

# The Gospel News

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

January, 1991

Volume 47, No. 1

## Southeast District Conference

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye" (Psalms 32:8).

The Lord certainly had His eye upon the Southeast District as 23 elders and 12 teachers gathered in Tampa, Florida on August 5 & 6, 1990. The purpose of this conference was for instruction and teaching. District President John D'Orazio turned the annual Spiritual Conference over to Apostle V. James Lovalvo, who had prepared a seminar for the brethren.

The Saturday morning meeting was dedicated to discussion concerning the call to minister. Bro. Jim kept the seminar open for comments and questions, which made for a lively exchange. Following a delicious lunch, the afternoon session, again chaired by Bro. Jim, picked right up. The discussion, the questions, and the answers were all timely, instructive, and edifying to all present.

The Saturday evening meeting featured Bro. Jim fielding questions from the congregation, which was now open to everyone. A good portion of the questions and the discussion referred to the topic of righteousness. It was wonderful to find that all present seemed satisfied with the instruction given.

The Lord surely had His eye on the conference.

On Sunday morning, Bro. John welcomed everyone and invited different individuals and groups to sing. The sweetness of this singing, along with the congregational singing, acted as a wonderful welcome to the saints and friends, as well as an invitation for the Lord's Spirit to be in our midst.

Bro. Jim opened the meeting by preaching about the dedication that Ruth had for her mother-in-law, Naomi. Reading from the book of Ruth, our brother likened this dedication to our own service to God. He then expounded on the story of Ruth, centering his themes around the word "assimilate."

Bro. Jim compared the saints to a drop of water that is added to a gallon of wine. The water is taken in and becomes a part of the whole gallon. He spoke of how we must assimilate into the Church, the body of Christ. Bro. Jim invited all, especially the unbaptized, to assimilate themselves into the Church and dedicate their lives to the Lord.

Brothers Cleveland Baldwin, James G. Speck, Sam Risola Sr., and Malcolm Paxton (visiting from Atlanta, GA) commented further on the same message. The brothers and sisters were then afforded the

opportunity to commune together and with God in partaking of the Lord's Supper. The saints of the Southeast District truly enjoyed the instruction and the teaching of the Lord this weekend. Our Spiritual Conference was just that—spiritual!

## Michigan-Ontario Area Campout

*By Tammy Morle*

On the weekend of September 21-23, 1990, the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA held its area campout. Brothers, sisters, and friends from Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Kentucky, and Florida were in attendance with one united goal in mind, to "Stir It Up!" That was our theme for the weekend. Brothers David Lovalvo and Dan Parravano were our directors.

Groups of people began gathering Friday evening in anticipation of a beautiful weekend. Weather forecasts promised rain all weekend, but we didn't let that dampen our spirits. Saturday morning began on a beautiful note, when people of all ages gathered for a prayer meeting. A peaceful spirit prevailed and continued throughout the course of the weekend.

Chapel was held and seminars

(Continued on Page 3)

## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

They that are calm and of a happy nature will hardly face the pressure of age. But to them who are of the opposite disposition, both youth and age will equally be a burden.

We in Modesto enjoyed the short visit of Sister Darlene Large. Her outstanding experience cannot be looked upon as a casual one. The videotape that she brought with her showed the activities of the mercy mission in India. We could feel compassion in action.

It appears that similar needs are present on this continent, just south of our own borders. The same program could be of great worth among some very poor areas of Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, and Brazil.

The preaching of the Gospel is foremost, yet similar needs existed in Judea at the time of the early Church. "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judea" (Acts 11:29). "It has pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem" (Romans 15:26).

During the time that Darlene was here in Modesto, her husband, Bruce, Sam Randy, Vincente Arche, and Luis Pacheco went to Mexico and reported two baptisms and one renewal on November 9, 1990.

While watching the tape that Darlene brought, we saw the poor, handicapped children and could not help but think of their spiritual needs as well as their natural ones.

Ye, who are called to labor  
and minister for God,  
Blessed with the royal priesthood,  
and called by His word  
To preach among the nations  
the news of Gospel Grace  
And publish on the mountains  
salvation, truth and peace.

We praise our Lord Jesus Christ, for the love in our hearts. Yes, His love teaches our heart and makes a caring Church. I remember during the Great Depression, in Detroit, many of our brothers and sisters "gave and gave some more" for those that were poor.

Every Saturday morning, several baskets of food were brought to the poor families. I remember shortly after we had our second child, I had lost my job. My turn to travel to the Grand River (Six Nations), Ontario Mission came up. I had only two dollars. In those days the Ladies' Uplift Circle paid for the gasoline used on missionary trips. Brother Frank and Sister Leata Ford of Windsor provided the food, and I provided the car. I sent my wife with our two children to stay with her parents for the weekend. I felt, somehow, that God would provide.

It was a blessed trip. Upon arriving back to my in-laws' home, my 5-year-old son sang to me, "Heaven and earth will pass away but Jesus never fails." Then he said, "We have food!" My wife and mother-in-law could not control their tears. My wife told me that shortly after I left, a young man came to the house. He said, "I have food for you." My wife told him, "But I did not order any food. I do not have any money to pay for the food."

"It is paid for," said the young man. He brought in enough food to last until I was working again and received my pay. "He came in a panel truck with no name on it," my wife said. To this day, I do not know who sent that food.

In those days, our people were full of love; our people are still full of love. Never underestimate the love of God in the hearts of God's children. We will never know what we can do until we get involved.

I am glad that Sister Darlene came to visit us.

Jesus gave us a challenge. It is not easy, but it's worthy of all sacrifice. Paul, the apostle, answered the challenge, "I am ready, not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 21:13).

I believe that today we have like-minded persons, both men and women. We have prayed for, and continue to pray for those who dare to serve, willingly, courageously, for the cause of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Carr and his family, and before them Bro. DeMercurio and his family, have served as missionaries in Africa for a number of years, enduring much hardship. Now others are needed to take their place. We have also had equally dedicated persons on other foreign missions, such as Italy, Mexico, and Guatemala.

How about you, younger men and women? The field is still plenteous, but the laborers are few. Grace be unto you.

## Thank You

A sincere thank you to all my brothers, sisters, and friends who showed their love in so many ways during my recent illness. Individual thanks would be impossible for me.

Sister Esther McCartney

## A Gift of Healing

Some months ago, we received a gift of healing in our home. On March 9, 1990, upon visiting the doctor, he advised me that my husband Angelo's heart was very weak. After returning home that evening his condition worsened, and by 5:00 the next morning my children and I rushed him to the hospital.

After my husband spent several days there, his doctor finally concluded that only one-third of Angelo's heart was functioning. When he improved enough to come home, the doctor cautioned me to watch him very carefully, as his

(Continued on Page 10)

## MBA Highlights

### CAMPOUT continued . . .

got under way. We had five age groups, all studying the topic of "Stir It Up." Our teachers led us in lively and enthusiastic discussions on why we need to be spiritually stirred up, how we get stirred up, what to do to stay stirred up, and how to stir up others around us. Each seminar group seemed quite involved with their class and participation was very good. I personally attended the 17-26-year-old class, which was attended by an amazing 50 people! At the beginning of the seminar we arranged the chairs to form a circle. Every few minutes some more people came in and we needed to keep adding more chairs. It truly was a wonderful sight to see all of those beautiful young people there.

Saturday afternoon activities were provided for everyone at the camp. Despite the dismal weather forecast, skies were blue and the sun shone brightly—no doubt an answer to many prayers. Sisters Jan Steinrock and Linda Snake provided arts and crafts, Sister Donna Eskut led a lively and exciting game of Jeopardy, with ancient and contemporary categories, and for the daring outdoors enthusiasts, there were paddle boats and canoes on a lake surrounded by beautiful fall foliage, and a rousing game of tackle football. Overall, it seems everyone chose something they could enjoy.

Our evening meeting began with community singing. It was a blessing to hear the many voices singing harmoniously in praise to God. Our young children delighted us with a selection they had learned in their seminar class. Later, an individual from each class was called up to summarize their class discussion that morning. The young people were called up to sing a few selections, and those who wanted to had an opportunity to give a few words of testimony. The meeting seemed to quickly come to a close, but the fellowship and fun continued. Snacks were provided, and a hayride through the campgrounds

allowed us to enjoy the chilly, crisp fall evening. It was a day of learning, fun, and fellowship that was enjoyed immensely.

Bro. John Buffa from the Saline Mission opened our Sunday service, using II Timothy as his text. "Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of hands." Our brother referred to baking a cake. If one ingredient is missing, the cake doesn't taste the same. Spiritually it is the same thing. If one ingredient is missing from our lives, we are not the same. He exhorted us to be careful—the world wants to destroy the stirred-up spirit within us. We need to attend our mid-week meetings, our MBA's, and our Sunday services to keep stirred up. God called us into this Church not just to sit in our seats, but to do a work for Him.

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." God doesn't work in fear, but in love and patience. "Be not . . . ashamed of the testimony of the Lord." The Spirit of God is very delicate. If we are constantly talking, He will not abide. If we are quiet, still, and patiently waiting, it will come in. Bro. John went on to tell us that the Spirit of the Lord doesn't end with camp—it only begins. He concluded by referring to the song *People Need the Lord*. If we don't go out into the world to tell them of the Lord, then who will?

Bro. Kerry Carlini from Branch 4 continued with the thought, "Standing not in our own strength but in the power of God." The battle is the Lord's. Nephi, the son of Helaman, was given a commandment to do a certain work. When we come up against a barrier we have the Lord. "Blessed art thou, Nephi, for those things which thou has done; . . . thou hast with unweariness declared the word. . . . thou hast not feared them . . . but hast sought my will, and to keep my commandments." Bro. Kerry asked us each if we could identify with Nephi. ". . . [B]ecause thou hast done this with such unweariness . . . I will bless thee forever . . . thou shalt not ask that which is contrary to

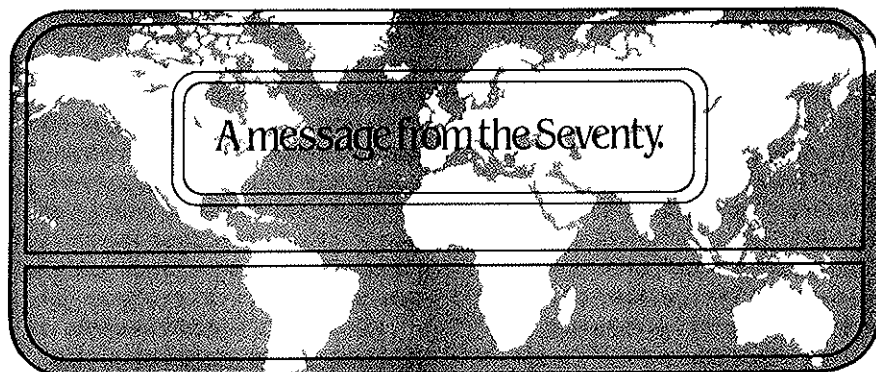
my will." Are we doing the will of God? If we are, we will be successful. He stressed that we *have* to do the will of God in order to be successful. We have to pray and fast and testify. We cannot tell the Lord what *we* want to do. We have to diligently seek the Lord's will. That's what it is to be stirred up in the spirit. We as a people need to consider what God is telling us.

Bro. Dick Christman from Phoenix, Arizona followed. He referred to the cake again. You have to stir it to bring out the effectiveness of the ingredients. He also referred to the song *Do You Know My Jesus*. As we study the scriptures about God's plan for man, the characteristics of God and Jesus come out. God wants to do extraordinary things in our lives. Our brother pointed out numerous times in the Bible when God performed extraordinary feats. David wrote a sentence that explains quite eloquently the nature of God: "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." What a wonderful God we serve!

Bro. Joe Calabrese, an apostle from Lorain, Ohio, spoke next. He said that somewhere along the line, someone had to be stirred up. Men all through time had to be stirred up because the opposition is also stirred up. We need to be alert at all times. Before he retired from his natural work, Bro. Joe was an insurance agent. He said that to be successful, he had to eat, drink, and sleep his job. He likened his career to the Church. If we can so dedicate ourselves, nothing in our lives is neglected—everything is merely enhanced. Serving God and working for the Church enriches everything in your life. Our brother exhorted us that wherever we go, let's get excited and *go!* Whether it's at home, on a reservation, or in some foreign field, we must get excited and go.

Bro. Flip Palacios from the Inner City Branch spoke next, reminiscing back to his younger days in the Gospel. Having grown up under the sound of Bro. Joe's teachings, he had always looked up to him (Bro. Joe) as a role model. Bro. Joe always had and still has

(Continued on Page 10)



## Trip to Guatemala

By Carl J. Frammolino,  
Evangelist Editor

A group of brothers and sisters from the United States visited the Church's Guatemala Mission at the end of November, 1990; and they were able to experience the kinds of blessings that have been received there. Traveling there were Evangelists Frank Ciotti and Paul Liberto with their wives from California, and Apostle Paul Palmieri from Pennsylvania.

The start and growth of the field have been reported here in the past, and the manifestations of the Spirit have been continuing. The desires of Elders Luis Marroquin and Isidro Dominguez to start the work in 1987 have been rewarded, as they have labored hard with the members to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Palmieri described the kinds of blessings they have experienced:

"The Saturday morning service on November 24 at the Guatemala City Mission was truly a great blessing for each of us in attendance. We started in fasting and prayer at 6:00 a.m., and felt the Spirit of God throughout the service. After each of us had prayed, we spent time in testifying to the goodness of God. One of our brothers related that he saw a heavenly messenger in our midst during our prayer service. Another brother stated that he heard the footsteps of that messenger, but thought it was just one of the members. A sister related that she saw a personage in white at the front of the building. I can truly

say that the Spirit of God was manifested in great power in our meeting.

"The Spirit prevailed throughout the week during our meetings, anointings, praying, and visiting our members and friends. I am confident that many more souls will be added to the work in Guatemala."

The house visitations allowed the visitors to see and feel the thankfulness that the new brothers and sisters possess toward what God has done for them. Their humility and submissiveness to God's will were apparent.

In one experience, the statement that great power would be coming forth from God was revealed. Even before then, and subsequent to that point in time, healings and spiritual gifts have been prevalent.

Consensus was that the mission field is highly spiritually edifying and offers great promise for the future.

## Plaque Presented

The long length and the high quality of service that our late Evangelist Raymond Cosetti rendered to God and to The Church of Jesus Christ were highlighted at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on Sunday, December 16, 1990, when a plaque was presented to his wife, Sis. Mary, their son, Joseph, and their daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Fesler. The many places he had labored and the uprightness with which he walked before God and his fellow beings were emphasized.

Brother Cosetti, who had been in the ministry since April 8, 1934,

was ordained an evangelist on July 18, 1943. He passed on to his eternal reward last July 26.

Evangelists Russell Martorana, Chairman of the Ohio District Evangelists; and Philip Jackson, President of the Ohio District; gave the plaque to Sister Mary on behalf of the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists. The touching moment reflected many years of companionship that Brother and Sister Cosetti had shared during their life together in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. She had been a constant helpmate to him and accompanied him wherever he traveled.

Among Brother Cosetti's labors were 52 years spent in the Youngstown area, where he evangelized locally. Other locations at which he participated actively were in Kent, Ohio; Gastonia, North Carolina; Cape Coral, Florida; and Fredonia, Pennsylvania. In addition, he was very active in the Italian mission field, Italy being his native land. He and his wife traveled there in 1964, 1972, and 1979; he was highly interested in the work of the Church there.

### OFFICE REVIEWED

Before the commemorative presentation, Brothers Jackson and Martorana reviewed the calling and office of an evangelist. They discussed the Church's position in keeping with the scriptures. St. Luke 10:1-2 were read and explained:

"After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.

"Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

Brother Jackson also spoke, after the presentation, on the tenth chapter of Acts and on the parable of the Good Samaritan. Brother Mike Italiano, presiding elder of the Youngstown Branch, added to the spiritual content when he talked about the 25th chapter of St. Matthew.

(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 Champlne  
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

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

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

8282 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
1-800-334-1773

## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As this year starts out with the sounds of war in the air, men and women all over the world have a heightened sense of their mortality. People who haven't called upon His name for many years are suddenly turning to the Lord, as many are known to do in times of crisis.

While much of the Christian world awaits what they call "the rapture", when one shall be taken and the other shall be left (Luke 17:34-36), the scriptures speak of many things which must first come to pass. We who have accepted the fullness of the Restored Gospel are privy to the knowledge contained in The Book of Mormon, which speaks in much detail of such events as the coming forth of the Choice Seer and the Restoration of the House of Israel—events which are outlined only sketchily, if at all, in the Bible.

How conversant are we, as saints, when it comes to these things? The Lord has restored the Gospel for a purpose, and we must each seek to understand that purpose as fully as possible. If we don't, how ready will we be to act when the time comes?

It's important for every one of us, if we want to continue to be numbered among God's people, to be *ready*, first of all spiritually, as well as mentally, physically, and emotionally. The Lord has great things in store for His Church and His people, and while it may not all take place in 1991, we can look around us and see how very quickly things *do* happen. Can any of us be certain what the Lord's next move will be, and when it will come?

As prophecies begin to unfold and the Work of the Lord moves forward at an even faster pace, the time will soon be at hand when every one of us, as members of His Church, will be *required*—not by man but by our commitment to God—to take an active, aggressive, offensive (as opposed to defensive) stance in the battle against Satan. Our commitment to the Lord, our involvement in His Church, and our dedication to the cause of Christ will be tested in days to come like it never has been before.

If we haven't begun already, the best place for us to prayerfully begin to grasp the scriptures, regardless of our age, is in the Sunday Schools, the Ladies' Circles, and the MBA's throughout the Church. Many branches and missions devote other meetings, in addition to these auxiliary organizations, to the study and discussion of God's word.

As the people of the world polarize into the Two Churches cited in The Book of Mormon, the deficiencies inherent in just occupying a back pew for ninety minutes two or three Sundays a month will become painfully evident to us. It's time for us to make decisions, in many cases difficult ones, regarding our personal commitment to Christ and to His Church. As the Bride of Christ marches toward Zion, her garments will be purged and cleansed, until she is arrayed in the fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteousness of the saints.

# The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



## Zacchaeus Shows Us the Way to Change

Dear Girls and Boys,

Many years ago in the days of Jesus there was a very rich man whose job was to collect money from other people for the government. This man loved money more than people. Every time he collected money, he cheated people and made them pay extra. He was too rich and powerful to fight against, so people just paid him and hated him for his ways.

Then one day this man heard a crowd gathering. He ran outside and asked what was happening. "Jesus is coming! Jesus is coming!" he heard the joyful people cry.

So this man ran outside to see who Jesus was, too. He tried to see past the people in front of him, but he could not, because he was too short. But he was also very smart. He realized which way Jesus would be going and the Bible tells us that this man, named Zacchaeus, ran down the street in front of the crowd.

Zacchaeus climbed into a tree and waited for Jesus to pass by. And when Jesus came to the place, He looked up and saw him. Jesus called his name, saying, "Zacchaeus, hurry now, and come down. Today I must stay at your house."

And when Zacchaeus heard this, he was filled with joy and he hurried down from the tree. But people in the town were mad. They decided that Jesus was wrong to go spend time with a mean man like Zacchaeus. They talked about Jesus in an angry way.

But Jesus knew not only Zacchaeus' name, but also Zacchaeus' heart. This man became terribly sorry for all the wrongs he had

done. He stood and said unto Jesus, "Lord, I will give half of all I own to the poor. I also will think about anyone I've cheated and I will pay them back four times what I took!"

We can imagine how amazed people were to see the change in the heart of this man who used to cheat them. Instead of following the old laws which taught the Israelite people to pay back the total amount cheated plus one-fifth of that total, Zacchaeus followed the Love of Jesus Christ. That is what Jesus does for us still today.

When we are wrong, Jesus will give us the courage to admit it and work hard to make it right. For example, when we find ourselves being mean to someone or even saying mean things behind someone's back, God can give us strength to stop. He can also make our hearts soft and honest enough to say we are sorry, and to take back our bad words.

Then Jesus will keep on working in our hearts and lives to keep us feeling good and clean about ourselves deep inside. That's Jesus' power that makes you strong. Talk to Jesus. Think about what you've done wrong and beg Him to show you how to make it right. Listen to His answers.

Sometimes God will tell you what to do by a beautiful hymn or by His written word. God and Jesus will not fail you. Call on Jesus' name and ask Him what to do. Wait for your answer and pray for the love and courage to do so. Remember what God's prophet Isaiah told us so many years ago:

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as

eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31). It's not easy to make things right sometimes, but God can show us the way, and give you love strong enough to follow that way.

With care,  
Sister Jan

ZACCHAEUS	HAD
HEARD	CHEATED
LORD	FOUR
JESUS	TIMES
CHRIST	THE
PREACH	AMOUNT
WAS	WE
SORRY	ASK
AND	REPENT
REPENTED	PRAY
PAID	FOR
BACK	GOD'S
MONEY	GUIDANCE
TO	LOVE
ALL	HELP

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

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Florence Catena  
205 SE Verada Ave.  
Port St. Lucie, FL 34983

**General Church Print House**  
8282 Boettner Rd.  
P.O. Box 30  
Bridgewater, MI 48115  
(313) 429-5080  
1-800-334-1773

## Our Women Today

### Pennsylvania Area Circle

By Dora Rossi

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle met in the Fredonia, PA Branch on Saturday, November 3, 1990. Chairperson Sis. Karen Progar welcomed all that were present. Six locals were represented, and they all took part in the devotions. The Monongahela sisters sang *Look Up*, Fredonia sang *When Mothers in Salem*, a group from McKees Rocks sang *The Gospel Restored*, Vanderbilt sang *Near to the Heart of God*, the Imperial Circle sang *My Lord Can*, and Aliquippa sang *When the Roll Is Called up Yonder*.

There will be a Mother-Daughter Banquet on May 4, 1991 at McKees Rocks, PA. Sis. Diane Ciotti will be in charge of the event. The next Area Circle Retreat

will be held on March 2-3, 1991, at a location near the Greater Pittsburgh Airport. A visit to Phipps Conservatory is scheduled for February 16, 1991. Sister Jan Cornell was Area Circle Chairperson; Mary Lou Buffington, Secretary; Karen Progar, Treasurer; and Dora Rossi, Auditor.

The Area Circle purchased a spinet piano from Sis. Harriet Byers to be used at the Butler, PA Mission. The designated special project for the next six months is to provide for the purchase of men's underclothes for the work in New York's Bowery.

A vote of thanks was given to the Fredonia sisters for hosting this Area Circle meeting. They served a delicious lunch, and all who attended had an enjoyable time.

### Atlantic Coast Retreat

By Mary Perri

The second annual Atlantic Coast Ladies' Circle Retreat was held on September 28 and 29, 1990, at the Scanticon Princeton Hotel, in Princeton, New Jersey.

The morning session was spent in fasting and praying. After lunch, a seminar was held on "Diet, Exercise, and Nutrition," and how these things affect us both spiritually and naturally. There was a great deal of participation as everyone enjoyed each other's thoughts of how we can better ourselves and be a help to each other and to the Church. After dinner there was a time of relaxing and socializing.

Sunday morning a service was held at the hotel with Brothers Leonard Benyola and Tom Banyacski in charge. Communion was also served.

The sisters are looking forward to many more retreats, as this one was a great success.

## Branch and Mission News

### Baptism at Sterling Hts., MI

Sunday, October 28, 1990 began for us at the Sterling Hts., Michigan Branch with a baptism. Joseph Zampaglione was taken into the waters by Bro. Louis Vitto. Later that day in church, Bro. John Straccia laid hands on our new brother for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Our Brother Joe had been seriously ill for several months, and on a Wednesday night, during a prayer meeting for the sick and afflicted, a special prayer was said that Joe's soul as well as his body would be healed. The next Saturday night, Bro. Joe got on the telephone and asked for his baptism. Thank God for answering our prayers!

Before going into our preaching this morning, we witnessed the blessing of a newborn baby, Breanna Lorraine Frendo.

Bro. Nephi DeMercurio, who was visiting with us this day,

opened the preaching service. He said that he observed two births today, that of a new baby, and a rebirth—the calling of a soul to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The baby will grow and develop naturally, depending solely on her parents to provide her needs. Our new brother will grow spiritually, relying on Jesus to lead and guide him. It is beyond our realm of imagination what God can do. Bro. Joe has known the Gospel all his life and had walked away from it many times, but today he answered the call.

As we look upon the beauty of a newborn baby, we stand in awe of the glories of God. There is something special about a little child—its innocence. It makes its needs known by crying. Then there is the beauty of the child of God, crying remorsefully unto the Lord for forgiveness, admitting that we have done wrong, and wanting to change our ways.

Brother Nephi spoke from Matthew 18, where the disciples asked Jesus who should be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. The theme on which he spoke was humility—we all have to recognize that Jesus is the greatest. Our brother spoke of his own conversion, how the Lord brought him to realize that nothing in this world—not education, wealth, or anything else—made people great, but it was their childlike nature and their closeness with God that brought greatness into their lives. God will show us that he is the greatest. He can work with the humble, those who learn to let go of the things we want so very much to hold on to in life. We must never say or think, "I am in control." We can never be fully in control. Rather, we must learn to trust God and always know that He is in control.

Our brother reminded us that we can learn from anyone. If someone says something that is beneficial to you, it would be wise for you to accept it. A spirit of uni-

(Continued on Page 8)

**STERLING continued . . .**

ty and working together is what brings the people of the Church together. God wants to bring out something beautiful in us as individuals and as a group. In order for this to happen, we must each become more spiritual, and not allow ourselves to feel that we are above others. The good qualities that come with the Spirit of God bring about a change in our lives.

Brother Nephi said that at one time he wanted to win a Nobel Prize, but God had something for him to do. He turned Nephi around and used him. He sent him to Nigeria and made him realize that he was not in control. That is the God we want to serve. We want to see the glory of God.

Bro. Frank Vitto spoke to us next, saying that there is no excuse for us to refuse God; no one on earth is so great that they don't need Him. Looking at the trees and the mountains and recognizing the beauty of God's creation is not enough. God has a plan for each and every one of us, and you will never find yourself or come to a true understanding of your identity until you find Jesus Christ.

Just before we were dismissed, a dream was related wherein our new Brother Joe Zampaglione was included in a band of brothers going to war with the Bible and Book of Mormon as their weapons. What a beautiful confirmation to the calling of our Brother Joe!

The next Sunday, November 4, we rejoiced to welcome Sis. Mildred (Campitelle) Domurat back into the fold. She had been away from us for a number of years, but on this day she expressed her desire to join once again in the fellowship of the saints. May the Lord bless and keep each one of us in our commitment to serve Him.

## Day of Joy at Detroit Branch 4

It was a cool, misty day on September 14, 1990, and Sis. Mary Spink's joy was beaming from her countenance. It had been many years since she was able to fully

commune with the saints of God, and she was filled with anticipation of her reinstatement into the Church.

All those who had worshipped with Sis. Mary for many years at Branch 4 in Redford Township, Michigan were there that day to welcome her back into the fold. She has been a support and strength to the Church throughout the years, so this day was one that we had all looked forward to with excitement.

The priesthood laid hands on our sister, and Bro. Anthony Loyalvo offered prayer. At her request we sang the hymn *Keeping Step*, after which our Sister Mary testified of how she asked to be reinstated while visiting the Meaford, Ontario Mission. She said she felt a fire envelop her as the brothers spoke; she said the Lord touched her heart.

During lunch after the meeting, one of the brothers related an experience he had regarding Sister Mary. He was at work during the previous week and felt directed to ask the Lord rather emphatically, "How long is it going to be before Sis. Mary Spink is reinstated?" About 20 minutes later, he received a phone call from one of our elders advising him that Sis. Mary had requested reinstatement while visiting Meaford. Our sister was truly blessed when she heard this experience, as she had asked the Lord to give someone an experience to confirm her desire. May God bless our sister as she continues to serve Him.

## Bowery/Brooklyn, New York

*By Joan Rogolino*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to thank everyone who gave us pajamas and clothing for the Bowery in New York. 'Thank you' is not strong enough to express our gratitude. If we tried to list those who contributed, we would fail to mention all of them, but we would like to say God bless you to each and every one.

Your kindness is felt not only

by us, but also by the men and women to whom we have given the clothes. You would not believe how excited and appreciative these people are to receive these clothes. It is just like giving a toy to a child.

We were recently saddened to learn that our Brother John Swanson passed away. We had known him for the past ten years through working in the Bowery, and three years ago he was baptized. We of the Brooklyn Branch and all those who knew him will remember him for a long time. He passed out copies of Bro. Nathan Peterkin Jr.'s testimony to many, many people, despite the fact that he suffered with a bad knee and walked with crutches. He surely was a soldier for Christ. He joyfully gave his own fascinating testimony wherever he went, from New York City to his native Buffalo, NY, and all the way to New Mexico, where he died. This brother was grateful for the change Jesus Christ wrought in his life when he met our Church. If anyone is interested in hearing this man's testimony, which we taped for our radio broadcasts, please let us know.

## Kinsman, OH

*By Rose Corrado*

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform! The Lord has surely blessed our branch recently with a revival.

During the GMBA Campout (Standing on God's Promises), a new member was added to our branch. Fred Mott, who had been attending services in our branch for the past nineteen years, was baptized at the camp. About the same time, a young family from the Kentucky Mission moved into our area—Rodney and Sue Hill and their two lovely children. Bro. Rodney had just recently been baptized in Kentucky, and Sue asked for her baptism on September 16, 1990, in Kinsman, Ohio. What a blessed day—we had visitors from the Niles and Cleveland, Ohio Branches in our midst.

Our three new converts have been such a blessing to all of us! How can we ever sufficiently praise



Him? Our thanks for God's promises and His answer to prayer!

We continue to seek God's guidance as we help our new members to grow in the Gospel.

Do come to visit us in northeast Ohio—we love to have visitors from the various locations of the Church.

May God bless all His children as they strive to serve Him.

## Elkins, WV

By Lucetta Scaglione

Sunday morning, November 18, 1990, was a beautiful, sunny day as brothers, sisters, and friends gathered at the Elkins, WV Mission. It was an especially glorious day for Sister Sherry Echevarria. We went to the water and Bro. Richard Scaglione had the privilege of baptizing our new sister.

We returned to the church and opened the morning service by singing *Still Sweeter Every Day*. Bro. Scaglione read from the fifth chapter of Alma, and spoke about the importance of baptism. It isn't the water that cleanses us. Baptism is the outward sign of an inward commitment. Brother Rich asked, "Where do you stand before God?" We will hear one of two things, "Enter in," or "Depart from Me." Do you know the Lord? Does He know you? The Lord's arms are extended. We can be heirs to His kingdom, His sons and daughters. However, there is no in-between. We are either in the fold of God or the fold of the devil. God tells us to believe, repent, be baptized, and have hands laid on for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This is the plan laid down by Jesus Christ. We must come just as we are and let God mold us; we must be submissive to His will.

Bro. Lawrence King expressed his thanks to God for calling him into His fold. The Lord just asks us to love Him and strive to work for His honor and glory.

Bro. John Ali followed, exhorting us not to glory in the natural blessings but instead to rejoice that our names are written in heaven. Bro. Dick Lawson reminded us that we are a family of God. Our new

Sister Sherry was going to receive the Holy Ghost this day, to lead and guide her. She will also need our prayers and support. We should be desirous for the things of God, always hungering and thirsting for more.

We sang *Ring the Bells of Heaven* as Sis. Sherry came forth to have hands laid on her. Bro. Larry King offered a prayer for God's direction and Spirit, and Bro. Dick Lawson confirmed Sherry. During Bro. Larry's prayer, a sister saw a man dressed in white place his hands on Sis. Sherry's shoulders.

After several anointings for the afflicted, we shared the Lord's Supper and enjoyed hearing many beautiful testimonies. There are several more in Elkins who are "sitting on the edge of their seats," just waiting for the Spirit's gentle touch to rise on their feet and ask for their baptism. Please pray for our little mission.

## Blessings in Quincy, FL

By La'Ronda Frazier

A July Sunday morning meeting brought to us a message from Chapter 14 of the gospel of John, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

The brother who spoke to us went on to say that the way to keep pure religion is to keep ourselves unspotted from the world. As the meeting continued, we heard comforting words read to us from Psalm 23. Bro. Cleveland Baldwin summarized the scripture with these thoughts: The Lord makes us to lie down in all of God's blessings, which is everything around us. He restores our soul when we step out of line. For example, we may go places or do things that we should not; He directs us back to the path of righteousness, because God has never led anyone down the wrong path.

The valley of the shadow of death is all around us, but the Lord

spares us many times from dangers we are not aware of. We are a privileged people. "Let not your heart be troubled," because we truly have a friend in Jesus. Be right, just, and true, and the Lord will bless you. Our brother pleaded with the brothers and sisters to live righteously and prove faithful.

Do we find ourselves drifting from the things of God? After asking this, Bro. Charleston Hester said that we should not lose interest in those things of God. He then suggested ways to keep our interest in the Church and in godly things. Brothers and sisters can work on the things of God by fasting and praying for the Church, for each other, for our neighbors, and ourselves. We can involve ourselves in singspirations, scripture study, and visiting different branches and missions of the Church and enjoying the testimonies and experiences of the brothers and sisters. "There is much work to be done; please don't lose interest," our Bro. Charleston pleaded.

The young children of our mission have been working very hard with Sisters Meredieth Martin and Ollie Bell. As a result, Stasha Boykin wrote and directed a play entitled "Are You Wise Or Are You Foolish?". All of the children from ages 3 to 13 participated in the play, which is about the wise having oil in their lamps and the foolish thinking they had enough oil. When the bridegroom arrived, the foolish were begging for oil. Those that were ready went with Him; those that were not were left behind. We will not know the day or the hour when the Lord shall appear, so we should always be prepared. This message was well illustrated and truly was brought home by this play, not only to those who viewed it, but to those who performed it as well.

In July, 1990 God performed a marvelous work for my father, Lorenza Thomas, who has been visiting the Church for quite some time. He was scheduled for outpatient surgery, and checked into the hospital. When the doctors began to perform the necessary tests in preparation for the surgery,

(Continued on Page 10)