fine brass, and was round like a ball. Inside were two spindles (something like the hand of a clock) that pointed the way they should travel in the wilderness. Scriptures, words telling people about God's ways, also were written on the spindles. The writing was changed by the Lord from time to time, in order to help and teach the people.

One time, when Nephi was hunting for food, he prayed and asked God where to go, and then followed the words on the Liahona. Nephi went up to the top of the mountain, and there he found wild animals he could kill to feed his family.

While crossing the wide ocean, Nephi prayed and God made the Liahona show them what direction to steer the ship in. When his brothers fought against Nephi and did evil things, the Liahona quit working and they were lost. When they thanked God and prayed, their pathway became clear again.

Today God will still direct His children where they should go, or how they can solve problems. We have the Bible and Book of Mormon filled with loving rules that tell us what kinds of things are dangerous to our minds and hearts. We have inspired ministers who speak words from God that help and heal us. We have the Lord, Jesus Christ, to always hold our hands.

When you are worried, when you need help to go the right way, turn to Jesus. Turn off the television and the world's music. Pray quietly in your mind and heart as you walk to school, and sit in classes, and go to church. Ask God what to do, then patiently wait.

He sent Nephi up a mountain to find his answer (food for his family); it didn't just fall in his lap. You may have to do some spiritual work—like praying many times—to find your answer, too. But Jesus hears you and God loves you, too.

With care,

Sister Jan

### MIRACLE continued . . .

Frank faced the prospect of surgery for the second time. He was very calm and he encouraged me to be strong. This took place on Monday, April 30. Surgery was scheduled for Thursday, May 3. The team of surgeons, the cardiologist, and the angioplastic surgeon all agreed that surgery was inevitable. We never stopped praying; the brothers and sisters never stopped praying. We witnessed the effects of these prayers.

The day before surgery, Frank's brother Paul Vitto and his wife Mary were visiting with Bro. Frank just as his lunch was delivered. At that particular moment, the nurse came in and told him, "No food or drink for you, Mr. Vitto, the doctor will be calling you shortly." Needless to say, we were very apprehensive. The doctor called us and stated that he didn't know what possessed him to study the films over and over again. He decided that another catheterization was essential. He stressed the fact that he didn't want to build our hopes up, but he felt strongly that he wanted this procedure done again. I was elated, but with some reservation. I felt sorry for Bro. Frank because I knew they would be doing additional probing and it would be painful for him.

Hours later, Frank was returning to his room and the doctor came up to talk to us. In his words, "I don't know why I kept studying those films. I looked at them 30

(Continued on Page 11)

# Our Women Today

# A Five-Year History of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle October 1985-April 1990

By Lucetta Scaglione and Kathy Smith

During the past five years the sisters have been very active in helping the Church. Some of the activities include sending layettes to Indian reservations, clothes to New York's Bowery, sacrament cloths to Africa, hosiery and clothing to India, soup can labels to Greenoak Christian School, and a purse and twenty-five dollars to Sister Osaka in Kenya. We also paid the tuition of an African student in the Church's secondary school in Nigeria. Circle stationery, transfer cards, and Memorial Fund forms were printed.

There were nine new local circles and three new area circles organized. The locals were Perry, Ohio in 1985; Maine, Meaford, Ontario, and India in 1986; Spartanburg, SC, Lindsay, CA, and Mexicali in 1987; and Cape Coral, FL and another circle in India in 1989. The area circles organized were Pennsylvania in 1985, Ohio in 1986, and Florida in 1989.

The General Circle has met semiannually in various localities of the Church. Meetings were held in Edison and Hopelawn, NJ; Aliquippa, Monongahela, Vanderbilt, and Levittown, PA; Warren, OH; and Detroit, MI. In these meetings many inspiring devotions have been presented. The different themes that were used were One Church-One God, Fruits of the Spirit, Stop and Smell the Roses, Faith, Because He Lives, Beulah Land, Vessels of Gold, and Answers to Prayers. On April 24, 1987, a seminar was conducted at Greensburg, PA. The topic was The Role of Today's Woman in the Church. The General Circle has been very generous in its contributions to the General Church. To African missionary work, \$4,388 was donated; India, \$4,263; Italy, \$463; Guatemala, \$1,300; Mexican Relief, \$5,129.50; Tse Bonito Vacation Bible School, \$100; General Church Mission Fund, \$1,343; Independence, MO, \$288; Missionary Family Support Project, \$3,500; Greenoak Christian School, \$350; General Church Development Committee, \$1,300; Retirement Home Survey, \$4,000; Evangelists' Radio/TV Media Fund, \$1,225; and the General Church Indian Missionary Fund, \$15,963.

There were a few changes that took place in the past five years, the most significant of which was the election of Sister Arline Whitton to the office of president and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio to the office of vice president.

The sisters voted to hold General Circle elections every two years, and to also change the reporting system. It was also passed by the sisters to update the by-laws.

The scriptures are read, and the 23rd and 121st Psalms, the books of the New Testament, and the Beatitudes were recited from memory in the General Circle meetings.

In closing this history, we would like to record the words given to one of the sisters, "The Circle is to the Church as a wife is to her husband."

# **Branch and Mission News**

#### **MEAFORD Continued . . .**

veyed, we saw tears begin to fill the eyes of our Mexican friends. As they heard that the Book of Mormon was a record of their ancestors, they cried out in unison, "Where is this book? We want this book!" Our goal at this point was to try to do just that—to get Bibles and Books of Mormon and any other literature available to us in Spanish and present it to them.

As we continued to labor among the Mexican men, the Lord continued to send reinforcements! Two weeks later, Brother Flip and Sister Alma returned, bringing Brother Mark and Sister Karen Mancinelli with them. The major problem we had with this work was finding a way to get all of these men transported to Church. This problem was solved when our brothers and sisters from Detroit arrived with a passenger van from the Inner City Branch. Then, once we got the men to church, we had a problem fitting them all into our little building, which measures only 16 x 25 feet inside. With our own membership, our visitors from Detroit, and our friends from Mexico, it was very crowded to say the

least. As we gathered together with well over 50 people in our little building, the Spirit of God began to flow in prayer, preaching, singing, and testifying in Spanish and English. Many of the men from Mexico testified, stating that they had never felt such love and blessings before, nor had they heard of such a Gospel as ours!! The meeting was followed by a visit on our church's front lawn and some picture-taking. We continued to visit our friends nightly, and as their knowledge increased, so did the blessings for them and us as well.

Beautiful weather continued, and the harvest continued in the lit-

(Continued on Page 8)

#### **MEAFORD Continued...**

tle Meaford Valley. The next weekend Brother Oscar Lopez came to visit with us, arriving on Friday evening. We proceeded to visit the same bunkhouses with Brother Oscar. It seemed that the men from Mexico had reserved some important questions for Brother Oscar, especially about the religion they were raised in, which was Roman Catholicism. Brother Oscar's answers were accepted very well, and more hearts opened up to us. Saturday evening we met at our church building for a meal with the brothers and sisters and another bunkhouse of Mexican men. We took this opportunity to celebrate Brother Oscar's birthday, and learned how they sing "Happy Birthday" in Mexico as we sang to Brother Oscar.

The blessings kept flowing. The next weekend, the Palacios' and Mancinellis' returned to our area from Detroit, After this Sunday's meeting, the sisters served a delicious meal which we ate at the Meaford Community Center. On Sunday night we held a meeting again at bunkhouse #2. This meeting was a gathering of all the Mexican people from the other bunkhouses, along with brothers and sisters from our mission and the Inner City Branch. Close to fifty people met in a little bunkhouse living room! We asked two men to express themselves, and one of them decided to convey the feelings of the entire group of men. He said that they never felt this feeling in their hearts and their chests before. He wanted to know what it was they were feeling. We told them that they were tasting of the Spirit of God! He asked for our continued prayers for all of them, and we ask the same from you, our brothers and sisters. Please remember these young men in your prayers. Many of our elders from California and Mexico are willing to be hunters and fishers for these young men in Mexico!

In conclusion, we would like to thank everyone who has contributed their time, their prayers, and their assistance. We felt the closeness of the Lord as we labored and fellowshipped in the Lord's vineyard. We can truly say, "We've had a taste of Canaan now, and we want to see the rest." We, the brothers and sisters of Meaford, look forward to the flowering apple trees each spring, knowing that soon the blossoms will bring forth their fruit, naturally and spiritually. God's richest blessings to all.

### **Blessings in Modesto**

By Valerie Dulisse

March 18, 1990 at the Modesto, California Branch was a day filled with the greatest blessings from God that I, as a newer member of the Church, have ever witnessed. From the very beginning of our worship service, many of us felt there was a good spirit in our midst. Our presiding elder, Brother Leonard Lovalvo, felt to ask the saints to stand and reach out to all those around us, asking God to bless them and showing our love. The Spirit in the meeting greatly increased during this sincere, heartfelt gesture of charity among the brothers and sisters. Brother Leonard allowed the Spirit to flow by following his inspiration to open the service with testimony and praise to our lord.

The saints could not be held back; in our enthusiasm to thank God for His many blessings, we were often standing up two at a time. We were jumping out of our seats, unable to contain our praise for the Lord's intercession in our lives. There were testimonies by members from whom we have not heard in a very long time.

Suddenly two ladies requested their baptism! Sisters Renee and Wendy Deulus gave their hearts to the Lord on this day. The sisters were baptized the following Sunday; Sister Renee by Brother Leonard Lovalvo, and Sister Wendy by Brother Tony Picciuto of the Lindsay, CA Branch.

Others filled with the Holy Spirit requested prayers for strength to make crucial decisions in their lives regarding baptism, career moves, and teen-age problems. Two of our sisters requested to be anointed for afflictions on their bodies. Our sister Florence

Picciuto was in a great deal of pain that morning, but after being anointed by the elders she was suddenly healed! Sister Florence stood for the second time to praise God for His mercy in hearing and granting the prayers of the saints. Likewise, several of the other saints gave testimony twice that day. Some testified of a message which God had placed on their hearts to give to certain ones who had not yet accepted Christ, exhorting to them to allow God to take over their lives, and to partake of His great and wonderful plan of salvation; to break the chains of the world that hold them.

There was no preaching in our branch on this day; God had directed the meeting, orchestrating the events which took place from beginning to end. Praise to our Lord! We truly felt Him walking among us that day. There were no dry eyes to be found in the church; all present were profoundly affected by this manifestation of God's Holy Spirit. We received a glimpse of what He has in store for us in Zion, and the beauty of that place will be astounding. May God's great love always be so clearly evident to us is my sincere prayer.

# Baptism at Detroit Inner-City

By Karen Mancinelli

On the beautiful morning of January 7, 1990, friends and members of the Detroit Inner City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ congregated on the shore of the icy Detroit River at Belle Isle to sing praises to the Lord as two more souls were preparing for baptism.

One week prior, Cindy Ciaravino stood up in the meeting and acknowledged her desire to be baptized. On the morning of Cindy's baptism, her husband, Gordon Ciaravino, telephoned Presiding Elder Eugene Amormino and told him that he, too, wanted to be baptized that day.

While the saints stood nearby on the thickly frozen surface of the river, Cindy was baptized by Bro. Eugene Amormino, and Gordon was baptized by Bro. Gary Champine. Back at the church building, Bro. Eugene related that in the car Gordon and Cindy said that all they saw was sunshine and the brothers and sisters "walking" on the water. It was a special blessing to have Branch 4 visiting with us this day, as that is where Gordon was born and raised in the Church.

Bro. Kerry Carlini introduced the service, stating that he was very happy to be among the saints, and even happier to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Referring to Bro. Gordon and Sis. Cindy, Bro. Kerry reminded us that this will be the most important day in their lives because it is God's will for His children to be baptized—it's the only way one can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven-and we can only be blessed when we are doing His will. Bro. Kerry stated that it's hard for some people to surrender to God, but we find that if we are selfless and give ourselves to Godtotally—we will be blessed—totally.

He also referred to the scriptures, pointing out the faith which men of old exercised, and how obedient they were to God's commands. These things all resulted in great blessings for them. Bro. Kerry questioned what kind of faith we have today, and if we are willing to believe that God will bless us in whatever He commands us to do.

Bro. Eugene Amormino followed, stating that God would not command us to do something without preparing a way for it to be done. He then related how Gordon and Cindy talked of all the obstacles in the way of their getting baptized, but how God opened the way for them in each instance. He stated that baptism fulfills all righteousness, and pointed out in the scriptures the time when Jesus made friends with Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, and told him, "You must be born again."

Then Bro. Eugene referred to II Nephi 31:13-21, saying how it covers everything: Repentance, baptism, reception of the Holy Ghost, pressing forward with steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love for God and all men, and enduring to the end. And after all these things,

"ye shall have eternal life." Our brother remarked that sometimes the road gets rough, but thank God we can look to one another for strength and support. However, we cannot follow one another. If there is anyone for us to follow, it is Jesus Christ.

After we sang He's Safe—Jesus Saved Him, Apostle Gorie Ciaravino confirmed his son Bro. Gordon, and Bro. Tony Gerace confirmed Sis. Cindy. By a special request of our new sister, Sis. Donna Amormino sang He Planted Me Deep.

In closing, Bro. Eugene asked us to remember to pray for those whom God is continuing to call into the fold, quoting the Lord when He said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Our prayer is that God will continue to inspire our new brother and sister and bless them as they travel on this journey through the wilderness.

### Bell, California News

By Rosemary Scalise

"Then they that gladly received His word were baptized."

On August 13, 1989, God called Yolanda (Yasmin) Garcia into His fold. There is nothing strange about being caled, but in Yolanda's case there was. Sister Yolanda is the daughter of Sis. Julia Garcia, who came into the Church in 1954 when it was introduced to her by Bro. Ed and Sis. Evelyn Perdue.

Through the years Brother and Sister Perdue continued to keep many Spanish-speaking people informed about the Church, talking, visiting, and praying with them. But the only one of the Garcia family that came was Sis. Julia. She had a large family, and her constant prayer ws that someone in her family would get baptized. "Lord, in Your due time," she would pray. Her daughter would occasionally come to church, but would never make the move toward baptism.

One day Sis. Yolanda and her mother visited the Santa Ana Branch. As the brothers were administering sacrament, Sis. Yolanda thought, "Oh no, not again—I'm going to be passed up. Not any

more," she thought, "I'm going to be baptized," and that's when she broke down and the Spirit of the Lord touched her and she asked for her baptism. She waited until the following Sunday, when she came to Bell so she could make her wishes known at her home branch. But she also desired that her brothers could be present to witness the baptism, so we scheduled it for the following Sunday.

Her brothers all worked late on Saturday night, and there was some doubt whether they could make it to the waters the next morning. But God provided a way and they were all there. Bro. Harry Marshall took our sister down into the waters of baptism. She was later confirmed by Bro. Bob McDonnell. Bro. Harry has been meeting at the Garcias' home for many years, teaching Book of Mormon, Bible, and the faith of the Church. We pray that others of Yolanda's family will make their covenant with the Lord. After many years, plus three weeks, our sister made the covenant that her mother had prayed for, "In God's due time."

On April 1, 1990 the Bell, CA Branch had the opportunity to witness two young men being called into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Hector Martinez and Omar Morales, two young men who had previously asked for their baptism at our Pacific Coast District Conference on March 11, 1990, had decided to wait for their families to be present when they were baptized.

Bro. Luis Pacheco from Tijuana baptized our new Brother Omar Morales, and Bro. Harry Marshall baptized Bro. Hector Martinez. The parents of both these young men are already members of the Church.

We returned from the waters to the Bell Branch, and opened our Sunday morning meeting with congregational singing. We were privileged to hear from our Brother Luis Pacheco on this day. Our meeting was partly in Spanish, and partly in English—both the speaking and the singing.

Bro. Luis Pacheco confirmed Bro. Hector and Bro. Vincent

(Continued on Page 10)

#### BELL Continued . . .

Scalise confirmed Bro. Omar. It was a glorious sight to see our two new brothers give their testimony today after communion. We dismissed our meeting and enjoyed a beautiful luncheon that our sisters had prepared for this occasion. Praise be to God, it was a glorious day well spent.

Bro. Dominic Thomas, president of our Church, was in the Bell, CA Branch on April 2, 1990. His visit was no surprise to us because we were expecting his coming, and even though it was a Monday night, we had a beautiful turnout of members.

Bro. Dominic related to the congregation many experiences from his years in the Church. Some of them were very serious, and some elicited smiles and laughter from the congregation.

We were very happy to have our brother with us. May God bless him in his work for the Church.

### Blessings at Imperial, PA

During the week of the General Church Conference in April, 1990, we at the Imperial, PA Branch were privileged to have many visitors and experience many blessings. On Wednesday night of that week, we had in our midst Brother Rusty and Sister Barbara Heaps. Bro. Rusty opened up the meeting for questions and answers, and we enjoyed our brother's informative and inspiring answers concerning the work of the Church.

On Sunday afternoon, after the Sunday morning service at the World Conference Center, we at Imperial were blessed to hear Brothers Dwayne Jordan, Sam Randy, Bob Watson, Joe Lovalvo, and Jim Dulisse each give a talk on the expectations of our Church. It is time that we prepare ourselves as individuals, spiritually, before we can help others find salvation. If we want to be a part of the great work of the Church, we must be humble, we must fast and pray. This is the blessed land which God has prepared for Israel's homecoming. Our changing world will have a

negative effect on the Church if we are not watchful and ready to do battle. Where does each of us stand with God? In order to see the power that was manifested on the day of Pentecost come into our midst, we must ask God in fasting and prayer, and be united as a Church. We are thankful to God for these brothers, who took the time to visit and encourage us in these trying days.

Our Sunday evening meeting, held later that day, was blessed from the beginning, with many visitors from all parts of the vineyard coming together and singing *The Songs of Zion*. We all had a prayer in our heart that God would be in our midst.

During and after the opening prayer, a brother had a vision of the Three Nephites, who in his vision escorted our opening speaker, Brother Rick Elzby, to the rostrum.

Bro. Rick opened on the 28th Chapter of III Nephi, expounding on the Three Nephites' desire to remain on the earth for the souls of mankind. He spoke of our hope of Zion, and the thought of Christ being in our midst. Bro. Jim Moore continued, relating many experiences where the power of God was made manifest, and speaking on the coming forth of the kingdom of Zion. Bro. David Robinson of Kansas related the difficulties of this life, and how we are waiting to see God's hand move. We also heard from Bro. Alex Robinson, also of Kansas, who told experiences where God had revealed to him answers to questions he had asked. How will God's kingdom come? By an increase of righteousness in the hearts of the children of men.

Brother Dan Buffington followed, speaking on the freedom that Jesus gives us. As he was reciting a poem given to Sis. Arlene Buffington entitled Carry the Banner for Jesus, Richard Inwe Onome, visiting from Africa, stood up and asked for his baptism. Bro. Dan asked if there were any others, and Bill Ottavian from Glassport, PA stood on his feet.

Bill's wife, Sis. Linda, testified that their ten-year-old grandson from Windsor, Ontario had dreamed two weeks earlier that his grandfather would ask for his baptism during conference weekend at a little church. In his dream he saw a black man ask for his baptism first, followed by his grandfather.

Bro. David Nolfi baptized Bill Ottavian, and Bro. Dan Buffington baptized Richard Onome. Bro. Richard was later confirmed by Brother Frank Rogolino, and Bro. Bill by Bro. Paul Gehly. Following this, about fifteen individuals came forth for prayer, and after closing remarks by Bros. Bob Buffington and Jim Moore, Bro. Carl Huttenberger closed in prayer.

### **Baptism at Muncey**

By Sam French

On May 3, 1990, Romona Fisher was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. She had been attending the meetings at Muncey for over a year.

The saints of Muncey, and those who travel there from the Detroit area, were most edified by the entering of our new sister's name into the Lamb's Book of Life. Praise be to God; His name be glorified.

Mona was taken into the waters of regeneration and baptized by Bro. Rodney Dyer, and was confirmed by Bro. Larry Henderson for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

We pray that God will richly bless our new sister, and lead and guide her throughout her life. May God bless one and all.

### N. Jackson, OH

By Kathy Vinsick

We of the North Jackson, Ohio Mission all gathered together on April 29, 1990, very anxious for our first feet washing service to start. The Lord has been so good to us in our mission.

Bro. Richard Santilli spoke upon how God looks down upon us all by His grace, and that we all have a need to be spiritually fed. Our brother also stated that God is still on His throne, and that He would bless us in all things—our homes, our children, and our employment. We should all praise God by gathering together and singing songs to Him. The kingdom of man has failed us, but God's kingdom never will. The time will come that everything will be clean, and there will be peace from one end of the earth to the other. God's people are looking forward to this peaceful era when Jesus Christ will be our King.

Bro. Frank Giovannone followed, speaking about the ordinance of feet washing. What a beautiful feeling you receive when you humble yourself to wash your brother's or sister's feet. There is a greater blessing in washing someone else's feet than in having your feet washed.

The fellowship meeting began, and there were so many beautiful testimonies. The Spirit of God was felt strongly in that meeting. Bro. Frank asked who wanted to be anointed, and a young girl, visiting for the first time, came forward and stated that she has to have a kidney transplant, and wanted the elders to pray for her. A beautiful prayer was said on her behalf, and we all pray that God will be with her.

We went into our feet washing service, and all felt a beautiful Spirit. Surely God's Spirit was upon each one tht participated. We went home truly fed by God, and are grateful for this day that He gave us.

### MIRACLE continued . . .

times, and something made me see a shadow that could be an open graft. I don't know who you pray to, but He must have answered you because you do have an open graft that is working well. Even though two of the three bypasses are blocked, we don't feel that surgery is necessary. We'll try to take care of it with medication."

The Lord truly caused this miracle. How can we possibly thank Him? There aren't enough words to praise His precious name.

When we walked into the doctor's office a few days later, he greeted us with, "How's my miracle man?!"

We are so grateful for this reprieve. All we can say is we thank God for the honor and privilege to strive to serve Him for a few more years.

The entire Vitto family want to take this opportunity to thank the brothers and sisters for the many cards with wonderful words of support, the phone calls showing concern, and most importantly, the prayers that were offered on our behalf. Truly we bear one another's burdens. May the Lord bless each and every one of you is our sincere prayer.

The Frank Vitto Family Detroit Branch 4

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

befriending those who are alone or have experienced personal problems can go a long way toward fulfilling the words of King Benjamin, who said that "when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17).

There are many other projects which may be undertaken. Having activities in our buildings and attempting to reach people in any possible way will allow us to maximize our work for the Lord. Radio, television, and newspaper usage can also offer additional opportunities.

Enthusiasm and belief will allow us to touch the hearts of men and women. Our young people at the GMBA Conference captured the essence of why Christ came into the world: People need Him! Our role is to bring them to Jesus. Our fastings and prayers are essential, of course, but our actions must then follow. Overall, our desire is to be directed to whom we should speak.

Giving the Gospel message is our main objective. In all that we do for people, the light of Christ must shine and we must talk about Christ, the Restored Gospel, and salvation. Our testimony should be given whenever possible without hesitation.

Christ died that we may have life and life more abundantly. We cannot settle for anything less than letting everyone know about this. PEOPLE NEED THE LORD!

# Wanted: A Laborer in Zion

By Sister Terri Bravo

Wanted: A laborer in Zion. I asked the Lord, "Who, me? But Lord, I am not perfect, In fact, I'm weak, You see.

"For I am not the bravest, The smartest, or the bold. Others are more able Thy Gospel to uphold.

"You see me struggling hard each day Against Satan's mighty grip. Perhaps there is another, Lord, To take such an eventful trip.

"You need a mighty warrior, Lord, A person made of steel.
One who will never waver to sin One who will not keel.

"I'm just one lowly person,
I've seen the stain of sin.
I've cried, and laughed, and hoped,
and loved.
I've been unsure within.

"I've prayed that You would mold me, I've fasted many days.
I've joined the chorus of saints, dear Lord,
Your glorious name to praise.

"I love you, Lord, with heart and mind, And Lord, with all my soul. In you do I find peace of mind And rest for my troubled soul.

"Your love is so amazing, How it touches even me. I want to share it with others And help them to eternity.

"I will tell them the story of Jesus, And the hope You bring to their souls, How You promised never to leave them As the years of eternity roll.

"I would tell them of a Savior Who cleanses us from sin. His mercies are unbounded; He makes us pure within.

"Perhaps there is another, But yet I'm beginning to see." Wanted: A laborer in Zion. I answered, "Dear Lord, send me."

# WEDDINGS

### VITO—READIE

Donald Vito and Janet Ann Readie were joined in marriage on Saturday, February 10, 1990 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Brooklyn, New York.

Bro. James R. Link, Sr., uncle of the groom, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections on piano and flute were provided by Sister Alice Suska.

The newlyweds are residing in Brooklyn, New York. May God's richest blessings be with them as they go through life together.

### RAGAISIS-MILLER

David M. Ragaisis and Pamela A. Miller were united in holy matrimony at the Rochester, NY Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ on June 9, 1990.

Bro. Frank Natoli presented a beautiful sermon on marriage based on several scriptural references. Bro. Bob Batson united the couple in marriage. Sis. Kathy Natoli provided musical and vocal selections during the

We wish this couple God's blessings in their life

together.

Name

Phone

# Address Change Address

### Children Blessed

Allegra Elizabeth Grasielle Prentice and Amanda Jov Bealko were both blessed on November 5, 1989 by their grandfather, Bro. Vincent Gibson of the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

Andrea Elisa McCullough, daughter of Bro. Andre and Elisa McCullough, was blessed on March 18, 1990, at the Spartanburg, SC Mission by Bro. Arthur Searcy of the Edison, New Jersey Branch.

Samantha Rose was blessed on June 3, 1990 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch by her grandfather,

Bro. Sam DiFalco.

### **OBITUARIES**

### IRVING LOUGHREN

Irving (Gene) Loughren passed from this life on March 25, 1990 at the age of 70. His funeral was conducted by Brothers Anthony Scolaro and Paul Vitto of Detroit Branch 1.

Gene is survived by his wife, Sis. Madeline; a sister, and twelve nieces and nephews. May the Lord comfort those who feel his loss most.

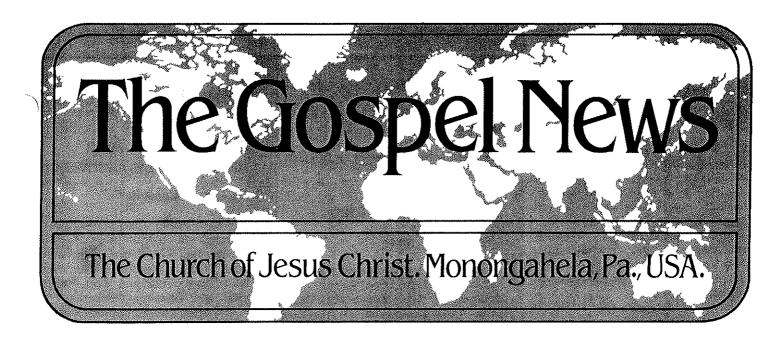
### KATHERINE SARISKY

Sister Katherine Sarisky of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed on to her eternal reward on May 5, 1990. She was born on August 22, 1928 and was baptized on May 7, 1949 by her father, Bro. Frank Wooley.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Adam

Costarella and Richard Santilli.

Our sister is survived by four sons, a daughter, two sisters, a brother, and three grandchildren. Sister Katherine was a humble, faithful sister and will be missed by all of the Youngstown Branch as well as her family.



August, 1990

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# Origin of Churches

By Frank D. Giovannone

Many Christian people today think that all churches are headed in the same direction, working oward the same goal, worshipping the same God, that beliefs and doctrines don't make any difference, that it doesn't matter what church we belong to, and that as long as we are honest and sincere, we will be saved.

What did Jesus think? What did He say?

There were many churches in the Lord's day, already established and in full operation. Judaism had been divided into sects for a long time—the Pharisees, the Saducees, the Essenes, and others. And there were many non-Judaic and pagan religions. But Jesus chose none of them. For He said, "I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). When the disciples of John attempted to check Jesus by the doctrine of the Pharisees, He said, "No man putteth a piece of new cloth unto an old garment" (Matthew 9:16).

Jesus warned His own disciples to "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Saducees" (Matthew 16:6). Later we read how he term leaven here represents doctrine. Jesus knew that His purposes would be frustrated by those existing organizations, that he would have to make a new begin-

ning to build the kingdom of God. He knew that if He were to save mankind, He would have to follow a specific plan of salvation, incorporated in a definite organization which was free of religious tradition, and which would be devoted to the redemption and regeneration of the human race, according to His plan.

King David knew it made a difference what kind of spiritual home was used: for he said, "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it" (Psalms 127:1).

There have been many religions and churches established by men, with which God had nothing to do. Anyone who is dissatisfied with his church can organize a new one of his own. But that does not mean that God commanded him to do it, nor that the result will be God's Church.

Do you think God will recognize these man-made churches? Can salvation be found in them? Christ did not say He would build any man's church. He said, "I will build my church."

Men today have changed the teaching and doctrine of Christ, saying we do not need His doctrine. What does the Apostle Paul say?

"Preach the word: Be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.

"And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (II Timothy 4:2-4).

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

"That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Timothy 3:16-17).

"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son" (II John v.9).

Relevant scriptures can also be found in Acts 2:42 and John 7:16-17.

How did some of the many religions we have today come about? The information listed below was taken in part from *Handbook of Denominations*, 7th Edition.

Martin Luther was a Catholic priest. He was dissatisfied with the abuses, doctrines, and practices of his church. He withdrew from it and organized his own. He never made the claim that God commanded him to do so. He was trying to get back to the purity of the "strait and narrow way" of Christ.

(Continued on Page 2)

# Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

Words are inadequate to express how grateful we are for the outpouring of love shown to us during the illness and passing of our husband and father earlier this year. The prayers and countless acts of kindness helped to sustain us during our time of great need. May God richly reward each one of you for your beautiful expressions of love.

God bless you, Sister Elizabeth Staley and Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

My heartfelt thanks for all your prayers during my recent illness and surgery. It was through the prayers of the saints that I gained complete faith and trust in our Lord. I praise His holy name. I felt His presence beside me during all the difficult ordeals. How wonderful to rest on Jesus!

Thanks, too, for the cards, phone calls, and the many other manifestations of love and concern for me and my family. They were also very much appreciated. I am so blessed to be a part of the Family of God.

My love in Jesus and gratitude to all.

******

Sister Connie Marinetti

All of the DiFalco Family at this time wish to thank all our brothers and sisters for the many prayers while Sister Raffaela DiFalco was in great pain and suffering. Our mother and grandmother had three surgeries, and endured them only with the love of God, your prayers, and all the cards, gifts, and flowers she received from the saints.

The Lord truly helped our mother, and our prayer is that God would be with you all in your hour of need. We thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ, and for all of our brothers and sisters. Sister DiFalco was able to enjoy a few peaceful months of rest and recovery before the Lord finally called her home.

With love to our family in Christ, The DiFalco Family

### When Storms Arise

By Samuel French

Most of us are familiar with Psalm 23, "The Lord is my Shepherd." God tells us that He is the Shepherd and we are His sheep.

God calls us sheep in the hope that we can learn from these docile animals. One tremendous lesson we can learn from sheep is how they react when storms approach. During severe storms, sheep look to and lean on each other for strength and protection. At the height of a storm they will huddle together in the middle of the field.

Those in the middle of the flock are the safest, and those on the outside try to squeeze into the middle. The sheep know by instinct that when they are alone during a storm they are vulnerable to the elements, and that there is safety in numbers.

This is how we should handle the storms in our lives. When problems and trials arise, and they do continually, do we try to "go it alone," or do we follow the example of the sheep? Instead of trying to make it on our own and leaving ourselves more vulnerable to depression, loneliness, and hopelessness, we should go to the flock for strength.

Who is the flock? "You are my flock," says the Lord God. As we work, as we go through life, we occasionally will stumble and even fall. If we are alone, there is no one to help us. But if others are near, there is always someone to help us up and give us strength.

There is strength in the family of God and The Church of Jesus Christ, the Gospel Restored. A strong family, tied together with the love of Christ and God's Spirit, offers Satan no foothold. He can't break us as long as we, God's own flock, are together. Praise be to God!

# Our Women Today

### Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle Conference

By Linda Reynolds

The Pacific Coast Area Conference was held on May 19, 1990 at the Bell, CA Branch. The ladies that were in attendance were from San Diego, Anaheim, Simi Valley, Bell, and Lindsay, California.

Coffee and doughnuts were served while everyone greeted one another. Area Circle President Sister Carrie Jankowski started the meeting by sharing some of the highlights from the General Ladies' Circle Conference that was held in April at Detroit, Michigan Branch 3. Songs were sung and a discussion was held on future Circle activities.

A salad luncheon was prepared and served by the sisters of the Bell Circle.

We were addressed by Brother Rusty Heaps, who shared several experiences that he and his wife, Sister Barbara, had in their travels around the country. He had many wonderful things to say about the Ladies' Circle. Sister Barbara shared a few experiences as well. All went home feeling the Spirit of God.

### CHURCHES continued . . .

So, in 1529, he started the Lutheran Church.

In 1729, John and Charles Wesley, who were Catholic priests, started the Methodist Church.

In the 18th Century, John Wesley organized the Pentecostal Church of the Nazarene. In 1910, the organization dropped the prefix "Pentecostal." It is now known as the Church of the Nazarene.

Roger Williams, a priest of the Church of England, came to this country and identified himself wit the Presbyterians for a time. But in reading his Bible, he came to believe that infant baptism and sprinkling as a mode of baptism are wrong. In 1639 he organized the First Baptist Church in America.

In 1810 Alexander Campbell, a minister of the Baptist Church, came to believe in baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), but failed in trying to introduce that doctrine into the church; so he withdrew and organized a church that later became known as the Christian Church.

These and other events like them explain why we have so many different churches today that claim to be the church of Christ.

No two of these churches teach alike or have the same creed. Many teach conflicting doctrines and ideas. Can all of them be right?

All Christian churches have something in common. Their belief in God and Christ, their hope of heaven, their concern for souls. But they diverge, and have many differences of opinion, belief, practice, and ordinances. Can Christ build His Church with a lot of quarreling followers and conflicting or contradictory creeds? Many honest people mistakenly think He can.

Jesus knew He could not, for He said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation" (Matthew 12:25).

When did all these different religions have their beginnings? They all came forth during the Dark Ages, while the power and authority was taken away from the earth, as stated in Revelation 12:4-6, where God had a place prepared for the woman with the man child, in the wilderness, and there he took care of her for one thousand two hundred and threescore (1260) days. While John the Revelator said days, Ezekiel said he appointed a day for a year (Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34). Thus the Dark Ages lasted for a period of 1260 years.

It is my belief that the Gospel fell away about the year 560 A.D. The Apostle Paul predicted, in II Thessalonians 2:3, that there would be a falling away. We believe that John saw an angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel, to be preached unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people (Revelation 14:6).

We believe that this angel flew

in the year 1820, which is 1260 years from 560, when the Gospel fell away. The Gospel was fully restored again, with the power and authority from God, on May 15, 1829.

There are many references in the Bible that will verify and prove these facts. I believe this brief review should enlighten the minds of those who are seeking the truth, with God's help.

### Married 50 years

By Carmella D'Amico

On November 25, 1989, relatives and brothers and sisters in Christ gave us a surprise 50th Wedding Anniversary party at the nursing home where my husband, Bro. Ansel D'Amico, stays. Many cards and gifts were received, and I especially remember the card of congratulations from President and Mrs. Bush. Many happy memories were related throughout the afternoon.

We were married on November 25, 1939 by Bro. Ishmael D'Amico. God did not bless us with children, but He did bless us with the love and patience needed to take care of our parents, Bro. Ishmael and Sis. Julia D'Amico, and Bro. Vincent and Sis. Josephine Gallucci, until their death.



Sis. Carmella and Bro. Ansel D'Amico of Rochester, NY.

Baptized in 1933, Bro. Ansel was ordained an elder in 1935 and an evangelist in 1943. He was very active in the Church until he became ill five years ago, having done missionary work in Lockport, Tuscarora, Buffalo, Palatine Bridge, Syracuse, and Auburn, NY, as well as in Toronto, Ontario. He was the presiding elder of the Rochester, NY Branch for 31 years.

We would like to thank God for the many wonderful blessings He has bestowed upon us in the past 50 years, and we continue to trust Him for the years to come.

Bro. Ansel (Sam) had multiple severe strokes, which left him with memory loss. He's now in a nursing home.

We want to thank you all for your kind wishes, love, prayers, and concern. Prayers change things.

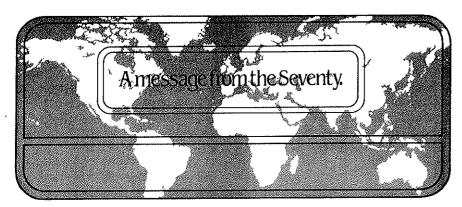
God bless you all.

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# Walking Together

By Carl J. Frammolino Evangelist Editor

"Walking together" was the term used to describe the important relationship which has developed between the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Three Rivers American Indian Center and The Church of Jesus Christ. This description was presented by Russell Simms, the Center's executive director, at an informative service held at the McKees Rocks Branch on Friday night, June 1, 1990 to acquaint district members with the great progress achieved.

His candid remarks were refreshing and enlightening, as he told of how the Center started officially in 1972 and has grown to serving Urban Indian people in three states: Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and West Virginia. He also reflected on how the day the brothers of the Church walked into the Center was one of the best of his life, even though he did not know it at the time. He said, "It proved to be one of the warmest days of my life." Since then, the Pennsylvania District Urban Indian Committee members have assisted in many ways and have actually become a very important part of the total effort.

Currently, three of our ministers from the Monongahela Branch are on the council's ninemember board of directors, which meets monthly to oversee the work of the Center. They are Robert Nicklow, Robert Nicklow Jr., and William Chepanoske. Mr. Simms said that this was a great honor, when you consider that the majority

of the board must consist of Indian

The Church's Urban Indian Committee has worked with him since 1975, thus establishing the saying, "We are walking together for one common goal." The Center's theme is "Walk in harmony with God's creation."

This association has allowed mutual trust and respect to be realized. Other brothers who have worked with this effort have been Richard Scaglione, James Grazan, Fred Olexa, and Daniel Todaro.

Illustrations were given on how the brothers of the Church have helped him to grow in understanding and how they have been there to aid the Center in any way possible. Assistance has been given in manual labor, in expansion of the Center, in fund-raising for the health and welfare of anyone affiliated with the council, in their annual powwows, and in general being supportive. Many others of our Church have also participated in work activities at the Center.

#### ONE OF THE FOUNDERS

Mr. Simms is one of the founders of the center, and has been there ever since it began. He identifies with the Cherokee and Seminole tribes, and owns a successful automobile parts business in the Homewood area of Pittsburgh. Very concerned about his people, he noted that many programs have been initiated to help them. The Center deals with 76 tribes and has dispersed an average of over 1,800 unduplicated services annually. They range from job training to cultural programs, and are available for all ages, from care for the very

young to matters concerning the elderly. Center membership is around 2,800, but individuals do no have to be members to receive benefits. There are 131 employees connected with the entire organization.

He projected the thought that each person must be recognized for who he is and how he treats the other party. Also stated was that each individual should be able to determine his own identity and should not have to be identified in a certain way to qualify for anything. He said that the Indian people are the only ones who must prove their blood percentage to receive a benefit under government programs, and the government establishes eligibility.

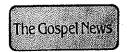
Mr. Simms acknowledged that there are many hurts from the past. Although the plight of the American Indian is well-known, he specified that he is more interested in having these situations corrected than dwelling within on the gross inequities experienced. He has spoken with the President of the United States, the vice president, and federal officials, and has served in federal and state capacities. He is known nationally and has been directing matters throughout Pennsylvania on behalf of his people. The difference in the circumstances and conditions between the urban and reservation Indian people were additionally discussed. How the government has addressed their different concerns was pointed out.

#### CHAIRMAN SPEAKS

The Chairman of the Center's Board, Miguel Seigue, who came later in the evening straight from a previous commitment, followed Mr. Simms. Born in Cuba, he came to Pennsylvania, where he grew up in Erie. He moved to Pittsburgh in 1976, and volunteered to work at the Center, starting from the bottom rung and moving up to his present position.

Mr. Seigue traced his ancestry to Caribbean tribes existing during the time of Columbus. He detailed how extremely hard those times were on his ancestors. He has a

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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 Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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 Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

It is no doubt the desire of every member of The Church of Jesus Christ to see growth and spiritual prosperity in the Church. We would all like to see the Restored Gospel go forth in power to the four corners of the earth. Yet at times, when the Lord begins to move His hand in our midst, we as human beings begin wishing He would do things a little differently.

While we all try our best to be missionaries where we are, and while we know that Jesus told us to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth laborers into the vineyard, which of us wants to see the numbers in our own branch or mission *decrease* as brothers and sisters heed the Lord's call and depart from among us to take their places in the mission fields? Is our own congregation so filled with strong laborers that we can afford to lose one or two—or three or four of them—to start a work on a new patch of ground?

In order for any growth to take place, change must take place as well. Oftentimes, when the Lord sends workers from already established branches to begin a work in a new part of His vineyard, those remaining behind feel so wounded by the loss of their brothers and sisters who have transferred out that they are unable to rejoice in the reports of blessings and progress coming from the new mission. It's hard to be excited and feel good about a new work when you feel that, in some ways, their successes are taking place at your own spiritual expense.

Certainly the increased spiritual, administrative, and financial demands placed on the congregation who suddenly finds itself "understaffed" can be trying. But sometimes it takes losing some of our most active members to missionary work—and suffering because of it—for us to evaluate more seriously how well we are preparing, teaching, and training *all* of our members to take on and carry out responsibilities in the Church above and beyond mere attendance at meetings.

If we pray for the Lord to send forth laborers, and we believe in the divine commission given to this Church, then we can *expect* God to answer our prayers by sending active, spiritually strong, hard-working members from our own midst to carry out His work. We should regard our branches as training grounds, bases, suppliers to the mission field of seasoned, dedicated laborers. We cannot pray to the Lord, "Send out help, but not from *my* branch!"

When we are feeling the void left by those who've answered the call to labor, we must realize that 1) they have left us to do the Work of the Lord, 2) the Lord will bring others into our midst to replace their numbers in His due time, and 3) we're not the only ones who are suffering; those who've departed on missionary work have also made their share of sacrifices and are no doubt faced with their share of opposition from the enemy of our souls.

As the Work of the Lord increases, we will be certain to experience the departing of missionaries from our congregations more and more. Let us pray, as we would for a natural army, that the Lord would strengthen and protect our soldiers, and that His peace would dwell with all those who are left behind, so that we would be a source of strength, support, and encouragement to our fellow-laborers, able both to weep and to rejoice with them, as the Lord sees fit.

# The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

# Too Small to Fight

Dear Girls and Boys,

When Solomon was king, he gradually disappointed God, and led his nation astray. As an old man, he let one of his new young wives talk him into building a temple for the statues of her false gods.

Soon a great many of the people began to serve all sorts of idols. They built temples and statues, and planted groves of trees in high places in the hills to worship. They forgot the good laws of God, and forgot His promises made to them, His chosen people.

When Solomon died and new kings came to power, the nation continued to serve their idols. Many wars broke out among these people and their neighboring countries.

Finally, a king named Asa was born who chose to lead his people back to God. Asa took away the altars of the strange gods, the high places, broke down the idols, and cut down the groves. He even removed his own mother from being queen and leader because she made an idol in a grove to worship.

Thirty years Asa ruled and struggled with his people to serve the one, true, living God. When he died, his son, Jehoshaphat, also chose to follow the commandments of God, and walk in his father's footsteps.

Therefore, God blessed this young king richly. The fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat. They brought him gifts so he would not be their enemy. Some of the Philistines brought him silver, and the Arabians brought him thousands of



rams and goats. King Jehoshaphat's kingdom grew richer and more important.

Still, he never forgot what was more important than gold and silver—God's love. King Jehoshaphat sent Levite priests throughout the land to teach the laws of God to all the people. He built up the cities and set honest judges up to rule the people.

Again the Israelite people began to flourish, and word of God's rich blessings on this people traveled throughout the world. Then a terrible message was brought to King Jehoshaphat: A huge army from across the sea was on its way to attack Jehoshaphat's kingdom. There were three countries coming: the Ammonites, the Moabites, and the people from Mount Seir.

Against such a multitude, the small nation of Judah had no chance. Jehoshaphat feared and set himself to seek the Lord. A fast throughout all the land was planned. No one ate or drank; all of Judah, the mothers, children, and fathers stood before the Lord and prayed for their lives.

King Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation and said to God, "O Lord, we have no might against this great company which is coming against us. We don't know what to do, but our eyes are upon You." They trusted in God to save them, and He spoke to them by sending His Spirit to one of the Levite priests.

The Lord told them, "Be not afraid or dismayed by this great multitude of enemies that is coming upon you, for this battle is not yours but is the Lord's."

He told them that tomorrow

they should go down to the cliff of Ziz where they would find the enemy at the end of the brook, before the wilderness. And again the Lord told the people, "Fear not, you shall not need to fight in this battle. Stand still and see how the Lord will save you."

King Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all the people of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping Him also

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness where God had directed them. On the way, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Believe in the Lord your God, and you will prosper!" Then he appointed

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#### WORD SEARCH

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S E I R T H E S Y K A K

# **Branch and Mission News**

# Baptism at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Sunday, January 28, 1990, we of the Detroit Inner City Branch, along with friends and visitors, gathered at the shore of the Detroit River to witness another soldier joining the army of the Lord.

Brother Eugene Amormino led Deborah Bork into the waters of regeneration, and we all made our way back to church, where Brother Tony Gerace addressed us on the topic of baptism, relating that all men are created with a free will. We can choose either to serve God or to serve the devil.

For those who choose to serve God, there are many blessings. One of these is that we can call upon the name of the Lord and know beyond the shadow of a doubt that He has heard us and will guide, direct, and counsel us according to our faith. The greater the faith, the greater the happiness, joy, and strength we will have—and the closer we will walk with God.

Bro. Tony also reminded us of the great responsibility that follows after we make a commitment to serve God. We must walk in righteousness and serve our fellow man, which is not always easy to do. The enemy of our souls is always out to discourage the children of God. His major work is deception. He feeds God's children with lies and false thoughts that cause anger, strife, fear, discontentment, misunderstanding . . . but God in His great mercy looks upon us and reminds us, and warns us to be obedient to His Word, which will help us to win yet another victory over the adversary.

Afterward, Bro. Eugene Amormino related that the first time our new sister came into the church building, she knew that this was where she belonged. In the past she had visited many different churches, but none of them had been able to fill the void in her

heart until she came to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Debbie was confirmed by Bro. Gary Champine, after which we all sang Sing Hallelujah! To close the service, we joined in a circle while singing If You Would Labor in Zion. Bro. Flip Palacios closed in prayer.

### **Baptism in Simi Valley**

By Linda Reynolds

June 3, 1990 was a blessed day in the Simi Valley, CA Branch. We had Brother and Sister Tony Picciuto from the Lindsay, CA Branch visiting with us. Bro. Tony spoke to us from the 17th Chapter of John. He told us not to be procrastinators when it comes to God. He talked to us about the trophy we would receive at the end of the race. From his inspired words this day, Cynthia Livesay stood up to give her testimony, saying she has been waiting for a calling from the Lord, and she felt that today was the day!

What joy we all felt as several members stood up after her and related different experiences they had during this past week relating to Cynthia's calling. Sis. Pearl Nester was singing the words to Shall We Gather at the River on her way to church this morning, and Sis. Cindy Hood had a short dream relating to Cynthia's calling. Thank you, Lord, for Your love and mercy!

# Ordinations in Modesto, CA

On April 22, 1990, we at the Modesto, CA Branch were blessed to see the ordination of three workers into the offices to which the Lord had called them. Brother Samuel Camarda was ordained a deacon, and Sisters Christina Vinsick and Valerie Dulisse were ordained deaconesses on that

beautiful and blessed day. May the Lord bless these young people as they take on added responsibilities in their service to Him.

# Homecoming at Sterling Hts.

By Hazel Zoltek

On Sunday, July 1, Brother Larry Champine and his family visited with us. They sang a song they had written, *I Can Give My Best*. Bro. John Straccia opened in prayer and followed through as our speaker for the day. His theme was righteousness.

Our brother told us how we must do our best in whatever needs to be done for the Lord. A good seed brings forth *much* fruit. It is not good enough to hear, we must do as instructed by the Holy spirit. Bro. John read from II Corinthians 5:16-21. Jesus was acceptable to God because He was perfect. In our own lives, we must accept Him and let Him live within us. If we leave the door open to Him, He will come in. Relinquish yourself completely to the will of God.

While we are saved by grace, we have to do what the Word of God tells us. God's love will allow you to work continuously for Him. The flesh might get in the way, but we must work to allow the Spirit of God to operate within us. We must remove the problems from our lives, and become more righteous. There is nothing more spiritually eroding than to have to face the same problems daily. That is how Satan wants to see us. We can resist him when we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

We sang Don't Let Anybody
Take Your Crown, and Bro. Larry
was asked to give his testimony. He
related how a few weeks prior, he
was filled with the Holy Spirit very
early one morning as he drove to
work, singing hymns and feeling
God's blessings. He had to make a
quick stop on the way there, and
ran into the store, leaving the
engine running. When he returned

(Continued on Page 8)

### STERLING continued . . .

a minute later, his truck was stolen. As soon as he gathered his thoughts, he remembered the blessings he was enjoying and rebuked Satan, then called the police. Within a few minutes, they found his truck, parked, undamaged, with everything in it just as he had left it. We heard other testimonies as well that day, including that of a gentleman visiting here for the first time. He stood up and said he could feel the presence of God in each person as they testified. Truly the Lord was with us that day.

On Sunday, July 8, we were visited by Brothers Gary and Claude Champine, and were privileged to have Bro. Gary open the service. He told us how he was spiritually rooted and grounded in this branch of the Church. This is the place where the Lord came into his life and made a beautiful change in his life. He learned about the love of God here, and how the Lord is not deaf to our prayers. Our brother related to us some of the trials he and his wife, Sis. Judy, have undergone in their home during the past year. But because of the prayers of the saints, they can see changes taking place that can only be attributed to the intervention of God.

Bro. Gary told us about the missionary work among the Mexican people in Detroit's Inner City, and went on to speak of how God will bring forth His Zion very shortly. The signs of the times are telling us this every day. Our ruler and leader must be Jesus Christ. We are members of His Church, even though we be only a few. The Lord gave us The Book of Mormon, and it is our duty to hold up this record. There are many false teachings today, trying to change the world. The Book of Mormon was taken out of the earth, and we don't want it to be buried again. Jesus Christ restored His Church, the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In his testimony, Bro. Claude looked back upon his days at the Sterling Heights Branch, remembering his first visit here on the day of his brother Gary's baptism, and the nine months of continued visits before he was baptized along with his wife, Angie, and his brother, Larry. Our brother recounted how the years went by, how he was called to be a deacon and then a teacher in the Church here, and how we held outdoor revival meetings in our parking lot. He met his spiritual family here, who fed him both naturally and spiritually when he came into the Church. Most of all, he remembered the love he received here, and because of our prayers, he grew to overcome many obstacles.

Our two visiting brothers played their guitars as we sang He Changed My Life Completely, and we were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Frank DiDonato.

The visit of the Champine brothers these two Sundays meant a great deal to the members of this branch. We were revived by their music and their testimonies, and hope to see them in our midst again.

# Baptisms in San Diego

By Diane Surdock

The San Diego, CA Branch has been blooming! We started off our Easter Sunday with the sunrise of a beautiful day. Bro. Lou Ciccati presented the account of the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ, interspersed with musical selections beautifully presented by many special groups. We are blessed with a number of beautiful voices in San Diego, and they portrayed the blessings of this wonderful event of Christ's victory over the grave.

The evening began with several baptisms, prior to the Sunday night Spanish meeting. The brothers and sisters baptized were: Juana Santiago Cedano, Thomas Garcia, Maria Langarcia Cedano, Maricela Contreras, Patricia Contreras, Graciela Contreras, and Marcos Contreras. The elders participating were Brothers Luis Pacheco, Stacey Light, Paul Liberto, Alberto Pacheco, Jose Granados, Isidro Gonzales, Moises Oceguera, and Tom

Liberto. Some of these brothers were visiting from Tijuana and Mexicali, Mexico, as well as Santa Ana, CA.

These baptisms truly did end a beautiful day centered on the death and resurrection of Christ, as

(Continued on Page 10)

# **MBA** Highlights

# GMBA Student Support Committee

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

This letter is to familiarize you with the GMBA's Student Support Committee. This organization was formed several years ago to aid the Church's college students as they seek to obtain an education. By offering support in the form of letters, campus visits, phone calls, seminars, and literature, it is our hope to apprise students of the many stresses college life can bring, and offer a range of solutions to these problems.

The committee is currently working on a pamphlet recounting many experiences from some of the Church's former college students, as well as some helpful hints for coping with campus life. There are also plans to soon begin a Student Support Committee Newsletter. If you have other ideas for services this committee can provide to make your college experience more enjoyable, we welcome your input.

If you are currently attending a college, university, or trade school, or are planning to enroll in the future and feel you could benefit from this service, please complete the attached form. Also, whether you are in school or not, if you would like to correspond with some of the students, please send your name and address to the address on the bottom of the form. May God bless each of you in your efforts.

Yours in Christ,

Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti, SSC Chairman

# G.M.B.A. STUDENT SUPPORT COMMITTEE

Name:	Age:	Phone:	
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Name of School:			
School Address: (live on campus) City:	State:		
School Phone:( )			Fr-So-Jr-Sr
Major:	Mino	r:	
PERSON **NOTE: ALL INFORMATION IN	NAL INFORMATION THIS SECTION IS	CONFIDENT	TAL.
1. What branch of the church			
2. Which part of the program			
3. Would you like to write t	o someone from tl	ne church?	
4. Would you be interested life?	in attending a s	eminar ab	out college
5. What has been your greate	st difficulty in	school so	far?
6. What have you enjoyed mos	t about school?		
Please return this form with Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti	additional comm	ents or r	equests to:

Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti 705 Division Street Aliquippa, PA 15001

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

teaching and art background, and works diligently for his people. A student of Indian customs, traditions, and beliefs, his desire is to learn all he can about as many tribes as possible, and he specified that each one varies from the others. He is deeply interested in Indian spirituality, and he depicted in some depth the significant roles played by their spiritual leaders. His insights and examples showed how subjection and deprivation have had serious effects on Indian culture and religion.

The underlying thoughts of Mr. Seigue's statements are that greater knowledge about histories can bring better understanding, restore the dignity, and help his people to develop as they should. He has been very instrumental in helping to establish programs, primarily government-funded, which can train and improve the status of his people. He mentioned specifically that the goal is to become more restorative and more self-sufficient.

At present, the Center has a business in West Virginia. Sun catchers, which hang in windows to reflect the sunlight and project various Indian patterns and designs, are being produced. This enterprise is the first step toward achieving autonomy and independence.

In listening to the two speakers, one could feel their sincerity and dedication to their people. They offered hope where perhaps there might not have been any. Furthermore, they presented the importance of the Church's role in working with them. Plans are being made for at least one other meeting like this in the district.

There is much work going on around the Church with the Seed of Joseph, in both urban areas and on reservations. Reports will be presented as they are available. The relationship between the Church and the inhabitants, wherever efforts are being made, undoubtedly contain the same intent to "walk together."

"In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment, but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer" (III Nephi 22:8).

### CORNER continued . . .

singers unto the Lord that went out before the army praising the holiness of God and saying, "Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever!"

King Jehoshaphat and his people did this in faith, believing that God would fight their enemies for them. At this moment, when they began singing and thanking Him, God began His work. The huge armies began to fight against each other. The Ammonites and Moabites attacked the people from Mount Seir, and when they had utterly killed them, they began to fight among themselves.

The people of Judah marched closer. They came to the edge of the wilderness, and they looked unto the multitude. Of that huge and great army, not one was left to attack Judah. They had killed one another. Bodies lay in heaps, and when Jehoshaphat's people went in among the bodies, they discovered precious jewels and much gold and silver lying there.

For three days they gathered the riches of their dead enemies. On the fourth day, they returned to Jerusalem to sing praises to God, who had delivered them. A great fear of God was on all the neighboring kingdoms when they heard that the Lord fought against the enemies of Israel. So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was quiet, and the people lived in peace during the days they served God, and this is our God, too, the God of yesterday, today, and forever.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

### SAN DIEGO continued . . .

reflected in the death and resurrection of these souls in the waters of baptism.

The blessings continued several weeks later as Maria Soledad Sedano, Graciela Sais, and Victor Manuel Sais made their covenant with the Lord as well. Three children, Thomas Sedano, Isamar Nancy Sanchez, and Melisa Elizabeth Avilez Ivarra, were blessed in the Church on the same day.

The San Diego Branch also went to visit Sister Ana Ciccati on a very special day for her, her 70ti spiritual birthday. She is living with her daughter Irene in San Diego, having just recently moved here from Yucaipa, CA, where she lived for several years with her daughter Edith Genaro and family.

We all gathered in the living room, where her bed had been placed, and shared many wonderful memories. Both young and old had memories to share, as Sister Ana has that ability to become a special friend to people of all ages.

Our sister was baptized on May 9, 1920 by Bro. Pete Garofalo, and was confirmed by Bro. Mike Falfettol in the Dunlevy, PA Branch. There were nine baptisms on that day. Through the years, her favorite hymn has been What a Friend.

Thank God that Sis. Ana is still faithful in the Gospel. Please remember her and her family in prayer as they look after her special needs.

# Quorum Saddened by Loss

By Carl J. Frammolino

The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists has been saddened by the loss of one of its long-term members, Brother Raymond Cosetti of Ohio, who passed on to his eternal reward on July 26. He had been ordained an evangelist on July 18, 1943, and was a faithful worker in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Brother Cosetti was a wonderful example to the entire Church. Included in his many years of exemplary service were three missionary trips he made to Italy, accompanied by his wife of almost 62 years, Sister Mary. His Italian tours of duty took place in 1964, 1972, and 1979; he was highly interested in the work of the Church there.

Besides his wife, he also left a son, Joseph, a daughter, Elizabeth Fesler, three grandchildren, a great-grandson, a brother, and a sister.

# * WEDDINGS *

### MITCHELL-COTELLESSE

Mr. Charles Andrew Mitchell and Miss Shelly Marie Cotellesse were united in marriage on May 26, 1990 in Ann Arbor, MI. The ceremony was performed by the father of the bride, Brother Ronald James Cotellesse of the Saline Mission. Brother Reno Bologna also participated in the ceremony.

Brother Eugene Amormino was the pianist, with Sister Karen Milantoni as organist. Vocalists were Sister Donna Amormino, Bob Shan, and Matt Steward.

The newlyweds are residing in California. May God bless them with a long life together.

### RICH-MORLE

Mr. Bradley James Rich and Miss Tina Morle were united in marriage on June 9, 1990 in Ann Arbor, MI. The ceremony was performed by Brother Dominic Thomas, with the assistance of Brother Reno Bologna.

Sister Tracey Francione was the vocalist and pianist.

The young couple will make their home in Ypsilanti, MI. May God's richest blessings be with them always.

# Children Blessed

Danielle Valentino Frazer was blessed on April 1, 1990 by Bro. Arthur Searcy at the Edison, NJ Branch of the Church.

On April 22, 1990 Madeline Jean Dulisse was blessed by her great-grandfather, Bro. Joseph Bologna at the Modesto, California Branch.

Jennifer Fergel was blessed at the Modesto, California Branch on April 22, 1990 by her grandfather, Bro. Sam Randy.

Michael Allen McLaughlin was blessed on May 13, 1990 by Bro. Arthur Searcy in the Edison, NJ Branch.

On May 20, 1990 Bro. Rusty Heaps asked for God's blessing on Courtney Ann Livesay at the Simi Valley, California Branch of the Church.

Steven Nicholas Dulisse was blessed in the Church by his great-grandfather, Bro. Joseph Bologna on June 4, 1990 at the Modesto, CA Branch.

On June 6, 1990 Ashley Anne Laktash was blessed at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch by her grandfather, Bro. Matthew Laktash.

Ryan Michael Creighton was blessed on June 24, 1990 by his cousin Brother Adam E. Costarella at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

### LUCILLE SAKAL

Lucille Sakal passed from this life on March 29, 1990. She was born December 17, 1915 in Hazelwood, PA. A lifelong housewife and mother, she endured much affliction in her life. A granddaughter of one of our sisters told her of the Church and the willingness of our ministry to help whomever they could. The brothers of the Glassport, PA Branch went from time to time to administer to her as God directed them.

Left to bear her loss was one daughter, two sons, one brother, and one sister. May God grant them His peace.

### RAFFAELA DIFALCO

Sister Raffaela DiFalco of Detroit Branch 1 passed on to her eternal reward on April 14, 1990. She was born on May 8, 1905 in Burlington, VT and settled in Detroit after growing up in Italy, where her family moved shortly after she was born. She was baptized by Bro. Carmine Campitelle on December 6, 1931, and truly served as a faithful pillar of the branch ever since.

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Paul Vitto and John Buffa.

Our sister is survived by seven sons, three daughters, 35 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and a host of relatives and friends, by whom she was loved very much. May the Lord comfort and bless the family in their loss.

### IVY FISHER

Sister Ivy (Rushworth) Fisher passed on to her reward on April 28, 1990 after a five-month illness. She was born in Leeds, England on December 30, 1898. She came to America at a young age with her parents. She was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on August 11, 1929. She was a pillar in the Edison, New Jersey Branch. In 1935 she started the local Ladies' Circle and was a member until her death.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Matthew Rogolino, Arthur Searcy, and Wilbert McNeil.

Sis. Ivy is survived by two sisters, one grandson, a niece, and two great-grandchildren. She had a saying, "You can take away my natural food, but don't take away my spiritual food. I can't do without my spiritual food." She will be missed by all who knew her.

### **OBITUARIES** continued . . .

### MARY LINDY

Our Sister Mary Lindy moved onward to the highest ground—eternal rest—on June 5, 1990. She was born November 8, 1924 and was baptized in 1958 by Bro. Alma Nolfi of the Glassport, PA Branch.

Brothers Alma and David Nolfi officiated at the

funeral.

Sister Mary was like the widow with the two mites we read of in the scriptures. Not well-known outside the branch, but known so well to Jesus, who, as she often testified, was her sole help. Widowed at a young age, she was left with five sons to raise, with whom she did her best. Although her life seemed filled with never-ending hardships, we remember her always greeting us with, "Hi angel, how are you today?"

Along with the five sons who mourn her passing, she left eight grandchildren, two brothers, and several nieces and nephews. We hope and pray that one day we'll be reunited in God's eternal kingdom.

### ADA LOCCI

Sister Ada Locci of the Rochester, NY Mission passed on to her eternal reward on July 1, 1990. Our sister was born October 23, 1903 in Florence, Italy and came to the United Stated in 1954. Sister Ada was baptized March 10, 1957 by Bro. Ansel D'Amico, and remained a faithful servant of the Lord for the past 33 years.

Brothers Frank Natoli and Bob Batson conducted the funeral service, with Sister Ruth Batson providing

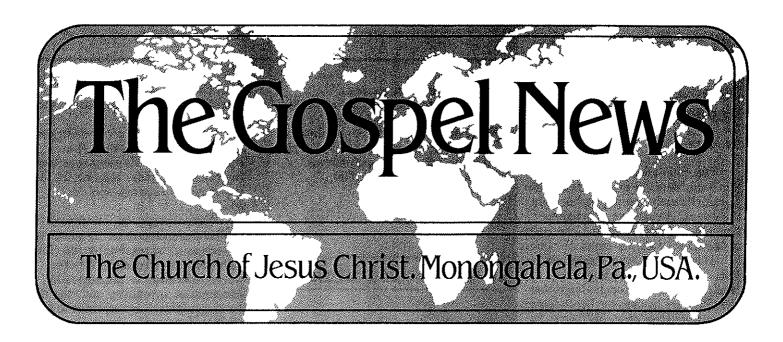
musical selections.

Sister Ada is survived by two sons, Antonio and Brother Andrew, one daughter, Joanne Santilli, eight grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. May God comfort the family of our sister as they mourn her departure.

Our sister will always be remembered for her love and joy. We rejoice because of the example which she left for us and because of the reward which she surely

now enjoys.

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Name _	
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September, 1990

Volume 46, No. 9

# What Are We Watching?

We have come to a point in time in our society where it is needful for us to take a serious and cautious look at the program content of the television and video media. The devil has been given an open door into *our* homes through this high-tech form of pastime entertainment.

Satan has used our viewing relaxation time to tear away at the very moral fiber of our nation. While there are those who extol the educational and information access benefits of TV and videos—and they certainly have the capability to be educators—we need only sample the prime time evening and afternoon TV menu, or stroll down the aisle of the nearest video movie rental palace and observe the ratings and subject matter; our eyes will be opened to the onslaught of the enemy.

The devil is ever advancing, becoming more bold, exposing more and more shame and human nudity in a sly, subtle, alluring way which is able to stir up the sensual curiosity of this flesh to enjoy such lewd entertainment. The vilest of abominations are presented in such a carefully safe, sinful way that people become more permissive in real life just by what they watch on TV and videos. Sin is presented in a variety of ways, from the very glamorous to just having fun.

The producers and directors, the authors and the writers, the men and women who create and control this powerful mass media industry are serving to the American public a diet of bittersweet poison-wormwood-that appeals to the sinful nature of man, the same nature Jesus Christ crucified on the cross of Calvary. The individuals who promote this lusty entertainment, absent of any moral virtue, sit in seats of power wherein is found the "spiritual wickedness in high places" that we war against! They present every sin prevalent in our society in a variety of ways that are able to stir our interest; whether it be a documentary, a humorous story, a mystery, a drama, or a sympathetic plea. The creators of these programs have the means to hold our attention, grasp our feelings, steal our time, and expose us to the sins of humanity-all in the name of entertainment.

They present every aspect of illicit sex, from adultery and fornication to homosexuality and child abuse, in a permissive manner.

Nothing is sacred, nothing is holy; any sexual perversion is acceptable as long as there is consent. Today's TV and movie scripts take God's name in vain, they present Christianity as a fanatical, moneygrabbing cult, they discredit God's creation of man and promote the

theory of evolution. Christian values have been replaced by secular thinking and humanistic ideas. Crime is glamorized by being portrayed as the easy way to a rich and powerful lifestyle.

Some of the most popular videos offer the horror of murder by monsters and demons, graphically depicting the shedding of human blood in the most perverse and demented ways, successfully appealing to the strange pleasure of sheer fright. Often, television networks stir our interest with previews of programs and mini-series, and when we tune in they carefully take us on a journey into the television and video lifestyle. As our interest is held by the mystery or intrigue or humor or drama of the program, they demoralize us with profane and vulgar language, sexually provocative scenes, and physical violence.

While we wouldn't normally tolerate viewing this type of sinfully suggestive behavior, we wade through the lusty or violent scenes—because our interest has been captured—just to have the satisfaction of seeing how the story ends. Even the commercial advertisements are sexually-oriented. While it may seem that no harm has been done by our watching, we must ask ourselves whether our tolerance and enjoyment of such

(Continued on Page 2)

# Ohio District Spiritual Meeting

By Mark Naro

The Ohio District held its first Spiritual Meeting of 1990 with the Lorain Branch serving as host for the event. As always, it was extremely well-attended and the Spirit of the Lord was the guest of honor.

The meeting was opened with Bro. Ray Rangel singing Sing Hallelujah. Bro. Joseph Calabrese then opened in prayer. Bro. Robert Batson of Rochester, NY took the lead in speaking, opening the service on the topic of the Test and Proof of the Power of God, and the Manifestation of His Spirit, using I Kings 18 as his text, which tells us of the trial and test of sacrifices, both of Elijah and that of the prophets of Baal.

The message Bro. Robert delivered was encouraging and uplifting. The moral of the story, if you will, was that we, as "the people of God," must possess a strength in spirit that others may see and know of a surety that we are His servants.

Following Brother Robert, another hymn was sung and Brother James Hufnagle of Cleveland, OH followed, using III Nephi 19, which speaks of the prayer of Christ, found especially in verses 19-23. As with Bro. Robert, the message was encouraging and uplifting, and best put as stated in verse 23, "And now Father I pray unto thee for them, and also for all those who shall believe on their words, that they may believe in me that I may be in them as thou, Father, art in me, that we may be one."

For the perfect ending to a perfect night, we were all blessed with a beautiful rendition of *The Sea So Great, Lord, My Boat So Small,* which was performed by the brothers and sisters of South Bend, Indiana, who were in attendance. I for one appreciate the effort that they made to attend, and was touched as they sang. May the Lord continue to bless them and the Church as a whole. God bless you all.

Upcoming events in the Ohio

District are: September 15: Evangelistic Meeting in Rochester, NY; September 29: Fasting & Prayer in Erie, PA; September 22 & 23: Ohio Area Weekend Retreat; October 21: Evening Spiritual Meeting in Cleveland, OH.

# **MBA** Highlights

# Pacific Coast Area Campout

By Linda Reynolds

The Pacific Coast Area MBA Campout was held from June 30 to July 5, 1990, at Idyllwild Pines Camp. This is the third consecutive year that our camp has been held at this large mountain facility, and this year we were under the direction of Bro. Paul O'Sullivan.

The theme was "Challenging the 90's." We had many inspiring seminars challenging us to prepare ourselves for the obstacles we will be facing in the years to come. Brothers Tony DeCaro and Walt Jankowski headed up the seminars. These brothers asked us to do something a little different this year for the seminars. Instead of breaking up into age groups, they organized us into small groups of 8 to 10 people of all ages. This way, we all had the benefit of hearing input from the young as well as the older members.

We enjoyed crafts, sports, free time, and some wonderful messages brought to us by our ministry. On Sunday morning, instead of one or two speakers, we had several shorter talks brought to us by Brothers Stacey Light, David Ciccati, Tony DeCaro, and Ken Jones. Bro. Ken also sang Because He Lives in both Spanish and English.

We had a talent show one evening, and had a lot of laughter together. It was a beautiful week spent together, and we thank God for all the gifts He gave us, including some dreams and visions, healings, and the beautiful weather.

**WATCHING continued** . . . entertainment can be pleasing to God.

The last verse of Checking on Me, #55 in The Songs of Zion, comes to mind, "Are my eyes viewing the things that they should, And are my ears hearing only the good?"

Even though the citizens of this nation are guaranteed freedom of speech and expression by the Constitution, our founding fathers never intended for pornography, obscenities, profanity, and the like to be protected by constitutional rights. Censorship has become an unholy word to the unrestrained, hedonistic thinking of the affluent few who control the picture and sound media. Their liberty in committing such sin is an abuse of a God-given freedom.

While you and I have no control over the television and video industry at large, our TV's and VCR's have "off" buttons that we should use when offensive programming invades us. Likewise, we have the freedom not to purchase the products and services of the sponsors who advertise their wares during such programming.

Just as we are very aware of the food we eat, careful to nourish our mortal bodies with a proper diet, let us also give careful attention to what we ingest into our hearts, minds, and souls through our eyes and ears. We wouldn't eat anything harmful to our mortal body, so likewise, by our freedom of choice, let us not take in anything to harm the Holy Ghost that dwells within us.

God Bless You, Brother David Nolfi

[&]quot;And finally, I cannot tell you all the things whereby ye may commit sin; for there are divers ways and means, even so many that I cannot number them

But this much I can tell you, that if ye do not watch yourselves, and your thoughts, and your words, and your deeds, and observe the commandments of God, and continue in the faith of what ye have heard concerning the coming of our Lord, even unto the end of your lives, ye must perish. And now, O man, remember, and perish not" (Mosiah 4:29 & 30).

# **Branch and Mission News**

# Elder ordained at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

On Sunday, April 1, 1990, Brother Frank Jr. (Flip) Palacios was ordained into the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To share this special day with us, we had many visitors from Ohio, Canada, California, New York, and as far away as Nigeria!

We began the day by singing songs of praise to our Lord, after which Bro. Frank Natoli delivered a strong message about being a minister. He related that being an ordained minister takes hard work, commitment, and dedication, and that even then it takes a little more giving.

Bro. Frank encouraged us to pray for the ministry, that God would bless them with a greater portion of His Spirit, and continue to lead and guide them according to His will. He also reminded Bro. Flip-not because he is weak, or because he wouldn't be able to stand up against the trials of this life, because he will be able to—to have the Spirit of God upon him in such a degree that he would be able to recognize the needs of those he comes in contact with-their need to be reconciled with God through Christ—and assured him that he would be blessed with the words to speak to them.

That afternoon, as we began the ordination service, Bro. Joe Calabrese spoke about our brother's calling. He said that our brother would have the power and authority of Jesus Christ to preach the good news of the Restored Gospel.

This same power and authority were given to the holy prophets of old since the beginning of time, and the things people witnessed back then we will witness today because this power and authority have not changed. Bro. Flip would now represent the Holy Priesthood after the order of the Son of God, which was ordained from the foundation of the world. Bro. Joe also re-

minded us that this is God's Church, and that God does the calling. The Lord looks for a willing vessel, and He uses it for His honor and glory.

After Bro. Joe finished his message, Bro. Steve Champine sang I Will Go and Do What the Lord Has Commanded. After the song, the word of the Lord came forth, saying, "I have prepared My servant." Bro. Flip then went forward to have his feet washed by Bro. Frank Altomare of Lorain, Ohio. He was then ordained by Bro. Joe Calabrese.

Bro. Flip was presented to his family, who later expressed joy and thanksgiving for this calling. Also, during the testimony meeting, there were many dreams and experiences given to confirm that God called our brother into this office.

Our prayer is that the Spirit of God would be upon Bro. Flip and his family, that God might use them for His honor and glory.

# Blessings in Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

As we gather in our branch for our different services, we see many of all ages among us. Along with our brothers and sisters, there are our families, our friends, and some who had wandered from the fold but now are returning. We thank our Lord for this, because we know this is His doing. In recent months, five children have been blessed and God has called into His service Bro. James Abbott to help feed and care for His flock here at Roscoe.

On July 15, 1990, Sister Ella May Abbott was ordained a deaconess. She was baptized by our late Bro. L. O. Waltz on March 30, 1958 and confirmed the same day by Bro. George Johnson. We were pleased to have Bro. George and Sis. Peg Johnson visiting with us this day from Phoenix, Arizona. Also in attendance this day were many members of our Sister Ella's family, including her newly-baptized

cousins, Sis. Cynthia and Bro. Clarence Carrara, of the Butler, PA Mission.

Our afternoon service was opened with prayed by Bro. Matthew Laktash. Bro. John Kendall then spoke to us, reading the duties of a deaconess and elaborating on each one. He gave us to understand that although a deaconess has special duties to perform, the Christlike attributes mentioned today are things that we all ought to possess.

Sister Abbott's feet were washed by Sister Norma Kendall, after which the priesthood gathered around our sister, and Bro. James Abbott, Sis. Ella's son, anointed her with oil and offered the ordination prayer. After the ordination, Bro. George Johnson spoke of his memories of Sister Abbott, and how the Abbott family met and obeyed the Gospel through the testimony of our late Sister Sarah Sisley. Bro. James Abbott also spoke to us concerning these things and of his experiences.

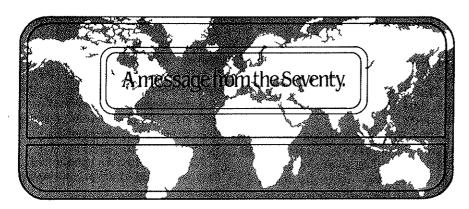
There were many hymns and testimonies of praise today. Also, many tears were shed, but they were tears of joy as we saw our Sister Abbott ordained and recounted many precious memories that came to mind. We thank God for His many blessings showered upon us this day, and we feel that His word, as written in Malachi 3:10, concerning "opening the windows of heaven and pouring out a blessing" upon us was fulfilled today. May we always remember this day and every day and bless His name forever.

# Greetings from Greensburg

We send our love and greetings to you from the Greensburg, PA Branch. God has been in our midst, and we would like to share our blessings with you.

On April 14, 1990, Bro. Jesse and Sis. Ruth Carr celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. A dinner, given by their children, was held to honor this beautiful occa-

(Continued on Page 7)



# First Baptism at Homestead, Florida Mission

Home missionary work is an indispensable part of The Church of Jesus Christ. Spreading the Gospel, reaching out to others, and having the Lord add the increase are essential.

Two newer mission efforts have witnessed God's Hand. One is in the Butler, PA area where services are held in nearby Herman, PA at the Ciotti Manor, the facility owned by Evangelist Frank Ciotti and his wife, Sister Shari, of Orange, California. The other is in Homestead, Florida, south of the Miami metropolitan region.

Weekly meetings have been held in Herman since March 1, 1989. Currently, they are being conducted every Tuesday night and every other Sunday morning. On July 1, Clarence and Cynthia Carrara, who attend services in Herman and live near Slippery Rock, were baptized into the Church while visiting the Greensburg, PA Branch. Their addition has been a great blessing.

In Homestead, the first baptism was performed this past May 15. How Fabian Perales came into the Gospel and how the mission started there is reported, as follows, by Elder Joseph Catone, Jr., ministerin-charge. —Evangelist Editor

A good desire was honored by the Lord!

During a Miami Mission business meeting in May of 1987, the question of what could be done to spread the Gospel was asked. A suggestion was made to have an evangelistic service in Miami, where there are many Spanish-speaking people. A Spanish-speaking minister of our Church could be invited to preach. This was to be considered

for the next six months, but the Lord had other plans. . . .

The idea was to write to Brother Isidro Dominguez in California and invite him to come here to speak. Before this could be done, Brother Isidro called us instead, saying that the Lord had put it in his heart to visit Miami before he went to Guatemala, his native land, where he is currently a missionary. Shortly thereafter, he and his wife, Sister Marisela, arrived in Miami.

We had a chance to take him around Miami to speak to people about the Church. We prayed for God's direction, after which Brother George Katsaras felt that the Lord was directing us south, toward a migrant workers' trailer camp; so we went there.

Outside a trailer the words "Christ Save Me" were written in Spanish and displayed on a washing machine. The family invited us in. They were in great need. Brother Isidro spoke to the woman and said we would pray for them. We gave them fruit that we had brought. Everything was needed: the fruit, the prayers, and the invitation to come back.

Then we met Victoria Lopez and her family; she invited us in also. She is a grandmother of six, with two sons still at home with her. She showed us the bushels that they have to fill, and explained about picking the fields seven days a week. Victoria's husband, Jesus (pronounced "hay-soose"), welcomed us also. They mentioned to us that they work long hours and needed to rest on Sunday and learn about the Lord. On our second visit,

their newest child, one-month-old Eusebio, was blessed by an elder of our Church. Soon we found ourselves visiting them regularly.

#### DREAM RECALLED

On the third visit, we were singing Come All Ye That Thirst in Spanish, when Brother Isidro remembered a dream he had had two years prior. In his dream, he had seen Victoria sitting in the same chair, wearing the same clothes, holding our songbook with her glasses on. He was hiding the Book of Mormon under his Bible in the dream. Victoria pulled the Book of Mormon out and said to him, "I know that you know what kind of people we are-Who are we?" She took the Book of Mormon from under the Bible and said, "This book tells us we are of the house of Israel." Then she opened the Book of Mormon to I Nephi Chapter 17. where Lehi and his family prepare to cross the ocean and come to this land. She showed this passage to Bro. Isidro.

As our brother was reviewing his dream, he was directed concerning what to speak to them about. The Lord had prepared it all!

Soon Bro. Isidro had to leave for Guatemala, leaving us with no Spanish-speaking elder. The Lord provided Bro. Miguel Bicelis, however, to interpret for our



Bro. George Kovacic baptizes Fabian Perales in Homestead, FL.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 1162 Raritan Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904

ASSISTANT EDITOR Leonard A. Lovalvo 8085 Schneider Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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 Rosanne Champine 47116 Hennings Dr. Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

> OHIO Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

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

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BUSINESS OFFICE 9066 Austin Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (800) 334-1773

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Coming to terms with the fact that the Lord is likely to recruit missionary laborers from our own midst—people whom we may consider to be among our congregation's greatest spiritual assets—is a little bit easier when we recognize that we have no control over whom God is going to call into whatever work He sees fit. More difficult for us, perhaps, is accepting the idea that we must also share those assets over which we do have control—namely the financial resources which flow into our individual branch and mission treasuries—with the entire body (the Church) of Christ.

While it is not our purpose to judge one another, we must nonetheless acknowledge that our individual commitment to the Lord and to His Church is reflected, to some extent, by 1) the priority we place on giving, 2) the relative amount that we give, and 3) the attitude with which we give of ourselves (financially and otherwise) to the Church. Very similarly, the concern of any branch or mission toward the overall success of the Work of the Lord—the spreading of the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph and to the corners of the earth—can be measured with considerable accuracy by these same three criteria regarding its contributions to the General Church.

As branches and missions, just as in our individual households, we all must make decisions about how we are going to spend our money. Once we pay the mortgage and utilities each month, we can think of a million ways to make our church building more comfortable and beautiful. But where does our contribution to the Lord's Work come in? At what point does our money reach outside the four walls of our building to do some good to the dying souls of men? If that donation comes *first* (before rent and utilities), as it should, the Lord has *promised* that all these things would be added unto us. If it does not, He extends no such promise to us. As distinct congregations, if we do not make contributing to the General Church a priority, we are putting the Work of the Lord other than first in a visible, tangible manner.

The financial activity of a branch or mission does not necessarily reflect, of course, the attitudes of every single member who contributes. What happens to the generous donation of a member who freely gives a percentage of his income is still largely controlled by those in the branch who hold the purse-strings—people whose feelings about giving to the Work of the Lord may not be quite as liberal as those of the original donor.

As the Church is forced to ignore the ever-increasing Macedonial Call due to a lack of funds, we may soon have to ask ourselves if we can afford to give our individual congregations the financial freedom they now enjoy. "Charity seeketh not her own," words which both Paul and Moroni were inspired to write, is sometimes a hard pill for us to swallow. And yet it is that Charity—that Love for the Lord and for the souls of men—which will allow us to postpone our padded pews for another year and give regularly to the Work of the Lord.

### The

# Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock



# Choose You This day Whom You Will Serve

Dear Girls and Boys,

God was tired of waiting for His chosen people, the twelve tribes of Israel, to serve Him. When Joseph died in Egypt, he and his eleven brothers had many children who also had children. Now there were thousands of people who came from Israel's twelve children. Each of the twelve huge families were called tribes. God chose Moses and his helper, Joshua, to lead these people to a new land.

But who would serve God? These people had lived in Egypt for too long. They hated being slaves there, but they missed the feast days, the times when they could

drink and act wild.

As soon as Moses left them to go to a quiet place and pray, the people returned to worshipping a statue made from their melted gold jewelry.

God was waiting. He had led these people away from being slaves, where the Egyptians beat them and sold their children. God had shown them miracles over and over. He sent high clouds by day to shade them from the hot desert sun and show them which way to walk, and a cloud of fire by night. He'd split apart the huge sea so the people could run across to safety when the Egyptian army was chasing them to kill them.

But over and over again, these people turned away from God and complained. At one point, a group decided that they should lead, not Moses. So Moses asked those who wanted to break away with the other rebels to join on one side. The followers of God went to the other side. God sent a huge earthquake;

the ground opened up and those that caused problems were swallowed up.

Again the people complained about their daily bread, the manna which God sent from heaven, so the Lord sent them quails to eat. They still complained and wished they were back in the days of slavery, when they had spices for their food. This time God sent a plague (sickness), and thousands of complainers died.

But the young children didn't remember Egypt. They were born in the desert, and did not remember the sinful ways. They remembered God's miracles. They saw the Spirit of God come down like a cloud and stay in the special tabernacle, their church or temple, made from a tent so it could travel with them. They knew that God was real.

When God brought His people to new lands, He told them they couldn't fight a war against powerful enemies, but they would win anyway because God would fight for them. The children believed.

The old complainers and nonbelievers slowly lived out their lives and died off during the forty years in the wilderness when God was teaching His people to serve Him. As the children who saw miracles grew up, they were firm believers in the might and power of our great God.

They followed Moses, and later Joshua, across wild deserts. They learned to trust the Lord and discipline themselves to follow God's commandments. On the day that Joshua gathered the grown-up children and all their families

together and said, "Choose ye this day whom you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," the people answered. They finally spoke the words that the Lord had wanted to hear. They answered and said, "We will serve the Lord."

And these people of Israel, these children now grown up, served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders that outlived Joshua.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

Joshua 24

### WORD SEARCH

JOSHUA	OF
SAID	ISRAEL
CHOOSE	$\operatorname{GREW}$
YE	UP
THIS	$\mathbf{SAW}$
DAY	MIRACLES
WHO	BELIEVED
YOU	NEVER
WILL	FELL
SERVE	AWAY
WICKED	LOVED
WANDERED	LORD
FORTY	MOSES
YEARS	m JUDGES
CHILDREN	

P	Y	A	W	A	s	E	s	0	M	R
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A	E	0	J	o	L	F	M	E	s	S
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### GREENSBURG continued . . .

sion. Those in attendance reminisced over the past fifty years with Ruth and Jesse through a beautiful program and slide presentation. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless Bro. Jesse and Sis. Ruth with many more wonder-

ful years together!

On May 19, 1990, the members of our branch met at the Church building for a "bittersweet" evening, as a farewell dinner was held for Bro. Fred, Sis. Charlotte, and Jason Olexa. The Olexas have been attending our branch for the past two and one-half years, and have been a tremendous help and blessing to us in so many ways. It has been very difficult for us to let them "move on," but we know that this is God's will in their lives, as much time was devoted to fasting and prayer before Fred and Charlotte made their final decision. Although they will be far in distance, they will always remain close in heart, love, and spirit.

The month of June brought two great blessings to us. First, on Sunday, June 10, Bro. David Fallavollitti was reinstated into the Church. What a beautiful day for those brothers and sisters who have held David so close in their hearts and prayers for the past two years! Many beautiful testimonies and experiences were given to confirm God's presence and will this day.

On June 16, we witnessed the marriage of Mark Luffy and Jana Armbrust. It was a very special wedding for us, for only two years ago we fasted and prayed that God would grant Mark a healing of cancer. What a merciful and loving

God we serve!

On Sunday, July 1, we witnessed two of God's holy and truly beautiful ordinances. First, Jonathan David Wolff, son of Bob and Mary Lou Wolff, was blessed by his uncle, Bro. John Ali. Then, Clarence and Cynthia Carrara, who have been attending the meetings at the Ciotti Manor in Butler, PA, requested their baptisms. Bro. Paul Gehly baptized both Clarence and Cynthia. Upon our return to the branch, Sis. Cynthia was confirmed by Bro. Carl Frammolino and Bro. Clarence was confirmed by Bro.

Paul Gehly.

We want to thank God for His goodness and for the blessings He has bestowed upon us, the members of the Greensburg Branch.

### Ordination at Saline, MI

By Jerry Morle

The blessings continue to flow at the Saline, MI Mission. While 1989 was the year of constructing our new building, 1990 is the year to begin filling that building. A part of that objective is the need for the whole congregation to begin accepting greater responsibility for the spreading of the Gospel. On April 6, 1990. Bro. John P. Buffa accepted the Lord's call to greater responsibility by being ordained into the priesthood. Many in Saline had been praying for the Lord to call another elder, and He blessed us with a wonderful day.

The day began with visitors from across the district, and from Ohio, filling our building. Bro. Nephi DeMercurio, an evangelist from Detroit Branch #3, opened the morning meeting using I Peter Chapter 5 as his text. In this passage, Peter is exhorting the elders of the Church to feed the flock willingly, and to be good examples so that they can receive their crown of glory. Bro. Nephi explained that Peter recognized the challenge before not only the ministry, but the congregation as a whole. The call to be sober, humble, and vigilant applied to all.

Bro. Nephi also pointed out that faith was a key ingredient to Peter's "recipe" for a steadfast Christian. The faith and trust we place in God is analogous to travelling in the desert. Very often, there is nothing in the desert to guide its travellers except the sun, with its predictable rising in the east and setting in the west. Our God is predictable, and we can know how He will work by studying His scriptures and seeking His counsel. He is also a God of order. He demonstrated this through His son, who came to establish order, peace, and love, using His Church—our Church—as His vehicle. Christ

called a ministry to not only continue His work by feeding the flock, but to also continue His example in emanating the essence of love.

This was the charge Bro. Nephi gave to Bro. John and his fellow servants in the ministry. But he turned back to the congregation and reminded us that we all constitute the Church. We should strive to help and lift each other up, to resist the devil, and to have faith and hope so we can obtain our crown of salvation.

Bro. Joe Calabrese, an apostle from Lorain, Ohio, followed Bro. Nephi, emphasizing the responsibility of the call to the ministry. Our ministers must not only lead souls to Christ, but guide them to paradise as well. Consequently, this responsibility is greater than that of the President of the United States.

Lives are useless unless they serve Christ, and continued, faithful service leads to salvation. Bro. Joe admonished the ministry to feed the flock with power from the Spirit of God. Elders should give of themselves, both spiritually and naturally, as examples of Christ's love. The multitudes that followed Jesus on a daily basis during His ministry were fed with miracles, as well as natural food. Since He has not changed, His latter-day ministry should continue in following that example. However, this only intensifies the responsibility before them. So, Bro. Joe instructed the congregation to pray for the ministry. With this great burden upon them, they need the strength of a prayerful Church.

The afternoon service was opened by Bro. Nick Pietrangelo, an apostle from Detroit Branch #1. He spoke concerning his own calling into the ministry. He reminisced about actually putting off his acceptance of the call twice because of his fear of inadequacy. However, the Lord gave him an experience which convinced him that his calling was of God, and that he would receive the strength needed to fulfill his obligations. Bro. Nick then read I Corinthians 4:1-2, "Let no man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it

(Continued on Page 8)

#### SALINE continued . . .

is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." He spoke of the tremendous responsibility he feels constantly in asking the Lord for guidance and inspiration. He also spoke of a supportive wife and family being very important to the work of the ministry.

An ensemble of women from Saline then sang an arrangement of Ye Who Are Called to Labor before our brother was ordained. Bro. John Buffa from the Sterling Heights Branch, our own brother's uncle, washed his feet in preparation for ordination. Bro. Reno Bologna of Saline then offered a prayer that the Lord would inspire someone from among the host of elders gathered there to confirm our brother into the ministry. The Lord chose Bro. Alex Gentile of Detroit Branch #2 to ordain Bro. John. Over 150 people crowded into our small country church and endured very warm temperatures. Yet everyone left with a blessing and a newness of Spirit to continue the battle for Christ.

# Ordination in Monongahela

Sunday, July 1, 1990, was a wonderful day for the saints in the Monongahela, PA Branch as we anticipated the ordination of Brother George Seighman as a teacher. Many visitors were present to enjoy the day along with the branch members. After the morning service was opened in prayer, we witnessed the blessing of Kevin Lee Burns, son of Jim and Sister Robin Burns.

Brother Richard Scaglione introduced the preaching service, taking his text from Alma 37:32-37. The chapter related Alma's exhortation to his son Helaman, instructing him to counsel with the Lord in all things.

After we enjoyed a break for lunch and fellowship, we reconvened upstairs for the afternoon meeting. Brother Robert Nicklow Jr. read the duties of a teacher. He also related the spirit of unity that was felt among the priesthood when

they discussed the calling of our Brother George. Brother Seighman had his feet washed by Brother Paul Carr, and Brother George Johnson ordained him into the office of teacher. We enjoyed some testimonies, and sacrament was passed. The meeting was closed with all present receiving an overflowing cup of blessings. We praise God and ask Him to bless Brother George in his newly acquired office.

# Baptism, healing at Lakeside, AZ

On Mother's Day we were given an extra special blessing. The Spirit of God was made manifest throughout the day.

We started out at the Lakeside, Arizona Branch by meeting at the church for breakfast. The brothers and young men of the branch prepared and served a delightful breakfast for all of the mothers.

Gathering for our worship service, we feasted on spiritual food. Evangelist Harry (Skip) Smith introduced our service, offering words of honor for our mothers. The subject our brother felt directed to speak on this morning was the intent of the law of Christ, or God. In Matthew 12, Christ tried to explain something to the people. He came along and made a change, and He didn't do away with the law, but fulfilled the law, bringing a full understanding of the law.

Paul, in his letters to the Corinthians, says that the law is written in our heart. God has made us through Christ. Paul also states that the letter of the law killeth, but the spirit is life. Christ tried to bring to Israel the higher understanding of what the law meant. Even today lawyers try to understand the spirit of the law.

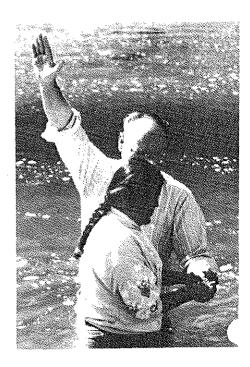
The intent of the law was to keep the people of Israel together as a people, until the coming of Christ. God gave examples even through Christ. In Matthew 12, the priests blamed Christ for doing things on the Sabbath. He tried to explain the intent of the law to the people when they were blaming the guiltless.

The mothers that raised us, as well as the fathers, had rules that were for our protection. The letter was harsh, but the spirit was to keep us from harm's way.

The greatest thing keeping people out of the Church today, Bro. Smith said, is that they think it will be an infringement on their freedom. They don't want someone telling them how to live, or what to do or say. That is what it looks like to them from the outside. That is not the spirit of it, however. Even though the Church has rules and regulations, the true spirit of it is that we might all enter into the kingdom of God, that we might all allow God to work within us.

Christ came to show us what we should do for salvation. The spirit of the law of the Church is unto salvation. We allow things to happen in our lives. We either allow evil in our life and turn away from God, or we allow Christ in our hearts, which will lead us to God.

We learn right from wrong by way of experience. God has allowed us to taste of wrong, and He leads us back. The spirit of the law of Christ was for the good of mankind. The spirit of Christ is for our comfort, for the things we go through in this life. The spirit of it



Bro. Skip Smith baptizes Doris Dahkoshay at Whiteriver, AZ.

is not only for this life, but for all eternity. The full intent of the law is to bring eternal happiness.

What is the spirit we feel in the Church? Many times, some understanding comes of the spirit. Why did God form the Church? What was the intent of it? Was it intended that we would just come to Church and meet on Sundays? The intent was that everyone that would come in contact would see His Son and have an opportunity to have eternal life. It was not so that God would lay down some rules and regulations to have control over us.

Many churches would try to control their people; their members are not allowed to think for themselves, they do not seek out the Spirit and they do not feel the Spirit of God. The whole intent of the Spirit of God is that we might understand Him.

God sent His Son for us. He wanted us to see what He wanted for us. What does God want with us? He doesn't want us to serve Him because of fear, or through someone else. That is not the spirit. When Christ came, He wanted us to individually know God. The full Spirit of Christ coming among us was not just to prove the power of God, the full Spirit was to show us what the intent of God was, that we might know the mercy and love which the law did not show.

When we serve God, we need to seek out the intent of His law, and learn the spirit of His law. We can become liberated by the spirit. The intent is not to have control over us. We don't give up our freedom when we come into the army of Christ.

Christ said of the sacrament, "This do in remembrance of Me." He did not give the command, "Thou shalt never forget Me." We do it because we are so vulnerable, "as often as you meet together, remember the life I led, the death I died," we remember the glorious reason. Christ did not want to beat us into submission. He wanted us to understand the spirit.

Through the Restoration of the Gospel, we can find the spirit.

Bro. Skip said he was thankful for his mother and for the Church, which was his spiritual mother. He felt that we should be thankful today for the understanding we have of the spirit. Many in the world today are fretting over their relationship to God because it is according to the letter, not the spirit.

Bro. Isaac Smith followed, speaking somewhat on the subject of forgiveness. At times, he said, we set up rules, and some people invariably choose to test the rules. Our children will break the rules we make, often to gain our attention. The prodigal son went out and spent everything he had. We are like that, perhaps to spite our fathers.

The prodigal came to the point, however, of making the decision to return home. He probably thought for a long time before coming to that decision. When he arrived home, he told his father that he had sinned against him, and asked for his father's forgiveness. The father had known all along. Bro. Ike asked us, "How many of us would find a place in heaven if there weren't forgiveness?"

Our heavenly Father represents the law and rules and regulations, but He provided a way through His Son. Under the law, when children broke the rules, there was not forgiveness. Their lives were taken. When Christ came, however, He brought forgiveness. All He wants from us is that we recognize the need and ask for His forgiveness.

We as a Church need to have an attitude of forgiveness. We need to have feelings of kindness toward one another. Bro. Ike encouraged us to have a positive manner toward each other.

At this time our service was opened for testimony, and many gave thanks and praise to God.

Our Apache brothers and sisters and friends occasionally offer praises to God by singing a hymn before the congregation. On this day, our friend Doris Dahkoshay went forward. She began by saying how much she missed her mother, who had passed away recently, and then sang a song dedicated to her memory. Before returning to her seat, she asked for her baptism. We were all very blessed to hear her desire.

The following Sunday morning, before our services began, we gathered at Whiteriver to witness Doris' baptism. As is customary, we sang hymns as we anticipated the ordinance. Bro. Skip spoke to our sister and proceeded with the baptism. Everyone felt the Spirit of God working as our new sister was immersed. This was the first baptism Bro. Skip has performed since he was ordained.

Sister Doris has spent a couple of years battling serious illness, and has faced surgery. Many prayers and anointings have been offered in her behalf. She had been diagnosed as having cancer; X-rays had shown spots on her kidneys. Two weeks after her baptism, she went to the hospital to prepare for the surgery. The doctors made the necessary arrangements and final examinations. At this juncture, the doctor told our new sister that he couldn't find anything wrong, that there had been a miracle, and that she could go home. What a beautiful blessing! We all praised God.

The Lord has continually reassured us here at the Lakeside Branch of His love for us. We know that all things are possible. We pray that this good report will bring joy to many. Please continue to remember us as we strive to do our part for the upbuilding of God's kingdom.

# Levittown, PA Branch News

The Lord has been blessing us greatly in the Levittown Branch. Over the past several months, we have had four baptisms and one ordination.

On October 15, 1989, Nicholas and Dawn Boruch entered the waters of regeneration. Sister Dawn is the daughter of Brother Mike and Sister Carol King. She was baptized by Brother Jerry Valenti and confirmed by Brother Lawrence King. Brother Nick was baptized by Brother Gerard Valenti and confirmed by Brother Paul Benyola. In his testimony, Brother Nick stated that he heard a voice which instructed him to join this church. The couple was recently

(Continued on Page 10)

#### LEVITTOWN continued . . .

blessed with their first child, and we pray that God will be with them as they begin their service to Him as a family.

Brother James L. Speck was ordained a teacher on Easter Sunday, April 15, 1990. His feet were washed by Brother Joe Benyola, and he was ordained by Brother Sam Dell. Adding to the blessing of the day was the presence of Brother Jim's parents, Sister Nancy and Brother James G. Speck, who now reside in Florida. We pray the Lord will bless our brother in his new undertaking.

On Mother's Day, our spiritual mother (the Church) gained two new children as George Kendall and Larry Funari were baptized by Brother Paul Benyola on May 13, 1990. Brother Sam Dell confirmed Brother George and Brother Jerry Valenti confirmed Brother Larry. Brother George is the son of Brother Bucky and Sister Norma Kendall of Roscoe, PA. Brother Larry is Brother George's cousin. They have known the Church all their lives, but became more serious about it in the past year as a result of the healing of Brother George's daughter late last year. Young Demi Lee Kendall was born last September but was immediately hospitalized for several weeks in very grave condition. Many brothers and sisters went into fasting and prayer on behalf of the child, and the Lord pulled her through.

We are very thankful to God for all of His blessings, both naturally and spiritually, and we pray that He will continue to bless us as we strive to do His will.

### Simi Valley News

By Linda Reynolds

On August 5, 1990 we at the Simi Valley, California Branch said some very sad farewells to Bro. Joe and Sis. Suzy Masselli, who have moved to Lorain, Ohio to live with their daughter, Kathryn, and her family. Bro. Joe and Sis. suzy are both in their 90's, and have been

such an inspiration to all of us here in the Simi Valley Branch. They attended Sunday School as well as the regular church service every Sunday. We have always enjoyed hearing their testimonies about their calling into the Church, and their praising the Lord for all His blessings. Bro. Joe would often start out his testimony by saying, "I can't praise the Lord when I die, so I want to do it today." We will miss these faithful servants very much in our branch.

The month of July, 1990 brought us some visitors from Tse Bonito, New Mexico. We welcomed Bro. Larry and Sis. Vanessa Watson in our branch two Sundays in July. Bro. Larry spoke to us regarding Creation versus Evolution, a topic on which he has done much research. We enjoyed his words very much, and learned a great deal concerning the subject. Sis. Vanessa sang a beautiful duet with Sis. Alyse Genaro.

Also visiting that Sunday was Sis. Joy Krasnasky and her daughter, Kerry, from the Lindsay, CA Branch, and Bro. Brian Miller from Kentucky. Our branch extends an open invitation to anyone who would like to visit us. We would welcome you wholeheartedly. Our prayer is that the good Lord will bless you all.

# Niles, OH

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people" (Revelation 14:6).

The Restoration story—does it ever grow old? Does it not burn brightly in our hearts, warming our souls with its Truth? When we hear or read this scripture does it cause our pulse to quicken? We must answer, yes! Can it be, then, that a reaffirming of its Truth will bring the above-mentioned symptoms? Again we must assuredly answer, yes!

Recently our preaching service was opened with the topic of the Restoration of the Gospel and the establishment of our Church. Our brother elder began in Amos 8:11, explaining the apostasy, and then moved on to the New Testament, describing the Gospel according to Jesus Christ. He also read from the Book of Mormon, relating the beginning of the Church in the promised land. He brought out the guidelines to follow when looking for the true and unadulterated Gospel, such as the naming of the Church, and the fact that it must be founded on Christ's precepts.

While he was speaking, a brother saw an angel descend through the ceiling and float downward, finally resting on the elder's shoulders. The angel remained there through most of the sermon, then quickly slipped into the brother's body. The brother who had this vision described the angel as having a form white in color-a whiteness above all other whiteness, and surrounded by a brilliant golden glow. He said that the vision quickened his heartbeat, making him feel warm all over; even his palms began to perspire from the intensity of the experience. He did not relate the vision at this time; the meeting continued with the second speaker.

Our brother preached on the scripture where Jesus Christ asked His disciples, "Whom say ye that I am?" (Matthew 16:15-19), and how Simon Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Then Jesus answered him, saying, ". . . [F]lesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven." Our brother further explained that this was the rock on which Jesus Christ would build His Church, the rock of Revelation, and that as His Church we must possess and display the gifts of the Spirit.

We enjoyed the message our brethren brought forth very much, but even more so after we heard the testimony of our brother who had the confirming vision. Our testimonies were filled with thanksgiving to the Lord, that He did see fit to refresh our belief in the Restoration, and warm us with the glad tidings, and even quicken our pulses with joy.

### MESSAGE continued . . .

English-speaking elders.

Those whom we visited told their friends, who had many of their own experiences. Requests were received to anoint their sick, bless their children, and pray for their families in Mexico, San Salvador, and parts of South America. They are very humble, and receptive to the Gospel.

These people have given touching testimonies, and have received personal miracles and blessings from the Lord. He has been using these people, and, through this one interested family, many others have heard of the Gospel.

A little four-year-old girl was completely run over by a truck. The Lord not only spared her but she didn't have a single broken bone, and her family thanked God for our elders anointing this little girl. They saw the miracle!

#### FIRST BAPTISM

The first baptism took place chis past May 15. The new brother, Fabian Perales, had only been visiting a few months, but the miracles started over a year before they came to church. He and his wife were married almost 10 years and did not have any children, as

his wife kept miscarrying early on in her pregnancies. Over a year ago, Bro. George Kovacic anointed this woman (Juana), and she had a beautiful baby girl. Now, this year, she gave birth to her second baby, a boy, and named him Michael (after Bro. Miguel).

Bro. Fabian was coming to church, giving his testimony about the miracles the Lord had performed for him. On the Sunday evening they were to have the baby blessed, he called for his baptism. He said that he had to do something in return for the Lord's miracles to him personally.

While Juana was in the hospital having her second child, Bro. Fabian was asked for \$200.00. He did not have the money. While driving home he prayed for the Lord to help him. When he returned home, there was a man there interested in buying an old car from him. Bro. Fabian was surprised, because this car had been available for months and no one wanted it. The Lord provided a buyer at the perfect time.

The miracles continue. At his baptism, there was a family watching in the back row of spectators, and the husband felt the hand of God on his shoulder. He said that he would be next to be baptized, for the Lord has changed his life. He felt such a great blessing in

witnessing this baptism. Several walked away from the water with tears in their eyes. We continue to pray that the Lord will call others. Our elders, teachers, and members in Miami are diligent in visiting these poor people and the blessings are very great.

The Lord is helping us by sending reinforcements. Bro. Oscar and Sis. Lisa Lopez have moved to Miami from Detroit. Bro. Oscar is a native of Colombia. We thank the Lord for His workers. We are now holding services on Sunday and Friday nights. Bro. George Kovacic and I request your prayers for this work.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Drobeck, Celestina 311 Gregory Webster, NY 14580 Telephone (716) 265-4839

Large, Dirk 90 Colby Street Rochester, NY 14601 Telephone (716) 461-0523

Scolaro, Anthony J. 1162 Raritan Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904 Telephone (201) 572-4448

# * WEDDINGS *

### PARRY-CHAMPINE

Mr. David Parry and Sis. Yvonne Champine were united in holy matrimony on Friday, July 13, 1990 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

The service was conducted by Brothers Flip Palacios and Frank Natoli. Musical selections were sung and played by Brothers Claude, Larry, and Steve Champine, and Bro. Eugene Amormino.

The couple will be living in Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Our prayer is that God would make them a fruitful family, both spiritually and naturally.

### MATTHEWS-HEMMINGS

Brother Richard Matthews and Sister Faith Hemmings of the Lakeside, AZ Branch, were united in marriage on June 23, 1990.

Brothers Isaac Smith and Herbert Hemmings.

father of the bride, officiated at the nuptials. Musical selections were provided by the Allison sisters, cousins of the groom, and Bro. Sam and Sis. Lisa Hemmings, brother and sister-in-law of the bride, accompanied by Bro. Arthur Landrey, nephew of the bride. Mr. Howard Williams, grandfather of the groom, offered prayer.

May God continue to direct and guide this couple through their life is our sincere prayer.

### JONES-KLEIN

Patrick M. Jones and Vickie L. Klein were married on August 4, 1990 on the lawn of the Klein home in North Canton, Ohio.

Brother Donald Pandone of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were played by a flute and harp duo.

Vickie is the daughter of Bro. Martin and Sis. Elaine Klein, members of the Kent Mission of the Church. The couple are residing in North Canton. May God richly bless them in their new life together.

# **OBITUARIES**

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

### ANTHONY NATERELLI

Brother Anthony Naterelli passed from this life on June 3, 1990. He was born in Bound Brook, NJ on May 11, 1916 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on June 16, 1978.

Left to mourn his passing is one daughter, Sister Elaine Caterina, and two grandchildren, along with many brothers, sisters, and friends in the New Brunswick, NJ Branch, where he was a member. May God bless his family.

### THERESA BERG

Sister Theresa Berg passed away on June 6, 1990. She was born on October 13, 1913 in Bayonne, NJ, and was baptized on September 9, 1929. She was a member of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch.

Our sister is survived by a son, Herbert, and a daughter, Florence Vanderveer, along with two grand-children and two great-grandchildren.

### JOHN CAPPAZZELLO

Bro. John Cappazzello of the Bell, California Branch passed on to his eternal reward on July 1, 1990. He was born on May 18, 1895 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in April of 1924.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Vincent

Scalise and Robert McDonnell.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Anna, and five children, by whom he was very much loved. He was a

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great example to the brothers and sisters of the Bell Branch, as he attended every single meeting, right to the end. He was 95 years old at the time of his passing.

### RAYMOND COSETTI

Brother Raymond Cosetti passed from this life to the next on July 26, 1990. He was born on February 23, 1905, and was baptized into the Church on June 22, 1929. He was ordained an elder in 1934 and an evangelist in 1943.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Richard Lawson, William Colangelo, Mike Italiano, and Don

Pandone.

Bro. Ray is survived by his wife, Sister Mary, one daughter, one son, a brother and sister in Italy, three grandchildren, and a great-grandson. Bro. Raymond was faithful as a member, elder, and evangelist in the Church. He was soft-spoken, but steady and firm in his service to God. He was kind and loving to all the saints, especially those who knew him well in the Ohio, Florida, and Pennsylvania Districts. His determination to work for the Lord will be remembered and cherished by all. May God bless and comfort his family.

# **New Arrivals**

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

Michael David to Danny and Mary Jane Mazzeo of New Brunswick, New Jersey.

# Children Blessed

Joshua Boruch was blessed on October 1, 1989, by Bro. Sam Dell at the Levittown, PA Branch.

Timothy James Schmid was blessed by Bro. Sam

Dell on February 11, 1990 at Levittown.

Erica Lindsay Salvio was blessed at the Greensburg, PA Branch by Bro. Paul Gehly on April 15, 1990. She is the sixth great-grandchild whose blessing in the Church our Sister Rose Nalevanko has been privileged to witness.

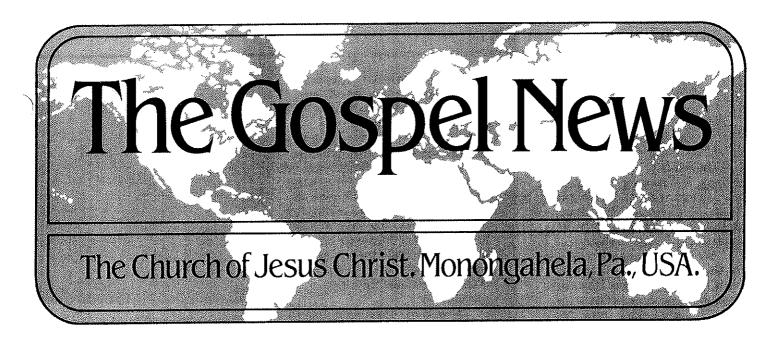
On July 1, 1990, Bro. John Ali offered a blessing over his grand-nephew, Jonathan David Wolff, at the

Greensburg, PA Branch.

Kevin Lee Burns was blessed on July 1, 1990, at the Monongahela, PA Branch by his grandfather, Bro. Robert Nicklow Sr.

Sabrina Norma Morningstar was blessed on July 29, 1990, by Brother David Nolfi at the Glassport, PA

Branch.
On August 5, 1990, Chelsey Rene Clayton was blessed by Bro. Ed Buccellato at the Simi Valley, California Branch. She is the daughter of Bro. Larry and Sis. Debbie Clayton.



October, 1990

Volume 46, No. 10

# May, 1990 GMBA Conference

By Paul A. Palmieri

The May GMBA Conference met at Dearborn High School in Dearborn, Michigan the weekend of May 19-20, 1990. This was the first time in over 5 years that the GMBA Conference was held in the Michigan-Ontario Area. The saints there and the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA are to be commended for all the hard work they put forth in preparing for and hosting the conference. GMBA Chaplain Ken Staley opened the conference, speaking on the need of the saints to be partakers of the afflictions of the Gospel. He used II Timothy 1:8-12 as his text, exhorting us to be faithful servants of God.

GMBA business occupied our morning and part of the afternoon meeting. However, a good spirit of accomplishment was prevalent during our business. Some of the highlights of the business included the GMBA collecting over \$16,000 during a six-month period, a very high response rate of local historian reports sent to the GMBA historian, activity-filled reports from the various Area MBA's, and a great deal of excitement about the upcoming activities of the GMBA, especially the GMBA Campout.

Other items of note included conference approval of the printing

of 5,000 welcome packets, a special donation of \$2,000 to our brothers and sisters in flood-stricken India, and a renewed goal of each local to send \$250 (or as much as possible) to the GMBA special projects fund. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in singing and testimony. All who attended the GMBA Conference were especially touched to see and hear from three new members from Elizabethtown, Kentucky—a new work for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our evening meeting was devoted to the presentation of a wonderful program by the Michigan-Ontario Area Choir. The choir presented a very inspiring program entitled People Need the Lord, a theme to whose truth every person in attendance could attest. Our Sunday morning service centered around the idea that people have always needed the Lord. Bro. Paul Palmieri opened our service, relating that the Lord loves people and He wants us to come to Him. Bro. Paul spoke on how when Philip found the Ethiopian eunuch, he was able to explain to him about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bro. Carl Frammolino followed, stressing how we must each bear testimony of what the Lord has done for us. Several of the brothers in the ministry followed, exhorting us to draw near to Jesus because He can make us what He wants us to be. General Church President Dominic Thomas concluded, stating that in all of our dealings we must glorify the Lord and His Church, that they may benefit from our works and time. We dismissed with the distinct desire to meet again.

The GMBA invites each of you to partake of the various GMBA activities, your Area MBA activities, your local MBA activities, and all activities held for the saints and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ to enjoy one another's fellowship.

# Atlantic Coast Area Campout

By Betty D'Orazio

The theme of the Area Campout, held on May 25-27, 1990 in Newton, New Jersey was "Just Say Yes." A wonderful spirit prevailed on the camp. Not only because of the love of the saints, which we each brought with us, but it was the special gift that Brother Len Benyola brought to camp, which was his repentance and desire for baptism. He was baptized Saturday afternoon by his father, Brother Leonard Benyola, and confirmed by Brother Paul Benyola. We thank

(Continued on Page 7)

## 50th Spiritual Birthdays

By Joyceann Jumper

On Sunday, June 10 at the Aliquippa, PA Branch, we honored two sisters who were celebrating 50 years of service in The Church of Jesus Christ, Sisters Mary Ventresca and Louise Donkin.

We were happy to have many of the relatives of our sisters visiting with us. Bro. Edward Donkin, a nephew of both our sisters and an elder from the Glassport, PA Branch, introduced our service. He told of the many blessings he received from God in his life, and how God has always been with him and his family. Bro. Ed thanked God for the wonderful family he has and for the good example shown to him while he was growing up in the Church.

Our brother referred to the Bible story of the Good Samaritan, and how we should be willing to always help someone else. He stated that Sisters Mary and Louise were always good examples in their willingness to help others.

Bro. Paul Palmieri followed with encouraging words, stating that if we answer God's call in our lives, He will be with us always. He referred to our sisters having answered God's call, and how their lives have been blessed these past 50 years.

Bro. James Gibson made a few closing remarks, after which Bro. Chuck Jumper read a letter from



Sisters Mary Ventresca and Louise Donkin of Aliquippa, PA.

Bro. Patsy Marinetti. The letter was concerning the day of our sisters' baptisms. He stated, "Some of the Rossi family were in Rochester, NY for the engagement of Sis. Erma D'Amico and Bro. Carmen Rossi. On Sunday our service was filled with many young people, and the Lord blessed us with Mary and Louise asking for their baptisms. The date was June 9, 1940." Bro. Marinetti also stated in the letter that these were his first two baptisms, having been recently ordained into the priesthood

Bro. Tony Ross read a short account of our Sis. Mary's life, after which Sis. Karen Progar sang one of her favorite hymns, *God Will Take Care of You*. Sis. Mary then gave a beautiful testimony of God's blessings in her life.

Bro. Tom Ross then read of Sis. Louise's life, after which Sis. Carol Jumper sang *He Leadeth Me*. Sis. Louise then expressed herself concerning the goodness of God in her life, and her thankfulness to Him for His blessings.

After the close of the meeting a luncheon was served to us by the sisters of the branch. We thank God for the beautiful, blessed day He gave to us for the anniversary of our sisters.

## 60th Wedding Anniversary

By Barbara Nuzzi

On July 27, 1930, at one o'clock in the afternoon, Libertina Giovanni and Louis Pandone were united in holy matrimony by Bro. A. A. Corrado. The musical selection was Blest Be the Tie That Binds. It is now sixty years later, and our brother and sister are still enjoying beautiful companionship and endearing love. The song that was sung on their wedding day speaks repeatedly of oneness and togetherness, the very words our Brother Lou used when I asked him for the secret of their many happy years of marriage.

At the time of their marriage, they had a grand total of \$4.50 and no place to live, so they began working together from the first



Sister Libby and Brother Lou Pandone of Niles, OH.

day, talking and counseling with one another on everything. They told me of the joy they felt when they were finally able to get the many things it takes to make a house a home. Bro. Lou said to me, "Always have the Lord as your unseen guest," and added how important it is to share your spiritual life with your companion, so that you grow together naturally and spiritually.

Bro. Lou was baptized in April of 1930 by Bro. Vincent DiGennaro and served as a deacon for many years; he was later ordained a teacher. He enjoys biblical research, gardening, and woodworking; the first and last being very beneficial to the betterment of our branch.

Sis. Libby was baptized in November of 1927 by Bro. Frank Wooley and was ordained a deaconess in 1972. She enjoys crocheting, knitting, and various other crafts. Crocheting sacrament cloths has been a constant labor of love for our sister. I asked her when she started making them, and how many she had made over the years. She said that she had helped her mother many times, and finally made her first set in the 1930's. As for how many, she did not know a total, but said since 1977 she has made 28 sets. She uses the money she earns from the sale of various other crafts to buy the thread for crocheting these sacrament cloths. What a blessing our sister's labors have brought, providing cloths all over the world!

(Continued on Page 11)

### **Ohio District Conference**

Sunday morning, August 26, 1990, found a goodly number of the Ohio District saints in attendance at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. In addition we enjoyed the presence of a number of visitors from other districts who had attended the recent GMBA Campout in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

District President Phil Jackson announced that four of the six baptisms requested at the campout were new members of the Ohio District, and that two had just been baptized that morning. The newlybaptized members were Brothers Ronald Giovannone and Fred Mott, and Sisters Tonia Davis and Rosalie Pezzenti. Bro. Phil welcomed them to the fold.

Bro. Paul Palmieri, visiting from Aliquippa, PA, began the service with a call to baptism for those who had not yet rendered obedience to the Gospel. Bro. Paul stated that there was no higher calling or position in the Church than that of a member. He also recounted his personal testimony. Bro. Paul then read a portion of scripture pertaining to the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, and called our newly-baptized Brother Ron and Sister Rosalie forward. The brothers of the priesthood knelt in prayer to ask God for His Spirit. Bro. Ron was then confirmed by Bro. Joe Calabrese, and Sis. Rosalie by Bro. Ralph Berardino. The Spirit of God which accompanied this ordinance was felt by all, and testified to the calling of our new converts.

At this point, Bro. Phil felt to call all the children in the congregation forward for prayer in light of the fact that the new school year was soon to begin. The mothers brought their children forth, and the ministry encircled the young ones. A Spirit-filled prayer was offered by Bro. Vince Gibson, who asked that God's protection might be on the children so that they might resist the evil temptations which they would no doubt face at school. Our brother also prayed for the mothers, that they might have sufficient strength to raise their children according to the commandments of God.

Bro. Joseph Calabrese addressed the congregation, declaring his excitement about the campout. He called all those who were not baptized to come and drink of the water which our Lord has to offer. He concluded by instructing all the parents to keep their children close to the Church, because Satan is seeking to steal them away.

Bro. John Ross, Jr. felt inspired to follow the theme presented by quoting from the book of Acts: the blessings of the repentant are not only for themselves, but for their children as well. Bro. John encouraged us to grab hold of the promises of God. He read the promise, "Greater is he that is in you than he that is in the world." Our brother exhorted the families of the Church to be strong and committed to each other. Others will be attracted to the Church by the strength we exhibit. Bro. John concluded by stressing the importance of communication within the family structure.

Bro. Phil opened the meeting to those who wished to testify. All of our new converts stood and related the experiences surrounding their callings into the Church. A sweet spirit prevailed as we listened to how the Lord had once again heard and answered the prayers of those who were sincere in their desires.

After we sang I Surrender All, Bro. Palmieri felt to reiterate his earlier call to repentance, asking if today was the day for anyone. Bro. Frank Natoli, under the influence of the Spirit, asked if anyone would like to be prayed on for strength. He stated that the Spirit revealed to him that there were some struggling for their repentance. Two young men came forth at this point and were prayed for. Our brother's inspiration proved true when Jim Coe of Cleveland, Ohio asked for his baptism after receiving prayer. We rejoiced to feel the Spirit in our midst, and this Spirit prompted several of our brothers and sisters to come forward for various needs in their lives. The spirit of prayer was present, as various individuals were prayed on. During the anointings, a sister was given a vision in which she beheld Jesus Christ standing on the rostrum, beckoning those in need to come under the

hands of His priesthood.

After these anointings, sacrament was administered to the congregation by four of our brother elders.

Prior to the close of the service, Bro. Jerry Giovannone related his thankfulness to God to see his son come into the Church. Our brother related an experience which led him to believe that his life had been extended for him to see this day, and he thanked God for it. Bro. Phil Jackson made closing remarks, exhorting the brothers and sisters to utilize the brothers of the priesthood when they are in need. Our conference Sunday was reluctantly brought to a close at 1:45 p.m. with the young people singing Sweet, Sweet Spirit.

# There's Power in the Blood of the Lamb

By Rose Palacios

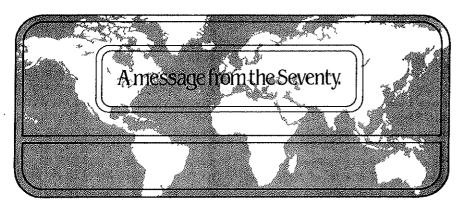
Jesus once told me that He doesn't fail. We desire to share a healing that took place with my daughter, Dora Palacios Armstrong. She was diagnosed by a doctor as having a lump on her breast on Tuesday, June 5, 1990. Crying, she called and told me what the doctor had found, but we were confident in the promises of God. I reminded her of when I had cancer, of which God delivered me. She believed that God would help her, too. I told her we would fast and pray until God came through for her.

Dora was anointed, and that same night I had a dream where my husband, Dora, and myself were standing together in one place. Suddenly a chariot descended from heaven with two angels, who stood in front of my husband and me. They said, "We're going to take care of Dora for you," then they took her up into the heavens with them. As quickly as they went up, they brought Dora back down to us and said, "We've taken care of her."

What a joy it was to wake up from that dream!

On Friday, Dora went for a

(Continued on Page 10)



# Visiting Program Continued in Independence, Missouri

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The visiting program in Independence, MO was continued, this time on July 13-15, when some brothers and sisters from different locations of The Church of Jesus Christ joined the resident missionary, Evangelist Charles Smith, and his wife, Sister Ilene, in meeting individuals and groups in the area. The project has been ongoing for several years under the auspices of the General Church Development Committee.

Development chairman, Evangelist Elmer Santilli from Ohio, and Evangelists Vincent Gibson (Ohio), Sam Dell (Atlantic Coast), and Alexander Robinson (Kansas) were there. Also making the trek were the following brothers and sisters: Sevilla Gibson, Mike and Barbara Nuzzi, and Bert Miller from Ohio; Roger and Marietta Schroeder and their three children, Jeremy, Julie, and Jamie from Kansas; and Helen Tisler, who lives in Ohio and was visiting in Missouri.

Services were held Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon at the Harvest Hills Community Center. There was good attendance at both meetings. Brothers Santilli and Robinson spoke on Saturday night. They preached about the power of God and the gifts which are in The Church of Jesus Christ. Community singing was also conducted, and testimonies were given. A time of fellowship was spent with visitors after the service. Three other Restoration groups were

represented. They were from the Strangites, the Reorganized Latter-Day-Saints, and the Temple Lot.

On Sunday afternoon, Brothers Gibson and Dell talked about the Restoration of the Gospel, the Love of God, and future expectations as presented in the Book of Mormon. They had great liberty in their speaking. Representatives from four other factions of the Restoration were present, from the Temple Lot, the Reorganized LDS, the Cutlerite, and Otto Fetting groups.

Visitations made to different groups and individuals began on Friday morning with a stop at the site of the Temple Lot, where their church building had sadly burned down. A trailer in the parking lot displayed a sign, "Welcome, Information Inside." Upon entering, the unfortunate circumstances which led to that destructive tragedy were related, and plans to rebuild were detailed.

In that trailer and in other discussions, in homes and other places, fruitful exchanges on beliefs took place throughout the stay. Many friends from past times in Independence were seen, and new acquaintances were made. Hospitality was very graciously and generously given by those visited.

On Sunday morning, our Church contingent attended the Sunday School service at one location, and then journeyed to the nearby Temple Lot meeting, where they sang Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile? for the congregation. Warmth and enthusiasm were shown toward us throughout the weekend, and invitations to return were genuinely offered.

## Quorum Honors 50-Year Member

By Evangelist Paul Liberto, Pacific Coast District President

Brother Mark Randy of Modesto, California, was honored on August 14, 1990, for 50 years of service as an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. The occasion was purposely kept as a surprise to him, and he was overwhelmed when he realized that he was the "main event" of the Pacific Coast District's spiritual conference

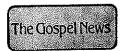
evening meeting.

As the meeting began, District President Paul Liberto said he was going to review a little bit of Church history so that the saints might appreciate the early struggle and rich blessings of our past. He began reading an account of the General Church Conference of July. 1940, from the Church history book. Several interesting items were noted, such as missionary trips, finances, and other activities. At the conclusion, Brother Paul noted that there was one item he missed: the recommendation of Brother Marco Randazzo (Mark Randy) as an evangelist! He then gave the meeting over to Evangelist Isaac Smith, president of the Quorum of Seventy, who had traveled to Modesto from Arizona to present Bro. Mark with a plaque commemorating his years of service.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Correction

The article on missionary endeavors in Homestead, Florida appearing in the September, 1990 Issue of *The Gospel News* was written by Joseph Catone, Sr. It was mistakenly attributed to Joseph Catone, Jr.



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 1162 Raritan Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904

ASSISTANT EDITOR Leonard A. Lovalvo 8085 Schneider Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS Nephi DeMercurio Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Kenneth Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN -- ONTARIO Rosanne Champine 47116 Hennings Dr. Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

> OHIO Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongabela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST Douglas S. Obradovich 8620 NW 45th St. Lauderhill, FL 33351

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

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BUSINESS OFFICE 9066 Austin Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (800) 334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

One of the things that we as the saints of God must be thankful for is the saving grace of Jesus Christ. We know from the scriptures that without it salvation is impossible, yet at times the grace of God is difficult for us to freely accept. We are so accustomed to giving, rather than receiving, that we usually feel an immediate need to reciprocate, to repay in whatever way we can that which we receive from someone else. But what if we have to accept something given to us freely? Can we cope when we have nothing to give in return? In order for us to freely, graciously, and completely accept the saving grace offered to us through Jesus Christ, we must become comfortable with the notion that we cannot pay Him back.

Certainly we are indebted to the Lord for what He has done for us through His death and resurrection. We must realize, however, that spiritually we are bankrupt; there is nothing we can do to repay Him. Nor do we have the ability to secure for ourselves a place in eternity with God. While the Lord requires that we endure to the end of this life, we must realize that even our hope to endure is in Christ, and not in ourselves. Were the Lord to determine our final resting place by what we did on this earth, the scriptures tell us that even if we spent every minute of every day working for Him, we would still be "unprofitable" servants.

Of course, nothing new is being said here. We are all familiar with the scriptures dealing with salvation by grace, through faith, not of works. But at times it is necessary for us to remind ourselves of this grace, lest in our human way of thinking we become too works-oriented and begin to believe that we can (or that we must) earn our soul's salvation. Were we to think this way, our service to God, including obedience and works, would be motivated by a sense of need ("I'd better do this") rather than out of our love and thanksgiving to the Lord ("I want to do this").

If we're not aware of the full power of God's saving grace, we'll feel more guilty than we should when we fall short, and allow ourselves to become discouraged by our imperfections rather than finding solace, like the Apostle Paul, in Jesus' grace. We'll become harrowed up by feelings of inadequacy and dwell on the idea that we're not able, rather than the fact that God is able.

Certainly there is a race for us to finish. But running it, and finishing it, can be much easier for us if we can accept and take full advantage of Christ's saving grace. Let us be motivated to forsake our sins and pursue good works purely by our love for the Lord and His Son Jesus Christ—not by a fear of eternal damnation or a need to "build" a heavenly mansion that Jesus said is already there (John 14:2). We must grow to the point where we are serving God not so we can get to heaven (because that won't do it), but purely out of our love for Him, just as He intended it to be.

## The

## Children's

### Corner

By Jan Steinrock

## Things God Hates

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you ever see a little child who wants to run out in the street and whose mother is watching him? The mother knows that the big flat street is dangerous. The child sees a nice open place to play. But the parent sees that there is danger there, or that even if it is empty now, traffic can suddenly zoom by and it would become a terribly dangerous place.

Well, God is your heavenly parent. He watches over us. When Jesus walked the earth, He was human like us. He understands how people get confused and make the wrong choices, and even get into trouble. God and His Son Jesus know all about the dangers that people can get into.

That is why the Lord gives us laws to live by. If we follow these laws, we will grow in the right ways and places. We will be safe and happy.

In one place in the Bible, the scriptures list seven things God hates. If you memorize this scripture, you will always know what not to do. In the 6th chapter of Proverbs, verses 16 through 20, you can read the list, and think about why God hates these things so strongly:

"These six things doth the Lord hate. Yea, seven are an abomination to him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that makes up wicked things to imagine, feet that are swift in running to mischief, a false witness (a person who makes up a story about things they saw someone else do) and he that



soweth discord (purposely starts arguments) among brethren."

Now you may say, "Oh, well, I've never shed innocent blood!", but you need to stop and consider: Do you ever have a lying tongue? Have you ever stretched the truth or even made up a lie about someone?

The Lord doesn't like that. He wants His people to love each other, to control their unclean thoughts or gossipy ways. He made this clear when He gave us this list.

To God, saying false things about a person is something He hates. No one but God will know all the times you stop yourself from doing these wrong things, but God does know. Jesus said, "Resist the devil (temptation) and he will flee (run away) from you." And then you will feel joyful and happy and grateful that you have.

With love, Sister Jan

### WORD SEARCH

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RESIST	$\mathbf{TO}$
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ABOMINATIONS	INNOCENT
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### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Calabrese, Joseph & Victoria 1310 Lindenwood Ct. Lorain, OH 44053 Tel. (216) 960-0130

Drobeck, Celestina 311 Krieger Webster, NY 14580 Tel. (716) 265-4839

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

Bro. Ike called Bro. Randy forward, where he was surrounded by all the evangelists present, along with his wife and family. Bro. Tom Liberto, Quorum vice-president, then reviewed some of the highlights of Bro. Mark's life from an autobiographical account of his ministry.

### **BAPTIZED IN 1933**

Brother Mark was baptized in Detroit, Michigan in April of 1933, at the age of 20. He was ordained a teacher in April of 1934, an Elder in April of 1936, and an evangelist in July of 1940. Soon afterward, he began laboring in Canada, often

traveling from Detroit to Grand River, Muncey, and Windsor, Ontario.

It was in Muncey that Bro. Mark fell in love with the Seed of Joseph. He was deeply touched by their poor living conditions, malnutrition, and ill health; he prayed often for their welfare. God rewarded his concern by providing many blessings, healings, and baptisms. He became presiding elder of the Muncey Mission in 1938. As a result of his work there, missions were begun in the towns of Mt. Brydges, Cedar Springs, and Port Huron.

In 1944, Bro. Mark was concentrating on the work in Port Huron. A radio program was begun there, the first in the entire Church. Through the radio program, a mission was begun across the river in Sarnia, Ontario. In 1947 Bro. Mark became acquainted with a congregation of the Church of Christ in Farwell, Michigan. As a result of his efforts there, two of their apostles were eventually baptized into our Church.

In 1951, Bro. Mark heard in an experience the scream of a woman saying, "My God, my God, help me!" Through prayer, he felt compelled to travel to California. The Modesto Branch was eventually established there, partly as a result of his efforts. Some years later he learned that the voice that drew him to California was that of one of the first converts baptized in Modesto.

In 1959, Brother Mark was requested by the General Church to go and preach the Gospel in Italy. While there, he baptized 21 people and ordained two elders. He returned home in 1960.

In 1971, Brother Mark assisted with mission work in San Jose, California. He made two trips to the country of Guatemala (in 1975 and 1976) and visited the country of Belize in 1979, where he viewed first-hand the great potential of the work among the Seed of Joseph. Through the years, Brother Mark has also worked with the Church in Mexico, and preached at branches and missions throughout the United States.

At present, he is actively working in the Modesto Branch, is

assisting with the work at the Riverbank, California Mission with the Seed of Joseph, and is involved with ministering to several of our saints living in Portland, Oregon. Through all of his years, Brother Mark has been a staunch defender of the faith, a strong supporter of the work with the Seed of Joseph, and a very effective evangelist of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

#### SHARED THOUGHTS

After the presentation, the congregation was encouraged to share their thoughts about Brother Mark and express their love to him. Many comments were made as to how he is always smiling, cheerful, empathetic, generous, and a good witness for God.

Brother Mark was very touched by the plaque presented to him, and by all of the supportive words of appreciation and love that were offered to him. He honored his wife and family by thanking them for supporting and loving him as he did the work of an evangelist. He could not hold back the emotion he experienced as he humbly thanked all of the saints for their love and support.

It is interesting to note that Brother Randy was not present at the General Church Conference of July, 1940, when he was recommended to be an evangelist. However, God let him know that he was being called by giving him a very special experience. While the conference was taking place, as Bro. Mark was kneeling in prayer at the home of his father-in-law, he distinctly heard the voice of General Church President William Cadman, calling "Marco Randazzo" three times. Then he felt the weight of a mantle falling on his shoulders.

He stood and went into the kitchen to relate the experience to his in-laws. As he said, "Why would Brother Cadman call me?" he was embraced by his mother- and father-in-law, who were weeping as they felt the power of the experience. Later, Brother Mark learned that Bro. Charles Ashton presented an experience to the Quorum of Seventy relative to his calling. Brother Rocco Biscotti, not knowing of Bro. Charlie's ex-

perience, also presented an experience he had of Bro. Mark's calling. We thank God that He confirmed the calling of our Brother Mark by blessing his ministry with great success through all of his years.

May God continue to grant him success until his time on earth is finished!

## **MBA** Highlights

# Branch 3 MBA Sing-Along

By Joyce Trovarelli

How do you increase your MBA attendance by 100 people? Host a sing-along and invite old friends and new. Our local president and vice president had been trying to get more people out on our Friday night MBA meetings. They made an earnest attempt to personally invite those who at one time used to come, and those who have never attended a regular MBA meeting to join us for a sing-along. Other branches were invited as well, and to our surprise we had an attendance of approximately 125!

We enjoyed an enthusiastic session of community singing, and some group and solo selections. We were blessed as we listened to a group of people from the Mexican neighborhood of downtown Detroit sing, in Spanish, *There Were 100 Sheep*.

Refreshments were served afterwards, and we enjoyed a good time of fellowship. We hope and pray that those who would not have normally come out for an MBA meeting might be inspired to join us again for a regular meeting.

### CAMPOUT continued . . .

God for giving Brother Len the courage to "Just Say Yes." This exciting event set the camp in a higher spiritual mind for the remainder of the weekend. If you haven't tried a campout, "Just Say Yes" to the next one.

## **Branch and Mission News**

### Greensburg, PA News

While life's dark maze I tread, And griefs around me spread, be Thou my Guide; Bid darkness turn to day, Wipe sorrow's tears away, Nor let me ever stray from Thee aside.

(Ray Palmer)

We have been so blessed to witness the "darkness turn to day" for two members of the Greensburg, PA Branch.

First, Anthony Gehly, twelveyear old son of Bro. Dennis and Sis. Rita Gehly, was admitted to the hospital to undergo extensive spine surgery. Because of the intensity of the operation, the doctors predicted a three-week hospital stay following the surgery. What a blessing it was for each of us to hear that the surgery went well, that Anthony was administered only Tylenol for the discomfort, and that he was home in only one and one-half weeks!

Secondly, Sister Lana Anspacher, now living in Ocean City, MD, was diagnosed in November, 1989 as having a brain tumor. Following surgery, she was told that radiation treatments would be necessary as the doctors were unable to remove the entire tumor. Without radiation, Lana was given one year to live; with radiation, she was told she could live up to five years, but with the possibility of side effects such as blindness and memory loss. Sister Lana chose to forego the treatments and instead, trust in the Lord.

During the month of August, 1990, Sis. Lana drove to Pennsylvania to visit her family. Upon arriving, Lana experienced a seizure; her mother found her unconscious and bleeding. Paramedics were called, and she was taken to the hospital.

After her release from the hospital, Lana decided to seek further medical advice from a neurological specialist in Pittsburgh.

After undergoing extensive MRI testing, no trace of the tumor could be found! When Sister Lana was given this information, she testified that she could not find the words to express her feelings, her joy, or her appreciation and thankfulness to her Savior.

We, too, find it difficult to sufficiently praise the Lord for His goodness and mercies in our lives. We thank Him for allowing us these special blessings, and we pray that each of you may be as uplifted and encouraged by them as we have been!

### Lake Worth, Florida

We witnessed the ordination of two of our brothers in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch into various offices on Sunday, May 20, 1990. Bro. Rocco John Benyola was ordained a teacher by Bro. John D'Orazio after having his feet washed by Bro. Sal Maccio. Bro. Rocco was baptized on June 9, 1980, and had served as a deacon since December of 1985.

Bro. Charles Duane Maddox was ordained into the Priesthood the same day by Bro. Eugene Perri. In preparation for the ordination, Bro. Charleston Hester washed our brother's feet. Baptized July 9, 1981, Bro. Chuck was ordained a deacon on February 15, 1987, and a teacher on March 6, 1988. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless our two brothers as they take on the responsibility of caring for His flock.

On Sunday, July 1, 1990, Patricia Ann Rose became Sister Patricia when she was taken into the waters of regeneration by Bro. Ron Carradi. Hands were laid on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Eugene Perri. Our new sister was afflicted with cancer at the time of her baptism, but a week later, the doctor could find no sign of her former affliction. Praise God!

## **Baptism at Youngstown**

On Sunday, August 26, 1990, Rosalie Pezzenti was taken down to the waters of regeneration by her brother, Bro. Paul Pezzenti. She later had hands laid on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Ralph Berardino at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. Sis. Rosalie had felt the blessings of God throughout her life, and asked for her baptism at the GMBA Campout in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

### Baptism in Monongahela

By Charles Kogler

A beautiful series of events began one Wednesday night at our mid-week meeting. On arriving at the Monongahela, PA Branch, I noticed that John Chepanoske was visiting with us, as he has done on other occasions. Several sisters approached me, and asked me to invite John to sit with them. They thought he looked lonely, not knowing that the Spirit of God was working upon his soul.

Our meeting was opened by Bro. Brian Smith, who read from Luke 16:15-18. He spoke about the great commission Christ gave His messengers, to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. Bro. Chuck Kogler followed, telling how Christ had changed his life and how grateful he was to receive that new spirit through repentance and baptism.

The meeting was opened for testimonies, and immediately John arose to his feet and told of the blessings he received in this Church. He said that he knew it was time for him to turn his life over to Christ. He then asked for his baptism.

As we gathered the following Sabbath morning at the river's edge, there was such a great peace and calm that there wasn't even so much as a ripple on the water. A verse of Shall We Gather at the River was sung, and Bro. George Johnson offered prayer. John was asked if he repented, and if he promised to serve God to the end of

his days. His father, Bro. Bill Chepanoske, took him into the water and immersed him, and John came out a new creature spiritually.

As we met at the Monongahela Branch for our preaching service, Bro. John was called before the priesthood and Bro. Brian Smith laid hands upon him for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Our preaching service was opened by Bro. Chepanoske, who spoke on the word "Authority." He stated that by setting our eyes upon Christ, we, too, can walk with authority, spreading the Gospel and setting a good example in the world today. Our prayer is that God would bless our new young brother in Christ.

### Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

On June 10, 1990, we were privileged to have Bro. Sam Risola and his wife, Sis. Rose, visiting with us from Tampa, Florida, along with Brother Ken Lombardo of the Metuchen, NJ Branch, with his family and other brothers and sisters from Metuchen. The spirit of calling to repentance was evident in our service.

During testimony, Maureen Meade stood up and asked to be baptized. Ironically, this day was the birthday of her mother, who had recently passed away. It became a spiritual birthday for Maureen. On the day of Maureen's baptism, others who had not yet gone into the waters and made that commitment to Jesus Christ said that they felt the power of God go through them when Bro. Joe Perri baptized her. We thank God for our beautiful sister, and have a hope for many others who are on the verge of making that commitment.

Recently, a young girl in our branch had an experience. During the night she felt the power of evil tormenting her. She knew to call out the name of Jesus to come to her rescue. Just then she had a vision. She saw four angels of God descend from the ceiling above her and stand guard at each corner of the bed. The evil spirit fled, and she

fell asleep, still witnessing the vision. Praise God for the manifestation of His power!

Our branch has been working with the Seed of Joseph for the past year. We have, at times, almost 30 visitors of the Seed of Joseph on a Sunday. Many only speak Spanish, therefore our morning meeting is conducted in English, and our afternoon meeting is in Spanish. We thank God that we always have an interpreter; however, we do not have a Spanishspeaking elder at this time. Praise God. Brother John Vela, who is presiding elder of the Santa Ana, California Branch, came to visit us for three Sundays in July. Brother John, being of the Seed of Joseph and able to speak Spanish, did much work with our interested visitors. We assisted him while he was here. Many of our visitors have a renewed interest and enthusiasm in learning more of Jesus Christ, and, particularly, of their heritage through the Book of Mormon. While Brother John was preaching, a vision was had twice in which our sister saw a heavenly glow around Bro. John ascending up to heaven. Gloria a Dios!

The final weekend of Brother John's visit was the weekend of the Hill Cumorah pageant. We brought three carloads of brothers and sisters, and many of our Seed of Joseph visitors with us. We all attended the Rochester, New York Mission on Sunday, and were truly blessed all weekend long. The Seed of Joseph is beginning to be blessed with great desire and power from God. Without a doubt, God is doing His work in these the last days. We feel so blessed to be a part of it.

Thank God, "we've caught a glimpse of Canaan and we simply have to go!" Dios los bendiga!

# Ordination at Spartanburg, SC

On March 17, 1990, the Spartanburg, SC Mission held a singspiration with saints from various parts of God's vineyard. Saints gathered to show their love and support to Sister Geraldine (Gerri) Littlejohn, who was to be or-

dained into the office of a deaconess on Sunday. A wonderful spirit was felt throughout the service, preparing our hearts for the great blessing that was to take place.

Our elder brothers explained the duties and responsibilities of a deaconess, as well as sharing experiences confirming our sister's calling. The love and Spirit of God enveloped every soul present, as we looked forward to tomorrow's blessings.

On Sunday, March 18, saints and visitors from far and near longed and waited patiently for the Lord's blessings. After singing several selections, we opened the meeting with If You Would Labor in Zion. Prayer was offered by Bro. Harold L. Littlejohn, followed by our singing The Time Is Far Spent. A few remarks were made on laboring, and on the times in which we live today. Brother Arthur Searcy, visiting from the Edison, New Jersey Branch, introduced the service, speaking on feasting at the table of the Lord, and how when God feeds us, we can be nourished from day to day. We came to the house of the Lord to really be nourished. Bro. Searcy was followed by Bro. Wilbert McNeil, visiting from the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch.

After the morning worship, the afternoon meeting was opened in prayer, followed by a few remarks. Our sister was called forward to occupy her seat for the ordination. The elders gathered around our sister in prayer, to ask God to select whom He wanted to set our sister apart for the office she was about to fulfill. When the prayer was completed, Sister Margaret Baldwin, visiting from the Quincy, Florida Mission, humbly washed our sister's feet, overcome with the Spirit of God. The blessings of God were flowing from heart to heart and from breath to breath.

After the washing of feet, the lot fell upon Bro. Wilbert McNeil to ordain our sister a deaconess. She was set apart to continue her labor for the Lord. Sister Gerri was embraced and welcomed into the office by the other deaconesses present:

(Continued on Page 10)

### SPARTANBURG continued . . .

Sisters Margaret Baldwin, Connie Smith (Youngstown, Ohio), and Carmella Peterkin (Spartanburg).

A wonderful spirit was felt and witnessed by all who were present. May God bless our sister, that she might magnify this office to which the Lord has called her.

## Visitors at Sterling Hts, MI

By Hazel Zoltek

On Sunday, September 2, we at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch had the pleasure of having the members and friends of the Muncey, Ontario Mission visit with us. Our visiting Sister Judy Dyer set the Lord's table, and later Brother John Straccia, Sister Judy Dyer, and Sister Karen Milantoni sang Do You Know My Jesus?

Brother Rodney Dyer was our speaker on this day. He told us that God gives us all the things we need, if only we will trust Him. We are here to hear about Jesus Christ, and it is the duty of our elders to speak the true Gospel. We are marching together as a family of God.

Bro. Rodney read from Joel 2:28-30. Not everyone has a powerful, miraculous experience regarding their conversion, but God has made the same promises to all of us. It is not right for us to immediately blame God if something goes wrong in our life.

Our brother spoke of his grand-father, Bro. Tony DiBattista, who did much in his day to spread the Gospel. Rodney told of how he loved him, and how his grandfather taught his grandchildren to love their parents and to reverence God. How much do we really love God? Do we use Him just when we need Him? Just when it's convenient? We must put Him first in our lives, and serve Him to the best of our ability.

Bro. Dyer said that he was uplifted all week, anticipating the visit to our branch this day. The more we love one another, the more God loves us and blesses us. Our

brother told how our recentlybaptized Brother George Grosbeck has been blessed by God to see many visions. If you come to church hungering and thirsting spiritually, God will fill your cup.

The inhabitants of the Indian Reservations are looking for a deliverer, the Choice Seer. The Lord is working wonders with Seed of Joseph who have come into the Church; He is using them if they are willing to let Him. Bro. Dyer told of how the late Bro. George Nicholas had the gift of healing. When the deliverer comes, those many who had been healed will remember, and they will come into the Church at the eleventh hour. Some of the people living on the reservation call upon the Church when they need healing, even though they have a doctor nearby. God can do anything, but we must trust Him and serve Him, and help someone along the way.

Brother Sam DiFalco introduced the congregation to each one of our visitors by name, and then asked them to come up to the front and sing for us. Afterward, they gave their testimonies. One sister said she formerly belonged to another church, and when she first visited The Church of Jesus Christ in Muncey, she thought, "This church can't be much; there are so few people here." The congregation she came from had about a thousand members. But she kept coming, and discovered a love she had never known. She began reading the Book of Mormon, and learned where her people came from. Needless to say, she is now a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Other brothers and sisters told of healings, and how happy they were to belong to this Church.

We were dismissed in prayer by Brother Bruce Jones. All were invited to the basement to partake of a delicious dinner prepared by Sis. Sarah DiFalco, with desserts brought in by the sisters. There we continued to share in the fellowship and blessings of God.

### Blessings in Elkins, WV

Thank God for a spirit-filled day on Sunday, August 20, 1990 in Elkins, West Virginia. God is the same yesterday, today, and will be forever. His promise is sure, that when two or three gather together in one mind, one heart, and one accord, He will be in their midst.

Once again His faithfulness was sure, and His blessings began Sunday morning when Shannon Marie Akers was baptized by Bro. Bob. Nicklow. There were about 25 people at the baptism. Before she went into the waters of baptism, Shannon wanted everyone to sing Amazing Grace, and she gave a few words of testimony to her family. This was a beautiful scene, as tears flowed freely from all. Throughout the baptism, Sis. Hettie Benyola saw fire upon the water. Later, during the confirmation, she continued to see the fire in our midst. The elders knelt down as Bro. Bill Colangelo offered prayer for the Holy Spirit to come down. The brothers joined their hands in a cir cle, and as Bro. Dick Lawson laid hands upon Sis. Shannon's head, our sister Hettie saw another pair of hands come down upon her head as well.

Five children were also blessed in the Church on this blessed Sabbath Day. Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Those of us who labor in Elkins feel to praise God for His endless blessings. The Elkins Mission thanks you for your continued support and prayers.

#### LAMB continued . . .

mammogram. After the examination, the doctor said they didn't see any need to check her again, but they would check the x-rays more closely. As far as he was concerned, however, Dora was fine. Blessed be the name of the Lord. A month later, Dora went to see her doctor, and he still found nothing.

I'm writing this to encourage everyone who is afflicted in any manner. Don't lose hope or be afraid, for we are the children of the King, the greatest doctor on earth. The Spirit spoke at a meeting in Lorain, Ohio Branch as our daughter JoAnn was anointed due to some kind of radiation that she and her co-workers in the hospital's x-ray department had been exposed to. The Spirit said, "I healed cancer, I healed leprosy, and I can heal what's on your body." While the other girls needed treatment, JoAnn didn't need to see the doctor any more.

Many times we hear of the discouragements of our brothers and sisters because of the different

sicknesses and trials they are going through. But at the same time, good things are happening to remind us that we are the people of God and His Church. "For the God of the mountains is still the God of the valleys." Because we know that Our Lord can!

#### ANNIVERSARY continued . . .

This blessed marriage produced two sons, Donald and Richard; four grandchildren, and five greatgrandchildren, further enhancing our Church. As I listened to the marital advice they shared and heard them recount the many blessings, healings, and miracles they have received through the years, I made a note to remember these things and when possible, demonstrate them in my own life. Thank you, Lord, for our brother and sister and for their testimonies, which stand as a light to the paths of those who will follow.

## * WEDDINGS *

### ROMANO-SMITH

Brother David Romano and Christine Smith were united in marriage on March 24, 1990 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Brother Joseph Graziosi officiated at the ceremony. David and Christine will be making their home in Port St. Lucie, Florida. May the Lord bless them throughout their lives.

### GONZALEZ-LENS

Mr. Martin Adam Gonzalez and Miss Debra Lynn Lens were joined in marriage on Saturday, May 5, 1990 in Tampa, Florida.

Bro. John R. Griffith officiated at the ceremony. Vocal selections were offered by Deah Aschenbrenner, with Bro. Phil Benyola as organist

with Bro. Phil Benyola as organist.

The newlyweds are residing in Tampa. Debra is the granddaughter of Bro. Ed and Sis. Mary Pastore of the Levittown, PA Branch. May God's richest blessings abide with Marty and Debbie in their new life together.

### LUFFY-ARMBRUST

Mark Luffy and Jana Armbrust were joined in holy matrimony in The Church of Jesus Christ, Greensburg, PA Branch, on Saturday, June 16, 1990.

The wedding ceremony was performed by Bro. Dan Todaro. Musical selections were provided by Gwen Hoffman, an aunt of the groom.

We pray that God will richly bless this beautiful young couple as they begin their new life together.

### BENYOLA-D'ORAZIO

Brother George Benyola, Jr. and Sister Pamela Ann D'Orazio were married on July 21, 1990, at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The fathers of the bride and groom, Brothers John D'Orazio and George Benyola, Sr., officiated at the wedding ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola, Bro. Rocco Benyola, Bro. Jeffrey Giannetti, and Brothers Michael and Jerry DiFede.

The newlyweds are residing in Dallas, Texas. May the Lord bless them as they start out their life together.

### GERACITANO-DUJMIC

Brother Ernest Geracitano and Sister Anna Mae Dujmic were united in marriage on Monday, August 20, 1990 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Glassport, PA.

Bro. David Nolfi officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sister Sarah Vancik. Sis. Mabel Bickerton sang her *Wedding Song*.

The newlyweds are residing in Elizabeth, PA. Our prayer is that God's peaceful presence may abide in their home.

## Children Blessed

On October 29, 1989, Angelo Vincent DiFede was blessed in the Lake worth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Mike Radd.

Corey Terrell Ash was blessed on February 25, 1990, By Bro. Charleston Hester.

Brittany Laura Catone was blessed on April 15, 1990, by Bro. Leonard Benyola.

Amanda Koren Kudlack was blessed at Lake Worth, Florida by her great-grandfather, Bro. Mike Radd, on June 3, 1990. On the same day, Bro. Mike blessed another of his great-grandchildren, Chloe Patricia Radd.

On July 1, 1990, Michael John Saliga was blessed by his grandfather, Bro. Ken Wright, in the Windsor, Ontario Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Jessica Bailey Oncea was blessed by Bro. Ken Wright on July 1, 1990, in the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

### MARY GIBSON

Mary Gibson passed from this life on August 23, 1989. She was born in 1899.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Ralph Berardino and Richard Santilli of the Youngstown,

Mrs. Gibson is survived by two daughters, Sis. Mary Santilli and Leona Adams. She will be missed by all her family and friends.

### KAREN RADD

Karen Elizabeth Radd passed away on June 7, 1990 at the age of 37. She was born on November 10, 1952.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Frank Rogolino

of Fort Pierce, Florida.

Karen is survived by her husband, Donald; a son, Michael Derek; and a daughter, Melanie Renee. She was the daughter-in-law of Bro. Michael and Sis. Ann Radd of Lake Worth, Florida. May the Lord comfort the family in their time of loss.

### DAVID CAPONE

Bro. David A. Capone was called home by the Lord on July 1, 1990. Born on November 10, 1937, David was baptized on April 10, 1955 by Bro. Frank Vitto and was later confirmed by Bro. Dominic Thomas. Soon afterward, he was ordained a deacon.

Brothers Richard T. Christman and Barry Mazzeo

officiated at the funeral.

·	Address Change
Phone _	

Afflicted for the greater part of his life, Bro. David was nonetheless a great blessing to his family and to all who knew him. He possessed a gentleness and beau-

ty of spirit that were unsurpassed.

Bro. David is survived by his mother, Sis. Frances Capone, and his sister, Sis. Yvonne Saffron. His father, Evangelist Peter Capone, preceded him in death on March 31, 1989. David will be missed by family and friends.

### ANNA DRASKOVICH

Sister Anna Draskovich passed from this life on August 11, 1990 at the age of eighty. She was a faithful member of the Church since her baptism on August 9, 1942.

The funeral service was conducted at the Greensburg, PA Branch by Bro. Paul Gehly. Bro. Joseph Draskovich, Jr. also commented on the life of his mother and on the great inspiration she was to all who knew her.

Our sister is survived by her husband, Bro. Joseph Draskovich, Sr., one son, and four daughters: Sis. Betty Rhodes, Sis. Josephine Pepper, Sis. Marjorie Brown,

and JoAnn Logan.

Sister Anna had been ill for many years and was confined to a wheelchair, but that never hindered her love and service to the Lord. Whenever possible, she would testify of God's goodness in her life, and so many times would quote her favorite biblical scriptures.

Toward the end she lapsed into a coma, but just before her final breath was taken, her daughter saw our sister looking toward the heavens and gasping in awe at what she must have been witnessing. Perhaps it was our Lord and Savior Himself, welcoming her home!

We pray that Sis. Anna's family will always be comforted by this experience, and that God's peace and love will envelop them through this time of sorrow.

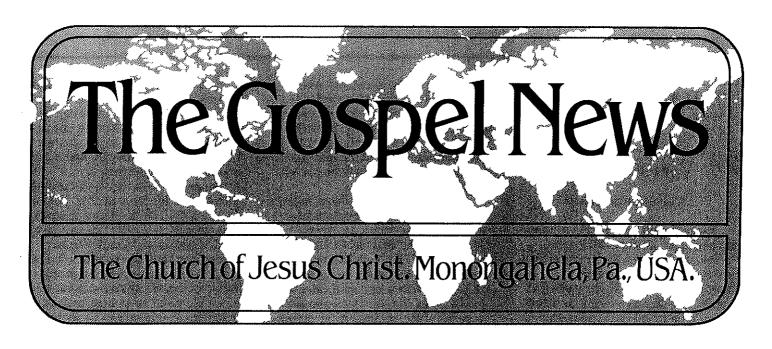
### CATHERINE ROLLASON

Catherine Rollason, a friend who enjoyed The Church of Jesus Christ, passed from this life on August 19, 1990, at the age of 74. She became acquainted with the saints through her son and daughter-in-law, Bro. Tommy and Sis. Nancy Rollason.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Alma Nolfi

and John Ali of the Glassport, PA Branch.

Beside her son and daughter-in-law, she leaves behind two daughters, eight grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren and several brothers and sisters. In her affliction she found comfort and joy in listening to tapes of music and the preaching of the Gospel. May her loved ones be comforted to know that her suffering is now over.



November, 1990

Volume 46, No. 11

## Miracles and Gifts Continue in India

By Joseph Calabrese

When Bro. Bill Colangelo and I were in India during November and December of 1989, Brother Jacob, a cher in the Church, said to me, rlease ask all to pray for my son Anand. He needs to have open heart surgery." Bro. Dev, the presiding elder, told me, "Bro. Joe, this is his only son. Please pray for him." We anointed him while we were there.

Recently, we received the following letter. Praise God!

Dear Bro. Calabrese:

We are fine by His grace and we hope and pray you are all the same.

Brother, I am so glad to inform you of my son Anand's succesful operation and his miraculous healing by the powerful prayers of our dear brothers and sisters of our church, inland and abroad. Praise God. Sorry for the delay to send thank you letter to you. Day by day he is much improved. From September 1 he goes to school by car. Doctors advise him not lift heavy things and not running fast and need medical checkup every month. Now he is all right. Praise God.

On 1st Sunday (2-9-90), we went to attend our morning service and given testimony about his miraculous healings by operation and gave thanks for their valuable prayers while he was in the hospital. All our brothers and sisters stand up and praise God for his successful operation and healings. Then we gave thank offering and supplied sweet for everybody. It was a great blessing for us and went home with peace and joy.

Thank you for your love and prayers. God bless you all.

Your brother in Christ, C. Jacob

Other miracles have been happening also. At a revival meeting which Bro. Dev held last June: "We prayed, 'Lord revive us in this the middle of the year.' Many were healed from their sickness and delivered from the bondage of evil spirits. Some came forth on the stage and gave testimony for their miraculous healings—six persons took baptism and we blessed three children. Glory to His name!"

Bro. Stephen, an elder in the Church, along with Bro. Dev. has

been holding meetings at his home every Sunday evening. Bro. Dev and he have been visiting the people around his vicinity, passing literature and praying with people. He writes: "One day, one lady came and called us to pray for her sickly daughter. When we kneel and pray, she shouted and fell down. When we lifted her up she was in normal stage. Her mother told us for the past six months she was not feeling well and often she has got shivering and making noise for some time. After our prayer, she is all right now. Bro. Stephen told me, now they attend our meetings regularly, bring new people with them for prayer. Praise God.

"He [Bro. Stephen] needs a suitable house with a hall for conducting meetings in his house. If we give Rs. 300/-[\$20.00 US] more he will get suitable house for the services. Let us pray for this need.

"Now our youths and children went to the neighboring village with the mike set to preach the Gospel. Now we form a song group of boys and girls practicing new songs and hymns for the Gospel work and also conducted Bible class for our youths to pray to God to give them burden for the dying souls without Christ. After the revival meeting, our youths of men and women are very interested to do Gospel work among the non-Christian. Pray for them."

(Continued on Page 3)

# **MBA** Highlights

## Be All That You Can Be

By Lucetta Scaglione

Registration for the PA Campout began at 1800 hours (6 p.m.) Friday, September 21, 1990, at Antiochian Village. Before the weekend was over, there were 141 people over the age of six in attendance, plus many little ones and those who came just for the day. At 2000 hours (8 p.m.) we met in the auditorium for a short induction service, and then enjoyed R & R with snacks and fellowship.

Saturday morning at 800 hours everyone gathered in the mess hall for breakfast. At 900 hours we started our morning maneuvers. Bro. Carl Frammolino spoke to us during our chapel service. He read from I Samuel 17:38-51 about David and Goliath. He asked us what we were armed with today, reminding us that all David had was a sling and five stones, and yet he was able to defeat Goliath. When God goes before us, it doesn't take great numbers or weapons, but only the power of God. "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." Let us think of ourselves as the army of the Lord. If we are doing His work. He will direct us. "The battle is the Lord's!"

Sgt. Rick Markazene (camp director) related that he contemplated what the theme for the campout should be, and a sister was given the thought that no matter what we should do, "We should be all that we can be" for the Lord. So this became our goal for the weekend. This would be our Boot Camp, to prepare and train us for God's army. We were dismissed to our seminars, where we would learn how to use our spiritual weapons to overcome our adversary.

Our afternoon maneuvers included sports, crafts, informal singing, Bible Trivia, watching a religious film, or doing whatever we enjoyed. Throughout the day, there were souvenir photo sittings, in which we donned army gear and

had our pictures taken. At 1545 hours we attended an awards assembly. One of the awards was for the first casualty, little Brian Smith, who was only at camp for a few minutes when he caught his finger in the door. Such are the hazards of war!

Our evening maneuvers began at 1830 hours as we gathered for our evening services. Brother Chuck Jumper read from I Samuel 9 about Saul. He was the man that the Lord sent Samuel to anoint as king. Saul was a big man, and a goodly man. He was well-prepared to receive the leadership of Israel. Who wouldn't be glad to follow such a man? But as we learn more about Saul, we should also learn a lesson. We must stay on the mark and remember our training.

Saul forgot his training, and the Lord had to send Samuel to anoint someone else. In Saul the Lord had chosen a big man, head and shoulders above everyone else. But God wants a man with a heart that will serve Him. He found this in Jesse's youngest son, David. This was who Samuel anointed. We have been called by God, and should have a heart to serve Him. We must walk as a servant of God so that He can use us. What greater calling than to be a part of His army! Are we ready? If not, let's get ready, because the world is in terrible shape. We should each rejoice that God chose us, and we should be worthy of this choice. We must put our lives on the line to please our Commander-in-Chief.

We sang We Shall Wear a Crown and several people were anointed. Praise God! We also had an instant healing. Sister Denise Fleming had been having severe pain in her hand and was to go for tests. As she was being prayed for, the pain left her and her hand was fine. Later in the week, she had her tests and they could find nothing wrong with her hand.

There were several special songs, and many testimonies followed. A special prayer was offered for Sisters Darlene Large and Lydia Link, who were in India at the time. After closing prayer, the remainder of the evening was spent enjoying one another's company and, of course, the delicious snacks.

Sunday morning a large crowd met for our last service at camp. Bro. Bob Nicklow Jr. was our op/ ing speaker. He read from the 10tn Chapter of Joshua. When Joshua led Israel into battle, he had a right and a reason—more of a commandment—to lead the people into battle. He was told by the Lord, "I will be with you even as I was with Moses." We as the people of God are in a war. We must remember that the battle belongs to God. We do not have the ability to fight, but must have Jesus on our side. We need to realize that our spiritual enemy comes at us in ways we never expect. Satan is smart. We can't do it ourselves, but we have to cry out to God for His help. He is always there. Are we allowing God to have full sway in our lives? We have received His commandment of love and the promise of eternal life-only if we keep His commandments. We are in a battle, and our ammunition is the word of God. Is the battle worth fighting? We must believe it is, and know that the battle is the Lord's!

The little children sang sever songs. Bro. Dick Lawson said he had been thinking upon our theme, "Be All You Can Be." This weekend was the easy parttomorrow is going to tell if we are ready for the enemy. It will tell how good our training has been—or rather, how effectively we have committed ourselves to the training. Brother Dick mentioned the commitment Joshua made when he asked, "Choose you this day whom you will serve." Now comes the time to make our decision. Joshua answered, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What is our answer? We have to put into practice the things we have learned. If we are not ready, it is no one's fault but our own. We need to make a commitment that is strong and sure.

Apostle Paul Palmieri told us that the worst thing was to be drafted and then flunk the physical. What a disgrace that you weren't qualified or fit to work for your country. Just think how terrible if you are not fit to work for the Lord in His army. We must all be in step with the Lord. We can accomplish this by listening to His Spirit. The

opposition is trying to keep us out of the army of God. We must be eady, not with the sword, but with the power of God. We must be good soldiers and steady workers. We must be obedient, and put God above all else. The Lord is saying, "Join My army, march with Me and I will lead you and fight for you." Praise God for the army we belong to.

Brother Alma Nolfi advised us that there is no such thing as a "discharge" in the Lord's army. We are in it for our entire life. We sang The Standard of Liberty, and Bro. Rich Scaglione told us that if we won't "Be All That We Can Be," we are cheating the Lord. He told of how in the army the men would take out things from their backpacks to make them lighter. But when it came time for battle, the men were not prepared. Are we like that in The Church of Jesus Christ? The potential is there, but if we never use it, how can we win? How can we tell the Lord, "We are not ready."

Brother Brian Smith wrapped it il up by telling us to make this weekend a vital part of our lives, to strip ourselves of the natural and clothe ourselves in the spiritual, that we may win the battle.

The meeting was closed with prayer, and we all departed, knowing that we were going to meet our adversary and we're going to win!

## Spiritual Anniversary

Sister Amelia Saccardi has been a faithful member of the Brooklyn, New York Branch for 62 years, for which she gives sincere thanks and praise to God.

She was born in Italy on June 23, 1912, and was baptized in New Brunswick, New Jersey on October 28, 1928, by Bro. Joseph DiFede. Bro. Joseph Corrado bestowed the Holy Ghost upon her by the laying on of hands. On February 9, 1975, Sis. Amelia was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Dominick Rose.

Our sister lives in Brooklyn, and continues her faithful service and attendance at the Brooklyn Branch. Her parents were Brother and Sister Margiori, both of whom died faithful in the service of the Lord.

Let us also, each one, finish our course with much joy and remain faithful to the risen Lord.

Let us pray also for the many souls that are yet to be saved, and for God's wisdom and direction in whatever yet needs to be done to accomplish this.

## Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all the wonderful sisters and brothers who helped me every day at the GMBA Campout in Ligonier, PA. Their love and kindness was greatly appreciated. I could not have attended the meetings or the social gatherings without their untiring help.

I would also like to thank Bro. Paul Ciotti, who organized this, and my niece, Sis. Phyllis Kovacic, who kept in touch with me to make sure that all was well. I will always love the family that God gave to me. I'll never regret the day, at the age of thirteen, when the Lord called me into His Gospel. The older I get, the stronger I get. Praise God for all things. May the Lord continually bless all for their good deeds.

Sister Minnie DePiero Youngstown, Ohio

### INDIA continued . . .

From Sister Babydoss, secretary of the Ladies' Circle in Ayalur: "After a Ladies' Circle meeting held in August, we went to hospital visit to pray for the sick. Some of our youths joined with us to distribute tracts and pamphlets. Bro. Dev and Bro. Pushparaj came with us. One of our members (Sis. Rajamony) was admitted in that hospital for operation because she had bleeding for over 5 years. We formed a circle around her bed and anointed her with the blessed oil. After the prayer, one of the sisters told us she had a vision, as a lightning touched on her (Sis. Rajamony's) head from above. The next day when the doctors checked

and took x-rays, they told our sister she need not an operation. The next day she was discharged."

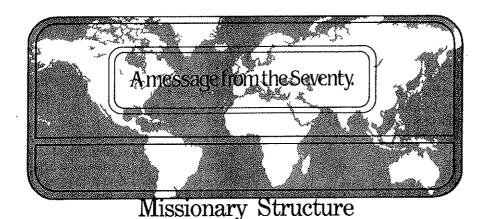
From Bro. Babu: "Sister Merlin. President of the Ladies' Circle in Madras, along with the sisters of the Circle, have a regular schedule to meet and visit the hospital, also homes in their area. They pray in the homes and also leave tracts and pamphlets. In one of the homes," Bro. Babu writes, "we have met a new family, a police inspector, a Mr. Kalyani (Hindu). He is not able to walk for the last six months. He has no effect (feeling) from hip to the floor. On July 27, 1990 our church sisters conducted a fasting and prayer in his house from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Now with the grace of God, he is able to walk a little. Please pray for him and his family."

On August 27, 1990, I received another letter from Bro. Babu. In his letter he says that on August 5, 1990, he baptized 11 people. He also said: "Brother, the police inspector, Mr. Kalyani, is now walking well and we are holding meetings in his home. Brother, with the grace of God, our ministry is going well. Also, please remember Sister Merlin [Bro. Babu's wife]. She has not been too well and needs our prayers.

In Bro. Livingston's area, our brother continues to be busy in his work, both as a minister and a medical doctor. Only recently, he reports, baptizing 17 members in three of our established villages. He is now serving nine different villages with over 500 members. He is also operating his hospital, which by the grace of God has been reopened. He is also serving for IMA in giving medical relief to the outlying villages.

In May of 1990, a terrible disaster hit—a cyclone which devastated all of the state of Andhra Pradesh, including the area where our Church is established. Thousands of people were drowned, and hundreds of mud huts were washed away. With the help of our GMBA and others throughout the Church, we were able to send immediate help. Thank God they are gradually returning to their normal

(Continued on Page 10)



Approved by Conference
By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The process of placing all the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ under the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists was completed and approved by the October, 1990 General Church Conference. Now the accepted organizational structure is being implemented to insure that the transition will be accomplished effectively.

All ongoing mission, branch, district, and General Church programs are being kept in place, as the valuable and highly appreciated kind of work done in the past must be continued, of course. There are many loyal and dedicated workers who have labored in the past, and their efforts will be just as needed in the future. Arrangements are thus being made to allow for an efficient interfacing of operations.

A Mission Operating Committee (MOC) has been established. This group will bear the responsibility for making certain that all existing work be continued and that new work be implemented as possible. All resources will be evaluated so that direct and support-type efforts can be utilized. It was stressed at the conference that an appeal should be made to all members and friends of the Church to support the General Church spending plan completely, and to give as much as possible so the missionary endeavors can be successful. The much-needed percentage giving must be continued and even increased by all those who are desirous of having the Work of the Lord grow, as He directs.

#### TWO OTHER COMMITTEES

Two other committees have been formed. They are the American Mission Operating Committee (AMOC) and the Foreign Mission Operating Committee (FMOC). These two groups report through the MOC to the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, who, of course, report to the General Church.

Missionary efforts in North, Central, and South America fall under the AMOC. All other missionary work comes under the FMOC. The AMOC basically comprises the seven districts of the Church in America. Each district's evangelist chairman will be responsible for all the missionary activity in that particular jurisdiction, and he will be a member of the AMOC. Any location in either North, Central, or South America will fall under one of the districts. While all activities now come under this structure, the primary focus will continue to be on the labors with the Seed of Joseph. This was emphasized at this General Church Conference.

In effect, the districts will be responsible for satisfying the needs of the locations they service. The requirements must come through them, and the plans and measures needed must be so communicated, as in the past.

#### **FMOC**

The FMOC geographically

covers all other work abroad. Currently, this involves established work, such as in Africa, India, and Italy. In the future, all other parts of the world must be viewed as potential mission fields. As these locations come forth, they must be explored and analyzed to determine the feasibility and possibility of starting and maintaining the installation.

The General Church Development Committee will be responsible for investigating and recommending the action plan. It has been shown that Church missions abroad, especially in underdeveloped, "Third World" countries, grows quickly after it is begun. Being ready to handle this large growth is essential. The wonderful experience accumulated in Africa and India, for example, gives the opportunity to evaluate the proper factors involved.

As in the past, each foreign nation being serviced has its own subcommittees; thus the groups for Africa, India, and Italy are part of the FMOC.

#### OTHER MATTERS

Besides recommending the interface missionary program just described to the General Church Conference, which approved it, the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists met earlier, on October 4, to discuss other matters.

The passing of Brother Raymond Cosetti this July 26 was sadly reported. He had been an evangelist for over 47 years. A wonderfully faithful brother, who had also been present at most of our meetings during his life, his absence was very noticeable.

A letter from Brother Mark Randy was read. Unable to attend because of health reasons, he thanked the Quorum for the plaque presented to him acknowledging his 50 years as an evangelist, and thanked God for what He has done for him.

Reports were also given by the General Church Development Committee, Media Committee, and Visiting Evangelist Sub-committee.

Election of Quorum Officers

(Continued on Page 10)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 1162 Raritan Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904

ASSISTANT EDITOR Leonard A. Lovalvo 8085 Schneider Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS Nephi DeMercurio Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO Rosanne Champine 47116 Hennings Dr. Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

OHIO. Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST Douglas S. Obradovich 8620 NW 45th St. Lauderhill, FL 33351

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

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BUSINESS OFFICE 9066 Austin Rd, P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (800) 334-1773

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Church took a step toward a more efficient and unified structure at the October General Conference when the General Board of Missions, which for years had been working separately alongside the Quorum of Evangelists, became the Mission Operating Committee, an integral part of the Quorum's administration. With such a tremendous harvest and so very few laborers, it is essential that we make the best use of the time, the resources, and the manpower that is available to us. As new missionary endeavors take a foothold and begin to grow, we will have occasion to ask ourselves, perhaps more frequently than in the past, "When does a new work cease to be a mission?"

Technically, a group of worshippers having three or more ordained elders is designated a branch; any fewer make it a mission, with ongoing support and training coming from elsewhere in the Church. But should the mere presence of three elders be enough for us to stop calling them a mission? Before we cut the ropes and let a congregation sail on its own, we should be looking a bit deeper, for things like spiritually mature leadership and a thriving, growing congregation which contributes, naturally and spiritually, to the welfare of the General Church rather than just drawing from the Church's resources.

In looking back on our history, we see how even after the Church was established in different parts of the United States, even after tremendous growth occurred and several branches were built in a single city just to contain the influx of saints there, the need still existed for continued direction, development, and leadership. Various of our brother apostles moved themselves and their families to different areas, staying as long as necessary to thoroughly nourish, root, and ground the new congregations in the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In many instances, men who knew nothing of The Church of Jesus Christ just a few years prior suddenly found themselves in positions of leadership, ministers of the Gospel. They had been called by God to be shepherds, yet they were still very much in need of being shepherded themselves. Not unlike Paul of old, it was toward these men that the 'itinerant' apostles of a few generations ago directed the majority of their energies. While today some may frown upon the use of the word "training" with regard to our elders, that term could very well be applied to much of what the Apostle Paul and brothers such as Thurman S. Furnier and others did in their day and time to establish the Church in new areas. More recently, the Church in Africa has been cultivated in an almost identical manner.

If the Work of the Lord is to take on global proportions, the mechanisms must be in place for us to not only spread the Gospel, but also to *establish* and *maintain* it everywhere it takes hold. Our methods may not be the same as those of our successful brothers of old, but God is the same, and people everywhere must be taught, gently and tenderly, to rely on His Spirit to guide their own lives, and to grow to the point where they can lead others to salvation.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you ever have a nice big party and get so many presents that you never even knew who gave you which one? Or did you know for a minute but forget? Did you ever get a present from someone that you knew had spent a lot of money, but it was a present that you really did not want or use? Do you have lots of "stuff" in your home or closets that you really don't like but keep just to be nice? Most of us do.

But Jesus knew that "stuff" does not make us humans happy. A new toy will get broken or lost. A beautiful piece of clothing will go out of style in a few months, even if you paid a lot of money for it.

Some of the best-dressed, richest people in this world are still without someone to love them, and they feel lonely and sad deep inside. Did you ever really, really want a special toy or piece of clothing and think it would make you happy? Did you ever get tired of that toy later on and realize that owning it had not made you truly happier? Did you realize that this kind of joy doesn't last?

Jesus told the people, "Lay not for yourselves treasures upon earth where moths can eat them, or they can rust, or thieves can break in and steal them. But store your treasures in heaven, where neither moths nor rust nor thieves can break through. For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also" (Matthew 6:19-21).

Jesus understood that "things"—toys that break, cars that rust, and any belongings that can be stolen—are not what will satisfy your heart.

What is something that satisfies your heart? For example, do you



remember the last time someone said something kind about you or to you? Has your teacher praised you, or a parent noticed something good you've done? Did you ever have a friend call you just when you were feeling lonely and left out? A kind thing done for you can last for years in your mind. A kind thing said by you can help someone else, too.

A young sister in our Church decided to get a temporary job working at a large grocery store in her neighborhood. As the weeks passed, she became friendly with another worker there who had many problems and cares in her life. The young sister didn't give her new friend presents or money; she kindly invited her to come to church. And sometimes she watched her new friend's children to help her out. This sister gave her time and care, not just presents or things. And best of all, the young sister taught her new friend about Jesus working in someone's life just by letting Jesus work in hers. Now we have two young sisters in the Church, loving and helping many others who are troubled and hurting in the world. And that is something you can do, too.

When you see someone with problems, you can be the one to tell them you'll pray for them, and then you can do it. If you know that they're so mean they will act worse, you can pray for them and not even tell them. You can also be kind to those kids that everyone else treats mean. Sometimes kids don't really feel good when they see someone else getting teased or talked about. So speak up! Tell your friends, "Oh, let's quit talking about people," and

go do something else. Be kind to that person when you can.

These are your treasures. These are the hard, tough things that we do that God sees as little jewels. They are your "good deeds." When you listen to Jesus' voice or the things you know are good and do them, God will bless you. Instead of being like others and helping the old devil cause heartache for someone else, you are fighting for good.

Sometimes your friends will tease you about how you like some poor person you were kind to. Your friends will feel guilty for being mean. But just keep on being nice. Eventually they'll know they can trust you to be kind about them, too. Be strong inside, and gentle outside. Give gifts of kindness and loving care. That lasts. The Bible tells us in Paul's letter to Ephesians 4:32, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you."

#### WORD SEARCH

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## **Branch and Mission News**

# Baptism in Richwood, WV

By Kathy Vinsick

A group of brothers and sisters gathered together at Bro. Frank Giovannone's home to leave for a trip to Richwood, West Virginia. Included in the group were Bro. Paul and Sis. Kathy Vinsick, and Sis. Evelyn Willforth, all members of the North Jackson, Ohio Mission.

When we arrived in Richwood, a small group gathered at the home of Gary and Cookie Waselchalk. Bro. Frank spoke to us about how the main tool that the evil one uses against us is discouragement. He went on to explain to the group about The Church of Jesus Christ and how it differs from other churches.

The meeting was opened for testimony and the Spirit of God was surely felt by all of us. A young lady, Kimberly Spencer, who is the granddaughter of Bro. John Waselchalk and the oldest daughter of Gary Waselchalk, started to cry and said, "I want to stand up and testify but I feel that if I do, I will fall." She expressed how unworthy she felt before God, and how she loved Him. She spoke about her grandmother, the late Sister Anna Mae Waselchalk. Kimberly said she wanted to raise her daughter with the teachings of the Lord, just like her grandmother had taught her about serving God.

Later, when the opportunity was extended for the afflicted to come forth for anointing, Kimberly came forward for prayer. In his prayer for her, Bro. Frank asked God to give her strength, that it wouldn't be too long before she made a decision to serve Him. At the end of the service we formed a circle, and Bro. Paul Vinsick offered the closing prayer. As we were shaking hands and greeting one another, Kimberly came to Bro. Frank and asked for her baptism.

We gathered at the Cherry River for the baptism. Kimberly came out of the water exclaiming to Bro. Frank, "I feel better now."
Back at Gary Waselchalk's home,
Kimberly had hands laid on her for
the reception of the Holy Ghost.
Truly we can say the blessings of
God were felt on this trip.

# Dedication at Lake Worth, FL

On June 17, 1990, the new Lake Worth, Florida Branch building was dedicated to the honor and glory of God. A little more than six months earlier, on December 3, 1989, the brothers and sisters of the branch stood on a vacant lot, just before the foundation was to be poured, and joined hands in prayer. Over the next few months our lot became our building.

We had set June 16 and 17 aside for our dedication weekend. We respectfully thank all members and friends, not only from every branch in Florida, but also those who were able to come from afar to attend. The Saturday evening meeting centered around the work and experiences that went into the construction of the building. We were able to hear from each trustee concerning the work involved.

On June 17, 1990, Father's Day, we had our dedication meeting. We heard from General Church President Dominic Thomas, who was visiting from Detroit, Michigan. Our brother offered many encouraging and uplifting words on the subject of "dedication." He told us that as our building was being dedicated, that we might also make it a day of our own rededication to God. He encouraged us to visit each other more often, if we had slackened in visiting this past year. He encouraged us to do better in all things.

Bro. Dominic also likened us to "prisoners," as the Apostle Paul called himself. He explained that each of us dedicated ourselves to a life with Christ, making ourselves prisoners in our service to Him. Our brother told us that when we

surrendered ourselves to God, we chose righteousness. He explained that as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, it is the responsibility of each one of us to keep the Church righteous.

Bro. Alex Gentile, also visiting from Detroit and representing the General Church Trustees, took a brief moment to address the congregation. He followed along the same thoughts as our Brother Dominic, encouraging us to make each day a day of high quality.

One of the high points of the day was the news that was announced to us that our dear Brother James Bond was healed completely of his cancerous brain tumor. Our brother traveled to Mt. Sinai Hospital in New York City for a second opinion, where the doctors found no tumors, but only scar tissue. We praise God for answering the prayers of the saints throughout the Church on our brother's behalf. Surely everyone in attendance that day had to agree that our dedication meeting was a high quality day in the sight of the Lord. We ask for your prayers as we continue to build our spiritual houses which, like our new building, started with a strong foundation the Lord Jesus Christ.

# President visits Hollywood, FL

By Tony Moraco

Bro. Dominic Thomas visited the Hollywood, Florida Branch on June 14, 1990. We had visiting brothers and sisters from Miami, Lake Worth, and Homestead. Bro. Dominic introduced himself, and then we had a chance to stand and introduce ourselves to him. It was a nice way to begin our evening together.

We were encouraged to draw closer to God by attending meetings regularly. Bro. Dominic told us how important the MBA and Sunday School had been in helping him to learn and grow spiritually. He said that all the auxiliaries, including the

(Continued on Page 8)

#### **HOLLYWOOD** continued . . .

Ladies' Circle, were meant to be a help to each one of us. Bro. Dominic concluded by stating that we should strive for a closer personal relationship with God. After the meeting, refreshments were served and we had a nice time fellowshipping together.

We enjoyed Bro. Dominic's visit and hope he will come again. Our prayers are that God will keep our dear brother and his family as he travels throughout the Church, uplifting and encouraging the saints.

# Blessings in Rochester, NY

By Bob Batson

As the saints of the Rochester, New York Mission reflect on the events of this past summer, much joy fills our hearts to recall the blessings of God's Spirit brought to us by various visitors from throughout the Church. The purpose of this article is to share with our brothers and sisters our experiences and to extend our thanks to those who made the efforts to uplift and encourage us.

Our summer began with the marriage of a young couple from the area who had no prior contact with the Church. Through contacts such as these we hope to spread the Gospel; please pray for this couple, that as they have united together in marriage, so might they desire to unite themselves with the Lord.

Two weeks later, on June 10, we were privileged to have Bro. Joe and Sis. Carmel Genaro and Brothers Elmer Santilli and Bob Quinn in our midst to worship with us. Bro. Joe and Bro. Elmer represented the Ohio District Evangelists in presenting a plaque to Bro. Ansel (Sam) D'Amico for his forty-six years of service as an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. Elmer recounted some of the experiences had by our brother during his ministry, including an experience regarding his calling into the seventies.

Bro. Sam was unable to be present for this service due to his failing health, so his wife, Sister Carmella, accepted the plaque in his stead. Please pray for our brother and sister as they endure this affliction.

As the service continued, our visiting brothers fed us with the living word of God. They told us of the timetable of God, of His miraculous power and of the ushering in of the latter days via the Restoration of the Gospel. Surely the saints were filled with hope by such a message, and left that day rejoicing in that which is to come.

On June 24, we were surprised with the visit of Brothers Bob Nicklow Sr., Bob Nicklow Jr., and Brian Smith. Our brothers exhorted us to be patient and show forth a good example, like Ammon, and to stand steadfast and sure in the promises of God. As the meeting was brought to a close, we could certainly echo the words of King David: it was good to be in the house of God this day.

On July 1, 1990, we lost a pillar in our mission when Sis. Ada Locci went to her reward. Our sister had served the Lord for the past 33 years and left for us a wonderful legacy. Although our sister's passing filled our hearts with sorrow, one soul, Celestina Drobeck (Sis. Theresa Locci's natural sister), was caused to rejoice because of a vision she was given during the funeral service. Celestina saw Sis. Locci in a state of indescribable happiness, and was given to understand that such happiness comes only through serving God. This wonderful experience was the beginning of Celestina's conversion.

The following Sunday found Bro. Wayne and Sis. Tina Martorana of Niles, Ohio visiting with us. Also visiting were Bro. Dan Pietrangelo and his wife from Canada. As we were enjoying the meeting, the spirit of repentance entered in and caused Celestina Drobeck to ask for her baptism. How the saints rejoiced at this turn of events in Celestina's life! The following Wednesday night, July 11, we gathered on the shores of Lake Ontario to witness the sin-cleansing baptism of our new sister in Christ. A beautiful peace accompanied the

ordinance, which was performed by Bro. Frank Natoli. Bro. Bob Batson had the honor of bestowing upon our new sister the Holy Ghost. As the evening drew to a close, we could not help but marvel at the fact that God had provided another soul to fill the place left by our Sister Ada in so short a time. Blessed be His name!

The third and fourth weekends in July are traditionally busy for us in Rochester, as we host visitors from all over the Church who come to this spiritually historic part of the country to witness the Hill Cumorah Pageant. This summer was no exception, as we welcomed brothers and sisters from the Ohio, Michigan-Ontario, and Atlantic Coast Districts. We heard many good and profitable words from our visiting brothers in the ministry, and enjoyed the testimonies of all those who made such efforts. We reluctantly bade our visitors farewell each Sunday, but not before fellowshipping with them just a little while longer as we provided a light lunch for them before their departure.

The month of August began with a visit from Bro. Ron Genaro and family and, as well, a host of members from the Marinetti family who were in town to celebrate the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Bro. Patsy and Sis. Connie Marinetti. We were especially pleased to see Sis. Connie since she had recently been hospitalized. Once again our rostrum was full of visiting brothers who fed us from God's word. We witnessed several unbaptized visitors shed tears of joy to be gathered in the house of God with their family that day. We pray that their hearts might yield to the enticings of His Spirit.

The following weekend brought Bro. Steve and Sis. Kathy Champine to our area. On Sunday, Bro. Steve honored us with a few musical selections, as well as some uplifting words. In the afternoon, our brother and sister joined us in the ordinance of feet washing, and we all enjoyed the humility and love which permeated our souls.

The balance of the summer was spent by most of the members of our mission at the GMBA Campout and Ohio District Conference. We officially closed out the summer on Labor Day weekend with another visit from Bro. Joe and Sis. Carmel Genaro. Bro. Joe exhorted us to continue to make Jesus the chief Cornerstone of our lives. Once again our hearts were encouraged by the visit of our brother and sister.

Again, the brothers and sisters of the Rochester Mission wish to extend our gratitude to all those who visited us this past summer. Truly, our arms were uplifted much, like unto those of Moses. We will always treasure in our hearts the memories of your visits and encourage you, as well as all others, to visit us again soon. May God bless you all for your efforts.

## Baptism in Tampa, FL

The Tampa, Florida Branch rejoiced greatly on Sunday, July 8, 1990, as Debra Lens Gonzalez requested baptism during the testimony portion of our service. Many of the saints expressed that they felt a beautiful spirit as they entered the building before Sunday School had even begun. That sweet spirit continued on in the Sunday School lesson and in the preaching during the worship service.

Sister Sandy Smith testified that a few months previous to this day, she had dreamed of a blond-haired newborn baby, and had felt that this represented someone's calling into the Church. (Our new sister is indeed blond!) Bro. Fred D'Antonio, visiting from Aliquippa, PA, testified that he had prayed before leaving for the meeting that morning that the Lord would be in our midst. He heard a voice say that there would be someone asking for baptism that day.

Since Debbie's wish was to have her family and friends present at this very sacred occasion, the baptism was scheduled for Tuesday, July 10, at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday had dawned a typical Florida summer day—blue skies, sunshine, and temperatures in the high 90's—perfect for the planned events of the evening. But as the saints travelled to meet at the church building before heading to

the baptismal site, a very heavy rainstorm began, with thunder and lightning in abundance. We waited together for a while, hoping and praying that the storm would subside.

The elders then decided to continue ahead, and we drove to a lovely bay on Davis Island, where Debbie was baptized by Bro. John Griffith. Some of our group ventured onto the shore, huddled together under umbrellas, while others watched from their cars. Despite the storm, the ordinance was beautiful, and as our new sister came forth from the water, the rain suddenly became nothing more than a light drizzle.

Sister Debbie was later confirmed at the church building by Bro. James G. Speck. She and her husband Marty both expressed themselves, requesting the prayers of the saints that God would continue to guide them in their lives. Following more testimonies, our meeting concluded and we were graciously welcomed into the home of Debbie's parents, Jerry and Winnie Lens, for some refreshments and fellowship.

# Baptism at Detroit Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

On June 24, 1990 at Detroit Branch 1, Kathleen Marie Waldron gave her life to the Lord. She said she felt a repentant spirit even before the meeting began. During Sunday School she was understanding the lesson fully and feeling as if it was all becoming very clear to her.

Not sure what to do, she tested the Spirit, and Bro. Louis Pietrangelo preached on repentance and baptism. Feeling very excited that her calling was genuine, our sister was just looking for the right moment. But like Gideon and the fleece of wool, she wanted to test the Spirit one more time. So she said to herself, "If I Surrender All is sung, I'll know without a doubt that today is my day."

A request was made for two

sisters to sing a duet, and it's needless to say what song they chose, because shortly thereafter Sister Kathy rose to her feet and surrendered all.

Bro. Louis Pietrangelo baptized her, and Bro. Anthony Scolaro confirmed her. We thank the Lord for manifesting His Spirit that day, and pray that He'll be with our new sister, and all the saints of God, throughout this life and the next. Amen.

# Baptisms at New Brunswick, NJ

The brothers and sisters of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch have recently had occasion to rejoice in seeing two more brothers enter the fold. Bro. Donald Nugent was baptized on September 12, 1990 by Bro. James Sgro. He was later confirmed by Bro. Matthew Rogolino.

Bro. Arthur Biagi Jr. was baptized on September 16, 1990 by Bro. James Sgro. Bro. Frank Mazzeo laid hands on him for the reception of the Holy Ghost. May God bless these and each one of our brothers and sisters, and may He keep them on this beautiful, straight and narrow road of the Gospel.

# Ordinations in Windsor, ONT

On April 3, 1990, two ordinations took place in the Windsor, Ontario Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Larry Henderson was ordained an elder, and his wife, Sister Cindy, was ordained a deaconess. Many brothers, sisters, and friends came into our midst from near and far this day to witness this blessed occasion.

Bro. Larry's feet were washed by Bro. Anthony Scolaro of Detroit Branch 1. He was then ordained by Bro. Dominic Thomas, who was visiting from Branch 2.

Sis. Judy Dyer from Muncey,

(Continued on Page 10)

### WINDSOR continued . . .

Ontario washed Sis. Cindy's feet, after which she was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Sam DiFalco of the Sterling Heights, MI Branch.

There was a beautiful spirit among us, and we all thank the Lord for His rich blessings.

Members of the Windsor Branch have been involved in a new missionary endeavor in South Hampton, Ontario, spreading the Gospel among the Seed of Joseph in the Saugeen Indian Reserve. Two sisters have rendered obedience to Christ as a result of these labors. They are Sis. Bernice Ritchie, baptized April 25, 1990, and Sis. Marlene Westley, baptized July 22, 1990. We pray that these and all missionary endeavors will continue to bear much fruit for the Lord.

## North Jackson, OH

By Kathy Vinsick

The saints gathered at the North Jackson Mission on

September 3, 1990 for feet washing. We were all so thankful to God as well for the mission being in existence for one year.

Within this year, the brothers and sisters have been blessed by God in so many ways. Some have been healed, some have had beautiful dreams, and others have had prayers answered.

In our testimony service, the brothers and sisters glorified God's name for working in their lives throughout the years. We all shared the feeling of thankfulness in our hearts. It was truly a most beautiful day for all of us.

### INDIA continued . . .

way of life, which in itself needs much help.

We now have a total of 700 members in India. There are five church buildings, a school with 72 students, a vocational sewing school with 14 students, two Ladies'

Circles, and an MBA. The Church has two hymnals translated into the Tamil and Telegu languages, along with 11 different tracts and pamphlets translated to their languages as well.

Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters, who are working day and night to bring the Restored Gospel to their people.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

was held, and the following brothers were elected for the next two years:

President —Isaac D. Smith Vice-President —Thomas Liberto Secretary —Carl J. Frammolino Asst. Secretary—Eugene Perri Treasurer —J. Fred Olexa

## * WEDDINGS *

### HOFFER-MAISANO

Mr. Richard Hoffer and Miss Frances Marie Maisano were united in marriage on April 28, 1990 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Detroit Branch 4 in Redford Township, Michigan.

The ceremony was performed by Bro. Tullio LaCivita.

The young couple will make their home in Livonia, MI. May God's richest blessings be with them always.

### SMITH-CHEPANOSKE

Brother Brent Smith and Cheryl Chepanoske exchanged wedding vows on August 18, 1990.

The groom's father, Bro. Isaac Smith, officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Brent's brother and grandfather, Brothers Brian Smith and Joseph Calabrese, and the bride's father, Bro. William Chepanoske. Musical selections were presented by Joel Calabrese, uncle of the groom. Brent also sang a song to his bride.

The newlyweds will reside in McKeesport, PA and will attend the Monongahela Branch. May the Lord bless them throughout life together.

### MAZZEO-PRUS

Brother Steven Mazzeo and Kim Prus were married on July 28, 1990 at the Vorhees Chapel on the Rutgers University Campus in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

The groom's father, Bro. Frank Mazzeo, officiated at the ceremony.

May the Lord's blessings accompany them in their life together.

### HONSAKER-WILLFORTH

Mr. Mark A. Honsaker and Karen L. Willforth were married on August 11, 1990 at the Warren, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Frank Giovannone, grandfather of the bride, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by soloist Bart Gensburg. Pianist was Sis. Judi Gensburg, and organist was Sis. Betty Gennaro.

The newlyweds are living in Warren, Ohio. May the Lord richly bless them in their new life together.

## Children Blessed

Mary Martha Day was blessed on June 10, 1990, by Bro. Dick Lobzun at the Windsor, Ontario Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On June 10, 1990, Joseph Mamageesic was blessed at the Windsor, Ontario Branch by Bro. Ken Wright.

Nico Teodoro Conti was blessed on June 24, 1990 at Detroit Branch 1 by Bro. Paul Vitto.

Bro. Peter Scolaro blessed Shauna Jeanne Colpitts on July 29, 1990 at Detroit Branch 1.

Brian Andrew and Scott Michael Grace were blessed by Bro. Kerry Carlini at Detroit Branch 4 on August 15, 1990.

On August 26, 1990, Amanda Jean Echevarria was blessed by Bro. George Timms at the Elkins, WV Mission.

Joshua Manuel Echevarria was blessed by Bro. John Ali in Elkins, WV on August 26, 1990.

Bro. Bob Nicklow blessed Cory David Echevarria on August 26, 1990 in Elkins, WV.

Jonathan Carlos Echevarria was blessed on August 26, 1990 in Elkins, WV by Bro. Bill Colangelo.

Cody Austin Summerfield was blessed by Bro. Dick Lawson on August 26, 1990 in Elkins, WV.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

### ROSE VITELLO

Sister Rose Vitello of the Brooklyn, NY Branch passed away on June 4, 1988 in Ponza, Italy. She was born there on September 30, 1915, and was baptized on October 28, 1984 in Dedham, Massachusetts by Bro. Dominick Rose, and confirmed by Bro. Salvatore Sgro.

### JOSEPH PAPP

Brother Joe Papp passed on to his eternal reward on September 13, 1988 in Hungary. He was born in Potony, Hungary on May 27, 1939, and was baptized on July 1, 1984 by Bro. Matthew Rogolino. He was confirmed by Bro. Dominick Rose in the Brooklyn, NY Branch.

Our Brother Joe was one of the men of the streets of New York City and responded to the message of Jesus Christ through our work in the Bowery. We

were saddened when he returned to Hungary for some personal business, and even more disturbed when he was unable to return to the United States. When he became ill, he yearned to come back.

He was warned not to speak words of the Gospel and of Truth and the love of Jesus when he spoke to family and friends. He always wrote that the Lord was his only source of comfort, the only One he could trust

His illness became more serious until death finally took him. May he have that eternal joy in the presence of God, which we all look forward to.

### ANNA HERTNEKY

Sister Anna Hertneky of the Hopelawn, NJ Branch passed from this life on July 7, 1990. She was born July 26, 1899 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 21, 1933.

The funeral service was held by Bro. Leonard

Benvola.

Our sister is survived by daughters Anna, Helen, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Florence; grandchildren Janet, Karen, Ken, and Craig; and four great-grandchildren.

Sister Anna was blessed with the gift of visions. She beheld many beautiful visions and never failed to give God the honor and glory for this gift. The absence of her warm smile and kindness will truly be felt by all who knew her.

### TOM WHITTAKER

Tom Whittaker, who attended the Monongahela. PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, passed away on August 18, 1990.

Bro. Richard Scaglione officiated at the funeral. assisted by Bro. George Johnson of Phoenix, Arizona.

Left to mourn are his wife, three daughters, one son, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Tom will be missed by all who knew him.

### RUTH KIRSCHNER

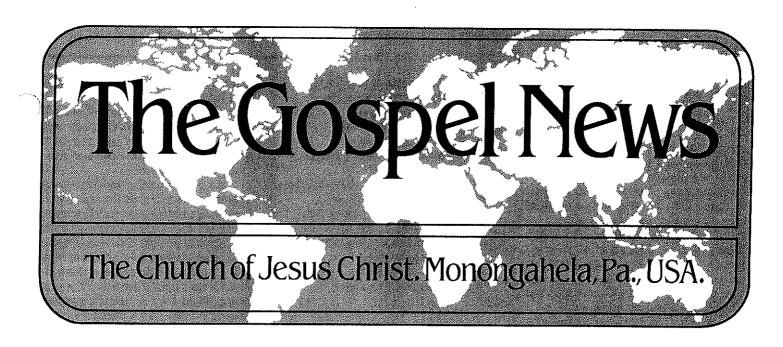
Sister Ruth Kirschner of the Monongahela, PA Branch passed on to her reward on August 20, 1990.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Richard

Scaglione and Russell Cadman.

Surviving our sister are nine children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Sister Ruth served as a deaconess in the Church, and we are sure she has received her reward.

# Address Change



December, 1990

Volume 46, No. 12

CAMPOUT 1990

## Take Time to Pray

By Ken Lombardo, GMBA Editor

One of the most often heard criticisms of campouts over the last twenty-odd years is the notion that when the camps come along, everyone gets all fired up for the Lord. The weeks, or perhaps if you're really fired up, the couple of months that follow, are filled with the saints still abuzz and flying high, only to come crashing down when reality sets in. We have to go back to our jobs and schools. Our lives take on their individual routines again. We fall back into our old patterns. And we look back and say to ourselves, "Next year, remember to not go kidding yourself and trying to live in some dream world for a week. Teach your kids not to be dreamers. Keep your spiritual life separate, and on the shelf, where it belongs." See, we are so fragile and delicate as humans that we figure if we minimize the risks we take, we stand a better chance of not getting hurt.

I'm waxing poetic and ilosophizing, I know, and granted, in years past, we have indeed come home from camp and sung louder, testified with more spunk, and thought more deeply about things

for a while. Indeed we've promised ourselves we wouldn't lose the fire. But we did. And we counted our skepticism about campout blessings and baptisms as just a sign of our spiritual maturity.

However, if we learned anything from the past, it's that God is wonderful and ready to give when we have a need and are sincere in our requests. This year, we went to camp with at least the hope and thought of opening ourselves to receive something from Him in the way of direction.

Late one night, during a discussion, it was mentioned that our enemy seems to have a field day with us just prior to the week of Campout, in order to upset our connection with God. If one had to identify one common thread that ran through everyone as they arrived, it would be that each came with their cups ready to be filled. Each had a specific and private need for prayer. Each had a desire to reach that higher spiritual plane that would sustain them past the camp and into their branches.

We gathered at Ligonier, PA at a lovely facility called Antiochian Village, in a building where everything from cafeteria to gymnasium to classrooms to bedrooms were all under one roof. This was great since, for most of the week, we had rain (much to the chagrin of the recreation committee, who did a fine job of improvising some indoor activities for all ages—I'm sure their nails will dig into the upholstery when the call for volunteers goes out again). The food was fine, the rooms were very comfortable, we had everything we needed, and quite frankly, so many months afterward, I can't remember if there were any problems. Once we adjusted to the routine of this particular camp, like setting up and breaking down tables and chairs between meals and meetings, things went smoothly.

We were all very disturbed to hear that our Camp Director, Bro. Fred D'Antonio, had been in an auto accident just a day before the start of the camp. With a face that was all swollen and in pain, he had to turn the reins over to his neryous but quite able assistant. Brother Ron Morle. Withal, everyone pulled together to make the week go easily. We enjoyed the Word of God as delivered by a wide variety of our ministry, beautiful hymns as offered by various soloists, the annual Camp Choir, and, this year, a children's choir. Arts and Crafts were creative, seminars enriching, and the postservice canteen snacktime enticing.

So much for reporting the natural.

As the week progressed and we dipped more deeply into the theme

(Continued on Page 3)

## Thanksgiving

By Samuel French

Although Thanksgiving Day is well past, we must realize that gratitude to God is the theme of Thanksgiving. We must not forget to thank God for this very breath of life, which He has given unto us, and for sparing our lives each day. When we look around at all of the things that we have today, how can we not help being grateful to God? The Church of Jesus Christ and the Gospel Restored, the family of Christ, our families, our homes, our children, our friends. Are we not grateful? Thanks be to God for His grace.

We must continue to look to God and give Him thanks today. May God richly bless all.

## My Choice

One night I tossed and turned in bed; Deep sleep evaded me.
My heart was filled with anguish; My path I could not see.
All around me was confusion; The noise rang through my ears. I was drowning in a deep lake Of anger, guilt, and fears. The water rushed around me, Pulling me deeper in; A sense of panic swept o'er me, My life was at its end.

From the shore there came a bright light

And a voice broke through the noise. "My child, I have been waiting For you to make the choice. You can run your life the way you want,

Or on Me you can depend.

I will open many doors for you
And give you many friends.

I'll put many years before you,
I'll fill them with happy days
To laugh, love, and share of yourself
With the people I send your way.

"And sometimes grief will tear you apart

And the days will seem so long, But then I'll send some special friends With shoulders to lean on." I cried out from my darkness, "Yes, I give my life to You. I have tried to run it my way; My successes have been few. I am tired of the anger, I have wasted many years. I am ready to surrender The resentments and the fears."

As He pulled me from the darkness, Tears welled up in my eyes. I had thought my life was over, But my God had heard my cries. And as I kneeled before Him, He gently said to me, "New life is what I give my child. Now live it—you are free."

## The Joy of Worship

By David Nolfi

The time given to our church services, whether on Sunday or a weekday, is specifically appointed to the formal worship and praise of God. Testimonies, songs of praise, scripture study, Godly discussion, exhortation, prayer, and preaching; these are the activities of our worship services used to glorify God. As we assemble to perform these various means of worship, given to us from the word of God, our hope is that during the course of our services the Spirit of God will enter into our midst and manifest itself. This manifestation and presence of the Spirit of God during our services is what makes our church "The Church."

When the Spirit of God enters our midst, if our heart is open, our soul swells with the joy of salvation, our cup overflows in the form of tears streaming down our face. Our heart pounds, our bosom expands, we feel the love of God abounding within us; this is the nourishment of our soul, oil for our lamp. The Spirit's presence is what makes our worship services unlike those of any other church.

It is vitally essential that our meetings be conducted in this manner, for it is this ingredient of the Spirit's presence that both calls the sinner to repentance and feeds the children of God. Therefore we must be directed by the Spirit, as indicated in the Book of Mormon, "And their meetings were conducted by the church after the man-

ner of the workings of the Spirit, and by the power of the Holy Ghost; for as the power of the Hol Ghost led them whether to preach, or to exhort, or to pray, or to supplicate, or to sing, even so it was done" (Moroni 6:9).

As individuals, our missionary endeavors are focused upon getting people to visit our worship services. Once we get an individual to attend a church meeting, it is our hope that the content of our services will act as a magnetic force of love, to hold that soul's interest. This is accomplished by the Spirit's presence in our midst. The Church of Jesus Christ must be known as the true Church, not by our verbal claim, but by the demonstration of the power and the love of God among us.

We may reluctantly admit, possibly, that this presence of God's Spirit in our services is not up to the level that we desire. In observing and acknowledging this, we are immediately confronted with the question: "Why?" To find the answer to this question, each of umust look within our own lives to see if we possess the sincerity and contriteness of daily service before God.

We must realize that the Spirit's presence in our midst is directly affected by our day-to-day service to God. Our daily dedication to strictly obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ in every aspect of our lives is vital. We cannot live our lives as we see fit, and then gather to worship God expecting to be blessed. God's blessing upon our worship services is dependent upon our daily love and obedience to Him.

Nor can we give our free time to the indulgence of this world's pastimes for the enjoyment of the flesh, and then expect greater spiritual blessings when we gather to worship. In order to obtain the greater blessings, the manifestation of the gifts of God, and the power and presence of the Spirit of God in our midst, we must give our utmost in obedience throughout the week coupled with a prayerful attitude and desire to fellowship.

Consider how we look forward to the campouts, to the conferences, to the special gatherings—there is an anticipation and an expectation of blessings within our hearts. Surely God sees this and blesses each according to that effort and desire. If we acknowledge this to be true, then it is needful for us to examine ourselves to see if we look forward to every meeting, every service, every gathering with the same expectation. If not, then we are prejudiced.

While we may not intentionally value one meeting above another, in reality we find ourselves picking and choosing. When any worship service is opened with the invocation for the Lord to be in our midst, should the Spirit of God be there any less if it's only a fasting and prayer meeting, or an MBA or Sunday School or Ladies' Circle, or a sparsely-attended midweek service?

The fact that our expectation of receiving a blessing in church can so easily be affected by the attendance of others (or the lack thereof) and by the meeting's content is an indication of how easily we allow purselves to be discouraged. To counter this, there must dwell within each of us a desire to receive a blessing in every gathering we attend. If it is our faith that motivates us to come to Church, then let faith have its continued work by the hope of being blessed each and every time we gather. Going to church should never be drudgery; it should be the joy and love of our lives.

Envision in your mind our Church as a holy family. Assembled together as brothers and sisters, we make up our spiritual mother, the bride of Christ. As we open in prayer, we invoke the presence of our Heavenly Father, which results in the spirit of love and joy we feel in our midst. Surely there could be no happier family than one which possesses this sainthood to which we have been called. Let us cherish it, let us support it, and most of all let us share it. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, "And let us consider one another to provoke nto love and to good works: not orsaking the assembling of ourselves together."

#### PRAY continued . . .

of the camp seminars, "Standing on the Promises of God," various needs began to surface. Individuals confessed their desires to draw closer. Some said they really needed camp to "get them back in line." Some said they came to be recharged. Some came with afflictions. All different. All disjointed. All needing.

The first day, requests started to pour up to the podium for special individual prayer. Either before the congregation during a service, or privately in small rooms, the prayers began to be offered up unto the Lord. Along with the prayers came experiences. Tongues were spoken, people were healed, and visions were seen. But prayer was constant. Everywhere you looked, someone was praying. Some seminars lasted an hour or more past the scheduled time, because just one person asked to be anointed at dismissal time. When one would ask for prayer, two more would ask. When those two were prayed for, three more would ask. It got to the point, it seemed, that no one was to be left out. (In fact, I would like a show of hands of all those that were prayed for at the camp. My guess is that the number would prove to be in the majority.)

One afternoon, the young newly-baptized group met in a room to have a discussion about their new walk with Christ, and when 4:00 p.m. came, one young sister asked for prayer. The chain started again. One young brother not raised in the Gospel, having joined the Church just six months before, had challenged the Lord that he wanted to see every gift and blessing that he'd read about so often in the scriptures. At that one session he saw them all. In fact, so much so, that he was overwhelmed and troubled, having come from the world and never having seen such an outpouring before. We dismissed at 5:45 p.m., drained and filled at the same time.

In the evening service that following night, this same young brother asked for prayer along with many others. He wanted to feel sure that God was generating this activity, and he wanted to feel the touch of the Holy Spirit. While he was being anointed, another brother heard the voice of the Lord say, very audibly, "When My people call, I hear. And them will I touch." When this experience was being related, the young brother flushed with tears, realizing God had heard his specific desire, and met his specific need.

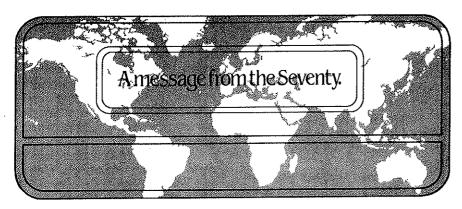
Even the clock had no control over the flood of prayers. One night in particular, after an exhausting day, a few young elders were sitting in the hallway when the word came that there were other young elders who needed their help in praying for some young people in one of the main lounge areas. When they arrived there was a small group of about twelve young people and three members of the ministry. An hour and a half later, there were close to 50 people and six elders in that room. That was 3:30 a.m.! The power of God was felt as the young people poured their hearts out to God. It was electric.

There were so many experiences reported that they are just too numerous to mention here, but suffice it to say that when God's people, who are called by His name, humbled themselves and prayed, He was quick to hear from heaven as He promised. We came away from camp learning about His promises to us, and understanding that we hold the key to keeping the Spirit alive and sustained throughout the year. We must take time to pray. We must be quick to pray. We must continue in prayer. We must be diligent in prayer.

It must register with us that the Lord has given us the means to communicate with Him: Prayer. In order to tap into His storehouse, pray. In order to be strengthened and to stay on fire, pray. Oh, that this lesson of prayer that we learned at this camp might not be lost in the clouds of confusion that surround us at home!

The Sunday that followed camp, as we gathered in our branch, we all sang the camp theme song, *People Need the Lord*. We all testified of the prayer-heavy week we had, and of the three baptisms at the camp (one asking right at the

(Continued on Page 4)



## Missionary Awareness, Requirements Discussed

Bu Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Missionary awareness is a great asset. Knowing what is required to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ allows for better understanding, increased desire, and more involvement.

Obviously, in missionary work, telling someone about Jesus and having him or her come into the Gospel is the goal. Reaching that "someone," or the many "someones" anywhere in the world is the challenge.

There are steps and means needed to accomplish this, however. Knowing them, such as the number and kinds of workers, and the support required to satisfy the objectives, makes it easier to understand why they are needed. Also, lessons from the past can be used to spur further accomplishments, because actual practical mechanics and proven methods can be employed.

### RECENT MEASURES TAKEN

Recent mesures taken in the Church have been designed toward increasing effectiveness. Among them was restructuring of the missionary activities' administration.

General Church President Dominic R. Thomas has addressed the intent of the changes in a letter to Church members, which summarizes what has transpired. He began by writing, "I thank God for His Church, and for the gift of His Son and for the restoration of His gospel; and I thank each of you who have been helping the Church with your prayers and financial support during the past year. It is indeed a blessing and privilege to be a part of His work in these the latter days."

Brother Thomas continued by explaining that the ministry is focusing more directly on missionary activity. He stated, "An important step has been taken in this regard, with the consolidation of the General Church Mission Board Committees into the Quorum of Seventy's missionary operations, thus reducing the number of persons required to administer these programs.

### ANOTHER PROGRESSIVE STEP

Looking to the future has also been an objective of the Church. Of course, current financial needs must be met, but many brothrs and sisters have been concerned about what should be done in the future to make the Church even more successful. To aid in this, the General Church Foundation Committee was created a year ago. Brother Dominic explained about this also in his letter.

"Another progressive step was initiated in October, 1989, with the creation of the General Church Missionary Foundation Committee. At this past conference, they presented a plan to help raise additional funding for our missionary work. First of all, they want to acquaint the membership with our missionary work using slide presenta-

tions. Helping them will be missionaries and members from the Mission Operating Committee of the Quorum of Seventy, the Finance Committee, and the Board of Trustees. . . . secondly, they are presenting a voluntary financial plan that will begin to significantly improve the funding of our missionary work, and at some time make the Church debt-free. The conference authorized them to begin now to implement their program, and I believe that their plan should help us feel that we are more directly involved in our missionary endeavors.

"The General Church Conference has asked the Missionary Foundation to contact each family of the Church as well as persons and organizations outside of the Church to begin contributing on a *voluntary* basis to the Foundation."

The sincere report and appeal by Brother Thomas are most worthy for us all to consider highly. As God directs, the missionary work of the Church will progress. More information will be presented as events unfold so that greater missionary awareness will be possible.

Everyone's help is needed!

#### PRAY continued . . .

water's edge) and the three more that were going to be baptized in their respective districts that day. In fact, many prayers were offered in that meeting to the point of dismissing our afternoon service at 5:00 p.m. The New Jersey Local MBA meets on Sunday nights, and after hearing more testimonies that night of God's blessings at camp, one brother asked for prayer and—you guessed it—many more followed until that meeting dismissed at almost 11:00 p.m.

We've come to understand that we couldn't handle such a level of intensity on a constant basis, and so we aren't disappointed when the length of our services is more moderate nowadays. However, we have seen a marked improvemen the level of spiritual sensitivity and desire. We have seen in the three

(Continued on Page 6)



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Anthony J. Scolaro 1162 Raritan Ave. Highland Park, NJ 08904

ASSISTANT EDITOR Leonard A. Lovalvo 8085 Schneider Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS Nephi DeMercurio Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR Kenneth Lombardo 10 Rockview Terrace North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO Rosanne Champine 47116 Hennings Dr. Mt. Clemens, MI 48045

> OHIO Mark Naro 4425 Broadway Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA Lucetta Scaglione 303 Union St. Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST Douglas S. Obradovich 8620 NW 45th St. Lauderhill, FL 33351

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

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BUSINESS OFFICE 9066 Austin Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115 (800) 334-1773

# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Over the years, The Church of Jesus Christ's philosophy of the Gospel being free, our unpaid ministry, and our simple, unadorned buildings have been viewed as a refreshing concept to those of us or our forefathers who came to this Church from other churches. With our missionary work—and its attending financial load—only in its infancy up until recently, teaching our members how to give of their substance to the Church was a subject that did not need to be addressed; for many years there always seemed to be enough to go around.

While the Church's monetary needs—as well as its members' financial means—have increased greatly over the years, the issue of giving to the Church has remained, unfortunately, largely ignored. In the meantime, generations of saints have come to believe that our money, and what we do with it, is such a personal matter that any mention of it, even in the way of Biblical teaching, is viewed as a serious infringement on our private lives.

We may desire to be exhorted to righteousness by the preaching of the Word, we may seek spiritual counsel and direction in every other aspect of our lives, but we don't want to be talked to about what we do with our money. It's a subject that has become taboo, off limits, unapproachable. The reaction of our flesh is to immediately close our ears and clench our fists when the subject of money is brought up—we look to the right or the left of us, and try to see what everybody else is doing, lest, as if paying a restaurant check, we should mistakenly contribute more than our "share."

Why are we so uncomfortable about teaching—and hearing—what the Word of God says about giving? We need not fear the world's concept of the greedy, widow-robbing Christian church that has allegedly turned so many people away from the Lord, for there is probably no other organization in the world that is endeavoring to accomplish so great a work with so little means at its disposal. But we will not enjoy spiritual liberty in teaching Christ's pattern of cheerful, selfless, sacrificial giving unless we're following it ourselves. Can we expect the Spirit of God to inspire us, can we expect our words to pierce the hearts of our listeners and provoke them to generous giving if we're not actively applying these teachings in our own lives?

The Church of Jesus Christ will cease to flourish if we continue to give only what our fathers and grandfathers were required to give forty years ago. Rather, let us prayerfully examine our hearts and give according to the Word of God, looking even beyond the Old Testament law of tithing to the teachings of Christ, who was more pleased with the attitude of the poor widow, who He said "cast in more than they all" (Luke 21:3).

Rather than setting a goal of a certain dollar amount, rather than adhering to a certain percentage of our income, we must learn (before we can teach others) to give wholeheartedly, sacrificially, abundantly, placing our faith and trust in our Lord. When we accomplish this on a continual basis, the financial crises that now plague the Church will diminish, we will be free to pursue natural and spiritual growth and development, and Zion shall truly prosper.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Jan Steinrock



# God Is Just; That's All We Say

Dear Girls and Boys and Friends,

Have you ever wished you could have money to buy something for yourself or your family? Have you ever wanted to get a job but knew that no one would hire you because you were too young or didn't know how to do the job?

In many countries of the world today, people remain very poor. A grown-up mother may get a job walking back and forth from a work site carrying buckets of cement, and only earn a few pennies a day. A child may get a job scrubbing the street or guarding someone's parked car to earn a few more pennies to help buy food for their family. The father may be sick, or gone, or working far away.

Not everyone in the world has a television, or a bicycle, or even one single book or a box of crayons. There are millions of poor children without food every day or a doctor's care or a blanket to cover up with. Some of them beg. Some starve to death or die from simple illnesses that we would see a doctor for and feel better right away.

So, what would *you* do if all of a sudden your family became poor? In the United States, Canada, and many other countries throughout the world, the government will help feed and shelter a person without money.

In the times when the Bible was written, if you couldn't pay your bills, you or your family could be sold as bond-servants or slaves. It could take years for you to ever pay off the money owed and bring the family back together again.

In the days of the Prophet Elisha, one of the men who worked with him died. He left a wife and two young sons without enough money to take care of themselves. They had to borrow money; and the people they owed decided to sell the two young boys in order to get their money.

Their mother went to Elisha and asked for help. Elisha asked her, "What should I do? Tell me, what do you have in your house?"

The frightened mother answered, "I don't have anything in the house except for a pot of oil."

Elisha told her, "Go borrow many, many empty containers from your friends and neighbors. When you come back, shut the door and you and your sons pour out the oil into the borrowed containers.

So she trusted Elisha and followed his orders. As she filled one container, the oil kept pouring and she filled another and another. On and on they poured until all of the borrowed containers were completely filled!

Then she ran to tell Elisha the wonderful news, and he told her, "Go. Sell the oil and pay your debts. With the money left over, you and your children can buy food and live."

And so it was done. God heard her cries and answered her. No one was torn away from their family to be sold as a slave. God performed His miracle instead, and the family survived. Always remember that we also serve the same God, this Worker of miracles who loves each and every one of us.

#### WORD SEARCH

PROPHET	$\mathbf{TWO}$
ELISHA	YOUNG
MAN	SONS
OF	SAVED
GOD	BEING
WORKED	SOLD
A	AS
MIRACLE	BOND
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OIL	SLAVES
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#### PRAY continued . . .

months that have followed this camp, ten souls render obedience to God in the Atlantic Coast District alone. And from reports from around the Church, the chains have fallen from many, many more. We praise God for His goodness, His guidance, and His promises. We thank Him for teaching us to pray. And for answering.

The Church of Jesus Christ Missionary Foundation Fund P.O. Box 1495 Pittsburgh, PA 15230

## Our Women Today

## General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Karen L. Progar

Saturday, October 27, 1990, was a beautiful fall day, perfect for the semiannual Ladies' Circle Conference. We were pleased to have representation from nearly every area of the Church. The meeting was hosted by the Monongahela, PA Circle, which also provided devotions, the subject of which was "Pleasing the Lord."

Since the April, 1992 Conference is scheduled to be sponsored by the Pacific Coast Area, some time was spent discussing

possible travel arrangements. It was decided that each area should choose a representative to work in conjunction with the Pacific Coast Coordinator, Sister Diane McDonnell.

Each area Circle provided a report on the activities held among the home circles of the various areas. This always proves to be a great opportunity to hear new project and fundraising ideas.

Once again the sisters did a wonderful job raising funds for the General Church missionary projects. More than \$1800 was donated to the American Indian Missions, and \$1239.76 was donated to the General Mission Fund, to be divided equally among the following works: Africa, India, Italy, the Missionary Foundation, and Radio Broadcast Committee.

Participating Circles are to be

congratulated on another successful six-month special project. The Ladies' Circle raised \$1688.60 to purchase and provide one year's maintenance for a motorcycle for the African work. The special project for the next six months will be to raise \$1000 for a new church building in India.

Contributions were made to the Memorial fund in memory of: Rose Alessandro, Rocco Biscotti, Dan Casasanta, Dominic Castelli, Mary Criscuolo, Josephine Dulisse, Walter Krumpe, and Irving Eugene

Loughren.

Brother Gary Martin addressed the conference in the afternoon, further explaining the General Church Building Fund. The balance of the meeting was well spent in testimony. We truly enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship.

## **Branch and Mission News**

## A Pioneer for the Gospel

By Ruth Gehly

The scriptures give us countless examples of great men and women who pioneered the establishment of the early church. Many of us have undoubtedly wondered what it would have been like to live during their lifetime; to have walked and talked with them, drawing from their knowledge and experience in serving God. But pioneers do not merely exist in history books. In fact, there are many still living among us in our very own branches and missions of the Church.

The Erie, Pennsylvania Branch has the privilege of worshipping side by side with such a man, one who has dedicated over half his life to the service of the Lord: Bro. Timothy Dominic Bucci. As a young boy, Bro. Dom was drawn to the Gospel through the conviction of his parents. Like many, however, he had to experience the ways of the world before he submitted to the calling of repentance and baptism.

In 1943 he was ordained an elder and was later called to be an

evangelist in 1950. During his many years of service to God, Bro. Dom has labored hard in reaching out to a hurting society with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Active for many years in the Youngstown, Ohio area, his labor of love has reached many throughout the American Indian community, as well as the Ohio District and in New Orleans, Louisiana. He has been a pioneer in introducing the Church through television and newspaper advertising, and has authored The Jew and the American Indian and The American Indian Moses.

In 1966 Bro. Dom and his beloved wife, Sis. Mary, moved to Erie, PA, where they now reside and carry on in faithful service unto God. Unable to travel as much due to advancing age and increasing infirmity, Bro. Dom felt, in 1989, that it was time to step down from active service as one of the Church's seventy evangelists.

On May 27, 1990, Bro. Russ and Sis. Lena Martorana and Bro. Stacey and Sis. Carolyn Light traveled to Erie. Representing the Quorum of Seventy, Bro. Russ presented a beautiful plaque to Bro. Dom in honor and appreciation for his many years (just under 40) of dedicated service as an evangelist. A wonderful spirit of preaching and testimony was shared as many recalled special memories of Bro. Dom and Sis. Mary.

As the years creep upon us, it is easy to become caught up in the routine of our own daily lives without taking a deep personal interest in those around us. Perhaps it is time to pause for a moment in order to examine our branches and missions just a little more closely. Is there a brother or sister within your midst that has nurtured the Gospel for a great many years?

(Continued on Page 8)



Bro. T. Dom Bucci (third from left) surrounded by ministry at Erie, PA Branch.

#### GOSPEL continued . . .

Maybe their example of faithfulness and diligence helped to bring you or someone you know to The Church of Jesus Christ. Take time to listen and learn from their wisdom and experience, for their lives make up a part of the history that represents the growing foundation of our Church, a history to be passed down from generation to generation.

As for Bro. Dom and Sis. Mary, the brothers and sisters of Erie find them a constant source of great knowledge, encouragement, and love. And although Bro. Dom has retired as an evangelist, his example of faithfulness and dedication will continue to shine forth until the day he is called to his heavenly reward. We thank God for blessing our brother with the desire and strength to do what he has done, and all he continues to do.

# Cincinnati Mission growing

By Karen Pezzenti

On Sunday, September 30, 1990, Brother Joe and Sister Mary Furnari from Detroit, Michigan Branch 3 visited our Cincinnati, Ohio Mission. The Lord blessed us that day as we met at Sister Rose Licata's home.

A strong message was delivered to us from the heart and soul of our brother, as the Lord inspired him. It was a message of strength, for us to remain strong in the Lord and for each of us to believe that we have a work to do—to stand up for the Lord in this city of Cincinnati and spread the Gospel. Bro. Joe, convinced by the Spirit, told us we will grow here in this city, because we have the desire to work for the Lord.

Our brother spoke of how in the past two years, the Lord has doubled our membership to 10. Recently, the Lord has sent us Bro. Jim and Sis. Bonnie Miller, and their son, Bro. Brian, from Atlanta, GA. Even more recently, Bro. Randy and Sis. Jill Ciccati from New Jersey have relocated here. We are

rejoicing because the Lord is placing His people here and we are gaining strength in the Lord. We have a burning desire to spread this Gospel to our city and we are ready—ready to work for the Lord!

We currently have one elder, two teachers, and one deaconess. We have a total of five sisters and with God's blessing, it is our desire to begin a Ladies' Circle here. We are excited to be members of The Church of Jesus Christ. He is leading, guiding, and directing us daily to do His work. As we meet in homes for our services, the Lord has allowed us to be showered with His blessings.

"There's no need on the sidelines, and none on the backlines, But only the frontlines are pleading for more." It is our desire to stand on the front lines.

We invite you to visit our mission and would like you to know the names of all our members: Rose, Tricia, and Charles Licata; Jim, Bonnie, and Brian Miller; Randy and Jill Ciccati; and Paul and Karen Pezzenti. Our children, who also meet with us, are Winston, Angelo, and Bianca Licata, and Natalie Pezzenti. We send our love in Jesus' name and urge all of our brothers and sisters to be workers for the Lord. The Lord should be our main priority, always and in all ways.

## News from Saline, MI

"Jesus Cares" was the theme of the Vacation Bible School held on August 1-3, 1990 at the Saline, Michigan Mission. Sister Leona Buffa was the director, with the help of several other brothers and sisters.

A picnic was held on Saturday, August 4, with hot dogs and games. On Sunday evening a community sing was held, with the children exhibiting their crafts and singing the songs they had learned during the week.

On the afternoon and evening of Saturday, September 8, the Saline Sunday School held a traditional corn roast. The young and old of the mission, along with a few friends, had an enjoyable time. Following the evening hayride, we

finished off the night by singing around a campfire. The beautiful setting sun left everyone with a glow of anticipation of more blessings to come on the morrow.

On Sunday morning, September 9, 1990, a spirit of joy and happiness prevailed in the Saline Mission. Voices of young and old blended in a melodious tune.

Brother John Buffa delivered the sermon. With references from I Nephi and various passages in the Bible, he stressed our need to hold fast to the rod of iron, the Word of God.

The testimony meeting began with a wonderful feeling. Michael Bodo, the husband of our Sister Denise (Campitelle), asked for his baptism, followed shortly afterward by Kimberly (Wood) Christoferson.

Brother Mike was baptized by Bro. John Buffa, and Sister Kim was baptized by her uncle, Bro. Jim Cotellesse. We reconvened at the church building following the baptisms, and had many visitors from other branches come to witness both the baptisms and the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Sister Kim was confirmed by Bro. John Buffa, and Bro. Mike was confirmed by Bro. Anthony Lovalvo. We thank God for these two additions to our mission, and pray the Lord would bless them in their desires to serve Him.

## Detroit, Branch 1

By Aaron Dix

On October 28, 1990, our Sunday service at Detroit Branch 1 was attended by many visitors from out of town and from different branches within the district. Bro. Pete Giannetti was visiting from Aliquippa, PA along with his entire family.

After opening prayer, our Sister Josephine Amormino was then recognized for having served the Lord in The Church of Jesus Christ for 60 years. A corsage was presented to her by Sis. Donna Amormino. Sister Josephine then testified how the Lord has taken care of her and done much for her these many years. She expressed her desire to continue to serve the

Lord in any way she could.

Bro. Pete Giannetti opened the preaching service, mentioning how happy he was to be here this morning. He made use of Luke 7:36-50, explaining how Jesus forgave the woman, who was a sinner, when she came to him with all her heart and soul. The Lord is willing to forgive everyone who comes to him in like manner. Through this lesson, our brother exhorted us likewise not to judge, but rather to forgive.

Our next speaker was Bro. Eugene Amormino, who was visiting from the Inner City Branch. He continued on the theme Bro. Pete had spoken on, and, as he had come to celebrate his mother's 60 years in the Gospel, he expressed his thankfulness to God for providing him with such loving parents, who brought him up in this Gospel. Bro. Eugene also made mention of, and extended an invitation to, the many in our midst who as yet have not made a commitment to serve God. He encouraged them to pray to the Lord for His guidance in their lives, and seek to find the blessings we experience in serving Him.



Sister Josephine Amormino

## Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

On Sunday, September 30, 1990, Bro. Sam DiFalco mentioned in his opening remarks that the Lord has taught us many things. People everywhere are looking for the truth, and we have it right in

our hands—The Gospel of Jesus Christ. We follow everything that Jesus taught His followers to do while He was on this earth. That is why we would be observing the ordinance of feet washing on this day. Repentance and baptism are only the beginning of a continuing path.

Bro. Sam said that we should not need to tell people that we are Christians; they should notice it by our actions. Others will see that we are a unique people if we are truly living by the Spirit. He read from Matthew 7, about building our house on a solid rock. Jesus Christ is that solid Rock, and if we follow Him and do His will, we will be standing on that Rock. We must stand up for the truth and never waver. Joseph Smith was looking for the truth, and through his faith the Gospel was restored. We must prepare ourselves now for the wedding feast. When Jesus comes to wed His bride, we do not want to hear Him say, "I never knew you."

After his sermon, Bro. Sam surprised us by announcing, "Someone here today has been a member of the Church for fifty years." The person to whom he was referring did not realize it herself. He then called Sis. Rose Gerry to the front and Sis. Rose DiDonato pinned a corsage on her. Our sister had been baptized on September 29, 1940.

Bro. Sam stood by her side and told us of the many things she had done over the years, helping out in times of sickness, and serving as a deaconess since 1978. In the testimony service that followed, everyone was thankful and had a good word for our Sister Rose.

We broke for lunch and enjoyed an hour of sweet fellowship. A beautiful cake was furnished for the occasion by Sister Rose's family.

Returning upstairs, Bro. John Straccia opened the afternoon service, stating how only a few churches partake of the ordinance of feet washing—some modify it by selecting just one member to participate. But today we want to portray in our minds how the twelve disciples of Christ looked as Jesus washed their feet. Not having yet received the Holy Ghost, it was hard for them to understand the need to act as a servant to one another. Rather, they argued

among themselves as to who would be the greatest in the kingdom. Jesus told them they must be as little children, and become humble. As an example of this humility, He instituted the ordinance of feet washing. "Happy will you be, if you do these things." Our brother reminded us to let the Spirit of God dwell within us and direct us. We must be constantly mindful that none of us are better than the other.

After sacrament was served, we observed the blessed ordinance of feet washing, and were dismissed in prayer by Bro. Lou Vitto. All of us went home uplifted and spiritually blessed, ending a beautiful day in the house of the Lord.



Sister Rose Gerry

# Ordination in Lockport, NY

By Antoinette Giansante

On October 14, 1990, Sister Rosaria Fragale of the Lockport, NY Mission was ordained a deaconess. Sis. Antoinette Giansante washed her feet, and Bro. Paul D'Amico ordained her. May the grace of our Lord rest upon her as our sister performs her duties as a spiritual helper to The Church of Jesus Christ.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Frammolino, Carl J. & Nancy M. 2004 Timberlane Dr. Aliquippa, PA 15001 (412) 375-1459

## Stir Up the Gift of God

By Peter A. Scolaro

In his second epistle to Timothy, the Apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to ". . . stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands" (II Tim. 1:6). Of course the gift of God Paul referred to was the Spirit of God, or the Holy Ghost, conferred upon Timothy following his baptism. This same gift is given to all members by the laying on of hands by the priesthood. Paul goes on to say (v. 7) that God has not given the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind.

The notion of a stirred-up Spirit of God within a well-established young brother of the Church is central to Paul's entire epistle. It is clear in this letter, as in much of Paul's writings, that the Spirit of God active within him was his source of strength, his primary motivator, his sense of direction, his comforter, his teacher, and often his company. It is clear that God's Spirit was not dormant within him but, rather, active—"stirred-up," if you will—ready to respond in place of or as a modifier to his human emotions. Paul yearned to see Timothy experience the same relationship with God via the Holy Ghost acting within him. Some questions to consider:

- Why stir up the Spirit?
- What did Paul mean by the term "stir up"?
- Was the advice specific to Timothy and his day and time?
- How can one "stir up" the Spirit within him/herself?

A good hard look at II Timothy in its entirety may suggest some answers to these questions. I recommend reading it as a letter would be read, without breaking it up into chapters and verses. However, chapters and verses serve us by helping pinpoint some passages of the letter for observation:

Paul shows familiarity with Timothy Chap. 1 vv. 2-5 and his family and reveals that also 3:14-15 Timothy is third generation in the Church. He joyfully recalls Timothy's "unfeigned faith," but immediately follows (v. 6) with encouragement to remember and stir up. Is it possible that Timothy's need for encouragement might be common among other "third generation" Church members? If so, why? If not, why not? Timothy is reminded of the Spirit of vv. 7-8 power, love, and sound mind and encouraged not to be ashamed of the Gospel but to partake in its afflictions. (Afflictions??—could Paul mean persecutions, or the burden of responsibility?)

In Timothy, Paul saw the potential of great

spiritual leadership, a quality that Paul was able to matter-of-factly recognize within himself. Paul realized that by virtue of his own reliance upon the Spirit, he himself had been a tremendous asset to the Church (to the Lord). His encouragement to Timothy was not only to enhance Timothy's spiritual survival, but to bring about the realization of all of Timothy's spiritual potential for the sake of the Church: its members, future members, even Paul himself.

Paul was able to derive joy from seeing progress in the battle against "principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12) no matter who was the instrument of progress. In fact, I would suggest that as a man, he was tremendously gratified to see someone take up the same cause and "partake of the afflictions" (II Tim. 1:8) as he so often did to further the salvation of Jesus Christ among mankind.

In this respect, Paul was not so different from any of us who have striven on behalf of the Church. Seeing others share the effort and manifest the Spirit is a source of great joy; seeing an absence of zeal in others can be discouraging. Because of this, we see spiritual enthusiasm is often contagious and self-sustaining.

To stir up the Spirit, Paul, in his letter engendered awareness of:

•	Salvation	1:9-10; 2:8, 11; 4:1, 8, 18
	God's power	1:12; 2:19; 4:18
•	Experiences	1:15-17; 2:9-10; 3:8-9, 10, 13;
	of others	4:5-8, 10-12, 14-17
•	Future warnings	3:1-9, 12-13; 4:3-4
	Paul's firm	1:11-12; 4:6-8
	preparedness	
•	Parallel lessons	2:4, 5, 6, 19-21

In addition, Paul gives the following spiritual advice:

• Remember your faith	1:5
• Stir up the gift of God	1:6
• Be not ashamed	1:8
• Be a partaker of the afflictions	1:9
	1:13
• Keep that good thing	1:14
• Be strong in the grace	2:1
• Teach the gospel to other leaders	2:2
• Endure hardness	2:3
• Remember Jesus' resurrection	2:8
• Teach others to remember the things of	
God, not to strive over mundane issues	2:14
• Study to show thyself approved	2:15
(What does Paul mean by "study"? Remen	nber that
in those days the only scripture available	
Old Testament. While the study of the scr	
and is important, it may be that this advice	
beyond study of the written word but incl	
of ourselves and our response to all the th	
"tells" us through the Spirit.)	3
• Shun babblings	2:16
• Depart from iniquity	2:19
we also a we are accedance.	

2:22

• Flee youthful lusts

<ul> <li>Follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace</li> <li>Avoid foolish questions</li> <li>Be gentle and patient</li> <li>Instruct with meekness</li> <li>Be aware of the last days</li> <li>Continue in the gospel, knowing where you heard it</li> <li>Preach the word</li> <li>Be instant in and out of season</li> <li>Reprove, rebuke, exhort with longsuffering and doctrine</li> <li>Watch all things</li> <li>Endure afflictions</li> <li>Do the work of an evangelist</li> <li>Make full proof of thy ministry</li> </ul>	2:22 2:23 2:24 2:25 3:1-13 3:14-15 4:2 4:2 4:5 4:5 4:5 4:5	If you highlight the verses as noted and attempt to read the entire epistle as a unit (ignoring chapter and verse divisions and relying on punctuation), you will almost certainly develop a very broad view of the scop of Paul's encouragement to Timothy. Based upon your own experiences, you will find (probably have found in prior readings of this scripture) many points from which to tangentially go off to develop specifics and pull in other scriptures. I would encourage you to consider all of these tangential points and issues from the perspective of the central theme—A Stirred-up Spirit Enhances Our Performance before God.
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## * WEDDINGS *

### O'TOOLE-WATKINS

On October 20, 1990, Mark O'Toole and Patricia Watkins were united in holy matrimony by Brother David Nolfi of the Glassport, PA Branch.

The ceremony took place at the indoor flower garden of the Phipps Conservatory in Pittsburgh, PA. May God bless the newlyweds in their life together.

## **New Arrivals**

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

Breanna Lorraine to Kevin and Jody Frendo of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Bryan Lawrence to Larry and Rosanne Champine of Detroit, Michigan Branch 1.

Melissa Caroline to Joe and Diane DiRado of Novi, Michigan.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

### FRANK D'ANGELO

Brother Frank D'Angelo passed on to his eternal reward on September 10, 1990. He was a faithful member of the Greensburg, PA Branch since his baptism by Brother Fred Fair on May 18, 1940.

Bro. Frank is survived by his wife, Sister Emmanual, two sons, and two daughters.

When thinking upon our late brother, the words "giving" and "sharing" come to mind. Bro. Frank

wanted to give all that he had to others—not only of his natural possessions, but also his spiritual ones. Our brother would often share his testimony of the beautiful Gospel that he possessed, and in so doing was responsible for bringing many brothers and sisters to The Church of Jesus Christ. Surely the Lord was pleased with him as He greeted him at the portals of heaven.

May the Lord grant Bro. Frank's family much peace and comfort at this time.

### JOHN CANTAMESSA

Brother John Cantamessa of the Edison, New Jersey Branch passed from this life on May 10, 1990. He was born on August 3, 1923 and was baptized on September 19, 1982.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Arthur Searcy and Jonathan Olexa.

Our brother is survived by a brother, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews. Brother John will be missed by all the brothers and sisters of the Edison Branch, as well as by his family.

### GLORIA KUZIN

Sister Gloria (Ali) Kuzin of the Greensburg, PA Branch was called to her heavenly home on October 7, 1990. She was born on July 12, 1928 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Anthony DiBattista on February 17, 1946.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Jesse Carr.

Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Mike. She is survived by one daughter, Mary Lou Wolff, a son, Bro. Frank Kuzin, and three grandchildren.

Sister Gloria will be greatly missed by the brothers and sisters of the Greensburg Branch as she supported each and every meeting and function of the Church.

May the Lord continue to be with Sister Gloria's family through this most difficult time.

# Address Change

Name
Address
Phone