

January, 1991

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## 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 apon 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 discusion 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

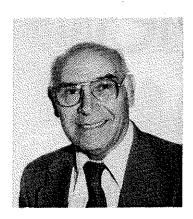
By Tammy Morle

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

## 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 comhome, the doctor cautioned me to watch him very carefully, as his

## **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 unwearyingness 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 unwearyingness . . . I will bless thee forever . . . thou

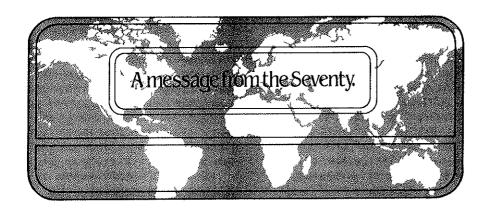
shalt not ask that which is contrary to

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



## 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 participatd 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.

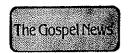
#### OFFICE REVIEWED

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.



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## 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

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## 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 humilitywe 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 elsemade 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-

#### 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 idenity 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 Lovalvo 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 ehildren. 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,

#### QUINCY continued . . .

much to everyone's surprise, it was discovered that my father's blood sugar content was 585! He was told that surgery under these conditions was not advisable, that indeed it was a miracle that he had not suffered a heart attack, a massive stroke, or a diabetic coma.

On July 12, he was placed on insulin and a strict diet, but more importantly, he was placed on the saints' prayer list. When he went back to the doctor on July 16 to have his blood checked (Oh, what a blessing!) the sugar count had come down from 585 to 170. While this was still a high reading, we rejoiced at how far it had come down. The next week it was down to 130 and a more recent count showed a normal 83. We are so thankful to God for how He watches over and protects us from both seen and unseen dangers.

Surely, this was an unseen danger, because my father never knew he had this condition, as he noticed no severe symptoms. The doctors and nurses are amazed at his progress. We thank God and we know that He is "Still On His Throne." I, along with my mother, and the sisters and brothers of the Quincy Mission ask that you would join us in praying that my father will come forth one day soon and make his covenant with the Lord through The Church of Jesus Christ. May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of the saints and their families.

#### **HEALING** continued . . .

heart was so weak that he could die at any moment.

I knew that I could not carry this load alone, and that I needed to go to my source of strength. I asked the elders of my branch to come and pray for us. Bro. Kerry Carlini came to anoint Angelo and to administer sacrament to us. That same day, several other brothers and sisters came to visit us. It was good to feel the love and support of the saints.

When Angelo was anointed, the brother's prayer reached the throne of God, and my husband's heart was healed at that very moment. The doctor was surprised, the next time he examined Angelo, to find that his heart had improved! We thank God for all of the grace He bestows upon us. He is a wonderful Savior to us.

Sister Marion Maisano Detroit Branch 4

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

TWO APOSTLES IN ATTENDANCE

Two apostles, Russell Cadman and Paul Palmieri, had come to also offer their tribute. They stated that Brother Raymond had been a diligent worker who had tried his best to follow the example of Christ. They stated how wonderful it had been to work with him in the ministry, and described the beautiful image he portrayed.

Brother Cadman said that Brother Raymond had worked most fervently to walk upright every day, and how he was very loyal in his service to God. Brother Palmieri stated that our departed brother had striven devotedly for many years and had been ready to replace his life on earth for his crown in heaven.

Two other evangelists, Joseph Genaro and Ralph Berardino, were present to join in the heartfelt ceremony. Other members of the Seventies would like to have been at this special occasion honoring one of the longest serving members of their group and to express how they miss him.

#### CAMPOUT continued . . .

such energy and spirit and is so stirred up. Bro. Flip stated that he has always striven to pattern himself after the energies that Bro. Joe has always shown. He thanked God for our brothers and our sisters who have laid down the foundations for us, and for their examples of how to be stirred up and how to stay stirred up in the Gospel.

At this time in our service, the brothers passed sacrament. A beautiful, peaceful spirit prevailed

during that time. It seemed like the camp had just begun, and now it was all over. Bro. Tom Everett, our Area Chaplain, encouraged us to carry that stirred-up spirit with us. Carry it to work, to school, out on the streets, wherever we go. For if we don't, the opposition will be there to get us down.

It was a wonderful weekend where we learned how to carry the stirred-up spirit within us and how to stir up others. Now we carry it back to our branches, our missions, and our schools. If we continue to be prayerful for God to help us keep our light shining, then we need not fear. To paraphrase the Apostle Paul, "If God be for me, who dare be against me?" With God as the captain of our lives, we don't need to fear the evil that lurks in the world.

### Vanderbilt local

The Vanderbilt, PA local MBA held a wiener roast on October 12, 1990, to entertain and encourage the members, and took advantage of the opportunity to invite friends to the fold.

Since it rained early in the day, we were concerned about the weather. But the Lord provided us with a beautiful evening. We sang songs of praise in front of the open fire, and fed on the natural as well as the spiritual foods offered. We look forward to the next time we hold this activity.

## New Jersey local

By Angelo Zaino

On Saturday, December 15, 1990 the New Jersey local MBA sponsored a Christmas Special, held at the Edison, NJ Branch. It was a combination of a piano recital of Sis. Sherry Olexa's students (who are doing an excellent job learning church hymns), followed by various musical groups and soloists, featuring Sis. Florence Lombardo playing the harp, the Metuchen Trio, and many other talents who added to this very special Christmas gathering. Praise God for His gift of musical talents!

## Missionary Foundation Fund

Jesus looked up and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. He saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites (less than a penny). And he said, "Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had" (Luke 21:1-4).

To those that have generously contributed to the Missionary Foundation Fund, Thank you and may God continue to bless you for your efforts.

We have received 136 donations amounting to \$110,610 towards our Missionary Fund goal of \$1,100,000.

To those that have not yet contributed, Please remember the commission of our Church—To preach the Gospel to all nations. We need missionaries and those that can support missionary efforts.

To reach our goal, we need an average of 990 contributors to donate \$1,000 each. God has blessed us in abundance, both naturally and spiritually. We have the resources to meet our financial responsibility to the General Church and reach our goal quickly if we would unite ourselves behind this important missionary endeavor.

As the Apostle Paul exhorts in II Corinthians, "if we have a willing mind, he that soweth sparingly shall also reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposed in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

The importance of sharing is mentioned throughout the Bible and Book of Mormon. We should give as much as we can afford; the amount you donate is your personal decision.

If you have any questions about the Missionary Foundation Fund, please call me at 609-235-6870 (Day) or 609-235-9027 (Night). Our committee is willing to meet with you to explain our program.

May God continue to bless you and your families in this troublesome but spiritually exciting dispensation of time.

Bro. Paul Benyola, Apostle

Donations can be mailed to:

The Church of Jesus Christ Missionary Foundation Fund P.O. Box 1495 Pittsburgh, PA 15230

## \* WEDDINGS \*

#### HOFFMAN-HOPKINS

On July 7, 1990, Mr. John A. Hoffman and Miss Christi Lynn Hopkins were married at the Tampa, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Duane Lowe officiated at the ceremony, with musical selections rendered by Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola.

The newlyweds are currently residing in Brandon, FL. May God bless them in their life together.

#### SEVERSON-KATSARAS

Bro. Justin Severson and Sis. Tina Katsaras were united in marriage by Bro. Joe Catone Jr. on July 28, 1990, at the McDill Air Force Base Chapel in Tampa, Florida.

Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola, Bro. Miguel Bicelis, and Mr. Dan Ritz (an uncle of the bride) and his daughter, Sandy Ebert, all offered musical selections.

The Seversons are making their home in Tampa, as Tina is serving in the US Air Force.

#### STEPHENS-STROKO

Mr. Edward Stephens and Miss Rebecca Stroko were married on November 24, 1990.

Bro. Joseph Bittinger, great-grandfather of the bride, performed the ceremony, assisted by Bro. Lawrence King Sr.

The young couple attend the Vanderbilt, PA Branch and plan to make their home in Fairbank, PA.

#### PARRAVANO-MILLER

Bro. Andrew Parravano and Miss Tonya Miller were united in marriage on Saturday, December 29, 1990, at The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Bro. L. Dan Parravano, father of the groom, and Bro. Alex Gentile officiated at the ceremony.

Vocal selections were offered by Sis. Diane Hawkins, with Bro. Eugene Amormino as pianist.

The newlyweds are residing in Grand Rapids, Michigan. May the Lord bless this wonderful young couple in their new life together.

### **New Arrivals**

Ryan Robert to David and Lisa Menard of San Diego, California.

Ryan Patrick to Paul and Dina O'Sullivan of San Diego, California.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### BRENDA REVERCOMB

Sister Brenda Revercomb passed on to her eternal reward on June 5, 1990. She was born on February 8, 1945, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on July 20, 1975.

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Frank Altomare and Mark Naro.

Our sister is survived by her husband, two sons, and two grandchildren. She was a very sweet sister, a good example to everyone, who never complained in all the trials and afflictions she went through. Please continue to remember her family in prayer.

#### ELMER LaREW

Brother Elmer LaRew, an elder of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch, passed away on October 10, 1990. He was 74 years old and had been in ill health for several years. He was baptized into the Church in 1930.

Services were conducted by Brothers Joseph Bittinger and Lawrence King Sr.

#### FRANK FERA

Frank Fera passed from this life on November 7, 1990. He was born on May 21, 1912.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Anthony R. Lovalvo and Tullio LaCivita of Branch 4 in Redford Township, Michigan. Bro. Dominic R. Thomas spoke briefly at the White Chapel Cemetary and offered prayer.

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Frank is survived by his wife, Sister Marie Fera, three daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grand-children. He was loved very much and will be missed by his many relatives and friends.

#### RUTH DONNAN

Sister Ruth E. Donnan of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch passed away on November 26, 1990. She was born on July 12, 1901 and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on April 26, 1968.

Brothers Michael Italiano and Ralph Berardino conducted the funeral service.

Our sister is survived by one son, George; a daughter, Sis. Dorothy Sparks; four grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Sister Ruth was a quiet, humble sister who endured her burdens patiently and faithfully to the end. She will be missed by all.

### Children Blessed

On May 13, 1990, Michael Wallace Quinn was blessed by Bro. Joseph Calabrese at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Emily Elizabeth Markel was blessed on September 23, 1990 by Bro. Mark Naro of the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Brother Alvin Gehly of the Fredonia, PA Branch blessed his granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth Shawkey, on November 3, 1990.

On November 18, 1990, Candace Irene, Joshua Joel, and Ashley Nicole Goudy were blessed at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch by Brothers Don Pandone, Ralph Berardino, and Mike Italiano respectively.

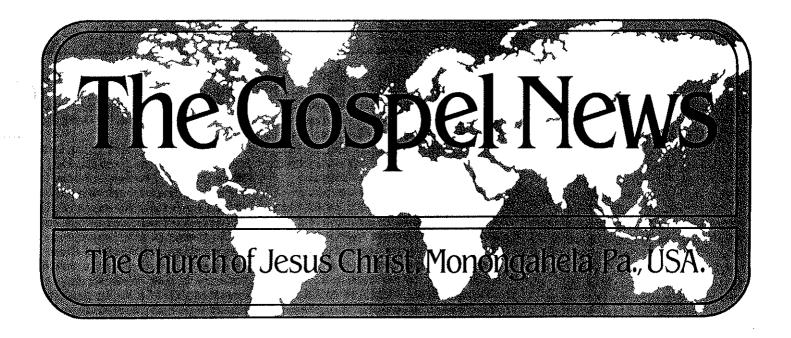
Joshua Jose King was blessed at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch on November 18, 1990 by his grandfather, Bro. James L. King Sr.

Bro. Richard Lowther blessed his grandson, Richard Raymond Lowther, at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch on November 25, 1990.

On November 25, 1990, Michael Anthony LaCivita was blessed at Detroit Branch #4 in Redford Twp., MI by his grandfather, Bro. Tullio LaCivita.

Ethan James Redmond and Elizabeth Mary Saloba were blessed by Bro. Richard Santilli of the Youngstown, OH Branch on November 25, 1990.

Chelsea Elise Parry was blessed on December 9, 1990, by Bro. Flip Palacios at the Detroit Inner City Branch.



February, 1991

Volume 47, No. 2

## Phoenix, Arizona, 1990

Greetings, in the love of God, is extended from the Phoenix Branch to all! Looking back at 1990 and seeing the blessings of our Heavenly Father brings great joy and thankfulness to our hearts. We would like to share some of these things with you, hoping that you, too will be blessed.

Our building is full when we come together to worship and fellowship. The meetings are blessed as the Word is spoken, testimonies are given, singing, praying, or however the Spirit of the Lord directs. Every Sunday our Sunday School and MBA classes are interesting and thought-provoking as we look into the holy scriptures.

We have a good-sized group of young people in our branch, which in itself is a great blessing. In addition to our local group we have young people from Tse Bonito, NM (part of our Southwest District) attending universities in our area. From outside our district we have Anthony Gentile from Michigan attending school here. Steve Brown from Florida and Frank Ciotti from California have moved and are working in Phoenix. Brother Wally and Sister Marie Cihomsky, along with their son Bro. Steve, have recently moved here from New Jersey and have become active members of our branch. We enjoy them very much as Bro. Wally

unites with the branch priesthood as a minister of the Gospel. Praise God!

This year we have had five ordinations. Brothers Mark Landrey, Rob Duncan, and David Jordan were ordained teachers; Bro. Joe King was ordained a deacon; and Sister Nancy Mazzeo a deaconess.

Karen Heaps answered the call of the Spirit on March 25, 1990 and was baptized into Christ on that day and became our beloved sister. Arthur Landrey Jr. surrendered himself to the Lord on June 17, 1990, was baptized that same day, and became our beloved brother. There are others that the Spirit of the Lord is touching, and we pray that they, too, will join ranks with this great Army and become Soldiers of the Cross. We have people that attend regularly, and those that will visit occasionally, who are not baptized. We enjoy their fellowship very much, and pray that God will bless them continually and that they, too, will become part of the family of God.

People have come for prayer and have received healing and benefit from the Lord. Recently 3-year-old Jonathon Scolaro was ill during church and told his mother that he wanted to be anointed. Jonathon came forward for prayer, and as the service ended he was running around happily and playing,

healed by the power of God. Praise the Lord! The priesthood felt to call Sister Ruth Mountain forward one Sunday to be anointed because of affliction. The following week she commented that she was glad the brothers had asked her to come forward for prayer, for that week she felt better than she had for a long time. Sister Ella Furnier asked the branch priesthood if they would anoint a handkerchief for her sonin-law, Frank Crandell, who lives in Santa Barbara, California. Frank and Nikki have attended services here in Phoenix when visiting their family here. He is afflicted with arthritis, and recently developed glaucoma in one eye because of it. This condition worsened, and the doctors became very concerned. When Frank received the anointed handkerchief, he placed it over his eye, trusting in God. His condition greatly improved and he is doing much better. Praise God! Sister Loretta Mazzeo recently asked for prayer and afterwards testified how the Lord immediately took the pain

We thank God for all of His blessings and for all that He has done throughout this year. Please continue to pray for us. Our aim is to exalt Christ and do the will of the Father here on earth.

May God continue to bless His Church, build His kingdom, and draw souls to the Well of Living Waters.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It is with deep humility and appreciation that we wish to convey our thanks to all the saints everywhere for the hundreds of "get well" cards we received, and the multitude of prayers that ascended to heaven in our behalf. Words are always inadequate in expressing the gratitude that we feel towards the saints for their love in the time of affliction. May His grace and love overshadow all of you in great abundance. Keep praying for us, for our hope is to recover completely and continue in our service to the Lord and His people. Amen.

America and its allies are engaged in a terrible war against an inhuman and barbaric person who has shown by his past behavior that he has no regard for human lives. This was exhibited in his war against Iran, when he used chemical weapons to inflict untold misery and death. Hopefully, by the time this is printed in *The Gospel News*, this war shall have ended. Meanwhile, it behooves all of us to engage in solemn fasting and prayer that this conflict will come to an end.

We should also fast and pray that God will have mercy upon this nation who, like other nations, has permitted sin and transgression to run rampant. The prophecy of Isaiah has come to pass wherein he

said that "good will be called evil, and evil good" (Isaiah 5:18).

In 1863 President Abraham Lincoln designated and set apart a day for the nation to fast and pray to the Lord for forgiveness, for he said that "We have forgotten God." I pray that our President Bush would do the same for our nation today. Perhaps the Lord would then extend His hand to stop this war and allow His tender mercy and forgiveness to rest upon this land. May the words of the Lord, spoken to Solomon, be our portion as well: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (II Chronicles 7:14).

We salute every brother and sister in the love of the Lord.

Bro. V. James and Sis. Mary Lovalvo

## Witness

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son" (I John 5:9).

A witness, a confirmation.

"... and they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord confirming the word with signs following. The signs of fire upon the

water, the signs of fire in the midst of the saints."

Being visually impaired, I must rely on some kind soul to read for me.

On November 14, 1990, a sister was reading to me from the October issue of The Gospel News. Such signs from the glorified throne of God confirming the work of His servants were revealed as the sister read experience after experience! I was rejoicing in hearing of these blessings. Then she read an article from the Elkins, West Virginia Mission that told of a vision that was had of a pair of hands coming down upon a new sister's head in addition to the hands of the elders who were bestowing the Holy Ghost upon her. "If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son."

As I listened intently to this description of the vision, I, too, saw a pair of snow white hands, crossed one on top of the other, come down and place themselves on top of the brothers' hands as they were confirming the sister.

This experience took place on November 14, 1990, at my home in Chattahoochee, Florida, as this beautiful blessing, which took place in Elkins, West Virginia was being read to me.

We glory in the witness of God and His marvelous Restored Work in these the last days.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin

## **Branch and Mission News**

### Suffer the little children

By Valerie Dulisse

"Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God" (Mark 10:14).

On September 22, 1990, we at the Modesto, California Branch were visited by Charles and Joan Micale from Denver, Colorado. Their daughter, Jenny, was to be blessed in the Church on that day. Bro. Leonard Lovalvo took Jenny and offered the prayer of blessing, and then proceeded to open our preaching service. We always consider it a special moment when a little child is brought into our midst for the purpose of asking God to add His blessings to him or her. On this day, Bro. Leonard spoke of the scripture in which Jesus told the people, "Suffer the children to come unto me," and then He blessed them one by one. Surely the Lord and His hosts of angels must

rejoice when a husband and wife bring their precious child to the priesthood of our Church, in faith believing that God will bless and protect this little one all the days of his or her life. This is such a beautiful ordinance, and it reminds us in a very poignant way of the tremendous love and concern which our Lord Jesus Christ has for our children, and of the importance with which He regards them.

In our Church we have many young married people, with new children arriving often. We all should be grateful to our Lord for His consideration of our little ones, for His blessings upon them and His constant love and attention to their well-being. In spite of the harsh realities of the world we live in today, our hope and confidence in the promises of God are wellplaced. Praise His holy name!

# First convert in Orlando, FL

On Sunday, August 26, 1990, we met at the river's edge to witness the Orlando, Florida Mission's first baptism. Sister Lenore Millison was baptized by Bro. John Gray. She is the great-granddaughter of Bro. John Ward and the daughter of Bro. Bill Somerville.

After the baptism we returned to our meeting place, where our sister was confirmed by Bro. Frank

Rogolino.

Bro. John Gray then introduced the service with II Nephi 31, elaborating on the way being straight and narrow. Bro. Norman Campitelle followed Bro. Gray. We had a beautiful day in the Lord and we welcome our new sister into the fold.

## Muncey Christmas Program

By Samuel French

On Sunday, December 23, 1990, the Muncey, Ontario Mission held its Christmas Program for the year of 1990. It was good to see the church building filled; about 100 people attended from Muncey and the Church in Canada and the United States.

The theme for this year's program was "Gifts." God has many gifts in His storehouse. Many of the adults from Muncey attended the program to see their children participate, and some of the adults were also in the program. How good it was to see them speaking and reading about the wonderful things of the Lord!

Our elders in Muncey, Brothers Rodney Dyer and Sam DiFalco, then spoke on the greatest gift of all, which is Jesus Christ. We should not be afraid or ashamed to tell someone about the Lord, for He has blessed us so abundantly. He has given us The Church of Jesus Christ and the Gospel Restored. We thank God for Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

Donations were received from the Michigan-Ontario Area MBA for gifts for the children this year. We wish to express our gratitude to the brothers and sisters of the Michigan-Ontario Area for their donations. May God richly bless you all.

Following the program was our Christmas dinner. Everyone partook of this delicious meal, which had been prepared by the sisters. We at the Muncey Mission wish to extend our gratitude to all who attended this year. May God richly bless one and all.

## Youngstown, OH

By Betty Gennaro

On Sunday, December 16, 1990, during a service in which the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists paid tribute to our dear departed Brother Raymond Cosetti, Ohio District President Bro. Phil Jackson related an experience he had on the previous day, in which the Tenth Chapter of Luke came to his mind.

To the question, "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Christ answered, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself."

Bro. Jackson then asked the question, "Who is thy neighbor?" It is not just the stranger, as in the parable of the Good Samaritan, but it is also our brother and sister in Christ. Satan tries to take away the Spirit of Christ within us and within the Church. He goes to and fro among us and finds a weakness, that he might rob us of the blessings of God. Do we pass by one that needs help? Do we justify ourselves?

There are many sad conditions among us. Some cannot seem to find that needed strength to go on. It's up to us to help them. Are we so wrapped up in ourselves that we pass others by? As brothers and sisters in Christ we are responsible for one another. Our heart should be so filled that we will desire to help others.

"To him that knoweth to do good and doeth not, to him it is sin." Look up that brother or sister, and bind up their wounds. It just might be your hand that makes the difference. Look for the opportunity to do good. Do it for the Lord's sake. Our late Brother Raymond, whom we took the time to remember today, put these words and thoughts into action. He wasn't so concerned for himself, but rather for others.

We thank God for the example of our departed brother, and for the inspired words our Brother Jackson brought forth on this occasion.

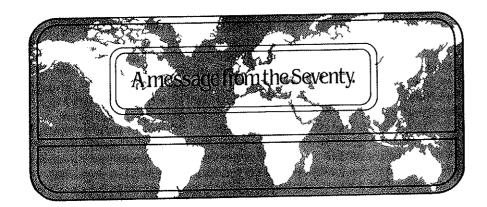
### Ordination at Vanderbilt

Brother Tom Stroko was ordained a deacon in the Vanderbilt, PA Branch on December 9, 1990.

Our service was introduced by Bro. James King, who spoke about the duties of various offices of the Church, with particular emphasis on the duties of a deacon. Presiding Elder Bob Nicklow told of the unanimous feeling among the branch priesthood in feeling the Lord's calling of Bro. Stroko to this office.

Bro. Lawrence King washed Bro. Stroko's feet, and Bro. Nicklow offered prayer before the actual ordination took place. Bro. James King felt prompted by the Spirit of God to ordain Bro. Stroko as a deacon in the Church. We feel God sealed this office on our brother, and that God will use him in continuing service.

Bro. Stroko is a grandson of Bro. Joseph Bittinger. He and his wife, Sister Peggy, have four daughters, all active in the Vanderbilt Branch. Bro. Stroko is also the branch's Sunday School Superintendent.



## The Apache Missions

By Evangelist Richard T. Christman Southwest District Chairman

We have two Apache missions

in Arizona, located on the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Reservations. God has been blessing the efforts of the Church at both missions. The scripture teaches us that one planteth, and another watereth, but God gives the increase. Truly God has favored these missions with increases. It is difficult to continue to plant and water for long periods of time without apparent progress. Some observers comment that the lack of apparent growth is an indication that we should look elsewhere to concentrate our efforts, in some place that might yield quicker results. This is a natural thought, and is common in almost all of man's endeavors. The work among the Apaches, however, is not man's natural work, but is the work of God; He determines the time of increase.

It is a joy to be able to participate in the Work of the Lord, and over the years the saints have contributed their prayers, materials, financial resources, and concern for the welfare of the Seed of Joseph. The scripture further teaches us that a book of remembrance is written. God takes note of our efforts in the Gospel. We praise His name for His unbounded love and patience.

#### SAN CARLOS

Brother Dan Picciuto and his wife, Sister Dolores; their son, David, and his wife, Lorrie; and their daughter, Tina; along with Sister Dolores' mother, Nellie Hoffman; have been working hard to maintain the planting and watering that has continued for the past thirty years. A great number of brothers and sisters have contributed their efforts over the years, some up until God called them to their reward.

God has promised that His blessings upon His servants and their children would continue for many generations. We are now witnessing the fulfillment of God's word. Two of the Apache elders of the San Carlos Mission, Brothers Claude Kayson and Norman James, planted and watered until God took them home.

God does not forget His promises. His increase this year has included the baptism of Bro. Norman's granddaughter, Andrea James, and the renewal of his grandson, Vernon James Jr., which makes the family of Bro. Norman and Sis. Sally's oldest son, Vernon, and his wife, Ophelia, complete in the Lord. Their oldest daughter, Cheryl, was baptized shortly after Bro. Norman died. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless all of Bro. Norman's family, and watch over his son, Jerry, who is serving the armed forces in the Middle East.

God has also continued to bless Brother Claude Kayson's family with the baptisms this January of his son, Jack, along with two of his daughters, Deloria Bonito and Melva Rustin. Bro. Claude's wife, Sis. Isadore, praises God for His blessings. The late Brother Fred and Sister Goldie Phillips' daughter, Lucille, and her husband, Alma David Martinez, were also baptized

this January.

God truly is bringing the increase. The Sunday School attendance is averaging 80 people, with an all-time high of 89 in January. The Sunday service has ten to fifteen visitors regularly, including the vice chairman of the reservation and his wife. The building is completely full, along with the Sunday School areas. Additional meeting space is urgently needed. The brothers and sisters fully expect God to continue the increase, and are working to do their part. They have had ten baptisms and seven renewals this past year. They need our prayers and assistance to accommodate the souls wanting to learn about the Gospel of Jesus Christ

#### WHITE MOUNTAIN

More than 20 years ago, the brothers and sisters of the Pine Top-Lakeside area began their evangelistic work among the White Mountain Apache Indian people. They preached the Gospel in the White River area and throughout the reservation. The families of Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie Smith; Brother Herbert and Sister Shirley Hemmings; and Brother Harry and Sister Cheryl Smith have consistently sought to plant and water along with the other saints in the area.

God is blessing them with increased interest and attendance. The Church van returns from the reservation crowded with Apache people wanting to know more about Jesus Christ, His Church, and His promises to them. Just this past year, seven children were blessed and God has favored them with two baptisms, as Sisters Doris Dahkoshay and Willena Rustin came to the Lord. Sis. Willena lived with the Joseph Calabrese family in Lorain, Ohio while attending high school. This past January she asked Bro. Joe to take her into the pure, icy cold mountain waters for baptism.

The saints have been active not only in their preaching, teaching, and testifying of God's love and mercy, but they also provide lay-



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

It's natural for us to want our children to be better off than we were. As parents, we want the very best for them, working especially hard to give them many of the good things we ourselves did not have, as well as all of the good things we did have.

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we should have the same concern, in a spiritual sense, not only for our own children but for all our sons and daughters in the Lord—our brothers and sisters in Christ who look up to us as spiritual mothers and fathers. In order for us to seek better things for this next generation of saints, however, we must take the time to look frankly and honestly at what might be less than perfect, spiritually, in our own lives.

One of the most important things we want to give our spiritual descendants is a solid, unwavering understanding of the Restored Gospel and of the things of God. But we must consider the distinct possibility that in past generations, when many of our spiritual forefathers turned from traditional religions to the Gospel, traces of their deeply internalized habits of blind obedience—rather than a commitment based on questioning, learning, and understanding—may have been carried into The Church of Jesus Christ.

It is difficult for people, regardless of how God-fearing, sincere, and devout they may be, to operate under such abstract concepts as love and liberty when they come from religions which use rules, rituals, and relics as a substitute for genuine interaction with the Spirit of God. Certainly a generation of saints who knew only how to follow rules cannot be blamed if vestiges of their behavior were passed on to the generations that followed.

The old habits—looking to men rather than the Spirit for guidance and direction, imposing unnecessary rules and policies on the blameless group instead of dealing with the offending individuals with the wisdom, love, patience, and courage that God granted to Solomon and Paul of old—can unfortunately still be seen today, even among some of our young people. If we cannot fully eradicate this stifling, oppressive thinking from the present generation, we can all do our best to leave it behind, and prevent it from going any further.

As we raise our children in the Gospel, and as we nurture and admonish new saints coming into the Church from the outside, it is important that we teach them to think for themselves, to rely more on the Holy Spirit—for continued growth and development—than on their teachers and ministers, to seek to please God more than to please men. If we can allow them the freedom to do these things, perhaps to a greater extent than we were able, our hearts will rejoice as we see them grow, naturally and spiritually, to fully reach their God-given potential. The Church will flourish as these spiritual children of ours grow to be men and women of God, adorning the Church with their gifts and talents, and bringing souls to Christ.

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

When is the last time that you thought about a good idea but were afraid to tell anyone? Have you ever sat in class and known the right answer but were afraid to say it? Maybe someone else than said exactly what you were thinking and everyone, or your teacher, told them what a great thought that was! Then you were disappointed and mad at yourself. Sometimes when we don't speak up, no one does and things don't get worked out as they should.

Did you know that God and His Son Jesus want you to be brave? The Apostle Paul was teaching a young man named Timothy about fear. He told Timothy, and us, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Fear does not come from the Lord. Fear comes from the ugly devil. God is pure love and goodness and kindness. God believes in you. The Holy Spirit—which is also called the mind of God—can be within you. All you have to do is pray for it to be, and when you are older and baptized, the elders will lay hands upon you. That's also when the Holy Spirit will come upon you.

Now this is a wonderful Spirit. It is a Spirit which will lead, guide, and direct you towards good.

When I am in meetings at work where people need my advice and I feel scared to speak up, I pray inside. I tell God, "Thank you," and I ask Him to speak through me. Sometimes I wait after I pray. Other times, God lets me see so clearly what must be done that words of wisdom roll out of my



mouth. Right decisions get made. People even think I'm smart. I try to let them know that I thank God it did work out.

It's scary to speak up sometimes. In work or at school there are often mean kids or people or even teachers who are unhappy themselves. They want to hurt the feelings of other people so that everyone is as miserable as they are. They want you to doubt yourself; but remember your verse: God has given you love. God has given you a sound mind. That means you don't have to waste your time hating these people back. That also means that you have good ideas. A sound mind means you are correct in your ideas and in the way you think. You have the power to be right.

Teach yourself to take a moment and pray when you are in places around people like this. Calling on the Lord for help is the best way to protect yourself. Calling on Jesus who knows all things is the best way to solve a problem, too. He has promised to hear our cries and to help us. Many of you have a favorite television commercial or even a "rap" song that you've memorized. Most of you can quickly sing along all the words perfectly. You have smart, healthy minds. So now, my challenge to you is to start putting some realy strong promises to Jesus in your mind, too. That way, when you are facing a tough problem, you can remind yourself that God has given you your answer. His word to you is to put away fear, "For God has not given you the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

II Timothy 1:7

#### WORD SEARCH

GOD	FOR
HAS	HELP
GIVEN	BIBLE
YOU	II
SPIRIT	TIMOTHY
POWER	CHAPTER
LOVE	ONE
SOUND	VERSE
PRAY	SEVEN
ASK	

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## Publication Notice

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#### MESSAGE continued . . .

ettes for the Apache mothers through their Ladies' Uplift Circle. They provide related church activities for the young and old, so that all can come to know Jesus Christ. They, too, need our support, as transportation to church services and activities is a great need. Vehicle travel expense is increasing both because of the growing number of visitors and inflated travel costs.

Where do you and I fit into God's plan on the Apache reservations? We all cannot be there, but we can do our part so that God will continue the increase and bless the saints and their children in San Carlos, White River, and throughout the Church. The harvest is great, and the mission needs are very pressing. There are souls hungry for the Gospel of Peace throughout our nation, Central and South America, and the whole world. They need Jesus. The Church of Jesus Christ is increasing its evangelistic efforts, and the Mission Operating Committee needs both laborers and financial

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resources. Now is the time to help in the Work of the Lord by planting and watering.

Brother Randy Ciccati is the General Church Financial Secretary. His address is 3381 Roesch Blvd. #105, Fairfield, OH 45014. If you wish to earmark your funds for a specific endeavor or project, be assured that your donation will be properly forwarded. Please do your part so that God may provide an increase in the Gospel and in your life.

## Checklist

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

One might ask, "What must I do, or should I do, to be missionary-minded? What will allow me to be part of the total missionary effort of The Church of Jesus Christ?"

The answers may be found in the following checklist. It can be used as a daily, weekly, monthly, or annual review. Perhaps the frequency with which we check ourselves on the questions can determine just how missionary-minded we are.

1. Have I given anyone my personal testimony about how God brought me into His Gospel?

2. Have I prayed that God would direct me to whom I should speak about His Gospel and salvation?

3. Have I invited someone to Church?

4. Have I prayed faithfully for our missionaries in the fields?

5. Have I prayed for the mission fields themselves?

6. Have I prayed that God would direct us to individuals throughout the world who are interested in the salvation of their souls?

7. Have I prayed that God would show me how I can assist even more than ever in the Church's missionary efforts?

8. Have I given all that I can financially to aid in the total missionary work of the Church?

## The Church of Jesus Christ 1991 Meetings/Conferences

MARCH		JULY	
1- 2	<ul> <li>General Church Trustees, Phoenix and San Carlos, AZ</li> </ul>	13, 9:00 a.m. — MOC, Branch 1, Detroit, M	II
2- 3, 10:00 a.m	. — Ohio District Conference, Cleveland/Youngstown	AUGUST	
2- 3, 10:00 a.m	. — Southwest District Conference, Phoenix, AZ	3- 4 — Pacific Coast District Conference, 3- 4, 10:00 a.m. — PA District Conference,	erence
14-16	<ul> <li>Quorum of Twelve Meeting, Lake Worth, FL</li> </ul>	9-10 Greensburg, PA — Finance Committee, Paul Whitton's home	
APRIL		17-18, 10:00 a.m. — Ohio District Conference, Perry/Youngstown	
18-21	<ul> <li>General Church Conference,</li> <li>World Conference Center (WCC)</li> <li>Committees: MOC, Finance,</li> <li>GMBA Activities, Trustees</li> <li>Ladies' Uplift Circle, WCC</li> </ul>	SEPTEMBER  18-22 — Book of Mormon Committee Gastonia, NC	e,
21-25	<ul> <li>Book of Mormon Committee,</li> <li>Independence, MO</li> </ul>	OCTOBER	
27	- Ladies' Uplift Circle, Aliquippa, PA	10-13 — General Church Conference	, WCC
AAY		NOVEMBER	
18-19	- GMBA Conference, WCC	9-10 — GMBA Conference, WCC	
JUNE			

GMBA Campout, Ligonier, PA

## \* WEDDINGS \*

#### LUBIENSKI-WHITTON

On Saturday, June 23, 1990, Daniel R. Lubienski and Becky Jo Whitton were united in holy matrimony at The Church of Jesus Christ, Branch 3, in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by Bro. Carl Frammolino. Bro. Paul Whitton, father of the bride, read

the vows.

Musical selections were presented by Kathy Peshl on the piano. Sis. Tracey Francione was the vocal

soloist.

The newlyweds will reside in Sterling Heights, Michigan. May the love they solemnly vowed before God grow more precious, and may the Spirit of the Lord accompany them on their journey through life together.

#### SARAGOSA-GIANFERMI

Mr. Anthony Gregory Saragosa and Sis. Patricia Marie Gianfermi were joined in marriage on September 21, 1990 at Detroit Branch 1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Roseville, Michigan.

Brothers Sam DiFalco and Richard Thomas, both uncles of the bride, officiated at the ceremony. Musical

selections were played by Sis. Kathie Perkins.

The newlyweds are residing in Roseville, Michigan. May God bless them with joy and happiness in their life together.

#### WEINER-HENDERSON

Dr. Richard Weiner and Sister Barbara Henderson were united in marriage on October 28, 1990 in Laguna Niguel, California.

The newlyweds are residing in Beltsville, Maryland. od richly bless them in their life together.

### **New Arrivals**

Jessica Halguien to Martin and Hilda Halguien Nunez of Freehold, New Jersey.

Jeremy Joseph to Ron and Kathy (Furnari) Peshl of Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Russell Donald to Tim and Diane (Coppa) Brandt of the Harrison, Michigan Mission.

Shellby Jane to Scott and Joann Anderson of Branch 3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Shane Aaron to Brent and Cheryl (Chepanoske) Smith of Monongahela, Pennsylvania.

Benjamin Ryan to Tim and Renée Scolaro of

Phoenix, Arizona.

### Children Blessed

Sal Adin Foy was blessed by Bro. Jim Crudup on April 8, 1990 in Freehold, NJ.

Ryan Drummer was blessed by Bro. James Howard

in Freehold, NJ.

On November 18, 1990, Michael Reyes, Isaac Reyes, and Oswaldo Reyes were blessed in Freehold, NJ by Bro. Joseph Perri.

Michelle Stephanie Murillo was blessed by Bro. Joseph Perri on December 23, 1990 in Freehold, NJ.

David Walling was blessed by Bro. Jim Crudup on

January 20, 1991 in Freehold, NJ.

Dustin Thomas Palposi was blessed on January 6, 1991 by Bro. John Buffa at Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

### **OBITUARIES**

#### EVELYN CRALL

On October 12, 1990, Sister Evelyn Crall passed from this life. She was 71 years of age. She and her late husband, Bro. Bill Crall, moved from Warren, Ohio to Anadarko, Oklahoma in 1973 to live and work among the Indian tribes in central Oklahoma.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Alex and David Robinson. A flute solo was played by

Native American Jay Silverhorn.

Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Bill, in January of 1989. She leaves to mourn her passing six children: Bill, Robert, Mary Margaret, Charlie, Louis, and Sarah.

#### MICHAEL MILTON

Brother Michael Milton of the Monongahela, PA Branch passed on to his eternal reward on November 17, 1990. A dedicated member of the Church, Bro. Mike was also an ordained deacon.

Bro. Robert Nicklow Jr. officiated at the funeral,

assisted by Bro. Brian Smith.

Left to mourn his loss are his wife, Sister Virginia, four sons, one daughter, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, as well as one brother and three sisters. Our prayer is that the Lord would bless and comfort Bro. Mike's family and loved ones.

### ELIZABETH WOOLEY

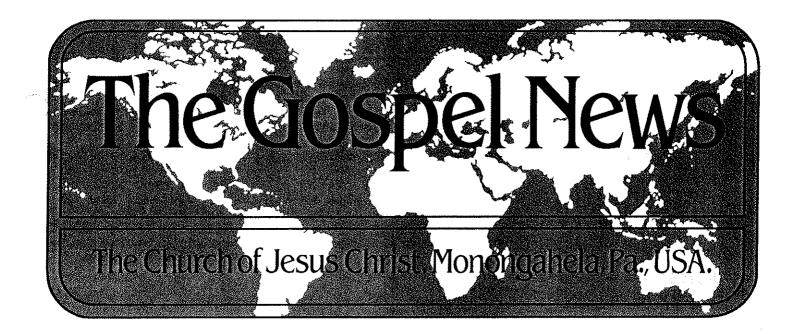
Sis. Elizabeth Wooley, a member of the Monongahela, PA Branch, passed away on December 11, 1990.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Robert Nicklow

Jr.

Our sister leaves behind two daughters, one grand-daughter, a brother, and one sister, Sis. Jennie Sarver.

We pray that God will comfort the family of our dear sister.



March, 1991

Volume 47, No. 3

## Edison, NJ Jubilee Year

By Mary Thickstun and Terri Bravo

Labor Day weekend of 1990 was a special weekend for the brothers, sisters, and friends of the Edison, NJ Branch. It was a time to walk down Memory Lane, a lane which stretches back from the present date to 1940. We marked fifty years of continued growth from the establishment of the Edison Branch.

Under the Lord's guidance we combined our efforts to make the weekend a success. To share in our joy, brothers and sisters from Florida, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and West Virginia joined us. We rejoiced in seeing many of these, who were originally from the Edison Branch, in our midst once again. Their recollections of many of God's blessings, both in the past and in the present, was an uplift for all to hear.

We began our two-day celebration with a preaching service on Saturday afternoon. After Presiding Elder Arthur Searcy opened the meeting with a welcome to all, he read appropriately from Isaiah 66:1, "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?"

We were happy to hear from visiting brothers John Buffa, Mat-

thew Rogolino, Tony Vadasz, and Ed Donkin. After a season of preaching, we all enjoyed a wonderful dinner prepared by the sisters of the Ladies' Circle.

During the evening service, we presented a program on the history of the Edison Branch, consisting of readings, musical selections, and testimonies. Most of the saints who were instrumental in establishing what was then known as the Stelton Mission into what we now know as the Edison Branch have gone on to their rewards. But Sister Theresa Venuto, a charter member, testified of how she and her family came to know the Gospel some 64 years ago. We relived many memories through the testimonies of those who were once members of the branch. While they now serve God in different areas of the Church, there remains a special place in their hearts for the Edison Branch. The memories they evoked were a blessing to everyone. Most importantly, God's name was praised.

The brothers and sisters of the Metuchen Branch joined us for our Sunday services, along with brothers, sisters, and friends from throughout the Atlantic Coast District. At the beginning of the meeting, Brother Arthur Searcy

read a card and showed us a plaque which was presented to us by the brothers and sisters of the Spartanburg, SC Mission. (Brother Nathan Peterkin, who labored there for many years, was originally from Edison.)

Brother Cleveland Baldwin of Quincy, Florida, who first met the Gospel at the Edison Branch, opened our service with a text from John 12:24, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die,

(Continued on Page 10)

## Area Campout

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA Campout will be held on Friday, May 24 through Monday, May 27, 1991, at Fairview Lake Camp in Newton, New Jersey.

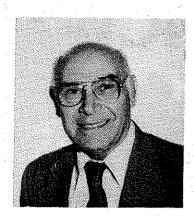
This year's theme will be "He Restoreth My Soul." We're looking forward to spending a long weekend of spiritual blessings and fellowship.

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 Mary Benyola at 908-725-8392.

## Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

We need to tell our children that they have a choice to become lovers or losers. For to miss love is to miss life. Thornton Wilder said, "There is a land of the living and a land of the dead, and the bridge is *love*; the only survival and the only meaning."

Let's tell our children!
We cannot be lovers of God
without being lovers of each other.
Love works not ill to his neighbor;
therefore love is the fulfilling of the

law. (Romans 13:10).

In the winter of 1937, we made a trip to Grand River, Canada, where the Six Nations Mission is located. It had been snowing for days, and the cold was below zero. We met in the home of Sister Gibson. An old man walked into the meeting. To everyone's surprise, he said, "I want to be baptized."

"Baptized?" asked Bro. Frank Ford, "Look outside." "I know," the man said, "I just came from outside." Elijah Burning was his name. "I have prayed much because I am a sinner. I dreamed last night and a man told me, 'Go to the Gibsons' house. There you will find my minister. Ask him to baptize you."

Elijah Burning was the great grandson of one of the great chiefs of the Six Nations Reservation. He was 65 years old; he had injured his spine falling from a horse many years earlier, yet he looked like a handsome man. The Indians had a warm respect for him.

"We baptize in the river, but the river is frozen solid. We have to break the ice and bury you in the water, Is this what you want?" "Yes, if you have enough courage to baptize me, this is what I want," he said. Four strong young Indians went to the Grand River to break that ice. The news spread fast; a large group of Indians met at the frozen river. I only weighed 136 pounds; Elijah weighed over 200 pounds. It was colder than I really thought, as I entered the water. I felt my legs freezing. Those young men had cut the ice with a large saw.

After baptism, as they helped us out of the water, Elijah raised his hands upward and cried, "My God, You have forgiven a great sinner. I have killed five men as an Indian warrior. My God, my God, how great is Your love!"

This was one of the most marvelous experiences for me and those present. Elijah became a living testimony not only of a true total repentance, but also of the kind of love our savior Jesus Christ brought to earth. Brother Burning's was a living example of what God can do through Jesus Christ the Lord.

One day we had feet washing at our little church; this being one of the Christ-blessed commandments. As I proceeded to wash Bro. Elijah's feet, I felt drops of water on my hair. I looked up only to see our old brother's tears dropping on my head. He said, "Marco, my son, why do you wash my feet? My own son never did this to me."

"Brother Burning," I said,
"Jesus Christ knelt before His
disciples as a servant and washed
their feet, giving us a living example, that like our Lord we must
become servants of one another."
"Brother Marco, since I have given
my life to Christ, I have experienced the true purpose of life. I
feel free," he said. How beautiful.
As I write this testimony, I am
reliving the glory of the past. He
felt free from guilt.

How about you, reader? Do you feel free from the shackles of guilt and sin?

Though Elijah felt justified in defending his life and the lives of other Indians, when he gave his life to Christ in baptism, his first words were, "O God, you have forgiven a sinner. For once I feel free; praise God I am free." There is no

substitute for true freedom from sin, doubt, and fear.

The old man was not afraid of the cold on that day, because the angel of God heard his cry. "Tomorrow morning go to the Gibson's house. There you will find my servant. Ask him to baptize you." He had prayed many times, but that night he felt different.

I praise the Lord for such love. How about you, readers? You, too, have the choice to be a lover.

Grace be unto you, Mark Randy

## Do Miracles Cease?

Last July, Bro. Eugene Presutto of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was experiencing some ill health. He went to the hospital, where they found asbestos in his lungs and blood in his urine. They suggested he see a specialist.

Our brother was admitted to the hospital for more tests. This time, they found that he had cance of the bladder. After performing surgery, they released him from the hospital but scheduled seven weekly chemotherapy sessions for him. These treatments were a terrible experience for him, but they never stopped Bro. Eugene from coming to church services.

Later, on a visit to the doctor for a check-up, the doctor leaned up against the wall and, shaking his head, proclaimed that Bro. Eugene no longer had cancer. The doctor suggested he see another doctor to confirm this. That doctor, too, was amazed.

Back in 1940, this same brother was told by an eye doctor that he would go blind within a month's time. His mother, a sister in the Church, encouraged him to trust in God. Bro. Alfred Dominico anointed him. When he went back to the eye doctor, he had 20-20 vision.

Again in 1988, our brother was bleeding badly into his digestive tract. As they checked him in the hospital, they found that he had loso much blood that he would not live. He was given blood, but as he

## Our Women Today

## Twentieth Anniversary of the Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle

By Linda Reynolds

Many, many blessings were felt by each and every woman attending the November 3, 1990 Pacific Coast Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference, held in Anaheim, California. The theme for the day was "Celebrate the Moments of your Life," to carry on the twentieth anniversary of the Pacific Coast Ladies' Circle.

Led by our president, Sister Carrie Jankowski, we truly enjoyed a full twelve hours of blessings. We began our business meeting in the morning. A beautiful devotional was given by Sister Lydia Cavallaro. She told a few experiences and read a beautiful poem to us. She ended by telling us to remember that God

never comes too early or too late. He is always on time.

Sister Lucy DeCaro continued by sharing with everyone the events and blessings from the combined Pacific Coast and Southwest Area Circle retreat, held in September of 1990, where 150 ladies from all over the country were in attendance. She told about the headphones we now have for the ladies who do not speak English. One person interprets and speaks into a microphone, and everyone wearing a headphone can immediately understand what's being said. Sis. Lucy displayed our 20th anniversary mugs, which we

are using as a fund raiser.

Sisters Lydia Knowles and Carrie Jankowski gave a brief report on the General Ladies' Circle Conference held in October, 1990 in Pennsylvania. In April of 1992 there will be a combined East and West Ladies' Circle Retreat, to be held in California.

After dinner, we began the evening service. Sis. Lucy DeCaro opened in prayer, and Bro. Ken Jones sang Second to God. Sis. Norma Kennedy gave a brief history of some early experiences of brothers and sisters in the Church. Then Sis. Carrie Jankowski asked the first three Area Presidents, Sisters Sarah Watson, Orletta Liberto, and Lydia Knowles, to speak. They told of some experiences and how determined they all were to make the Circle a success.

We enjoyed more singing and some fellowship. We thank our dear Lord for these past 20 years, and look forward to the next 20.

## MBA Highlights

## Area MBA Married Couples' Retreat

By Susan Coppa

On the weekend of January 25-27, 1991, the Pacific Coast Area MBA sponsored a married couples' retreat, held in Oxnard, California. Sister Lisa Alessio planned a beautiful retreat for us at the Radisson Suites Hotel. Each room was equipped with a private fireplace, and a heart-decorated basket of candies, coffees, and goodies was delivered to each room. The theme was "Love for a Lifetime."

Some 20 couples from the California area attended, as well as Bro. Jim and Sis. Betty Alessio of Lorain, Ohio, who were vacationing in the area.

Bro. Paul and Sis. Orletta Liberto led the seminars, which were enjoyed by all. Some topics included:

- God's design for marriage
- Love for a lifetime must be a choice
- Why just be married when you can be best friends?!

A serious message was received from the seminars, but we also shared in love and laughter. New friendships were made, and old ones rekindled. At our Sunday service, Brother Bob Womack felt inspired to speak God's word and a blessing was felt by all. Our thanks go to those who work so hard to bring enlightenment and pleasure to the saints. We look forward to other Area MBA activities this year, as well as other events which bring the saints together in unity.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The family of Sis. Nancy Azzinaro Ensana wish to thank all the brothers and sisters throughout the Church who called, sent cards, and prayed for us during the passing on of our beloved mother.

May God richly bless each of you is our prayer. The following was written by Sis. Nancy's daughter, Sis. Josephine Jasmin, and was read at the funeral service:

Momma is not dead, she has gone home to be with the Lord.

She has finished her tour of duty on this vast and rugged land.

Suddenly her eyes closed, and just as suddenly, they opened to behold the face of Jesus.

His radiant face is smiling and beckoning her to come home, home to the land prepared from the beginning of time.

She is happy, so full of joy as she meets her loved ones who have gone before.



## Outreach in Detroit, Michigan

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

It is a great blessing when a new mission of The Church of Jesus Christ is started. It is a bonus blessing when that mission is successful and later begins outreach activities to another location, which also become fruitful. This kind of growth and development is the way that the Gospel can be, and perhaps should be, spread throughout the world.

One of the most recent examples of this method of outreach connection has been in Detroit, Michigan. The Inner City Branch, which grew from desires to work with the American Indian community in the center of Detroit under the auspices of the Michigan-Ontario Urban Indian Committee 14 years ago, has now stretched into the Mexican community a few miles away, holding services for Spanishspeaking people. The way the Lord has worked from the beginning until now is certainly well worth review.

#### FIRST MEETING

The first meeting in the inner city was held at the Rex Hotel, owned by Sis. Jennie Randazzo of Detroit Branch No. 1, on Sunday morning, June 5, 1977, by Evangelists Joseph Milantoni and Anthony Gerace. Some members from throughout the district were there, became more involved, and began to work diligently with the ministry in what has become a beautiful long-range team effort.

Attendance at these meetings increased steadily, and the hotel

lobby where the services were held overflowed with visitors who came largely from the blighted inner parts of the city. The Sunday School rooms, which housed the children's classes, were also overcrowded. A search for a larger facility was begun. Subsequently, through God's help, the present site of the Inner City Branch, at 2901 Brooklyn (corner of Temple), about a mile from the hotel, was obtained. The structure is now about 115 years old, but it seats 325 people and is a most suitable building. It was dedicated to God on Sunday, June 1, 1980.

From the very beginning, efforts were richly rewarded, and many souls have come into the Gospel. It became apparent rather quickly that not only people from the American Indian community would be embracing the Gospel. People from many different social and ethnic backgrounds began to attend and "feel at home" with the flock.

The mission became a branch on October 10, 1979, but the missionary intent and objectives never changed. Rather, they became more intense and far-reaching, as more workers filled the ranks and activities increased. Throughout the years, visiting people on weeknights, transporting adults and children to Sunday School and church services, and assisting the needy have steadily continued. In addition, spiritual endeavors increased, including more fasting and praying. The brothers of the branch have met on Saturday evenings for

a number of years. Most noteworthy, they have received experiences in which they were instructed on how to make the Lord's work their first priority, and were given assurances that He would provide for them.

#### SUCCESS FROM MANY EFFORTS

The latest proof of the success of these many efforts was received this January 27, when six converts were baptized. They were Diana Parker, Jeffrey Bork, David Parry, Raphaela Baéz, Anastacio Baéz, and David Lopez. The first three had been attending the branch, while the other three are from the new Mexican-town location. These are the first ones baptized as a result of the Spanish meetings being held there. The latter three have also been attending services at the branch on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Each one of the six has a wonderful testimony of how the Lord has been a blessing and had been calling them.

The link between these two locations became more visible than ever with these baptisms, the fruit of many labors which have been expended. Seven years of perseverance in the outreach area, however, were required.

"The Mexican work did not occur overnight," stated Bro. Gary Champine, who has been spearheading the recent Mexican efforts. "We (the group) have been laboring over seven years."

Presiding Elder Eugene Amormino recalled that "Just before Brother Joe Milantoni passed away in 1986, he was looking for a building on West Vernor Hwy. in which to hold meetings. In his vision [i.e., foresight], he saw a church someday established in the Hispanic quarter of Detroit. We see the vision being fulfilled before our very eyes, and we praise God for His Perfect Work." (The place where the services are now being held is at 25th Street and West Vernor.)

Fasting and prayer services are held on Saturday mornings at Mex ican town. The last Saturday Morning of each month, the group



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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

While much of the world combines the annual observance of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ with a mixture of springtime pagan traditions, there are many, including ourselves, who have been blessed with the more perfect understanding that Christ's Passion [i.e., His suffering] is something which should be remembered regularly, usually on the first day of the week, as we gather to worship.

The brief moments we spend in partaking of the Lord's Supper in our church services should indeed be sacred, a time to be especially reverent and introspective. When we allow ourselves to think about the great plan of God, of His incredible love for us as manifested in sending His Only Begotten Son to earth to die for our sins, and when we reflect upon the innocent blood of Jesus Christ that was spilled for our sakes on Calvary, are we not filled with sorrow and remorse at His suffering? When we think of how Christ became sin for us, that through His grace we might stand spotless before the throne of God, do we not feel the gratitude and joy of a soul redeemed from the wages of sin?

It is essential that each one of us who is baptized and eligible to participate in this Communion have a clear, personal understanding of its significance. If we do not fully understand, or if we understand but do not make a conscious effort to stop and ponder upon these things, partaking of the Lord's Supper can become nothing more than a habit, merely a ritual that we perform once each week. As with everything else that Christ taught, it is not so much the outward action of eating the bread and drinking the wine that matters, but rather it is the intent of the heart—the spirit in which it is done—that determines the effect it will have upon our souls.

While we do not (indeed, cannot) judge the intent of the heart by what we see with our eyes, we can safely say that the saint who realizes the personal significance of the Lord's Supper, whether he partakes or not, will to some extent reflect that understanding in his behavior during its observance. The way we conduct ourselves—and how we teach our children to behave, especially during Communion—can affect not only our own ability, but also the ability of the brothers and sisters around us, to concentrate and be blessed in this holy ordinance. Certainly we must make allowances for some distractions—a crying baby, for example—but we expect more from children and adults who are capable of sitting quietly for a few minutes.

Anything that we do often enough, creatures of habit that we are, can become a rote performance after a period of time. As we have dedicated our lives to the service of the Lord, we war against the flesh to keep our daily prayers fresh and meaningful, our weekly services varied and inspired, and our inner lamps trimmed and burning. As much as these things are a challenge to us, let us always make sure, as we partake spiritually of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, that we are truly doing it in remembrance of Him, as He commanded.

## The

### Children's

### Corner

By Jan Steinrock

## God's Word, the Sword of the Spirit

Dear Friends,

These days we were all hearing about the war that just took place in the Persian Gulf. We would hear and think about our soldiers living where the wind and heat whip up the sand so that no one could feel comfortable. We learned that in the desert nobody wastes any water. And we thought about and prayed for the people who were lonely over there.

When someone is far, far away from anyone that loves them, they have to be careful. They have to be careful to take good care of themselves and to put good thoughts and things in their minds and lives.

Have you ever been far away from home and desperately wished someone who cared for you was right there? In the book of Psalms, chapter 145, verses 18 and 19, King David tells us that "The Lord is nigh [near] unto all them that call upon him; to all that call upon him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him. He also will hear their cry and will save them."

You are never alone, ever. God can see you, find you, and hear you no matter where you may be. You

need to learn and remember Psalms 145:18 & 19. Then you can remind yourself that God is always near and will save you. He can bring you through any bad troubles.

Another beautiful, short little verse that talks of God's love for us is in John 3:16. "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."

This month the Print House and I are starting a new project. Each month from now until Christmas I will give you a choice of two verses to memorize. These are comfort verses. These are power verses. When you put them in your mind and heart you will be able to fight the bad times when the old devil tries to make you worried or afraid. You will be putting on part of the armor of God; the word of God is the sword of the Spirit.

As soon as you memorize your verses, you must say them out loud for your Sunday School teacher, your MBA teacher, or your congregation. Then fill out a form like the one at left and mail it to me at the Print House, telling me what verse you now know. I will send you a "surprise" to celebrate each good thought you've put into your mind

Some verses will be longer or harder than others. It's only fair that if a Sunday School teacher of very young children can teach the children to state a chapter, verse, and message, they deserve a prize, too. But the children must be able to memorize these verses and say them out loud.

I know you can do it. When I visit many branches I hear children reciting long poems and songs. Most of us know the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag, for example, don't we? Lots of you older kids also hear and know the latest "rap" songs, so let's see how fast you can learn these, and let me know. And remember, no one's too old, no one's too young. Mail to:

Sister Jan/The Children's Corner The Church of Jesus Christ Print House 8282 Boettner Rd. P.O. Box 30 Bridgewater, MI 48115

		FORM	
I,verse of God's word i			, have successfully put this
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## **Branch and Mission News**

### Baptism in Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

Our unique little branch in Freehold, NJ has experienced the windows of heaven opening up in our midst recently. We are so grateful to our Lord Jesus Christ, who has extended His arm of mercy to us, realizing our unworthiness before His holy presence.

On December 16, 1990, Martin Nunez was baptized by Bro. Joseph Perri. He was confirmed by Bro. Jim Crudup. A vision was had during the confirmation in which a door was seen and behind the door was a bright light seeping through around the edges. Then the door burst open and the light filled the room. Our brother, having received the light of the Holy Ghost, testified of his conviction and faith in God and his desire to serve Him all the days of his life.

For the past several weeks, God has been speaking to us much through the gifts that manifest themselves each time we meet. Several dreams, visions, and tongues have occurred; there are too many to mention here. God is showing us that He loves us and wants to pour out His power and grace upon not only us in Freehold. but throughout the entire Church. During the anointings that occurred this Sunday, a vision was had in which a waterfall came out of heaven, and as each one was anointed, a stream broke off and went into each individual. Praise God! He hears us and He knows our needs; He is a God who responds to and answers prayer.

Our mixed congregation and bilingual preaching and singing (our songs are sung in English and Spanish—often at the same time) has attracted many visitors and friends. Even families of the saints have come to see. Many visitors have stated that in this world of racial prejudice and conflict, they have never seen such unity among the black, white, and red races like they have seen in The Church of Jesus Christ. We are reminded

many times that the world will know who we are by the love we show one for another. As the people of God, we deserve no recognition, but God deserves all the glory and praise. In doing the latter day work with the Seed of Joseph, we have been blessed with an increasing number of them visiting. Our branch is usually filled to capacity every Sunday. To sum it all up, in a meeting recently, a brother heard the voice of God saying, "I am here, and I've heard your prayers, and I am the same God yesterday, today, and forever."

### North Jackson, OH

By Kathy Vinsick

We all felt a peaceful spirit recently in the North Jackson, Ohio Mission. Bro. Richard Santilli spoke on John 14, "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."

Bro. Richard spoke on the conditions of the world, and related it spiritually to our lives being a constant battle. We must be ready and prepared for battle at all times, because the evil one will try to sift us as wheat.

If we keep faithful and endure to the end, there is a mansion and a crown awaiting us. There will be no more pain, trials, troubles, or sorrow. How beautiful God is to give us this place to dwell in forever!

Bro. Richard spoke also on his retirement, that it would give him more time to do things for God.

Bro. Frank Giovannone followed, speaking on the prophets of old and the joys and blessings that lie ahead of us. Bro. Frank stated that we should all have a vision of things to come, and how it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to go to heaven.

We should go to God in prayer

for all things, and God will bless us.

This mansion of glory comes to us by faith and endurance. One day there will be peace throughout the land.

Many testimonies were offered, and the spirit of God flowed from vessel to vessel. It was a glorious day to share with our brothers and sisters.

## Blessing in Hopelawn, NJ

During the past few months, the Hopelawn, NJ Branch has been experiencing many blessings. We would like to share this extra special blessing with you.

In early September, Brother Tom and Sister Linda Banyacski transferred to our branch. Shortly thereafter, Sis. Linda testified that her heart was very heavy, and she wished that she had the spiritual strength to uplift our branch. However, because the weight of her burden was great, she found it very difficult to be an uplift to the branch. But God knows what we need before we even ask.

That same morning, the sermon revolved around God performing the impossible. Genesis 17:16-19 was read, where Sarah learned at the age of 90 that she was going to bear a son. That afternoon as Sis. Linda was testifying, Bro. Leonard Benyola thought to himself that she should be anointed, but he wanted the desire to come from her. After we ended our testimony service, he placed a chair for an anointing, even though no one had requested prayer in their testimony. The congregation sang Pass Me Not, during which Sis. Linda, prompted by the Spirit, arose and sat in the chair to be anointed.

A few weeks later she testified that she and Bro. Tom were going to have a child! To say that we all rejoiced in this news would be an understatement. As she testified, many in the congregation gasped in surprise, and immediately knew that the Lord had truly intervened. After seven years, our brother and sister have been blessed with the desire of their hearts.

#### **HOPELAWN** continued . . .

Several brothers and sisters testified of how they had been prompted to fast and pray for our brother and sister regarding this matter. Sister Grace Kepics related a dream that she had several months prior to Bro. Tom and Sis. Linda's transfer. She saw a young woman sitting in the Hopelawn Branch, and Sis. Ethel Banyacski (Bro. Tom's mother) was sitting alongside her, holding a beautiful baby. Only after learning of the expected child did Sis. Grace realize whose baby she had dreamed about.

We thank God for blessing our dear brother and sister. We know that through prayer, *all* things are possible.

### Baptism at Warren, OH

By Lorie Ciarrochi-Prokup

On Sunday, January 13, the Warren, Ohio Branch had the privilege of having Bro. Russ and Sis. Lena Martorana visit with us from Niles, OH. We began our service by singing If I Could Please Thee, Lord, Today. Little did we know how this song would be fulfilled.

Bro. Russ opened our service on the fact that pleasing God is something we must do every day; that it's a schooling that goes on forever by reading, studying, and praying. He then read from Mosiah 18 and spoke on the times of King Noah, when Alma and the Church were not able to worship openly. He spoke of how Alma would preach, to all who would listen, about repentance and redemption and faith on the Lord.

If we are willing to mourn with those that mourn, and comfort those in need, and are willing to be witnesses to God at all times and be numbered with those in the first resurrection—then what do we have against being baptized? If we enter into a covenant with God, He will bless us more abundantly. Never be satisfied with our degree of conviction; always strive for a greater closeness with God.

Following the hymn Why Not

Accept Him Now?, Bro. Jerry Giovannone spoke, saying that this is what our Church is all about—baptism and being sons and daughters of God. In Alma's days they had to hide when they served God, but today it is so easy for us to serve Him. Bro. Jerry told us of a dream he had the night before, of someone in our branch asking for their baptism and how everyone cried. He said that God is calling; we need to be submissive. Such a blessing was being felt; our cups were being filled.

Bro. Bob Ciarrochi then got up and read Isaiah 53, concerning the sufferings of Christ. He went on to tell us of the preachings of Philip to the eunuch in the desert, and how the eunuch was blessed by the teachings and asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" as he saw the waters in the middle of the desert. Philip's answer was, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest."

The Spirit of God was so strongly felt in our midst. Bro. Bob continued to tell us we need to believe, to be humble and submissive all the days of our lives to have eternal life. Not keeping the promise we made at the water's edge only leads to eternal death. The feelings we have on the day of our baptism make all the difference in the world between God's Church and the Churches of the world. "We must repent and come to Christ."

The evidence of God's Spirit was truly in our midst, and carried through to the testimonies that were offered. Then Dan Prokup got up and expressed his wishes to be baptized. What a blessing! Truly an answer to the preaching and Spirit's prompting we felt throughout the morning.

We dismissed our service and went to the waters of regeneration, where Bro. Dan was baptized by Bro. Jerry Giovannone. We returned to our branch and reopened the service. Bro. Dan was confirmed by his father-in-law, Bro. Bob Ciarrochi. Sacrament was passed, and we brought our meeting to a close. Our cups had been filled, even to overflowing. Our opening hymn had taken place; we had pleased the Lord today.

### Imperial, PA

By Eva Moore

On September 30, 1990, we were honored to have Bro. Ike and Sis. Bonnie Smith visiting from Whiteriver, AZ. Two of their sons, Brothers Brian and Brent, were also visiting with their families from the Monongahela, PA Branch.

At the beginning of the service, Presdena Cheney came forth with them and sang Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile? Presdena's grandmother, Sis. Anita Hopkins, was one of the first Apache Indians to be converted in San Carlos. Presdena's mother, Sis. Joyce Cheney, was baptized in 1984 in San Carlos. Presdena (or "Dena," as she is called) had a strong desire to come and live with Jean and Jim Moore for at least a year. She is attending West Allegheny High School. Although they're called the "West Allegheny Indians," she is the only Indian in the school. The school has received her with open arms.

Bro. Ike introduced the service by telling us that the work in Whiteriver is progressing rapidly. He told of his experiences in his service to God. Bro. Brian followed, encouraging the young to follow Jesus and dedicate their lives to God as he also did.

We went to the waters of baptism and Jim Moore immersed Dena in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Dena exclaimed that she never felt so clean as she did when she came forth out of the water. As Bro. Ike laid his hands on Sis. Dena's head, he spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation came forth, "I proclaim a blessing on you."

On October 7, 1990, our Sunday evening meeting was opened by Bro. Jim Huttenberger from Dallas, TX. He brought forth a beautiful sermon with the question, "If we were accused of being a follower of Jesus, would a jury find us guilty?" Bro. Frank Rogolino followed and brought forth some of his experiences in His service to God. Dana Buffington had been struggling with the Spirit of God and finally asked for her baptism. Her father, Dan Buffington, took her in-

to the waters and baptized her. She cried out, "I made it! I made it!"

Bro. Frank Rogolino confirmed our new sister and we all made a large circle and welcomed her as a new member of The Church of Jesus Christ. She testified that she wants to help the young people. We sang He Changed My Life Completely. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

On October 14, 1990, Bro. Rusty Heaps was visiting from Anaheim, CA. Brothers David Nolfi and Bob Buffington, and Sis. Dorothy Gilbert sang Vessels of Gold. Our Brother Rusty expounded on what it means to be a vessel of gold. He told us of his many travels among the branches, missions, and saints of the Church throughout the United States. He warned us of the evils that exist in the world. He told us of his expectations of the future work for the Church, and he asked us to pray for his wife, Barbara, because they hope to go to England to preach the Restored Gospel there. We really enjoy and are grateful to God for the many visitors who've attended our branch in Imperial.

# Baptisms in New Brunswick, NJ

On November 4, 1990, the brothers and sisters of the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch met at the shores of the Raritan Bay with other brothers and sisters from New Jersey to witness the baptism of three new sisters.

Sister Monique Reed was baptized by Bro. Tom Banyacski and later confirmed by Bro. Wilbert McNeil. Bro. Jim Sgro baptized Sister Inez Bennett; Bro. Tom Banyacski confirmed her. Sister Rosalie Young was also baptized by Bro. Jim Sgro, and was later confirmed by Bro. Sam Sgro.

One week later, on November 11, we made another trip to Perth Amboy to see Bro. Jim Sgro baptize our young new Sister Amy Biagi. She was later confirmed at the New Brunswick Branch by Bro. Frank Mazzeo. We rejoice in the addition of our four new sisters, and request your prayers on their behalf.

# Baptism at Detroit Branch 1

Jill Deanna Chambers, who had requested her baptism at the 1990 GMBA Campout, was baptized on August 28, 1990 by her uncle, Bro. John Straccia. Bro. Louis Vitto confirmed her in the Church. Sis. Jill is a member of Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, MI.

## Blessings at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

On Sunday, November 18, 1990, the members and friends of the Detroit Inner City Branch made their way down to the Detroit River to witness another soul join the army of the Lord.

At the water's edge we sang Amazing Grace, and Bro. Tony Gerace offered prayer. Jim Bork was led into the waters of baptism and baptized by Bro. Gary Champine. Back at church, Bro. Jim was confirmed by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

Several months earlier, Bro. Jim's wife, Sister Deborah, was baptized. Before and since that time, our brother had been seeking the truth about the Restored Gospel. He knew he wanted to change his life, but he just wasn't sure if this was the church for him.

After attending the meetings for many months and learning more about the Bible and Book of Mormon, and witnessing the power of God through prayer, he became convinced that this was Christ's Church, and this is where he should be baptized.

But Bro. Jim had one very strong desire before his baptism, and that was for the Lord to confirm whether or not he was doing the right thing by getting baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

He told the Lord about his desire for a confirmation. Though he knew that Bro. Gary Champine would not be there the Sunday of his baptism (due to another commitment), he asked the Lord, that if this was indeed the right thing, to let Bro. Gary baptize him. The next

morning, to his great joy, he saw Bro. Gary at church, dressed in white overalls, ready to bring him to the waters. Bro. Jim knew without a doubt that God had given him his heart's desire.

We are very thankful that God called Bro. Jim into His Church, and our prayer is that God will continue to inspire him, and enable him to do the Great Work of the Lord. Amen.

### **Visitors at Modesto**

By Valerie Dulisse

It was a great pleasure to have Brother Paul and Sister Thressa Carr with us in the Modesto, CA Branch on February 24, 1991. For the past eight years, Bro. Paul and his wife were working on their "mission to bring the word of Jesus Christ to the dying souls of men." Before they had left Africa, where they worked as missionaries among the people of Nigeria, Bro. Paul asked God for inspiration so that he might speak to the branches here in America and bring an appropriate message. The Lord placed upon his heart the words written in Ephesians 4:12-13. Our brother spoke to us on the subject that the Apostle Paul had expounded to the saints in Ephesus many years ago.

"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ." Bro. Paul explained that this is the way in which we will move the hand of God: through unification among ourselves. We are living in the day that the Gospel has foretold. "When we've accomplished fulness of unity in Christ, we can go forward and take the Gospel throughout the world. We should have the determination in our hearts to be that band of people which will bring forth the fulness of Christ's Gospel."

Bro. Paul exhorted us, as

#### MODESTO continued . . .

saints, to lay aside our troubles and problems before we enter the church building so we can concentrate on praising and worshipping God. He reminded us that Satan's only tool is the wedge which he attempts to drive between us, thereby separating husband and wife, or brother and sister.

"But speaking the truth in love," we must let others know that we love God. Bro. Paul related an experience of having met a man at a hotel who was curious to hear an explanation of the Gospel and learn of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Paul met with this man to explain, and the man went away filled with the Gospel and rejoicing. If we build on a solid foundation, he advised us, the Lord will use us to reach others. The love of Christ is felt and brings souls to the Church. What a beautiful commission it is to bring souls to the knowledge and peace which belief on the Lord's name affords us!

We must be united in all things; if there are sick among us, it is our obligation to pray for one another. We must fellowship together more, and be supportive. We want to go forth unified as God's little band. If we are bound together, nothing can divide us or put unsurpassable obstacles in our path. We were urged by Brother Paul to not procrastinate or shun giving our testimony to anyone who asks about our Church. The many blessings, miracles, and experiences are occurring still, and Christ should come first in all things. Brother Paul felt to remind us that we should meditate and wait upon the Lord when we wish to communicate with Him, rather than mumbling a few words and jumping into bed at night. If we are impressed upon to call a brother or a sister, don't wait. Stop what we are doing and carry out the directives of God, so that we might bring them a blessing. It might be just what they need at the moment, to get through a difficult time in their life.

Brother Carr led a discussion and fielded questions regarding the missionary work being carried out in Africa. Several members asked pertinent questions in order to receive a better understanding of the undertakings in Nigeria particularly.

There are 62 branches and a minimum of 25 missions in Nigeria. The ministers go from door to door in the villages, preaching the Gospel. Nigeria has 110 million people who are very receptive to conversation about the Gospel. There are 8 church districts in Nigeria alone, and anywhere from 5,000 to 6,000 baptized members there. There are also 400-600 members in Ghana. (The uncertainty of the statistics is due to the complications of processing paperwork in remote, isolated areas.)

Bro. Paul asked us to pray for the registration of the Church in Kenya, because there are hundreds of souls right now who are waiting to be baptized there. Both Brother and Sister Carr pleaded for our prayers on behalf of the missionaries, explaining how these prayers are greatly needed.

Sister Thressa Carr told in her testimony an experience of meeting a small, malnourished child who came to them with shaking legs. She gave him protein-rich foods to eat and prayed that the Lord would heal him. Within three days, this child was up and running around, playing with the other children. No one could believe that this was the same child who came to them a few short days earlier. Our sister sincerely praised God for His goodness in their lives, for the courage and comfort and strength He has imparted to them at times of discouragement. We could certainly empathize with their struggles and hardships there, and we pray the Lord will bless them.

We were very blessed by Brother And Sister Carr's visit here in Modesto. We wish them the best in their continued endeavors, and our daily prayers will be with all those who labor in all parts of the Lord's vineyard.

### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Morle, Jerry & Tammy 8615 Pine Ct. Ypsilanti, MI 48198 Telephone 313-484-3631

#### EDISON continued . . .

it abideth alone." Other brothers followed, and we broke for lunch. Apostle Paul Benyola opened our afternoon service, speaking on days past and stressing the importance of building bridges for those who will be following us. We concluded with a season of testimony and the observance of the Lord's Supper.

Our special weekend was a time to reflect on the past, and focus on our duties to help build memories for future generations. With God's help, we expect the richest blessings still to come.

#### MIRACLES continued . . .

lay there on the bed, he felt he was dying. He pleaded with the Lord not to let him die. Praise God, he didn't

These are just some of the many different events that have taken place during the course of our brother's life.

When we've been there
ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days
to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.

Sis. Iva L. Davis

#### THANKS continued . . .

There is a mansion prepared for her by the hand of the Lord.

She has been presented with a glistening robe of purest white, and is wearing a shining crown filled with the many stars of her good works here on earth.

Her joy is so great, how can we be sad? Everything is now fulfilled and complete for Momma; she is not dead, she is at home with the Lord.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

travels to the Inner City Branch to unite in fasting and prayer for the spiritual welfare of the Church. Door-to-door campaigns in the 25th and Vernor vicinity have been conducted, and more scriptural studies are being taught. Of course singing hymns and teaching in the Spanish language are ongoing activities.

### CONTINUING TO REACH PEOPLE

The goal of the Inner City
Branch to reach all people continues, and the ability to reach people from many nationalities, countries, and tongues is never more apparent than in the center and nearcenter areas of the city, where many people of diverse backgrounds are living. The original desire to maintain contact and participate in projects with Indian centers is being pursued; and some new projects have also been included. Other branches in the district have joined in these endeavors.

Meanwhile, there is great rejoicing when each new soul comes into the Gospel of Christ. The original goals and intentions are still the same. An exemplary evangelist. Brother Milantoni had stated, for that first meeting in 1977 when Brother Gerace (who is still laboring at the Inner City Branch) and he were just starting the undertaking, that there were three things to emphasize. They were: to describe The Church of Jesus Christ, to portray our love for all people, and to proclaim our desire to have all people come to Christ. He also explained that the testimonies of the brothers and sisters would offer hope to all those who would attend and would be in need of Christ in their lives. These things are still true today.

As one who was fortunate enough to have been a part of the Inner City Branch in the past, the author is greatly encouraged and edified, along with the rest of the Church, with the increases at this branch and its new satellite location. May the Lord continue to bless the efforts there and around the Church as we all seek to spread The Glorious Gospel of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

## African Trip

Evangelists Joseph Ross, Paul Carr, and Joseph Perri returned February 14 from a five-week trip to Nigeria. They had left on January 10, and visited 32 of the Church's 62 branches and stations there. They heard about blessings and healings which had been received, and they experienced many while there. God has been and is manifesting His works in many ways.

In the last six months, 150 new members have been added to the fold, and three new missions have been established, as never-ending desires to spread the Gospel continue to be put into action. Interestingly, elders travel by motorcycle to service many missions. Great continuous efforts are being extended in this way.

#### THREE DISTRICTS ORGANIZED

The visiting brothers organized three new districts, bringing the total in Nigeria to eight. The establishment of districts in Nigeria had been approved by the parent church. The brothers attended the monthly elders' meetings at the church center, and they spoke at three District Conference Sunday meetings. They also conducted sessions with the eight District Presidents.

Their itinerary included visits to the Church's secondary school and to the International Medical Assistance Clinic. Many advancements have been made at both places. The school, although under the government, is in the Church's care as proprietors. The IMA Clinic has expanded, and surgeries are now being performed there.

#### PRESIDENT IN NIGERIA

The president of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria is Evangelist E. A. U. Arthur, who is also paramount ruler over five million Nigerian people. The Lord has granted him a long life, and he is now reportedly 108 years old. He was recently healed from a very serious affliction and is extremely active again today. He thanked God

for his healing, and the brothers and sisters throughout the Church for their prayers on his behalf.

His wife, Sister Rachael, passed away last September. She was in her late eighties. Brother Carr, who was the resident missionary in Nigeria for approximately seven years, attended her funeral. It was a fitting tribute to a wonderful sister who had spent many years in service for her people, as well as for The Church of Jesus Christ. She had also inspired the start of the IMA Clinic.

Brothers Ross and Perri last visited Africa together in late 1989. Brother Carr returned to the United States from his last tour in Nigeria in March, 1990.

The Lord accompanied them on the trip, as was evidenced by a vision given to Sister Carmella D'Amico of Rochester, New York, who saw two personages traveling with the three brothers on their journey. God's protection was borne out when the front part of their airplane was struck by lightning as it took off on one of the legs of their return trip. Miraculously, despite the deafening, bone-chilling, shattering reverberations in the plane, no damage was done, and everyone was spared.

## An Experience

While at work one day last summer, I was sitting at my desk and heard my co-workers talking about the crisis in the Persian Gulf. I became quite concerned, thinking about the sons and daughters of the many brothers and sisters in the Church.

As I was sitting there praying for God to protect them, I heard a voice saying, "I've taken care of My people in the past, and I'll take care of them now." I was very comforted by these words.

Sis. Lisa Rogolino

## Children Blessed

Samantha Erin Capone was blessed by her grand-father, Bro. Peter H. Capone, on December 17, 1989 at Detroit Branch 1 in Roseville, MI.

Scott George Monaghan was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on October 21, 1990 by Bro.

Chuck Maddox.

Mosel Thompson, Jr. was blessed on October 21, 1990 by Bro. George Kovacic at the Miami, Florida Mission.

Brother Mark Naro of the Lorain, Ohio Branch blessed his new daughter, Brianna Caitlin, on January 20, 1991.

Robert Alan Cross, Jr. was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on January 27, 1991 by Bro. John Ali of the Glassport, PA Branch.

Amanda Maria Zaccagnini was blessed by her uncle, Bro. Kerry Carlini, at Detroit Branch 1 on

February 3, 1991.

Leigh Ann Palacios was blessed in Lorain, Ohio on February 3, 1991 by her uncle, Bro. Flip Palacios.

Carlos Abisuee Rojas was blessed by his uncle, Bro. Matthew Picciuto, at the Riverbank, CA Mission.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### LOLA B. T. SAUNDERS

Sister Lola Saunders passed away on July 23, 1990. She was a faithful sister and will be greatly missed. She was baptized into the Church in 1961 by Bro. Patsy Rogolino.

Name .	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	 	 
Address	<del></del>	 	 
Phone .		 	 

The funeral was officiated by Brothers Frank

Rogolino and Norman Campitelle.

She leaves to mourn her husband, George H. Saunders, four sons and three daughters, 14 grand-children, and two great grandchildren, as well as a host of friends and numerous relatives.

#### NANCY ENSANA

Sister Nancy Azzinaro Ensana of the Lake Worth, Florida Branch passed on to her eternal reward on October 20, 1990. She was born June 15, 1901 in San Demetrio, Corona, Italy, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on November 23, 1930 by Bro. Salvatore Valenti in Brooklyn, NY. She was ordained a deaconess in 1936 by Bro. Bill Mazzeo at the Bronx, NY Branch.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Eugene

Perri and Chuck Maddox.

Our sister is survived by two daughters, Sisters Marie McGuire and Josephine Jasmin of Lake Worth, Florida; one son, Bro. John Azzinaro of Simi Valley, California; and two stepdaughters, Sis. Mamie Funkhouser of Levittown, PA and Sis. Betty D'Orazio of Edison, NJ. Also 18 grandchildren, 28 great grandchildren, 5 step grandchildren, and 4 step great grandchildren.

Sister Nancy served the Lord faithfully for many years, never murmuring or complaining, always with a happy face. Sis. Nancy was known for her very strong handshake. She loved the Lord and left a great heritage to her family—the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

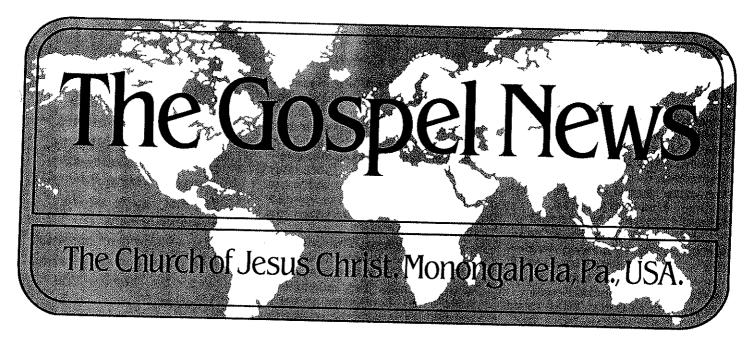
#### LOUISE M. MICALE

On December 19, 1990, our dear Sister Louise was taken home. She was born on July 2, 1915 in New York City, and was baptized in New Brunswick, NJ. She later moved to Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Funeral services were officiated by Bro. Norman Campitelle, along with Brothers Nick Pietrangelo, Frank Rogolino, and Joe Graziosi. Bro. Sam Costarella

sang two of Sis. Louise's favorite hymns.

Sis. Louise is survived by a stepson, Roger Micale of Denver, Colorado, and a stepdaughter, Joan Repaui of Edison, New Jersey. Sister Louise was truly a wonderful sister and was loved by all who came in contact with her. She will be greatly missed by the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch. She was an inspiration and a blessing to all of us.



April, 1991

Volume 47, No. 4

## Young People Speak Out

By David Lovalvo

Tomorrow is the start of a brand new day. With each new day comes a new opportunity to serve the Lord. Each opportunity has a definite purpose which in turn contains a brilliant and remarkable meaning. I find this enlightenment incredibly mind-consuming. Why? Because if it does not consume my mind, it does not penetrate my heart, which, when affected, allows the love of God to consume my soul.

To know that each day is a new beginning surely makes the road to Jesus Christ a much more workable pathway to follow. I have been a member of the Church for a year and a half, and each day brings yet another fascinating battle in the race for eternal salvation. Becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ is definitely the best decision I have ever had the opportunity to make. It secures for us at least a chance of living, forever, with the Creator of Everything.

Being a young person in the Church certainly is a challenging task. We face constant spiritual highs and lows that can cause the soul to rejoice, or cause it to cry. What makes this journey worth the everyday confrontations is that we know the Lord is celebrating with us when we overcome, and that He

is urging, pushing, and picking us up when we fall short. We should all be aware that all things work together for good, to them that love God, to them who are called according to His purpose.

My intention with this article is to perhaps shed some light on being a young person, or should I say spiritually "green," in The Church of Jesus Christ. There is no question of the importance of accepting

"I don't think that we are necessarily immune to anything in the world, but we have the advantage of bringing all our problems to the Lord."

Christ and arousing our spiritual senses. Speaking for myself, my mind presses on to search for and espy my purpose in the Church. A constant quest for knowledge, wisdom, and capturing the mind of Christ will unravel my part in God's plan.

When asked to write this piece, I immediately decided that an arrangement of ten minds was better qualified to explain the life of a youth in the Church than my one. Off I went on a trek to survey the thoughts of a compact group of aspiring individuals. Since the Church was unable to fund this excursion, I travelled by phone across the countryside in search of spiritual "pups." My foremost objective was to expose the desires, needs, and expectations of our fresh converts.

After winning my sources over by telling them that they would be quoted for a worldwide newsletter, each individual was overwhelmingly eager to participate. After tallying countless thoughts, feelings, and spiritual tastes, I challenged all who were involved to give their response to one question:

What is it like to be a young person, spiritually and naturally, in the Church?

My first stop was Tampa, Florida, where the brothers and sisters at the Tampa Branch had the privilege of welcoming Bro. Scott Griffith into the Church. When asked about his feelings of being a young person in the Church, Scott replied, "I feel it's an honor that God has called me to be a member of the Church. As far as being a young person in the Church, I don't think that we are

#### SPEAK OUT continued . . .

necessarily immune to anything in the world, but we have the advantage of bringing all our problems to the Lord. It's a great relief to know that we can do something that wonderful. I would recommend accepting Christ to anyone. It definitely is a great help to us."

My next stop was the hill and valley state (geographically speaking) of Pennsylvania. Here I found the Aliquippa Branch and its saints electrified over the addition of Sister Kathy Waldron. When asked to share her insight on being part of the youth of the Church she said, "It is the best thing I have ever found. To find something like this, where there is so much love and everyone reaches for the same spiritual goals is overwhelming. The Lord has opened my eyes to His Gospel and has enabled me to grasp it."

I uncovered yet another young soul in Pennsylvania by the name of Mark Palmieri. As humble as they come, Mark searched his mind and then said in plain terms, "Being a young person in the Church is an important responsibility, but one I gladly accept. The young people of this Church are highly exposed to the temptations of the world through the people that we meet. I think that it is important for us to set an example for the world, letting people know there is a better way of life than what is known to them. If we would fail to show the world the love that God has given us, then we as young people would not be complete in our service to God."

Eagerly, I went to Ohio where another young man who struggled for a prolonged period with his ac-

"If we would fail to show the world the love that God has given us, then we . . . would not be complete in our service to God."

ceptance of Jesus Christ was anxiously willing to verbally respond. Bro. Ron Giovannone joyfully exclaimed, "As a young person in the Church I feel very privileged that the Lord felt I was worthy to be called into His Gospel. Since then I have found much peace and joy in knowing that the Lord is there to guide me as I grow spiritually and naturally."

Off to Georgia. The pathway set before me led straight to Sister Kim Jones. Ecstatic at being part of God's family, Kim uninhibitedly said, "I feel the Church has been by my side through all the pressures of life, securing my trust in the Lord and faith in His Gospel. It is an exhilarating experience to be a part of the youth of The Church of Jesus Christ. I also feel fortunate that I was chosen by God to be able to spread this beautiful Gospel. Since being called into the Church as a young person, I have been able to conquer more efficiently the temptations we face daily, which has enabled me to achieve higher spiritual goals.'

In search of yet another feminine viewpoint, I traveled east to New Jersey to obtain the thoughts of Sister Mary Benyola. When called upon to share her feelings about the youth of the Church, Mary uttered these words: "Being a sister in the Church is such an undeserved honor. Knowing that God wants me to live with Him in His kingdom forever completely overwhelms me at times. It is also a grave burden, though, to know that it is my responsibility to make so many other people aware of this precious gift, and what our Church has to offer. It is very exciting to be a young member of The Church of Jesus Christ-to be involved in the movement to bring about Zion. God is by my side, and the Holy Ghost is directing me daily. The Church is my harbor in the tempest. Being a member of this Church is a wonderful advantage to have as we go through life."

Back down south to the Lone Star State of Texas in search of my spiritual and natural brother, Duane Lovalvo. I found him with the desire to present his innermost thoughts. After meditating for a moment, Duane meekly stated, "Be-

"While millions of souls search for the Truth, I have been given the tremendous gift of the Restored Gospel. I therefore need to take upon me the burden of this knowledge and channel the energy of my youth into the Work of the Church."

ing young in the Church gives me great hope for the future of the Restored Gospel. I look forward to the role that my wife and I will play in the bringing about of Zion. But along with this hope comes a great responsibility. While millions of souls search for the Truth, I have been given the tremendous gift of the Restored Gospel. I therefore need to take upon me the burden of this knowledge and channel the energy of my youth into the Work of the Church.'

On my way back up north, I worked my way through Canada until I reached the Muncey Reserve. Here I asked Bro. George Groesbeck what he felt it was like being young and in the Church. Quiet, but not ashamed to express his true feelings, George very humbly said, "It's great. I love it. He [God] blesses me and I try to follow everything He shows me. It has changed my life completely. It helps me to strive to do His will. Before I became a member of this Church, I found it hard to express my feelings for it. After my conversion, though, telling people about the Church comes naturally to me."

Homeward bound, and back on my own stomping grounds, my dear friend Bro. Dan Parravano couldn't wait to share the love of God that he has felt overcome his soul. In a grateful and exuberant manner, Dan's expressions went as follows: "In a world where I find so little to make sense or contain meaning, I find it a great advantage to have something as true as The Church of

Jesus Christ. Being young in the Church is no easy task. Although my mind reflects back many times to my life before my conversion, I pray that I would be more appreciative of God's blessings, and that my hands would never leave the plow that God has handed me. I look forward to my role in the Church, and am thankful that the Lord has given me this opportunity. My fear is that I would lose sight of God's richest blessings yet to come, because it's easy to be overwhelmed and to be thrust back into a lifestyle that is not compatible with the lifestyle that Christ teaches us. My true desire is to walk and talk with Christ, and to put into practice His teachings."

"In a world where I find so little to make sense or contain meaning, I find it a great advantage to have something as true as The Church of Jesus Christ. . . . I look forward to my role in the Church, and am thankful that the Lord has given me this opportunity."

These young brothers and sisters have all been an incredible inspiration to me. The Lord is indeed with us, and is working in all of our lives. The youth of the Church of Jesus Christ is an important piece in God's enormous puzzle. One of my greatest joys is to see and hear of the coming in of new souls. Each one of the young saints involved in this article is definitely moving beyond the river's shore. The most important thing that everyone should realize is that the young people of this Church are ager, able, and willing to do what is necessary in bringing about the Work of the Lord. God bless these men and women, and God bless you all. Amen.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the many beautiful cards, letters, and phone calls from all over the country, but especially for all of the prayers on our behalf during Brother Bill's recent hospitalization. We were very touched by the love everyone has shown toward us. The doctors held out no hope for Brother Bill's recovery, but we know that the Lord was in the matter from the beginning, and this gave us hope. We feel certain that God has heard and answered the sincere prayers of the saints. Brother Bill has made a great improvement. If you put your trust in the Lord, He will answer your prayers.

We are so thankful for The Church of Jesus Christ, because it has been our life. We have both been in the Gospel for more than 50 years (Brother Bill 58 years, Sister Grace 55 years). How lost we would be without the grace and mercy of our Lord as He carries us through the struggles and tribulations of this life! We are very happy that we have accepted the Gospel so early in our lives, that we have been able to serve Him for many years. We have been blessed with a number of experiences which give us great strength to continue. We should never look backward, but always ahead in this life.

We wish that we could travel to our loved ones and all the saints, but we are unable to travel. Please continue to pray for us as you have been doing. We miss and love everybody very much. God bless you all.

Love in Christ, Sis. Grace and Bro. Bill LaCommare Modesto, California

## A Vision of Zion

On Sunday, June 24, 1990, we were having an MBA lesson from II Nephi 12. Bro. John D'Orazio was teaching the lesson, and it concerned the prophecy of Isaiah about

the Mountain of the Lord and the Gathering of Israel.

I began to visualize this in my mind, that I could see the happenings of that time. It was such a powerful feeling! I tried to put it aside, but it kept haunting me for two or three days. Finally I took pen and paper and began to write these things down:

I have a vision, I can see Israel coming home; they are coming home to Zion.

I see smiles on their faces where once they wore a frown.

Their faces are radiant with the glory of God, and a voice from the heavens says, "Come, My children, come into Zion, where there is love, joy, and peace. As a mother hen gathereth her chicks, I am now gathering you, Israel, My first love."

Where once there were tears of sorrow, they are now replaced with tears of joy, and they exclaim, "We are coming home,"

Their children are running and laughing; they are truly happy, and they are shouting for joy.

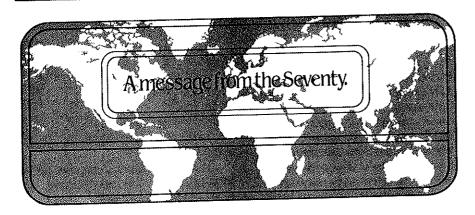
The angels are singing with glory in Zion, and are welcoming Israel home. "Come to the Mountain of the Lord, where you can rest your weary bones. Come to the Mountain of the Lord, where you shall be sheltered from the cold. Come to the Mountain of the Lord, where nothing shall harm nor destroy."

They come, and they lay themselves down at the feet of the Lord. They are weary from their long travels; they have suffered much. Then the tender loving hand of the Lord rests upon their brows; He comforts them, and He blesses them.

He exclaims, "You are home now, Israel, you have come home to the Mountain of the Lord, you have come to Zion, where you shall never be cast down again. Welcome home, Israel."

I want to praise God's name for the many ways He comforts me, especially during the present trial in my life.

Sis. Josie Jasmin



## Growth in India

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The addition of new members around The Church of Jesus Christ has been reported in recent issues. Growth among the Apache Missions, the Inner City of Detroit, and Nigeria has been cited; now, the same kind of uplifting information has been received from India.

Apostle Joseph Calabrese, who has been the coordinator from the time the late Evangelist Alvin Swanson and he went to India to start the Church in 1981, has reported continued increase in numbers there.

There are three major areas where the congregations are located. They are in Andhra Pradesh, under Brother David Livingston; in Tamil Nadu, under Brother A. Devanandam (Dev); and in Karnatka, under Brother V. Babu. Growth has been achieved in all three regions.

There are nine villages under Brother Livingston's jurisdiction. They are Singarjoplem, Bokkinalla, Nallamadu, Koyarajumundry, Gopalapuram, Jakulakunta, Gollagudem, Medinavaripolem, and Ramanujapuram. There are 550 members, and they are served by two elders (Brothers Livingston and Yohan), eight teachers, and four deaconesses.

There were 26 baptisms this past year, and many other people are interested in coming into the Gospel. Residents from new villages are also inquiring about the Church. The elders strive to instruct potential members, so that they can become fully acquainted with the

faith and doctrine. Knowledge about the truth must be given to them, of course.

Brother Livingston, who is also a medical doctor, wrote recently, "The hospital work, the IMA work in the villages for medical service, the leprosy work, and, above all, the Church work, are all keeping me very busy; and so, I am spending a lot of time in prayer for my spiritual strength and physical health.

"I have conducted the officers' meeting at Ramanujapuram on the 20th of December, 1990. We had a glorious time with the fullness of the Spirit of God. We studied Ether 6th Chapter to Ether 15th Chapter and also I Nephi 1st Chapter.

"The officers of Andhra Pradesh are enjoying to learn the truths about the authenticity of the Book of Mormon."

Brother Livingston also mentioned the distribution of the bed sheets for the flood victims. Brother Calabrese has included pictures he was sent of these hard-hit individuals in his slide presentation on the Church in India, which he will show to any branch or mission.

#### FIVE VILLAGES

The Church of Jesus Christ is located in five villages, with a membership of 110, in Tamil Nadu, where Brother Dev and another elder, Brother Stephen, are serving. The five places are Ayalur, Thottikali, Thiruninravur, Vattatur, and Ambatoor.

The two, who are ably assisted by three teachers, two deacons, and five deaconesses, are constantly attempting to spread the Gospel by passing out Church literature and visiting contacts made by the Ladies' Circle, which is very active The Ladies' Circle meetings are held in the Ayalur building. Brother Dev's wife, Sister Mary, is the president. The sisters are determined to tell others of the Gospel.

The first Missionary Benevolent Association group in India was organized the last time Brother Calabrese was there in November, 1989, along with Brother William Colangelo. It is also in Ayalur. Many young people are attending, especially young men, who are desirous of learning about the Church.

There are currently 66 students in our school at the Church compound, and there are four different classes. Also, we have a vocational sewing school with 12 students and a child-care nursery with an average of 35 to 50 children. The village landlord, who is very friendly to us, stated he would like to have us expand the school to all grades, and this is being considered.

Brother Dev also addressed the severe weather conditions experienced. "Because of heavy rains and storms, there was heavy loss for our believers. Most of the houses are damaged, all the paddy fields are covered by water and sand, and their cultivations are all spoiled. I will give shelter for some in our school building."

### MADRAS AND BANGALORE

The cities of Madras and Bangalore, with a membership of 49, are under Brother Babu's jurisdiction. He is the only elder there, assisted by one deacon and two deaconesses. A teacher, Brother Samuel of Bangalore, passed away suddenly in early 1990. He had been very valuable.

Brother Babu and his wife, Sister Merlin, have also been very busy. After work, they visit interested people. This effort has been blessed with at least 10 more baptisms. Brother Babu services the members in Bangalore once a month. Brother Dev has also gone with him several times.

The new Ladies' Circle organ-



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# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The appointed days to honor our natural mothers and fathers are still a few weeks away. But now is as good a time as any for us to reflect on our spiritual mothers and fathers. We can honor them by seeking to follow their examples, inasmuch as they followed the standard set by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

The Church of Jesus Christ has had many pillars—saints who upheld the faith and laid the groundwork, both naturally and spiritually, for much of what we in the Church enjoy today. While each of us has his or her own personal list of brothers and sisters who touched our lives in significant, lasting ways, it is safe to say that they all had certain attributes in common. The things that we remember most about them, the very things that made them stand out as pillars, can—if properly cultivated—do much to enhance our own spiritual lives, and the growth of the Church.

As we look at the examples set by our spiritual mothers and fathers, we must be sure to place the emphasis—as the Lord always taught—on the intents and desires of their hearts, and not dwell so much on their actions *per se*. For example, we often hear stories of how the brothers and sisters of old walked for miles, in all kinds of weather, to attend church services and to spread the Gospel. We understand, of course, that the long walks were not what made them pillars, nor would it make us better saints if we were to walk past the cars in our driveways just to go to church the way they did. But we must look beyond their actions, and acknowledge the fact that these people possessed in their hearts an extraordinary desire to serve God, to meet with His people, and to see His Church grow.

Owning an automobile has eliminated the need for most of us to exert the same physical efforts as the saints of old. But we can still make an effort to "go to church the way they did," that is, with our hearts filled with that same burning desire to receive the blessings of God. Occasionally, we do experience something approaching this level of desire, and are likewise blessed for it—for instance, as we look forward with great anticipation and spiritual preparation to campouts and other special activities. Perhaps the brothers and sisters whom we remember so fondly were able to keep this kind of desire alive in their hearts more consistently, and were likewise consistently blessed for it.

If we wish to honor our spiritual mothers and fathers, we must strive to match them not so much in outward actions (to do so would be redundant), but rather in the desires of our hearts. They would have wanted to see us building above and beyond the foundations that they worked so hard to lay down for us. Each of us must grow strong enough to stand as pillars ourselves, for one day it will be our job to take their places—perhaps sooner than we think—as the Lord calls each one home to His eternal rest.

# The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

# The Power of Prayer

Dear Friends,

These days there are many times when you are watching television and you will see the "bad guys" win. There are times when you will see bad things made to look good, and sinful things that hurt others looking like they are fine to do. Followers of Christ like you and me must be careful and smart. We must think things through and ask ourselves if we're being tricked or truly following Christ's way of safety and joy.

The way to tell if something is true is to read the Bible and Book of Mormon and see what Jesus told us to do. One of His most important sayings was, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." This means when you are angry at someone who hurt you and you want to hurt them back, or say hurtful things about them, you don't. Instead, you remember that Christ teaches us to show them a better way-His way of kindness and forgiveness. You show your enemies that Christ has given you the power to be kind, and to return good for evil.

Jesus' disciple taught us, "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind."

This reminds us too, that it is God's Spirit within us that gives us the power to return good for evil. The Apostle Paul told us in Romans 12:19-21, "... [I]t is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay saith the Lord. Therefore if your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink: for in doing so you will heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil,



but overcome evil with good."

God's Spirit within us gives us power to return good for evil. That's the Spirit we must search for and pray for. That is the Spirit which will let us win. Each time we return good for evil, we've won for Jesus and we've made ourselves bigger inside.

For something small, we may be able to say a quick, short prayer and overcome evil. For a bigger problem or a person that won't go away, we'll probably need to pray many times. For terrible problems, we'll need to fast and pray and sometimes ask others to pray with us or for us.

And most importantly, remember that we can overcome the devil. Our memory verse for this month is from James Chapter 4, Verse 7: "Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and he will draw near to you."

Remember, hang on, keep praying, and Jesus will let you win.

Be sure and write to me at *The Gospel News* when you are ready to tell your teacher or branch these beautiful words. These are words for you to put in your heart forever. These are words that will remind you what to do and how to fight on so that good wins.

Your Friend, Sister Jan Steinrock

### WORD SEARCH

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#### MESSAGE continued . . .

ized in Madras is doing well. Sister Merlin is the president. As do our sisters in Ayalur, the ones in Madras like to visit and pass out our Church literature. They spend much time every week in fasting and prayer. The increase in baptisms in Madras is a direct reflection of their enthusiasm.

As in other parts of the world, the Gospel of Jesus Christ is being spread in India by devoted, hardworking brothers and sisters. Brother Calabrese reflected, as of his last reporting period, that there were 709 members in three states, and there were now five church buildings, with one more currently underway. Since 1981, great strides have been made in preaching about Christ, His doctrine, and His Church. There is much hope for the future.

Our prayers and support are greatly needed.

## **Branch and Mission News**

# Baptisms in N. Jackson, OH

On August 26, 1990, Kimberly Spencer was baptized by Bro. Frank Giovannone. He later laid hands on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We at the North Jackson, Ohio Mission thank God for this new convert, and our prayers are with her that the Lord would truly bless her in her endeavors to serve Him.

### Lake Worth, FL

How oft shall we gather together? Thank God for the desire to gather with His wonderful people as often as we can, to hear the messages He inspires.

Bro. Eugene Perri spoke to us on forgiveness, saying that it takes a strong person to ask for forgiveness. He added that unless we forgive, it is very difficult to receive forgiveness from God. Also, our brother spoke about the importance of our testimonies, saying that through us, others may be introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Mike Radd asked that we sing Taste the Grass on the Summit, and then spoke to us concerning the many pollutions in the world, even the very air we breathe. If we want pure air, he said that we must climb higher. Jesus shed His blessing upon Peter so that he could walk on the water, but our brother reminded us that Peter was the same one who denied Jesus. We can sometimes be the same way.

We all hold each other up, Bro. Chuck Maddox explained, like the man let down safely through the roof. He said that each of us takes a turn to hold onto the bed. Also, we all have a spiritual calling which we need to stir up and cultivate in our lives. We have weaknesses that we need to work on, and, as Bro. Chuck explained, we have an Advocate—Jesus Christ.

Bro. Ron Carradi spoke on how Jesus keeps His promises, and all will be fulfilled. He asked if we were willing to keep our promise. He asked us to consider why we are gathered together. He said that Jesus asked it this way: "What went ye out to see? A reed shaken in the wind?" Our testimony meeting this day was filled with our reasons for being in church. As one brother stated, "We don't come to church to be entertained."

One of our meetings in October was opened by Bro. Jesse Carr, visiting Lake Worth from Greensburg, PA with his wife, Sis. Ruth. Our brother was excited to say that the Church has much to offer the world if they would only repent. He said that the Church offers the love of Jesus Christ. Our brother spoke about the ten virgins, encouraging us to always have our lights trimmed, holding on to the Holy Spirit that we may be an uplift to all those we meet. He encouraged us, if we have a bad day, to go to the Lord.

Bro. John D'Orazio, using Titus Chapter 2, opened a very lively discussion concerning what is expected of us as saints, despite the trials that life brings to us. Paul and those that were with him in the shipwreck were told that all would be saved. The analogy in our lives is that the ship may break apart, but we'll make it if our eyes are set on the things of God.

In late 1990, we held an auction sponsored by the Ladies' Circle. We brought baked goods, items, and talents to "sell" to the highest bidders. The bids went higher and higher as the goods and services became more and more desirable; we were all uplifted in a joyful good time as well. We collected over \$1500.00 that evening.

We would like to share another blessing in our branch. On January 6, Heather Kemp was added to God's little band. She was baptized by Bro. Chuck Maddox and confirmed by Bro. John D'Orazio. Heather has been visiting and listening to the Gospel of Truth,

and has purchased, with her heart, this great pearl. May God continue to bless our new addition to the family.

### News from Miami, FL

For years we see them come to church and attend Sunday School, and when, as teenagers, they request baptism, we feel such a great joy in our hearts!

The Miami Branch met on a Wednesday evening, September 3, 1990, on a beautiful beach, with a beautiful sunset, to witness two new sisters come into the Gospel and follow Christ's example. Sister Heylen Clairett Bicelis, who came from Venezuela just seven years ago, was baptized by Bro. Doug Obradovich. We were so blessed to hear her testimony of how she wants to dedicate her life to the Gospel. Her prayer is that her parents will join her, along with her natural brother and sister, Bro. Miguel Bicelis and Sis. Helen Bicelis Catone, in serving the Lord in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Nichole Kovacic was baptized by her father, Bro. George Kovacic. We've heard over and over her requests for prayer, along with the many beautiful experiences the Lord has given her. We feel so comforted knowing that she will always have God's Spirit with her.

We met at the Swanson's home for the confirmation service, and it was wonderful to see 47 people come into the home, as many were visiting from the Hollywood Branch. As the elders circled our two new sisters and knelt in prayer, a sister had a vision of our six elders kneeling with another personage standing in the circle with his hands on our two new sisters' heads.

Sis. Heylen was confirmed by Bro. Joseph Catone Jr. Sis. Nichole was confirmed by her uncle, Bro. Mark Kovacic. Our two sisters had personal experiences in knowing that it was the Lord calling them at this time.

(Continued on Page 8)

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#### MIAMI continued . . .

Matthew 27:37-39, "Thou shalt love the Lord . . . thou shalt love thy neighbor, . . ." the two great commandments, were brought forth at the October, 1990 General Church Conference. Upon returning home, Bro. Joe Catone Jr. began to pray and study concerning this scripture. He looked up several scriptures about love and a word kept appearing to him. This word was GIVE. He was reminded of a saying his father-in-law had taught him: "Love away—The more you give it away, the more you get."

On November 18, Bro. Joe expounded on this scripture and this lesson. He taught that when loving another, the completeness comes when you transfer that love to the other person. He said that as God extended His love to us through His Son, and how His Son followed the lead and gave Himself, we should give of ourselves to each other. He encouraged us to love, showing God how much we love Him and those who surround us. Bro. Joe ended by saying, "Do the two great commandments."

On January 6, 1991, we were blessed by God with another inspired preaching service. We opened by singing The Standard of Liberty, repeating the words, "defending the Title with true men of valor, the best in the land." Bro. Mark Kovacic read from Alma 24, which tells how the people were taught to lay down their swords and bury them. The words of Jesus, found in III Nephi 12:39, were also quoted, "But I say unto you, that ve shall not resist evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also." As the Anti-Nephi-Lehites were killed by the Lamanites, more joined them and more were converted to the people of the Lord. We were encouraged to raise up the standard.

Bro. Joe Catone Jr. repeated the words in the song, "Strong soldiers needed to raise up the Standard..." Bro. Joe encouraged us to make our stand, and let God improve and perfect us while we do His will. He pointed out that many more were added to the people of God in this scripture. He encourag-

ed us to look forward to the day that the Seed of Joseph also raises up the Standard, in Zion. He told us that Zion would be built in harmony, with righteous hands. In looking to Zion, he told us, let us continue to remember to raise up this Standard daily, in our lives.

Many felt the Spirit of God, and it continued into the testimonies that followed. We were pleased to have visiting with us Sis. Marie Caldwell from Lorain, Ohio, as well as Sister Phyllis (Dolly) Kovacic and her husband George from Erie, Pennsylvania. Carol Ritz was also visiting from Columbus, Ohio.

# Baptisms, blessings in Tampa, FL

The saints in Tampa, Florida have experienced many blessings and much growth throughout the latter half of 1990. Three new brothers were added to the fold! Brother Martin (Marty) Gonzalez was baptized on September 26 by Bro. John Griffith and confirmed by Bro. Duane Lowe. While we were gathered at Davis Island to witness Bro. Marty's baptism, Larry Heckerd made his wishes known to become part of the family of God. Bro. Larry was baptized on October 14 by Bro. Ken Staley and confirmed by Bro. Dennis Moraco. On November 4, Bro. Scott Griffith was baptized by his father, Bro. John Griffith. He was confirmed by Bro. James G. Speck.

Our local Ladies' Circle sponsored two events in which the entire branch participated. The first was the collection of food and money for a needy family at Thanksgiving, and another at Christmas. The second event was caroling at a local health care facility where Sis. Rose Risola does volunteer work. Our group, including children, presented several choir selections, after which we spent some time greeting and talking with patients at the nursing home.

Several families at the branch have had open houses, which afforded the opportunity for us to socialize with one another. We have also had the pleasure of hosting visiting brothers and sisters from all seven districts of the Church, in cluding five of the apostles. We have truly enjoyed all the fellowship, and we look forward to the coming year with great anticipation.

### Growth in Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

We have been blessed recently in Freehold, NJ to see seven men and women surrender themselves to Jesus Christ and be baptized.

On November 18, 1990, Angela Reyes was baptized by Bro. Joseph Perri. Sis. Angela is of the Seed of Joseph, and at the water's edge, a brother heard the voice of God say, "I will set my people free." Sister Angela had a vision of Jesus the week prior to her baptism, and since then, has been given a beautiful gift of vision which has brought much joy to our branch.

On December 16, 1990, Bro. Joseph Perri baptized Martin Halguien Nunez. A vision was had in which a great light emanated from Bro. Perri's hand as he raised it to invoke the Lord's Authority in administering the baptism. Later, during our sacrament service, a vision was seen in which baskets of wheat were being put through a millstone, removing the chaff. When the wheat went through the grinder, pure liquid gold poured out, representing our sanctification through the Blood of Jesus Christ.

On February 17, 1991, we had five more baptisms in Freehold. Juan Murillo, Hilda Halguien Nunez, Adrian Navarro, Salvatore Reyes, and, at the water's edge, Boatin Reid also requested baptism. Bro. Juan and Sis. Hilda were confirmed by Bro. Joe Perri, and Adrian, Salvatore, and Boatin were confirmed by Bro. Jim Crudup.

We were so thankful this day to see five souls give themselves to God. A sister had a dream prior to this day that there would be five baptisms, the fifth asking at the water's edge, a testament to the truth of God's revelation. Visions of heavenly glows were seen as each one was baptized and later confirmed. Also during the bestowal of

the Holy Ghost, a personage dressed in white was seen by a sister, assisting in the confirmations. The manifestations of God's presence and power in our midst have been so great that space only permits a fraction of the experiences to be recounted here.

A little baby only a few weeks old, Michele Stephanie Murillo, was afflicted with several tumors in her chest. We cried out to God in prayer for a healing, and praise God, shortly thereafter the tumors had completely disappeared; Michele was healed.

While Bro. Martin was standing between two cars, jump-starting one of them, his little nephew climbed into the car that was running and accidentally slipped the transmission into drive. The car lurched forward, pinning Bro. Martin's legs between the two cars. Miraculously, Bro. Martin later walked away without a scratch or a bruise. As our brother was testifying of this miracle, a sister had a vision of an angel standing beside him. We are so thankful for God's protection of His people!

While our branch was fasting and praying about the conflict in the Middle East, a sister had a vision of a beautiful golden city. She saw many people streaming into the city. As the last one entered and the gates of the city were sealed, she saw the ground all around disintegrate and crumble. God is trying to show us that now, more than ever, we need to be found "running with the people of God."

We thank our Lord for the changed hearts, the experiences, the healings, and the miracles that have come amongst us with amazing frequency. We are also thankful for the great number of the Seed of Joseph who have come to the Church, have been baptized, and are now going about speedily spreading the Gospel to others. Our branch is overcrowded every Sunday, and for this we thank God as well.

We are also thankful that God brought Bro. Joseph Perri, along with Brothers Joe Ross and Paul Carr, safely back from Africa in February and healed the afflictions Bro. Perri encountered while doing missionary work there. Most of all we are thankful for our Great High Commander, Jesus Christ.

# Day of blessings in Gastonia, NC

By Donna Rossi

Sunday, February 24, 1991 was a beautiful day as the brothers and sisters gathered at the Gastonia, NC Mission. We were to be joined that day by brothers and sisters of the Spartanburg, SC Mission. Our little building was filled almost to capacity as we came anticipating the coming events of the day.

We began the meeting with singing. We sang God Made a Plan, written by our late Sister Esther Dyer. We then observed the setting of the Lord's table, after which Sis. Mamie Means from Spartanburg sang Just As I Am. A beautiful spirit was felt as she sang this song. Our sister has not been in the Church for very long, but God has truly used her and given her a wonderful voice to praise Him.

Bro. John Genaro opened our meeting, teaching us about waiting upon the Lord. He spoke about how many years God waited (1,260) until He carried out His perfect plan. Then he went on to admonish us from II Nephi 29, concerning "A Bible—We have a Bible." Bro. John elaborated on how Joseph Smith was given the mission to reveal and translate the Book of Mormon.

Bro. Darrell Rossi followed Bro. John, reading from the 12th chapter of Alma. These scriptures warn us not to harden our hearts. We were further reminded that our words and works will either condemn us or liberate us.

We felt a beautiful spirit in testimonies and song as the brothers and sisters stood, one right after the other, to tell of their experiences of how the Lord has blessed them. Many focused on their callings into the Church, and how the Lord had led them up to that point in their lives.

Brother F. Hall, newly baptized at the Spartanburg Mission, stood and told of how he was led to the Lord. The testimonies were then followed by the priesthood laying hands on those who stood in need of natural and spiritual healings, after which Communion was served.

We closed by singing My Soul's Full of Glory. Everyone in attendance that day truly felt the blessings of God. May God continue to bless our missions as well as our entire Church, as we all strive to serve Him every day of our lives.

# Baptisms and visitors at Quincy, FL

The Quincy, Florida Mission rejoiced greatly on Sunday, October 21, 1990, as we prepared to take two of our young people, Alphonso Hopkins Jr. and LaQuanda Darshawn Bright, to the waters of baptism. They were baptized by Bro. Cleveland Baldwin. Bro. Charleston Hester confirmed LaQuanda Bright and Alphonso Hopkins Jr. was confirmed by Bro. Cleveland Baldwin.

Bro. Charleston spoke from Mosiah 18:9, "Yea, and are willing to mourn with those that stand in need of comfort, and to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death, that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life . . . " Bro. Charleston, stressing the importance of being a servant of God, shared much wisdom, understanding, and knowledge that can help us improve our relationship with the Lord. Our brother stated that we should be willing to apply these teachings in our daily activities. We were assured that if we would seek the Lord with all of our heart, He would hear and answer our prayers. Bro. Cleveland explained that through understanding and time, we move forward and make progress. In order for us to get closer to God, we have to rid ourselves of the weights that hold us back, and strive to walk in the path of righteousness each day, as we need Jesus in every aspect of life. He told us to take Christ every place

In December, Brother Harold

(Continued on Page 10)

#### QUINCY continued . . .

Littlejohn of Spartanburg, SC delivered a powerful message which required total concentration on one's self. The message, entitled, "Checking on Me," was taken from James 1:22 & 23, "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass." Bro. Harold's message was this: In order for us to be doers of the word, we must allow the Lord to work with us, hearing God's word and allowing it to activate within our hearts and souls. We should not be forgetful hearers of the word, because this will not allow the word to work within us. Our minds should be on the things of God, worshipping God in Spirit and in Truth.

Another scripture was taken from Alma 5:11-26, concerning a mighty change within one's heart. The word of God allows you to see yourself. When Jesus comes into a heart, it will cease from wandering astray, possessing instead a hope that is steadfast and sure.

Bro. Charleston Hester spoke on the scripture from Revelation 3:14, which concerns being cold, hot, or lukewarm for the Lord. Our brother brought forth that we cannot straddle the fence in our service to God. We were told not to be content with where we are in the Church, but to strive to do better, as this is the time to get our lives in order for God. He told us we cannot afford to curve on the straight and narrow path, but we must keep the pathway straight.

We thank God for the many visitors whose presence and fellowship we enjoy from time to time. It is our continued prayer that God will bless each of us to raise our individual level of righteousness, for we all desire a closer walk with Him.

### Christmas in Guatemala

By Rose Ciotti Anderson

During the past Christmas season, The Church of Jesus Christ

in Guatemala was again involved in many activities in an effort to share our love and to bring joy into the lives of some of the people in Guatemala, especially the children.

Food baskets were prepared and delivered to the homes of our brothers and sisters. The baskets were overflowing with rice, beans, sugar, coffee, oil, cookies, candy, various fruits, and other items. We shared a wonderful blessing as we visited each home. The brothers and sisters are always appreciative of our efforts on their behalf.

Our Christmas Nativity program was again a huge success, with 35 of our children participating. Many visitors attended. A fellowship gathering and refreshments followed the program.

A special party was held for the children of The Church of Jesus Christ. In attendance were 42 happy children, and a special gift was presented to each of them. What a joy to see their radiant faces!

During the week prior to Christmas, we visited orphanages and the pediatric ward of a hospital. Toys, other gifts, and candy were given to all the children. At the hospital we visited every child's bed. Many mothers cried at the special moment. We knew that their tears were not because the child was receiving a gift, but rather because of the love that was being shown them. Our deacons gave invitations to the parents at

the hospital to attend our church services.

Many of our brothers and sisters participated in these activities. We had a work party at church to prepare hundreds of bags of candy. They also helped with presenting the toys at the orphanages and hospital. This was a unique experience for them, as they had the opportunity to give to others. It was truly a great blessing for all.

We also distributed toys to children in the very poor areas of the zone in which our church is located. Overall we gave out more than a thousand toys. The American Society of Guatemala made a donation to help purchase toys for the children.

We were very pleased with all the events of the Christmas season. The memories of the smiling faces of the children and their joy and laughter linger on. We were especially happy to bring a little happiness into the lives of the orphaned children, who can no longer experience the warmth of a parent's arms, as well as the sick children in the hospital, who are confined and cannot run and play like other children. Our hearts go out to these children especially.

There was a trmendous feeling of unity among the brothers and sisters as we shared this great experience.



Guatemalan children pose with their Christmas gifts.

### GMBA CAMPOUT REGISTRATION FORM Antiochian Village Conference Center June 22 to June 29

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# \* Weddings \*

### CASSIDY—CHAMPINE

Mr. Christopher Cassidy and Miss Lori Champine were united in holy matrimony at Detroit Branch #1 on

August 18, 1990.

The bride's father, Bro. Gary Champine, performed the ceremony. He was assisted by Bro. Sam DiFalco. Musical selections were offered by Bro. Steve, Bro. Larry, and Sis. Rosanne Champine, accompanied by Bro. Eugene Amormino.

The newlyweds are residing in St. Clair Shores,

Michigan.

### NOLFI-HANSEN

Jason Nolfi and Carrie Hansen were united in mar-

riage on February 16, 1991.

Bro. David Nolfi, the groom's father, performed the ceremony, with a prayer offered by Bro. Alma Nolfi, the groom's grandfather.

May the Lord bless this couple in their life

together.

# Children Blessed

Alyssa Janae Reiner was blessed on December 23, 1990, by her uncle, Bro. Mark Kovacic, at the Miami, FL Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Her parents are James Chandler Reiner and Sister Kathy (Warden) Reiner

Joseph Miguel Rangel was blessed by Bro. Al Mayher on February 17, 1991, at the Cleveland, OH Branch. He is the son of Bro. Rey and Sis. Robin

	Address Change	
Name		
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Jeffrey Nathan Frendo was blessed on March 3, 1991 by Bro. Louis Vitto at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch. His parents are Yvonne and the late Jeffrey Frendo, deceased before the birth of the baby. He is the grandson of Bro. Carmel and Sis. Lillian Frendo.

On March 3, 1991, Bro. Frank Altomare blessed Nathan Alexander Barnett, son of Maurice and Doris

Barnett, at 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.

### MARILYN COLLINS

Sister Marilyn Collins of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed from this life on February 8, 1991.

The funeral was conducted by Bro. Richard Scaglione, with Bro. Robert Nicklow Sr. assisting.

Sister Marilyn was the granddaughter of the late Bro. William H. and Sister Sadie B. Cadman. Surviving are Sis. Marilyn's mother, Sis. Sara Vancik, three sons, Curt, William, and Jason, two daughters, Sis. Chris Nicklow and Cindy Joseph, four sisters, and four grandchildren.

Our prayer is that God will bless and comfort our

sister's family.

### CAMPOUT INFORMATION . . .

The following rate schedule will apply:

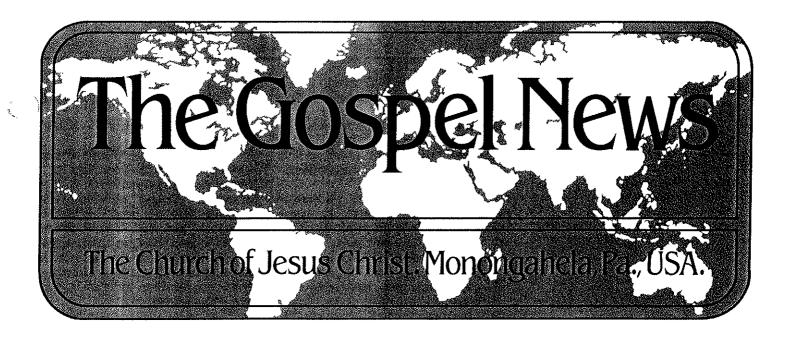
#### PER PERSON

	Daily Rate	Weekly Rate
Married couples (per person) 3 per room 4 per room 5 per room Cabins/Chalets	\$40 \$40 \$40 \$40 \$25	\$210 \$190 \$170 \$155 \$125

If anyone plans on staying off camp, but would like to eat at camp, the fee for meals is \$16/day, regardless of how many meals are eaten.

## DIRECTORY UPDATE

Joseph Zampaglione 54545 Obregon Ave. LaQuinta, CA 92253 Telephone (619) 564-4300



May, 1991

Volume 47, No. 5

# "The War Is Not Ended!"

By David Nolfi

On January 16, 1991, the President of the United States of America, George Bush, with a marrity vote from the Congress, made the decision to enter into war against Iraq. The USA joined with multinational forces in an all-out battle to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. Six weeks into the war, the Allied Forces succeeded in their objective to oust Iraq.

The war has had a very patriotic effect upon our nation. Flags waving from cars, trucks, housetops, porches, and front yards; buttons, banners, and ribbons are displayed on lapels, sweaters, purses, pole tops, street corners, buildings, and walls. The Star Spangled Banner has acquired new fame.

Along with the spirit of patriotism, there was a call to prayer throughout the nation. The 'pray for peace' slogan appeared on banners, billboards, leaflets, and marquees of filling stations, markets, restaurants, dry cleaners; anywhere and everywhere, 'pray for peace' could be seen. The American public was awakened to he need for God's help by this declaration of war. The President appointed February 3 as a national day of prayer to further help the war effort. The war in Iraq has had

a short-lived humbling effect on this nation.

Every day, the news media had more and more to report until the cease-fire was declared and the troops began to return home. Notwithstanding the fact that the media hype focused everyone's attention on the war against Iraq, there is very little being announced, printed, published, editorialized, or broadcast regarding the war that rages in our homeland. There is no detailed coverage, no press conferences, no day-to-day status reports, no military general formulating a plan of attack, and no cease-fire. This war is not being fought with attack jets or guided missiles or stealth bombers or laser guidance.

There is little resistance to the continued onslaught of the enemy. This enemy utilizes the most sinister cunning, waging war on many fronts. This war has yet to be fully declared, yet there have been thousands upon thousands of casualties. Where is the war being fought? Who are the combatants? Who is winning? Who is losing?

The enemy attacks began in earnest approximately thirty years ago, partly as a result of the rebellion of the 1960's. It was a decade in which many people were

caused to change their values and their way of thinking. While the need for change existed in some areas, many good values were abandoned as well as the bad ones, simply because they were old fashioned. As the 1970's came, so came a decade of permissiveness, a time of unrestrained human will free to indulge in any pleasure. The following decade, the 1980's, brought this free human spirit even further out into the open. Self became number one; it was the "me" generation; no pleasure should be refused nor restricted.

Out of this self-indulgent generation grew the philosophy to freely pursue any pleasure; there was no shame, no guilt, no inhibition, no right, no wrong. As this carefree, unrestricted attitude broadened, so did the attack of the enemy.

(Continued on Page 3)

# Conference Dates Changed

The October, 1991 General Church Conference, originally scheduled for October 10-13, has been rescheduled for Thursday, October 3 through Sunday, October 6. The Thursday session will begin at 2:00 p.m.

# Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

"Be Pleasant." Take care that the face which looks out from your mirror in the morning is a pleasant one. You may not see it again all day, but others will-and it will attract or repel.

You may be more bright than your competitor; but if he smiles and you frown, he will find open doors where you find them closed.

A smile is a natural relaxer for the one who does it and the one who sees it; a friend-maker, a source of health, comfort, and happiness in everybody.

Many may be the winners by the very simple manner of being kind, cheerfully serving others willingly. I would like to point to one which some may have overlooked: Joseph Bologna, formerly from the great state of Michigan, but now of Modesto, California.

Joseph was baptized in 1930 in Detroit, Michigan Branch 2. He was ordained into the priesthood in July 1933; a truly faithful assistant to Joseph Dulisse, who presided at that time. Bro. Bologna was 28 years old, making him the youngest minister in Detroit at that time.

Branch 2 has had a dramatic history of cheerfulness, service, and smiling faces. It still is an outstanding place to visit to this day. There is a missionary spirit in that branch of the Church.

Brother Bologna started holding meetings in Inkster, Michigan. He went to Lansing, Michigan and held meetings there, and still later, he held meetings in Chicago, Illinois. The spirit of evangelism carried him to the Muncey and Grand River In-

dian Reservations in Ontario, Canada. We could not underestimate this quiet but daring minister of God. Joseph remained single until March 25, 1949. He married Lena Dulisse, a widow with two boys, Peter and James, whom he raised as his own.

Brother Joe Bologna has been a blessing to us in Modesto. As a missionary, he has made several trips to San Jose, California and Portland, Oregon. He also served for a time as our presiding elder. He and Sister Lena have been consistent in their service to us. Lena has been our financial secretary for many years.

What prompted me to write about them is that they have a cheerful attitude, a willingness to serve. One hardly ever hears them complain, though of late they have suffered much. Lena has been hospitalized in nursing homes much, and now Bro. Joseph is ill after surgery.

Lena in a nursing home and Joseph alone at home; though he has daily visits he needs some companionship by him. Their cheerful attitude is way above average.

They need our prayers. It would be nice if some of you readers could send them a love note. Their address is 2013 Plaunt Dr., Modesto, CA 95350.

When I was baptized on April 22, 1933, Lena was the recording secretary. Though most may not know, she did all the typing for both Branch 1 and the General Church as long as T. S. Furnier was General Church Secretary.

Lena has served as a deaconess and financial secretary ever since 1959, the year they arrived in California. They have taken their challenges with a smile. They have visited the afflicted and helped them as part of their duty. Lena says that suffering is part of our life: we will be rewarded if we endure.

How could we better that? To those of you who suffer, learn to smile a little more. Doctors say it takes 14 muscles to smile and 79 to

Sing it! Oh, wait, meekly, and murmur not." "Men are, that they might have joy" (II Nephi 2:25). "Sorrowful, yet always rejoic-

ing" (II Corinthians 6:10).

"Rejoice evermore" (I Thessalo-

"Rejoice with joy unspeakable" (I Peter 1:8).

Persons such as Brother Joseph and Sister Lena Bologna help us renew our values and hope in Paradise. "I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me" (II Corinthians 12:9). When I first read this, in my youth, I thought it strange; but as I have gotten old and have shared somewhat in these infirmities, I now "rejoice evermore."

Let us be pleasant, and let it be known, as our life is hidden in Christ.

We live not of ourselves; Christ lives in us, and we in Christ.

Smile, and those around you will smile with you.

> Grace be unto you, Mark Randy

# Ohio District Conference

By Mark Naro

The brothers, sisters, and friends of the Ohio District came together at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on Sunday, March 3, 1991. The opening comments were, "Be concerned about your children," and how much more evident can the Lord's concern for us as His children be, than to reveal the presence of the three Nephites to our Bro. Mike Nuzzi as the sacrament table was being set?

Bro. Bob Ciarrochi of the Warren Branch opened our service, commenting on the presence of these three messengers and their desire to bring souls to Christ. He continued by reading from the 55th Chapter of Isaiah, "Come and buy and eat without money or price.' He spoke of obedience to God, of boldness in telling of His glory, and of making sure we are walking wor thy to be used by God. He concluded with a word of testimony regarding his recent illnesses, through which the Lord has seen him. Our brother said that he has

learned to count his illnesses as a blessing, for they drew him closer to God.

We heard a special selection sung by Sisters Kathy Natoli and Cathy Genaro, after which Bro. Jim Moore, who was visiting from Imperial, PA spoke on not ceasing in our desires when we are faced with sickness. He stated that we should show courage and strength, for God has a plan in store for His people. He plans to deliver them, and to lift them up, and to heal them upon Zion's arrival.

Bro. Al Mayher of Cleveland spoke on the power of God, and how we must love the Lord with all of our heart, soul, and mind. Then Bro. Frank Natoli related the experience of Sis. Teresa Locci who received a healing from the Lord when a handkerchief was anointed by our priesthood and sent to her in

Italy.

Bro. Phil Jackson of Kinsman, who is currently the Ohio District President, reminded the congregation to be tolerant of one another. He exhorted us not to bear any grudges one against the other, and counseled us to have no division in our midst. We are accountable unto God for our service to Him. Bro. Phil also admonished us to make sure that we show the pure love of God, without fault-finding, showing full love and respect for one another. We must be sure that we are taking our sacrament worthily.

After two sisters came forth to be anointed, Bro. Phil asked four of our ministers to pass the Lord's Supper. After communion, the young people were called forward to sing Wave the Flags of Zion. Bro. Paul Palmieri of Aliquippa then counseled the young people to be good sons and daughters to their parents. He spoke on showing love toward our parents and showing respect for the Church. He also encouraged the young to become involved in the Church, and live a good life. Our brother expressed his confidence in the young people present, that they would do as he had spoken. He went on to tell them that they are the Church of tomorrow, and not to let the things of the world distract them. Bro. Paul also spoke to the parents, reminding them of their responsibility to bring

their children to church.

In closing, Bro. Wayne Martorana of the Niles Branch complimented the congregation on their attentiveness and enthusiasm to be at this conference, and the anxiousness and desire to receive a blessing that they displayed here this day. All in all it was a joyous day, and we thank God that He is a merciful and beautiful Savior, for it is His Spirit which preserves us daily. I'm sure that all who attended this day received a portion of His Spirit to carry them through until we meet again.

#### WAR continued . . .

This war is being waged against humanity; against the family; against marriage; against children; against women, wives, and mothers; against men, husbands, and fathers; against freedom, against religion. Every day, the statistics of this undeclared war are broadcast on radio and television, and are printed in the newspapers. Although we may gasp when we hear of another rape or murder or child abuse, we have grown accustomed to hearing and seeing the report of these sad and grim tales of this war. These vile sins are so commonplace that the senses of society have become numb.

The battles are being fought in classrooms, courtrooms, clinics, nightcubs, back alleys, bars; in movie, television, and recording studios; within families and churches; anywhere that evil can triumph over good. The casualties of this war are the victims of the evils that grip our nation. They are the victims of the rapes, the violent crimes, the divorces, the murders, the pornography, the spousal abuse, the substance abuse, the homosexuality, the devil worship, the suicides, of all the sins that are flourishing around us.

The youth of our nation is especially under attack. Children and young adults are being victimized by drugs, alcohol, premarital sex, teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, homosexuality, and suicides. This cancerous plague of sin has in-

creased dramatically over the past thirty years. The increase was rapid enough to indicate a problem, yet gradual enough so as not to alarm the populace. Worst of all, the vouth have succumbed to these evils because the adults who should be an example of good are an example of evil.

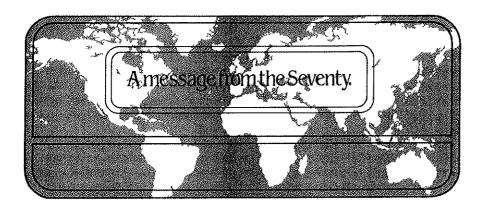
A call to arms must be declared. Just as Chief Captain Moroni-a man twenty-five years of age, a strong and mighty man of God, a man of perfect understanding, a man whose life was such that if all men were like unto Moroni the very powers of hell would be shaken-raised the title of liberty, so, likewise, there must be a title of liberty raised by the servants of God in the midst of this wicked and perverse generation.

Just as Moroni girded on his armor, we too much be girded with the armor of righteousness. The words of Apostle Paul speak to this generation: "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." The force of evil is so strong that we must be endowed with the power of God as never before.

Moroni rent his garment, wrote upon it, raised it to be the title of liberty, and prayed mightily for the cause of the Christians. In the midst of this war we must pour out our whole souls to Almighty God in prayer that we would be endowed with His power to withstand this evil onslaught. This is a day of sackcloth and ashes, a time to fast and pray that God would deliver the enemy into our hands.

What then do we gain with victory? What is the cause for which we fight? Jesus Christ came into this world to sacrifice His life for the salvation of humanity; He resurrected triumphant over death. We shall gain the same thing for which Jesus died, the souls of men and women. Our efforts are directed to the lost of this generation. Every time we see a human being come out of the waters of baptism, we behold the triumph over death through Christ Jesus. This is the victory!

(Continued on Page 6)



# "Most Difficult Thing"

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

"The most difficult thing I had to do when I left the brothers and sisters in Guatemala the other day was to part from them." These were the words of Evangelist President Isaac Smith, as he spoke to the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on Thursday, April 18. He reiterated the same statement two days later at the General Church Conference regarding his brief visit to that nation.

Evangelists Joseph Perri and Joseph Ross, who had just recently returned from a trip to Nigeria along with Evangelist Paul Carr, said that they felt the same way. (Bro. Carr was unable to be at Conference because of illness.) Actually, all missionaries of the Gospel of Jesus Christ seem to say the same thing when they return, regardless of where they have gone and of how much time they have spent there. It is so heartbreaking for them to have to leave!

The reason for this, of course, is the love that is being exhibited by those who have come into the Gospel and who are demonstrating their gratitude for having the opportunity to pursue their eternal salvation. Like the missionaries, they do not want to say good-bye either. The love of God has bonded them together.

#### ILLUSTRATION

A good illustration of the mutual love which develops took place at the General Church Conference on Saturday afternoon. A contingent of brothers and sisters from Tijuana, Mexico (led by Evangelists Edward Perdue and Luis Pacheco, who labor there) sang and testified to the honor and glory of God. They were so desirous to meet other Church members and express gratitude for their conversion that they raised the necessary funds themselves so they could come. A group of Spanish-speaking members from the Freehold, New Jersey Branch joined them for these praises.

Their spirit of joy and their enthusiasm in singing and in testifying thrilled and edified all who were present. Their beautiful and spiritually captivating renditions were like offerings of thankfulness to God, and the difference in language was unimportant. Though they sang in Spanish, the blessings were felt by everyone, even those who know no words in that language. The sincerity and depth of appreciation portrayed in their faces and in their tears of happiness matched the inspiration they presented in their music.

Who would not want to be with such beautiful people? Who would not want to labor on their behalf? Who would not want to seek all measures possible to reach such spiritually hungry and thirsty people in the world? And there are millions of people just as receptive as they were and are.

In addition to the contingent of 26 from Tijuana and the group from Freehold, brothers and sisters from the Indian Reservation in Muncey, Ontario, Canada, led by their resident missionary, Brother Rodney Dyer, came to join in the blessings; their songs are as thrilling in their native tongue. They have many times pierced the hearts of listeners.

The presence of the Seed of Joseph from different areas was very significant. It typifies the kind of missionary work that is going on among them and around the world, and it underscores the importance of our laboring for them and for all people.

Romans 10:14-15 came to mind: "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? how shall they hear without a preacher?

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!"

#### EFFORTS FOR THE FIELDS

Efforts to maintain preachers and workers in the fields, and ways to expand in the future, are constantly being explored in the Church. They are the focus of the Missionary Operating Committee. It is necessary to meet the needs of those who are doing the actual work, as they rely on us for support. They are our representatives in the field, and are working tirelessly to bring individuals into the fold.

The Missionary Foundation Committee is busy raising funds, in addition to the General Church freewill giving program, to help speed along the missionary projects of the Church. Whatever resources they raise will be used directly for the works specified.

During the General Church Conference, these two committees met extensively with members of the General Church Finance Committee to work out an efficient, effective long-term plan of operation. It is the spirit of cooperation and brotherly love, which was remarkably evident in these meetings, that makes it possible for

(Continued on Page 7)



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# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In reflecting upon the words and deeds brought forth by Jesus Christ as He took upon Him flesh and blood, we see a portrait in our minds of unsurpassed beauty, abounding with goodness, peace, and joy. There was something about Jesus that attracted the souls of men and women from all walks of life. While many hardened their hearts and rejected the Salvation which He offered, He held the door open—by all that He said and did—for *everyone* to come to Him. Notwithstanding the excuses offered by many, Christ did nothing to place a stumblingblock in the path of anyone who truly sought the Lord.

Jesus brought joy into the lives of sinners. He did not provide them with the means to continue in their sinful pleasures, but by His profound forgiveness, His boundless love, and His gentle urging to "go and sin no more," He offered them a better life. He did not intimidate, condemn, or withold His blessings from those who recognized their unworthiness before Him, but rather He offered total, unconditional forgiveness, with a promise of eternal life in the presence of God.

We in The Church of Jesus Christ have both the ability and the responsibility to cultivate and exercise the gift and power of the Holy Ghost within us in a positive, fruitful manner that will draw souls to Christ in the same manner that we were drawn. Each of us creates an atmosphere around us, and as we give the Spirit of God free rein in us, that atmosphere can be one of warmth, acceptance, and love—one where people desire to be. However, if we neglect to stir up that gift, if we let our human prejudices, inhibitions, and unforsaken sins crowd out the Spirit of God, we will exude a cold, judgmental, self-justifying aura—an atmosphere where people are constantly made to feel inadequate, uncomfortable, and condemned.

In His encounters with humanity, Christ's behavior was looked upon as unusual. Interestingly, He met with the most resistance not from harlots and robbers, but rather from the religious leaders of the day—the people who thought they were the most righteous. While Jesus spoke gentle words of forgiveness and salvation to the corrupt tax collectors and adulterers of His day, He reserved His harshest vituperations for the scribes and Pharisees, those who were so careful to maintain an outward appearance of righteousness, but whose hearts were hardened by "invisible" sins to the point that they failed to see good in anything or anyone—including the Son of God.

If we, as members of the Church, can improve the atmosphere we create around us, then let's make an effort to better ourselves. If we can always be mindful of the debt of sin that Christ cancelled for our sakes, we won't drag our fellow servants off to prison for the slightest trespass. If we can concentrate on being right with the Lord ourselves, we won't be preoccupied with the actions of others. If we are working to rectify the things that are lacking in ourselves, we won't need to point out to people their own faults or the faults of others. And if we as the Body of Christ are living our lives so that the Church is everything it's promised to be, our lives will be filled with joy, and we will draw souls to Christ without saying a word.

## The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you realize that the word of God, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, never goes out of style? No matter how modern or new a situation is, there are old words of wisdom from God to tell us how to deal with them.

Recently some people at work were talking about magic rocks—rocks that they believe bring about good things.

Well, who made these rocks? God, of course. The beauty and hardness of rocks were formed by God's plans to serve many purposes. Diamonds cut glass; coal is burned; granite and marble are cut for monuments.

But rocks can't answer prayers or bring good luck. Rocks can't hear you, and little statues made from rocks or wood or plastic cannot hear you when you call out for help. God hears you. Jesus answers your cries. The Bible tells us, "The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy" (Psalms 145:20).

Then another friend at work went on a vacation and brought me a fake little "good luck statue." She brought other people the same little statue. Some people made a joke of it, saying, "I could use some good luck," and kept it. Later some joked about things working out and said, "Maybe the little statue brought me luck."

It's not true. The scriptures teach us that all good things come from God—not from a little plastic statue or a cold rock.

I don't believe in fake statues. I wrapped mine up totally and dropped it in the trash. I didn't want anyone else to try to use it or "worship" it either.



We are taught in the Bible the old wise words in Exodus 20, verse 3: "Thou (you) shalt have no other gods before me." In Exodus 20, verses 4 and 5, God tells Moses, "Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord your God am a jealous God."

Sometimes people think money is the thing to count on, the thing to trust. They'll work seven days a week to have more money. They think if they have more money they'll lose all their problems. They think money will buy happiness.

True happiness comes from feeling good inside about yourself. True happiness comes from loving and sharing love with each other. Love comes from God. Love brings happiness.

Serving the one, true God will bring you safety, love, and true happiness. Your memory verses for this month are Psalms 96:4, "For the Lord is great, and greatly to be praised; he is to be feared above all gods," and Exodus 20:3, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

Write me at the Print House when your verses are memorized and you've spoken them to others.

With care, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

EXODUS	NOT
GOD	STONE
LOVES	OR
US	PLASTIC

AND	FAKES
IS	HEARS
JEALOUS	YOUR
WORSHIP	CRIES
HIM	AND
IN	ANSWERETH
TRUTH	PRAY

A	J	E	v	J	Y	A	С	P
N	P	N	P	Е	P	N	R	R
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w	A	Т	Н	L	Н	s	Е	Y
E	S	S	I	О	s	R	S	R
R	Т	E	M	U	R	A	S	U
E	I	V	D	s	0	E	R	0
T	С	0	0	N	W	Н	A	Y
Н	X	L	G	F	A	K	E	s
E	Т	R	U	Т	Н	P	Н	X
W E R E T	A S T I C	T S E V O L	H I M D G	L O U S N F	H S R O W A	R A E H	E S S R A	F U C

# Tapes Available

An extensive library of recordings of general conferences, campouts, singing, and preaching services is available on cassette tape through the General Church Audio-Visual Committee. To obtain a complete list, or to order tapes, please contact:

Fred D'Antonio 101 Division Street Aliquippa, PA 15001

#### WAR continued . . .

Today, the army of God stands in need of valiant soldiers. Those of you who read this plea, the Lord hath need of you, to enjoin yourself to this mighty army, to fight for the cause of righteousness, to make the necessary sacrifice to win souls for Christ. Let the title of liberty be raised in your life: "In memory of our God, our religion and freedom, and our peace, our wives and our children." We must rally to the cause!

God bless you, Brother David Nolfi

# **MBA** Highlights

### Saline local MBA

By Kim Christoffersen

As we began our new year, many of us were setting new goals and looking forward to whatever God's plan had in store for us. Many others, the men and women that were sent over to the Middle East, had their natural lives put on hold as the United States Government set a path for them which, for a while, looked very uncertain.

The Saline, Michigan Mission was directly affected by the reinstatement of Bro. Larry Carlini into the Marine Reserves, the departure of Sis. Jan Oestreicher's husband Pete, who was sent to South Carolina to man the Army Hospital, and the future of Bro. John Buffa's son, John Jr., currently stationed in Germany, who—due to the war—didn't know where he could end up.

We at the Saline Mission felt it was our duty not only to write letters to our loved ones, but also to send a message of love to some who were less fortunate and did not receive letters from loved ones at home. Bro. Shannon Wood heard about a Christian woman who had started a letter system called

# Help Wanted at Camp

Among the needs we are faced with at this year's GMBA Campout is the need for volunteers to contribute an hour of their time to watching the young children. As with everything, the more help we have, the less work there will be for everyone to do. Those willing to volunteer their time to this project are requested to contact the Camp Director, Bro. Ron Morle, at (401) 461-6924 as soon as possible. God will bless you for your efforts.

"Operation Threefold Cord." The name is taken from Ecclesiastes 4:12, "And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken." We addressed a small envelope with the sender's name and wrote a short note letting the man or woman know that he or she was in our prayers. Some included a braided cord in the colors of red, white, and blue.

We are all happy that this war has come to an end, and that the power of prayer did work. It is especially comforting to me, as a new member of The Church of Jesus Christ, to know that prayer will always be something that no one can take from me.

### Pacific Coast Area MBA

By Linda Reynolds

Our area conference was held the weekend of March 16 and 17, 1991 at the San Diego, CA Branch. The brothers and sisters at this branch are always so hospitable, and we always enjoy our visits there.

Area President Bill Gamache took charge of our business meeting, stopping occasionally for us to sing a song. In the evening, the San Diego Branch served us a beautiful lasagne dinner, after which we spent an evening of musical praises and scripture reading. In a patriotic theme, the choir sang three beautiful songs about the American Indians, our favorite being Jesus Is Calling America.

Many of us stayed over for the Sunday service, and we were blessed over and over again. Bro. Bob Womack taught the Sunday School class and spoke to us about making Jesus a personal friend. Bro. John Vela of the Santa Ana, CA Mission opened the morning service and held the entire congregation's attention as he relayed several experiences he had both before and after joining the Church.

In one of his experiences, he told of how his boss had wanted him to work on a Sunday. Bro. John prayed very hard that he

wouldn't have to work that day, and later his boss called to say that no one could work Sunday because the machines had broken down. Our Brother John is a very captivating speaker with his ready smile and enthusiasm. We were also privileged to hear from our Brother Eddie Perdue that day. This beautiful weekend will be remembered for a long time.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

us to unite and successfully incorporate everyone's efforts. While we might classify these sessions as "business," the Lord's blessings are felt by all when His Spirit directs our efforts to move the Church forward.

More information will be presented in the future. The intention was reaffirmed to keep everyone informed and updated about what is being done in the mission field, and how it is being accomplished.

#### IN THE MEANTIME

In the meantime, it is important to remember that missionary activities are most rewarding. Brother Perdue started the work in Mexico when he and his late wife, Sister Evelyn, moved to Tijuana in 1960. Since then, many souls have been converted. There are many people who will be reacting just as enthusiastically and gratefully as those who came to this past April Conference; they, too, will want to meet other brothers and sisters in the Gospel as well. Whatever sacrifices may be required will be well worth it. The workers who go into the fields give the most precious gift of love that they can, that is, the time that they have in this life. Together the numbers can grow and the blessings multiply.

It is essential that we continue to work shoulder-to-shoulder until the end of our days on earth. Thereafter, we will no longer part from each other and have to experience the sadness and difficulty expressed by Brother Smith. As the old-time hymn tells us, then "we'll meet to part no more."

## **Branch and Mission News**

### Bells of heaven rung in Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

Sis. Bertha Bilsky requested that we sing Ring the Bells of Heaven in our meeting on March 10, 1991. Truly, we felt the words of this hymn were fulfilled here at the Roscoe, PA Branch that day. Bro. Donald Kendall, who was baptized some years ago and had fallen away, and who has been attending all our church meetings, arose in tears and with a repentant heart asked for forgiveness of his sins and to be restored to fellowship with Christ and His Church.

The Lord poured down a blessing upon all who were present, causing our hearts to overflow and our eyes to be filled with tears of joy when our Bro. Donald made his request known. Bro. Donald came forward and took the chair set out for him, then the priesthood of the branch knelt while John Kendall offered a prayer to our God thanking Him for all His blessings and asking Him to hear the prayers that were being offered up to Him on behalf of our brother and ourselves.

The ministry then laid hands on Bro. Donald, and Bro. James Abbott offered a prayer restoring him back into fellowship. Our meeting continued with songs and testimonies to the honor and praise of our Lord and Savior. We want you to share in our happiness. Please remember us in your prayers.

## Blessings in Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On March 3, 1991, Rochester had a terrible ice storm which paralyzed all the city. We were without heat and electricity, and much damage was done. But thank God, He watched over us, and we did not suffer much loss.

God is near to all those calling

upon Him and to all those who call upon Him in truth.

On March 17, we were happy to have Bro. Joe and Sis. Carmela Genaro, as well as Bro. Ron and Sis. Cathy Genaro and family to witness the blessing of their granddaughter and niece, born to Bro. Bob and Sis. Ruth Batson. As the child was being blessed, I saw a vision of Jesus blessing the child.

Bro. Ron opened the service and chose for his text II Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear them from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."

Jesus overcame the world. We should give our all, because we are called by His name.

The meeting was opened for testimony, and many beautiful testimonies were offered. The Spirit and blessings of God were felt by all. It was a beautiful day spent in the service of God.

### Blessings abound in the Carolinas

By Donna Rossi

On March 17, 1991, the Spartanburg, SC Mission hosted a combined meeting with the Gastonia, NC Mission. With rain clouds continually threatening outside, we felt God's blessings showering us inside the building. We started by singing The Church Which Jesus Christ Set Up. Sis. Flo LaRosa sang God's House, and then we all sang Vessels of Gold to open the meeting.

Bro. John Genaro introduced the meeting with a message about feet washing. He told us of how Peter wanted his hands and his head to be clean for the Lord's service. Brother John reminded us to maintain a willingness and enthusiasm like Peter's. We are to submit to the will of God and know that all men are equal. He further

told us of God's promise to those who humbly submit to His will. After his words, we sang Keeping

Bro. Jonathan Molinatto followed with quotes from the 13th Chapter of John's gospel. Telling us of Christ's role as master as well as servant, our brother reminded us of our obligations to one another. He related to us how, in the Old Testament, King Nabel's wife washed the feet of David's servants.

Bro. Arthur Searcy, who was visiting Spantanburg from Edison, NJ, exhorted us to look to the example of Christ in washing the feet of His disciples.

Brother Joe from Spartanburg (a newly-baptized member of their mission), although suffering from severe abdominal pain which had kept him awake all night, was determined not to miss his first feet washing service with his wife, Regina, also a newly-baptized member. After going to the hospital early Sunday morning, our Brother Joe and Sister Regina were still determined to get to the meeting.

In our meeting, after having seen the doctor. Brother Joe told us how the doctor could not determine what was wrong with him. He then went under the hands of the elders in prayer. Brother Joe felt some relief after the prayer. However, after partaking of communion, Brother Joe eagerly rose to his feet and testified to the glory of God that upon sipping the wine, he immediately felt all pain leave his body. We all praised the Lord for His goodness.

Another experience of God's goodness was felt that day as Sis. Vera Jackman of the Gastonia Mission stood to testify. As this day had been set aside for us to hold a combined feet washing meeting with the two missions, our emotions ran high. Sister Vera had recently had knee surgery and was hesitant about partaking in the ordinance of feet washing. When she stood on her feet to testify, she asked the brothers and sisters to say a little prayer for her, that when it came time for her to kneel, she would be able to do so.

We enjoyed many blessings as we washed one another's feet. As brothers and sisters were reunited for the closing of the meeting, Sister Vera stood on her feet once again to thank the Lord for His goodness, and to thank the brothers and sisters for their prayers on her behalf. She stated that when she kneeled to wash feet, she felt no pain. Praise the Lord! He is so good to all of us!

After the meeting, we lingered to partake of some natural food prepared for us by the sisters of Spartanburg and Gastonia. A wonderful time of spiritual blessings and extended fellowship was enjoyed by all.

# Spring brings new life to Levittown, PA

By Brian McCreary

To all our brothers and sisters around the country and around the world.

Along with the spring and Easter seasons come reminders of the new life and regeneration our God in His grace has so lovingly bestowed upon all of His creation. We can see the swelling buds on the pussy willows and the tulips. We notice a little lamb join the fold of a local farmer's field. And we feel the comforting warmth of a springtime Sunday morning breeze. So let us praise God for His renewal in the world as well as in our lives as we look forward to that day when the seeds our Master has planted in our hearts become fully mature fruit and He returns to find a bountiful harvest rooted deeply in His Word.

Jesus said, "Verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14). Levittown has been blessed with all kinds of new births and children in these past months.

On separate occasions, two beautiful young girls were blessed in the Church. Our Brother Sam Dell asked God's blessing on little Jessica Cogar (daughter of Steve and Christie), and two-week old Shannon Radick (daughter of Joe and Kim). We pray God's fullness on their lives and that these budding souls will bloom in radiant praise and give glory to God always.

March was also a time of spiritual birth. On consecutive Sundays, we saw Janice Galligher and Garry Camden dedicate their lives unto Christ and take the step of faith through baptism. As winter waned all around us, new life sprang forth from the water's edge. Babies in Jesus emerged, fresh from the life-giving womb of God's love. All of us rejoice at the addition of a new brother and sister to our ranks.

I want to share an experience that took place at the baptism of Brother Garry. All of us were standing at the water's edge. Bro. Nicholas Boruch was there with his son Joshua on his shoulders. It was Joshua's first time seeing a baptism, and Nick wanted his boy to have a good view. (Joshua is just a toddler, but it's never too early to be trained in the ways of God.)

Bro. Sam Dell was performing the baptism, and Nick pointed out the elder to his son, who is very fond of Bro. Sam. As Nick pointed to the water, he said to Joshua, "See, Sam." And then, as Bro. Sam invoked the priesthood authority and raised his hand to the sky, Joshua pointed to the water and said to his father, "God." Praise the Lord.

Brothers and sisters, ours is an awesome responsibility. Just as a gardener works the soil and cares for his crops, and just as a mother nurtures her newborn, we have the job of providing the proper nourishment, security, and shelter for every new-born and budding soul that comes unto Jesus. A baby cannot survive on its own, and only a cactus can live in a desert. Please pray that Levittown properly rears all the souls under its care, and that drought of any kind would never find its way to our doorstep.

Thank you for your prayers for the recovery of our Sister Josephine Dell. She is still on the road to recovery, but she is back with us on Sundays. It is good to have her strength among us. Please keep her in your prayers.

God bless you all. He is alive!

## Ordination in Monongahela

By LuAnn Carson

God's blessings were felt on March 24, 1991, in the Monongahela, PA Branch, where Bro. William Pettyjohn was ordained into the office of a deacon.

In our afternoon service, Bro. Bob Nicklow Jr. read the duties of a member, along with a deacon's duties, which are more than just the natural job of taking care of the building. Bro. Nicklow then told of his own calling to be a deacon. He had been praying to be used by God, but his mind was on missionary work. He was surprised when the brothers approached him about becoming a deacon. As Brother Idris Martin read the duties of a deacon to him, Bro. Bob said he felt the Spirit of God, and then knew that this was his calling.

The congregation sang Ye Who are Called to Labor. Bro. William Chepanoske washed Bro. Petty-john's feet, and he was ordained by Bro. English Webb of the Clairton, PA Branch. Bro. Webb prayed that Bro. Bill would fulfill his duties according to the Spirit of God. We then sang To the Work, and Bro.

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# Songs of Zion

Ordering Information

For anyone wanting to order *The Songs of Zion* hymnals, Sister Sandy Sullivan of the Anaheim, CA Branch will assist you. Since Bro. Walt Jankowski has relocated to Denver, Colorado, he does not have access to the inventory of books.

Sister Sandy has been seeing to the fulfillment of these orders and she will continue to do so. Those interested in ordering the hardbound Songs of Zion can contact Sister Sandy at:

13461 Whittier Lane Garden Grove, CA 92644-2203 (714) 956-9566

#### MONONGAHELA continued . . .

Bill bore his testimony. He stated that he came to the Church for his soul's salvation, never expecting to hold an ordained office. On the day of his ordination, Bro. Bill said he felt the same excitement which he experienced at the time of his baptism. Our brother asked the congregation for their prayers and love. We ask the Lord to bless our brother, that he can serve in the Church according to God's direction.

The following Sunday, March 31, 1991, the Monongahela Branch celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ with a beautiful program. The theme of the program was Love. As each song was sung and each reading was offered, the spirit of Love was felt throughout the large congregation assembled there.

# Baptism on New Year's Day

By Ron Brutz

The traditional New Year's Eve service for 1991 welcomed more than just another year at the Tse Bonito, NM Branch when it was energized by the lifetime resolution by Todd Heinz to serve the Lord all of his days and to be baptized.

Todd and Wendy (Jordan) Heinz joined with their family in Tse Bonito to celebrate the birth of the new year, and spent New Year's Day, 1991 at the shores of a frozen (8-12 inches of ice) Red Lake.

In all the eighteen years we've been laboring among the Navajos here, cutting ice for this baptism was a first for us. Evangelist Dwayne Jordan performed the ordinance under clear, sunny skies with temperatures in the mid-30's. Members of the Pinetop-Lakeside Branch joined in the celebration, traveling nearly three hours to share in the joyfulness of this occasion. Apostle Joseph and Sister Vickie Calabrese, visiting the Southwest District from Lorain, Ohio, were also present.

The bestowal of the Holy Ghost

by laying on of hands took place immediately after the immersion, right at the shore. We rejoice in God's calling of another sheep into the flock. Todd and Wendy worship at the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

# Radio broadcasts from Tse Bonito, NM

By Ron Brutz

The CORNERSTONE, a church-sponsored radio broadcast, celebrated its fourth anniversary of broadcasting the Gospel by presenting a live radio drama on Easter morning, 1991 entitled "He Is Not Here!". About twelve youths and adults of the Tse Bonito Branch joined at the radio station news studio to produce a drama which simulated a news reporting team covering the "greatest story ever told" from Jerusalem and the Holy Land.

The CORNERSTONE is a thirty-minute program of gospel music and inspirational messages broadcast each Sunday morning at 8:10 a.m. on KTNN 660 from Window Rock, Arizona—Capital of the Navajo Nation. This is a

50,000-watt station broadcasting with a radius of over 200 miles. The listening audience includes the Navajos (the largest U.S. Native American Reservation and Tribe), Pueblos, Apaches, Utes, and residents of towns throughout the Four Corners Country of the American Southwest. The CORNERSTONE is the first radio broadcast of recent years, and is well-received as noted by listener comments.

The CORNERSTONE production team and the Tse Bonito Branch extend our appreciation to all for supporting this active outreach effort, and request your sincere prayers for the continued success of this important Church-sponsored project.

# "Mile High Mission" begins in Denver

We need contacts, we need prayers, and we need to be remembered as you pass through Colorado. Brother Walt and Sister Carrie Jankowski, along with their daughter, Karen, have relocated to the Denver area. Sometimes we have to make decisions that are not



Dwayne Jordan (right) baptizes his son-in-law, Todd Heinz, in ice-covered Red Lake, AZ.

popular or comfortable in life, and accepting this job change was one of them.

With the Lord's direction and protection, we have ventured off to a place where there is no organized outpost of The Church of Jesus Christ. After all of the involvement and blessings we were privileged to enjoy in the Anaheim, CA Branch and the Pacific Coast District, we feel like Elijah at the Brook Cherith. We have to depend on our personal relationship with God, without the benefit and fellowship of other brothers and sisters. We are certainly not the first to do so. nor will we be the last, but it surely is a growing experience.

If anyone has any contacts or needs for friends and family in the Colorado or Rocky Mountain area, please give us a call to follow up. If travel plans take you to this part of the country, even if it is to pass through, then please stop by. If a job transfer is a possibility and you don't want to move because there is no church or branch in Colorado, don't fret, because you can help build the foundation for the "Mile High Mission."

Our address is 2306 E. Glenhaven Drive in Highlands Ranch, Colorado, 80126; our phone number is (303) 791-9240. As it was with us in California, so it is in Colorado: call any time and we'll be glad to see you, house you, and feed you. May God continue to bless and keep you as we all strive to keep the faith.

Walt, Carrie, and Karen Jankowski

# Church meets in Portland, OR

On April 8, 1991, the saints who live in Portland, Oregon were able to have an organized meeting, complete with prayer, preaching, singing, testimony, anointing, and sacrament. Our brothers, sisters, and friends in Portland have been without the convenience and service of the ministry for a long time, but their faith has remained strong and patient.

Pacific Coast District Evangelists Tom and Paul Liberto, along with their wives, Sisters Marcia and Orletta, were joined by Bro. Walt and Sis. Carrie Jankowski, who recently moved from California to Denver, Colorado. The meeting took place in the home of Bro. Eugene and Sis. Mabel Lassen. Bro. Dean Longrie was there, as was Dennis Damore.

Bro. Tom Liberto introduced the service by relating his experiences and opportunities over the years to get to know and worship the Lord with all of those present. Bro. Paul Liberto opened the preaching by stressing the importance of recognizing how special we are in the sight of God. It's our responsibility to acknowledge Him to the best of our abilities. Bro. Paul likened us as rare coins that are something valuable and different in the world today. As God may bless, forgive, or heal us from affliction, we must show unto others by our example that we believe in the power and peace of

As Bro. Paul continued to speak, he related the situation of the blind man as found in John 9, where he received his sight and began to tell the world of the things that Christ had done for him. He was special and different after Jesus healed him. So are we, after Christ enters our lives.

Bro. Walt followed briefly and focused on the fact that we need to be all that we can be, because God has made us special and because Jesus walks with us every day. God gave us talents, abilities, and the potential to be the best servant and example for Him. To be a saint of God is a privilege that we, as special people, must live up to, regardless of occupation, age, or status in life. We can reach out to others who need Jesus, whether we serve in an organized congregation or in a mission isolated from others, such as we are in Portland, Denver, and many other places.

Bro. Tom closed the speaking by reflecting upon the faithful determination of the brothers, sisters, and friends in the Portland area who have been special to God for a long time. Testimony followed, and everyone participated in the beautiful spirit that prevailed. All of the words were spoken from the heart. Some were thankful for God's peace in their lives and gave recognition to the fact that there is strength and hope in living life to the fullest with God's blessings and direction. Others spoke of their childhood, and of being reared in the Church. Their upbringing is a foundation that they have found to be a priceless treasure, even more so now that there are children of their own to raise.

The Spirit of the Lord prevailed throughout the anointing of Sis. Mabel Lassen as the ministry prayed for her. The Lord's Supper was enjoyed by those present, and the sun shone bright through the rainclouds as the meeting came to a close.

The saints in Portland send their love and prayers as they return to their special lives without a congregation to support them or a church building to worship in. Our prayers and love are needed to encourage them. We, too, will be encouraged as a result.

## Notice

The new hours for The Church of Jesus Christ Print House are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. If you wish to call on Thursday or Friday, an answering machine will take your message or order.

# Area Code Change

Telephone Area Code 201, comprising North and Central New Jersey, has been split, as of June, 1991, into two area codes: 201 and 908. Telephone numbers for the Edison, Freehold, Hopelawn, Metuchen, and New Brunswick, NJ Branches, as well as phone numbers for most of the members of these branches, are now reached by dialing Area Code 908 instead of 201.

New Jersey telephones within Area Code 609, as well as those in the northern part of the state, are not affected by this change.

# \* WEDDINGS \*

### ISRAEL-ABDULRAHMAN

Michael Joseph Israel and Asmahan Abdulrahman were united in holy matrimony on February 9, 1991 at the Brooklyn, NY Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Dominick Rose officiated at the ceremony. The couple are living in Brooklyn, NY. May God bless them in their life together.

# **New Arrivals**

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

Jessica Lynn to David and Rose (Miller) Colman of Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

# Children Blessed

On October 21, 1990, Daniel Robert Rios was blessed by Bro. Dominick Rose in Brooklyn, NY.

On November 25, 1990, Bro. Richard Santilli blessed Ethan James Redmond and Elizabeth Faloba at the North Jackson, Ohio Mission.

Bro. Walter Cihomsky blessed Roslyn Madeline Kaye on December 9, 1990, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Elle Gemma Gruver, daughter of Dane and Gail (Santilli) Gruver, was blessed on December 13, 1990, by Bro. Peter Genaro at the Tse Bonito, NM Branch.

Hana Elizabeth, Sara Mercedes, and Robert Cassidy Damore were blessed in Phoenix, AZ on December 30, 1990, by Brothers John Ross, Barry

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Mazzeo, and Robert Watson respectively.

Benjamin Ryan Scolaro was blessed on February 4, 1991 in Phoenix, AZ by Bro. Joseph Calabrese.

Courtney Beth Batson was blessed by her father, Bro. Bob Batson, on March 17, 1991 in Rochester, NY.

Bro. Bob Womack blessed Valerie Gonzalez on

March 17, 1991 in San Diego, CA.

Erin Irene Yonkee was blessed by Bro. Brian Smith at the Monongahela, PA Branch on March 31, 1991. She is the granddaughter of Bro. Ken and Sis. Irene Yonkee, and the great-granddaughter of John and Mabel Bickerton, and the great-great granddaughter of Bro. William H. and Sis. Sadie B. Cadman.

# **OBITUARIES**

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

### MARY CATENA

Mary G. Catena passed from this life to the next on December 11, 1990. She was born on June 19, 1896 in Rochester, NY.

The funeral service was performed by Bro. Frank Natoli, with the assistance of Bro. Bob Batson.

Mary is survived by a daughter, Sis. Florence Catena; two sons; nine grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren.

### MARY SPATA

On January 26, 1991, Sister Mary Spata went to her eternal reward. She was born November 11, 1901, and was baptized on April 7, 1946.

Graveside services were held by Bro. Frank Genaro

of the Yucaipa, CA Branch.

Sister Mary is survived by her daughter, Mary Winkler, her son, John Rizzuto, and nephew, Joseph Nicosia Jr., as well as all of us who knew and loved her. She was a very faithful sister who was very instrumental in starting up the Yucaipa Mission.

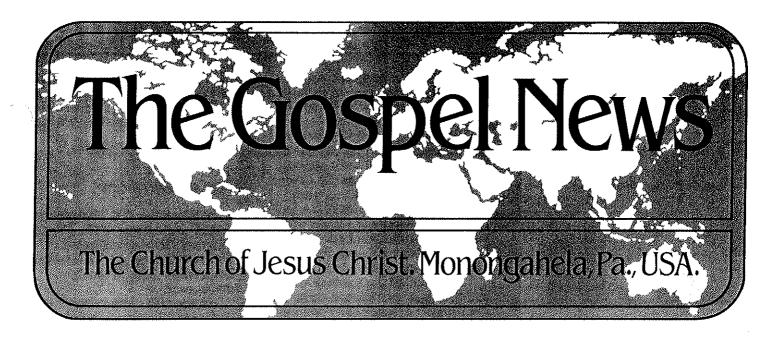
May all the prayers she uttered for her family and loved ones remain at the throne of Our Lord as a

memorial.

### CLEMENTINA GENTILE

Sister Clementina Gentile of Rochester, New York passed away on March 6, 1991. She was born in Italy on January 31, 1901.

Bro. Frank Natoli officiated at the funeral service. Our sister is survived by a son and a daughter, five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



June, 1991

Volume 47, No. 6

# A Message to Our New Brothers and Sisters in Christ

I wonder how many prayers had been offered in your behalf before you surrendered your life to Jesus. Were there years of praying? If it had taken a whole lifetime of prayers, it wouldn't matter, because you are worth it! (Before you feel flattered by that, realize that your value is the result of Jesus dying for you, not the cause of Him dying for you.) Besides this truth, when someone has their spiritual eyes opened, Jesus is honored and glorified, and that is what really matters.

My heart is bursting with happiness for you. There are so many wonderful treasures to be opened to you now, for you to learn and experience. I know that one day you are going to say, "Why did I resist so long? I cheated myself out of so many blessings!"

You may not be familiar with Satan's tactics yet, but I'm sure that someone is forewarning you. Not because he is to be feared, but only because to be forewarned allows you to know that you may need to defend yourself. Satan is a poor loser, and he's going to try to win you back. But you now know that he's a liar, the father of lies, so just don't believe one single thing he whispers in your ear. Tell

him to get lost! You have the Holy Spirit to help you now, and you have the authority of Jesus to rebuke anything in His name! (You will come to wonder how you ever lived for one minute without His strength.)

I pray that God will put a hedge of fire 'round about you, to protect you until such time that you are not as vulnerable as a newborn babe. As you feed on the word of God, however, that will change. Please realize that babies can only digest milk at first, and that they crawl before they can walk. The meat comes later and so does the running. Don't get discouraged. As you take in that spiritual food, your spirit will grow just as sure as your body did. Don't just take occasional spiritual snacks, though-take regular meals—that's the best way. Think how strong you would be if you took in your natural food in the form of snacks only. And exercise your faith (that means use it), and you'll become stronger and develop some real spiritual muscle, just like natural exercise does.

Remember that when babies start to grow and want to feed themselves, that they don't start

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### Apostles meet in Southeast District

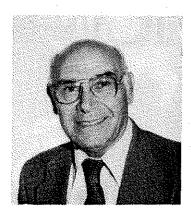
The Southeast District was privileged to host the Quorum of Twelve Apostles from March 13-17, 1991. While the brothers met in closed sessions for much of the first three days, the elders and teachers of the Southeast District were invited to join with them in a meeting on Saturday, March 16.

The apostles, under the direction of Quorum President Joseph Lovalvo, utilized the session to speak to the district ministry concerning their callings. Each of the brothers within the quorum took a moment to encourage the brothers to develop their relationships with God and with mankind through proper communication with all involved. The district ministry, enjoying this opportunity for close communion with the apostles, accepted this counsel as they endeavor to serve the Church and the community.

Sunday morning was a meeting of celebration and love. Bro. Dominic Thomas, General Church President, opened the service by telling about the Apostle Peter. He told how Peter had correctly identified Jesus Christ, by revelation, as the Son of God, yet that this same man later denied Christ. Bro.

(Continued on Page 11)

# Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

My Dear Readers,

"God would have all to be saved." Therefore, He sent Jesus, not to condemn the world, but that by Him mankind might be saved. Let us bless the Lord each day, and forget not all His benefits: who heals all our diseases, who forgives all our iniquities, who redeems our life from destruction, who crowns us with lovingkindness and tender mercies, who satisfies our mouth with good things, so our mind is renewed like that of an eagle.

In a clinical study of some 500 cases, it was found that 383 of the persons studied were sick, not because they had suffered accidents or organic diseases, but because, according to a doctor's vivid description, "Those patients were draining back into their bodies the diseased thoughts of their minds."

Generations past, Plato wrote, "Neither should we ever attempt to cure the body without curing the soul." Medical doctors are now beginning to realize the sound thinking of this wise philosopher of ancient times.

The spiritual part of our being needs the same kind of study; we will find the same results.

"Perceive ye not yet, neither understand? Have ye your heart yet hardened?" (Mark 8:17) Jesus was disappointed at their lack of understanding.

Is it possible that we lack perception now as then? We can do better by trusting the Lord Jesus Christ and by casting our burdens on the Lord, who loves us and cares. "Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee; he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved" (Psalm 55:22).

We need to distinguish between the burden-bearing that is right and the burden-bearing that is wrong. We ought never to bear the burden of sin or of doubt, but there are burdens placed on us by God which He does not intend to lift off. He wants us to roll them back on Him. Cast that which He has given you upon the Lord. Then trust Him.

If we undertake a work of God and then get out of touch with Him, the sense of responsibility will be overwhelmingly crushing, but if we roll back on God that which He has put upon us, He will help us to endure all things. God's grace is sufficient for us, as with St. Paul. Many workers have gone out with high courage and fine impulses, but with no intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ, and before long they were crushed. We have three great examples, in the Word of God, of heavy burden bearers: Ruth, Job, and Paul. They stand as an example of the human ability to overcome the burdens placed on humans with the outcome being marvelous.

1. Ruth, a Moabite, lost her husband; however she learned to worship the God of Israel. In Ruth's fidelity there are clear implications of our Lord's redeeming work. Boaz, the kinsman-redeemer, points to Christ; Ruth portrays those who enter into a new life through trust in God.

It is significant that both Boaz and Ruth are mentioned in the Messianic genealogy (Matthew 1:15). Ruth rested on her 1) fidelity, 2) service, and 3) obedient faith to God and to her mother-in-law.

2. Job suffered God's chastening with a view to experimental purification, and reached a higher ground. Job was able to merge from suffering into greater blessings and prosperity. By his tragic experience, he was able to say, "I know that my redeemer lives, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth and though after my skin worms destroy my body, yet in my flesh shall I see God' (Job 19:25-26).

3. Paul was given a thorn in the flesh, "The messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure," he said.

By his suffering, persecutions, and death, Paul was able to write

(Continued on Page 11)

### Married 60 years

On December 23, 1990, the brothers and sisters of the Yucaipa, California Mission celebrated Brother Clarence and Sister Anna Kirkpatrick's 60th Wedding Anniversary.

Brother Clarence tells of walking through snow one foot deep on December 23, 1930, to Sister Anna's home and then the two of them walked a total of twelve miles to be united in marriage. She was 16 and he was 20 years old.

On March 3, 1935, Brother Clarence was healed of stomach cancer in the Little Red Stone, PA Branch, Bro. Martin King anointed him, and the Lord healed our brother on that day. Three weeks later Bro. Clarence and Sis. Anna were led to the frozen waters of the Monongahela River. The Lord moved His hand, and a tugboat pulling coal barges broke a hole in the ice and our brother and sister were baptized on Sunday, March 24, 1935. They celebrated 56 years in The Church of Jesus Christ this past March.

Brother Clarence was ordained an elder at the Anaheim, CA Branch in 1976. They moved to Yucaipa that same year. They have six children living today, 24 grand-children, and numerous great grandchildren. Bro. Clarence will be 81 years young, and Sis. Anna will be 77 years young this year. May God bless both of them.



Bro. Clarence and Sis. Anna Kirkpatrick

### Southeast Campout '91

## Manifestations Abound in Avon Park

In what seemed like a spiritual flurry, the hand of our Lord swept through the saints on the weekend of March 22, 1991. Blessings abounded as the awesome power of God emanated from the heavens and drove the saints to their knees in continued prayer and thanksgiving to His high and holy name. The Holy Spirit roared through the camp, searching for an empty vessel to fill, while the three Nephites and even our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ visited the saints as confirmation to the presence and pleasure of our King.

It all began Friday morning, when a young brother asked the Lord to confirm His future presence at the Southeast Area MBA Campout. The Spirit quickly prompted our brother to open the scriptures, and the pages obediently fell to Romans 8. What a glorious blessing he received as the entire chapter spoke so eloquently of the 'life" given to the people of God through the Holy Spirit. This was the very same power that our camp theme, Tap the Source, was chosen to illustrate! The Lord had not yet even begun to show Himself.

Friday evening began quietly enough, as all present feasted upon the Word of God delivered through Brother Apostles Jim Lovalvo and Joseph Calabrese. One brother spoke of our hope in the Holy. Spirit, that if we would but have faith and be obedient, we could experience the administration of angels and even the visitation of the three Nephites. As he elaborated upon past encounters with angels and the three Nephites, none of us suspected what was in store for us at this camp.

Saturday morning began, as always, with a prayer service before our morning meal. As Bro. Jim Lovalvo walked into the room, he went to sit in one of the three chairs facing the congregation, but hen hesitated, turned, and sat in the front row of seats instead. During the course of the service, our brother was privileged to see the three Nephites sitting in the three

chairs. One of them spoke to him, saying, "If you will be faithful and pray, the Father will send the Holy Spirit and bless you according to your desires." What more could the saints ask for! Nothing, but the Lord gave them more anyway.

In the morning chapel service, Bro. Phil Buffa of Michigan was speaking of the potential outpouring of the Holy Spirit when a young man from Muncey, Ontario suddenly felt electricity pulse through him. At this very moment, a voice speaking a wonderful promise sliced through the morning air: "Tell them I will take care of all. Tell them I will take care of all," it repeated, "Take courage, my brothers and sisters, the Lord will take care of all!"

Upon seeing the happenings around him, a young man hungered to be a part and partake of this wonderful Gospel. Rather than trust in the arm of flesh, he wisely decided to place his full trust in the arm of God and call upon Him for guidance. After chapel, he went to an orange grove and knelt and prayed for wisdom about this Church and his soul. As he came walking back through the orchard, an older man suddenly stepped out from behind a tree. "What are you doing here?" he asked. Our young brother replied, "Just looking at the fruits."

"Are you religious?" the man countered. "Oh yes, I sure am," came the reply. "What do you want to know?" the man questioned. "As much as I can. Which is the best fruit in the orchard?"

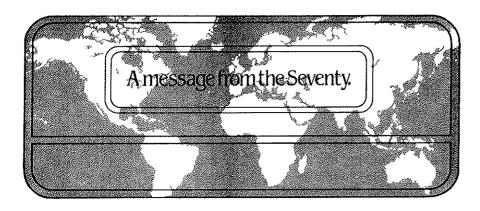
"What, among the fruit of men?" At this, the young man turned and stared into the soul-piercing eyes of the mysterious personage. The man was standing in front of a brilliant, flowing tree with bright, shining fruit hanging delicately from the limbs. The fear of God came upon our brother as he fell to his hands and knees, while the man turned and plucked a fruit from the tree. He then placed it into the cupped and trembling hands of the young brother. He bit into

the brilliant fruit and immediately knew that the man before him was the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ looked into his eyes and said, "If you partake of this fruit, you will never hunger again; only for Me, for this fruit is a part of Me, as it is now part of you." Christ then turned and picked four or five more pieces of fruit and placed them in a basket, saying, "You will need these for later." When our brother looked up, the Lord, the basket, and the tree were gone. Upon returning to camp, (now) Brother Andy Beaver from Muncey, Ontario asked for his baptism and shared this most beautiful and glorious "sighting" with the saints at the camp.

After relaxing and enjoying one another's company, the Church reconvened Saturday night with an even greater hunger for the Lord's blessings. Bro. Dennis Moraco spoke of the incredible impact of the Spirit on our lives. He spoke of the unsurpassed peace given to all by and through the Holy Spirit, and how we must continually prevent the evil one from creeping in and stealing this treasure. With this, many gracious testimonies were related and harmonious songs sung. but the true blessing was quite invisible at this time.

During the meeting and through the course of the evening, the Lord was "giving the increase" by gently caressing the struggling hearts of three individuals. As their cases are too detailed to recount here, let it suffice to say that on Sunday, life began anew for Mechelle Hylton, James Haugh, and Dorene Kukal when each asked to be baptized. We witnessed the baptism and bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon Bro. Andy Beaver. Bro. Joe Calabrese opened the Sunday morning preaching service, rekindling the flame in each of us as he spoke of the love of God and the Holy Spirit in this Church, and how we must use these things to distinguish ourselves from other churches in the world. Bro. Malcolm Paxon followed, speaking of the importance of God in our lives, and Bro. Jim Lovalvo concluded with a sermon on the mysterious power of the joy of the saints, and how this

(Continued on Page 12)



# Pennsylvania District MOC Report

By Richard Scaglione, PA Evangelist Chairman

The Pennsylvania District Missionary Operating Committee (DMOC) has been actively involved in several missionary endeavors. In our recent interfacing with the District Evangelists, the following officers were elected: Chairman, Richard Scaglione; Vice-Chairman, Richard Lawson; and Secretary-Treasurer, Joseph Ross. Thirteen other brothers complete our committee. Most of them are actively participating in one or more programs.

Currently, four missions are under the PA DMOC and are being serviced according to their needs.

Elkins, West Virginia has a membership of ten, with many visitors and children attending. Meetings are held Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. The Saturday services usually consist of studying the scriptures and Church literature, while Sunday is the worship service.

Brother Robert Nicklow Sr. is in charge of the Elkins Mission. Brothers Lawson, William Colangelo, John Ali, and Scaglione complete the rotation schedule.

Butler, Pennsylvania is our newest mission. Bro. Carl Frammolino is in charge. Services, held at the Ciotti manor, take place on Sunday mornings (including Sunday School), and Tuesday evenings. The Tuesday meetings are conducted by Bro. Paul Gehly, who lives in the area. Other brothers who assist are Charles Jumper, Paul Ciotti, and John Manes.

St. John, Kansas is an established mission under our commit-

tee; it has been for some time. Over the years, various brothers have made trips to maintain fellowship with our midwestern saints. Brother Alex Robinson has long been the mainstay in St. John, and he is ably assisted by his son, Brother David. Brothers Lawson and Ross, General Church trustees as well as members of the PA DMOC, have visited the mission on a few occasions and also reviewed the progress on the building remodeling, the erecting of an historical marker on our Church grounds, and the renovation of William Bickerton's grave.

Wakpala, South Dakota was an active Indian mission under our district for many years, but has dwindled due to the deaths of most of the members there. A few visits had been made several years ago to inspect the condition of our building (which has since been torn down) and to attempt to contact members and their relatives in Wakpala and Eagle Butte. Correspondence between Brothers Earl DeMarrias (the Indian elder in Wakpala) and Ross continues periodically.

VERY ACTIVE WITH URBAN INDIANS

A very active and vital arm of the DMOC is the Urban Indian Committee (UIC), in operation since 1976. William Chepanoske is the chairman, with ten other brothers and sisters on the DMOC subcommittee.

An excellent relationship has been established between the Church and the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center (COTRAIC) in the Pittsburgh area. Three brothers, all elders, are on the center's board of directors. They are William Chepanoske, Robert Nicklow Sr., and Robert Nicklow Jr. In turn, Russell Simms, a Native American who is the executive director of COTRAIC, is a member of our committee.

In the past year, three "Get Acquainted" meetings were held in various branches in our district. Joining Mr. Simms was Miguel Siguae, chairman of the center's board of directors. They both addressed our people concerning the history and functions of the Indian Center, the obscurity of the Urban Indian, their needs, the relationship that exists between the Church and COTRAIC, and the similarities in our beliefs, philosophies, and goals. It was acknowledged that our Church holds the destiny of the entire world in its hands. Many interesting and, at times, provocative questions from our congregations were answered. Everyone in attendance received a greater awareness and understanding of the parallel paths we both are walking toward our similar goals.

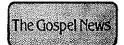
Over the years, our ministers have been called upon to bless children, perform weddings, and most recently, conduct a funeral. The UIC, in conjunction with the Indian center, recently initiated a program soliciting volunteers from the Church to become directly involved in humanitarian needs assistance to the elderly. This program could include repair work on their homes, cooking, cleaning, taking them shopping, and other services, as their conditions might warrant. It is a program which allows us to literally become the nursing mothers and fathers spoken of in the Book of Mormon.

TWO RADIO BROADCASTS

At the present time, two radio broadcasts are aired by our district. Brother David Nolfi broadcasts every Sunday morning from 8:00 to 8:15 on Station WEDO in McKeesport.

The second broadcast, a more

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# Editorial Viewpoint . . .

What the mail brings, as God directs the writers, determines to a large extent the contents of *The Gospel News* from month to month, and I often seek inspiration from the themes that emerge from the pile of papers that endlessly clutter my desk. In compiling this issue, my attention was drawn to the presence of two testimonies—distinct stories of how the Lord drew individuals into the safe harbor of His everlasting arms.

That these articles were two in number was not so important, nor did it necesarily have to be these two in particular. But in reading them, my mind was drawn to the fact that the Lord has brought each of us to Him in a unique, individual manner, just as He took the time to create us with an infinite variety of characteristics. While each conversion, and consequently each testimony, is tailored to the individual, we see similarities as well as differences in the way in which God deals with us, His children. Our varied relationships with God are bound together by a Unity of Spirit, as each of us was converted to Christ after the manner set forth in His Word, the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Unity is important. As the body of Christ, we seek to work together with one purpose, toward one goal: bringing souls to Him. In truth, we can accomplish absolutely nothing if we are not united. And it is essential that the Unity we strive for and achieve in The Church of Jesus Christ be nothing more or less than that which we experience when the Spirit of God flows freely from vessel to vessel.

At the same time, diversity and variety are also necessary ingredients in carrying out the Work of the Lord. How much could we as a Church accomplish if every single one of us were exactly alike? A few departments—areas wherein our strengths lie—might do extremely well, but everything else—the majority of the Work—would greatly suffer. We must never lose sight of the fact that the Lord, in His infinite wisdom, created each one of us to be unique—different from everyone else—and gave each of us a unique role to fulfill in His plan. As each of us diligently seeks and finds the Work that God had for him or her, the overall Work of the Lord will operate smoothly and efficiently, oiled, as it were, by the blessed presence of the Spirit of God.

As human beings, we sometimes try to create our own brand of unity by seeking to check or suppress one another's individuality. While things might be more structured, comfortable, and predictable (not to mention dull) if we all looked and acted the same, we would be limiting God, and hindering His work among the children of men, if we were to deny each other the privilege of being everything that the Lord created us to be. It's "uniforms of righteousness," not of suits and ties, that the Lord is looking for in His Church. Let us concentrate on seeking God's perfect will in our own lives; the Lord, through His Spirit, will provide the Unity.

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls and Friends,

Have you ever heard anyone talking about having faith in God? Faith means believing and hoping in God's promises. Having faith in God means trusting God to work problems out, even when things look impossible. The Lord loves it when His children have faith and trust Him.

Sometimes it is hard for a person to show their faith in front of others. Many times God seems to wait for us to pray and show our faith before giving us our answers.

Many years ago I was on a trip with a nice person who doubted that there was a God. While we were travelling, a huge icy storm came up and we were soon driving in winds and snow so thick you couldn't see the side of the road. The cold was so fierce that it froze our carbuerator as we moved; the car's engine stopped.

We were freezing. I wasn't dressed warm enough and no one had expected a blizzard so late in the season. No cars were coming, my feet were numb, snow was falling so heavily that our car was almost immediately covered. It was getting worse every minute, and we were afraid we'd freeze to death.

My friend wanted to start walking aimlessly through the trees in hopes of finding a house. I knew that was too dangerous, since we had no idea if there were even any people living nearby. (We learned later that there were no houses for ten or twelve miles.)

Finally, coming through the storm, slipping and sliding on the exit ramp, we saw a truck filled with men. Wrapped in every spare piece of clothing we had, we scrambled out in the snow and tried



to wave them down. They passed us like we weren't even there.

Climbing back in the snow-covered car, I realized I needed to show my faith. I was praying silently; I needed to pray out loud. I told my friend, "I believe God can and will save us. I'm going to pray."

My friend stared at me as I closed my eyes and begged God, out loud, to help us.

Just as I finished this prayer, we heard another car approaching. As we jumped out into the swirling winds, they stopped and crowded us into their lovely, warm car. God had heard my cry and saved me!

My job is to remember how God saved me, to thank Him and to tell others. Our faith is like a little plant. When it starts to grow, we must take care of it. We shelter it from doubt. As it grows, it will bear fruit that will feed us during desperate moments.

The fruit has little seeds that we can share with others. This means that when others see good things happening when we have faith, they will begin to have faith, too. We will pull all the bad weeds like doubting or being afraid to tell others how much the good Lord has put into our lives.

And as our faith plant grows, others who are going through their own problems will come and sit under your faith tree to rest and get hope. They will become refreshed and learn from you how to care for faith and let their faith in God's goodness grow, too.

Others will come, hungrily, and ask you to share the fruits from your faith. They'll take little seeds home with them and begin to grow in faith, too. And the Lord will love

you and bless you and reward you openly.

The verses for you to memorize this month are from the Bible, in Galatians Chapter 5, verses 22 and 23: "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith. Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law."

Sincerely, Sister Jan

#### WORD SEARCH

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Т	A	F	N	Y	P	s	A	L	M	s
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# Our Women Today

### **General Circle Conference**

By Mary Tamburrino

The Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Circle hosted the General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference on Saturday, April 27, 1991. The sisters that attended were from California, Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, and South Carolina. The scripture was read from II Peter 2:9. Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, welcomed everyone and found it a pleasure to meet with the sisters—her spiritual family.

Most of the officers were present. A thank you communication was read for our purchase of a motorcycle for Africa. The area reports were read, stating membership, lessons studied, activities held, and donations. Three new circles were organized, namely Dallas, Texas; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Freehold, New Jersey (see accompanying article). Over \$1500.00 was raised for the new church building in India.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: Raymond Cosetti, Raffaella DiFalco, Ivy Fisher, Cora Fowler, Elsie Franklin, Jeff Frendo, Ethel Nixon Hope, and Bridgita Ross.

The card sender reported that 35 cards were sent. Money was donated to the General Church for the work in Africa, India, Italy, the Missionary Foundation, the Radio Broadcasts, and to the American Mission Operations. The special project for the next six months will be to raise money for the church building in Tijuana, Mexico. The next conference will be held on October 5, 1991 at the Greensburg, PA church building (next door to the General Church Conference). and day care will be provided for children four years and younger. A vote of thanks was given to the Aliquippa Circle.

The sisters of the Aliquippa Circle sang songs and read scriptures on the subject of *God's Touch*. We were reminded that God touches to-

day as He touched the people in the scriptures.

As one of the sisters stated, "For all the sisters who can't sit still, the Circle is a great way to do His work."

# Freehold, NJ Circle Organized

By Lydia Zaino

On March 12, 1991, a Ladies' Uplift Circle was organized in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. Sister Betty D'Orazio, Atlantic Coast Area Circle President, welcomed the sisters, and complimented them on their desire to have a Circle. A brief history of the Ladies' Circle was told, as well as the history of the area Circle. After the by-laws were discussed, we proceeded with the election of officers.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reading and discussing James 1:17-27. After the verses were discussed in English, Sis. Lucy Murillo would interpret into Spanish. A wonderful spirit was felt in our meeting. We then asked God's blessings on this new Circle, that they would grow together in God's love. All told, it was an evening well spent.

# Pennsylvania Area Circle Retreat

By Karen Progar

A beautiful, sunny spring weekend was the setting for the Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Circle annual retreat. The sisters met at the Pittsburgh Airport Marriot, beginning the day with our semi-annual business conference. The weekend theme was Jerusalem, with each home circle in attendance participating in the devotions.

Sis. Jan Cornell, Area Chairperson, welcomed everyone and reminded them to take an active role in the business of the Circle. Reports were given on the piano purchased by the Area Circle for the Butler, PA Mission, our February luncheon and trip to Phipps Conservatory to enjoy the annual Bible plant tour, and our planned group trip to the 1992 General Circle Conference to be held in California.

Other items covered included: hosting by the Monongahela Circle of our November 2, 1991 conference, and the organizing of a summer visit to the Elkins, WV Mission. In addition, Sis. Carol Monaghan volunteered to act as Area Liaison for the Mission Network System, a program of support for families of members unable to attend church services due to inaccessibility to the Church, sponsored by the General Ladies' Uplift Circle in conjunction with the General Church.

The Area Circle donated funds to the District Mission Board. Our special project for the next six months will be to once again raise funds for the District Mission Board and collect used cassette tapes for re-use on the reservations in Arizona.

After lunch, the Imperial Circle presented our seminars, continuing on the theme of Jerusalem. Sisters Becky Tarbuck, Eva Moore, and Martha Buffington gave us many thought-provoking ideas on the topic. Our evening meeting was a joyous time of testimony, followed by a scarf-tying demonstration and fellowship.

Sunday morning, Brothers John Ali of Glassport and Bill Colangelo of McKees Rocks handled the service. Bro. John opened, speaking of the virtuous woman and comparing a good woman to Christ's Church. Bro. Bill followed, reminding us not to be negligent of our duties. Using James 1:27 as his reference, he stated that we must remember to "visit the fatherless and the widows in their afflictions," urging the Circle sisters to take this task upon themselves. He said that he never underestimates the power of the Ladies' Circle. We enjoyed special musical selections presented by Sisters Carol Jumper, Karen Progar, and Madeline Robinson. After our Sunday meeting, we left refreshed and excited about the work we had to do in support of The Church of Jesus Christ.

# **Branch and Mission News**

### Visitors at N. Jackson, OH

On February 24, 1991, Bro. Russell and Sis. Lena Martorana visited our mission in N. Jackson, Ohio. Bro. Russell opened the service and spoke on the subject of Love, stating that we should love one another and that our actions are a reflection upon The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Russell spoke from the Bible and the Book of Mormon on the topic of Faith, Hope, and Charity; the greatest of these being Charity, or Love. Later in the meeting, Sis. Esther Santilli testified that some time ago she had had an experience in which the Lord spoke to her three times, saying, "Love, love, love." We enjoyed all the testimonies of how good God is to His people.

After the meeting, we all gathered together for a dinner. We sat and talked of what a beautiful day we had to be with our brothers and sisters, sharing the blessings of God.

## Day of rejoicing in New Jersey

By Betty D'Orazio

The hymn Softly and Tenderly took on new meaning Sunday, December 23, 1990, at the Edison, NJ Branch. The Lord, in His gentle, sweet voice, called Mary Benyola into the Church. Praise God! We would like to share with

you her experience:

"For about one month, I had been awakened from my sleep each morning by a song. Some songs were from The Songs of Zion, some from the Saints Hymnal, and some songs I had never heard before. They were all so beautiful, and most were concerning repentance, baptism, and working for the Church. Sometimes they were songs of encouragement and comfort. Then, one morning, I realized that I had not heard a song for about a

week, and I began to be concerned. I was afraid that God did not want me any more. I was afraid I had crossed the line, so I began to pray that God would still want me. I told God I wanted to be baptized and asked for His help. (Unbeknownst to me, my sister, Sherry Olexa, had been strongly prompted to pray for me during this entire week.)

"On Saturday, December 22, my husband Len and I were in a bookstore and I looked up and read a bookmark which read, 'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God' (John 3:3). We went to another bookstore, and I saw one which read, 'If you obey, God will show His mighty works.' I felt that God was prodding me on to have enough courage to ask for my baptism.

"The next day, on Sunday morning, Len told me that that night he had dreamed that I was a very ugly woman. He did not understand what it meant, but I knew God was showing me my own image before His presence. That morning in Sunday School we were reading out of II Kings, and I felt inspired to turn the pages of the Bible. What I opened to was Matthew 24:42-51."

Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season?

Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Verily I say unto you,

That he shall make him ruler over all his goods.

But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming;

And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken;

The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him, and in an hour that he is not aware of,

And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"God's message to me was clear: Either I become baptized and work for Him, or I would be eternally damned. I felt so unworthy.

'That morning after Sunday School we visited the Edison Branch for their Christmas program. We had a beautiful meeting. The theme was Peace, something I had prayed for every day, but could never fully experience. As I sat there, I asked God to have one of the elders speak about repentance. About ten minutes before the close of the meeting, Bro. Arthur Searcy stood and began to speak about repentance. My heart began to pound. I could not wait for him to sit down. Finally, after what seemed to be hours, I raised my hand and said the most beautiful words I had ever spoken, 'I would like to be baptized. At that moment such a peace filled my heart. I

finally was complete.

"One hour later, we were down at the water's edge. On our way to the baptism, I asked God if he would somehow allow my father, the late Bro. Augie D'Orazio, to be present at my baptism. I asked God to send a beam of light down from the heavens so I might know he was there. (The day was dark and rainy.) As prayer was being offered by the shore, Brother Jon Olexa said he saw a light coming up from out of me, even though his eyes were closed. As he and I were walking into the waters, he said to me, 'It's just God, you, me, and the spirit of your father.' (At this point I had not mentioned to anyone about my desire to have my father there.)

"Bro. Jon baptized me, and while we were coming out of the water, Bro. Tony Vadasz came to the edge of the water and asked if we had seen the light. He said he saw a sunbeam coming out of the heavens as we walked into the water and while Jon was baptizing me. It left immediately afterward. I soon found out that many, many others at the water's edge saw the same light. This was such a blessing for me to hear! Sister Rose Laessig also had a vision, in which she saw my name written up in the heavens. She said it looked so beautiful. What an undeserved honor this is for me, to know that my name is now written down in glory.

"Later, as Bro. David Catalano came towards us, he said he felt heat radiating from Bro. Jon and me, so he stepped away to see if it had just gotten warmer, but when he did so, he felt the cold again. He then stepped forward and again felt the warmth of God's presence. We went back to church, where I was confirmed by my father-in-law, Bro. Leonard Benyola. The next morning I woke up hearing a new song. This time the song was Victory in

Jesus!"

## Anniversary at Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Sunday, March 3, 1991 dawned as a terrible day, with sleet covering our cars in the morning. But the bad weather could not take



Sis. Ida Jenio

away from the glorious service we had that day in Sterling Heights, MI. Sister Ida Jenio celebrated her 50th anniversary in God's service on March 2, and Bro. John Straccia said in his remarks that it was wonderful that she had been baptized at such a young age and remained faithful all these years. The most important decision we make in life, he said, is to surrender it to Jesus.

Bro. John Buffa brought forth the message today, saying how Jesus loved little children because of their innocence. He spoke on how Nicodemus came to Jesus at night and asked how it was possible for a man to be born again, and Jesus told him he must be born of water and of the Holy Spirit. Bro. John said that our natural birth is only the beginning. As we grow older, we must choose whom we will serve. We all are accountable for our sins and will have to stand at the throne of God. Only those covered by the grace of Christ will be saved.

# **Baptisms at Detroit** Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Such was the brief, but inspired message of Bro. Tony Gerace early one Sunday morning, after which five souls immediately expressed their desires to change their lives, draw closer to God, serve Him, be obedient to His commandments, and be baptized.

Then the call went out again to anyone else who felt the Spirit of God working upon his heart to let Jesus in. To our great joy, one more soul chose a life of walking with the Lord.

The following Tuesday evening, the teachers and elders met with the six candidates to discuss the faith and doctrine of the Church, as well as other matters of importance. Each one fully accepted the beliefs and teachings of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was determined that they would be baptized on the following Sunday.

Baptized into the Church on Sunday, January 27, 1991 were: Jeffrey Bork, Diana Parker, David Parry, Anastacio Baez, Rafaela Baez, and David Lopez.

After our new brothers and sisters were confirmed, each expressed in their testimonies the joy they felt, and how thankful they all were that God led them to The Church of Jesus Christ. They had experienced the Spirit of God working on their hearts for some time, and when they attended church services their spirits convicted them, telling them that this is the church where they belonged. As they continued to seek the Lord, they received blessings within their homes, they saw their prayers being answered, and some were even healed of physical afflictions.

We thank God for all our new brothers and sisters, and our prayer is that God will continue to show them wonderful manifestations of

His Spirit.

Sister Rafaela Baez, Brother Anastacio Baez, and Brother David Lopez are the first fruits of the work taking place in Detroit's Mexican Quarter, where the ministry and diligent members and friends of the Inner City Branch hold meetings every Sunday evening to sing praises unto God and proclaim the message of the Restored Gospel. Thursday evening classes are held to teach Book of Mormon lessons, and on Saturday mornings, meetings are held to fast and pray for the work there.

Many times, too afraid to enter the building, Rafaela Baez would listen to the brothers and sisters singing The Songs of Zion, as well as other hymns, in Spanish as she stood near the door. Part of her wanted to enter and to join in with the singing, but part of her said "No." However, one day, suffering from a terrible earache, Rafaela decided that no barrier would stop her from entering the meeting hall to get anointed. Right after the ministry prayed for her, she went home, but turned right around and went back to praise the Lord and thank Him for taking away her earache. She diligently attended the meetings ever since.

(Continued on Page 10)

#### INNER CITY continued . . .

David Lopez, her son, was coming home from his church when he saw his mother getting ready to go somewhere. He asked her where she ws going and she said, "To The Church of Jesus Christ, the Miracle Church!" David decided to walk her there. As they neared the door, his mother entreated him to go inside with her, which he did. As he was sitting there listening to the Gospel being preached, he began to feel the Spirit of the Lord telling him that this was where he belonged. David had been searching for the true Gospel for a long time.

Anastacio told of how he used to see the brothers and sisters gather at the meeting place so often, and he would wonder why. He would ask himself, "Aren't they busy; don't they have work to do?" Then God began to work upon his heart. One night he dreamed that he went to church, and that a woman greeted him at the door and said, "Welcome to The Church of Jesus Christ; you have found the Truth."

Several days later, the first time Anastacio visited the Sunday morning service at the Inner City Branch, that dream came to pass when he was greeted by the same woman, a sister in the Church, and was told the very same words he heard in his dream.

The Spirit of God has been prevalent in many of the meetings in Mexico Town, with visions being seen, tongues being spoken and interpreted, dreams being had about the work, and healings received. May God continue to bless this work. Amen!

# The best miracle of my life

By Diana Parker

The Lord had been dealing with me for a very long time regarding my salvation. After having a devastating experience at another church a few years ago, I began to ponder, "Which church?"

For the past year or so, this

question would arise because I knew the Lord wanted me, but even more so, I knew that I needed Him!

On Saturday morning I was very heavy in spirit. I had had many terrible experiences and my life was headed toward eternal damnation. I was tired and fed up with everything Satan had to offer. It was time for a change, time to be restored.

The Lord told me to go to church with my mother (Sister Beatryce). Five minutes later, at the moment I was about to pick up the phone and call her, my mother called and invited me to her church.

Bro. Jim Bork was being baptized that morning. The beautiful experience of watching someone being baptized from the riverbank was extremely moving, and the service that followed really touched my heart.

From that time on, I would attend services every Sunday. After a few Sundays had passed, my son told me, "Mama, you're changing—you're going to join this church." I answered, "No, I'm not. We're just going to visit. I'm not ever joining another church."

I still enjoyed the meetings, but the Lord had more in store for me than enjoyment. I began to feel a void and a certain yearning to really give my life to Christ. Something was definitely missing from my life. The Lord is so good that He began showing me things to let me know that this is His True Church. He knows me, and He knows that all too many times I have to "see it to believe it."

One Tuesday night I attempted to read The Book of Mormon. I wasn't gaining any understanding, so I asked the Lord to help me. He immediately spoke, saying, "Go to the beginning." I turned the pages back to the absolute beginning, where Joseph Smith's experiences are recounted. I had never heard of this young man or this story before.

The following evening, to my surprise, they were showing a video entitled, "The Restoration—The Joseph Smith Story" at the Wednesday meeting. Praise the Lord, what a confirmation! I, just like Joseph Smith, had been seeking the true church of God. Thank You,

Lord!

I have experienced many confirmations from God since my initial step to be restored. But the one that stands out the most is when the Lord showed me that Bro. Eugene Amormino would baptize me after he baptized Bro. Jeff Bork.

The Sunday I finally surrendered my all to God was following His message delivered through Bro. Tony Gerace: "Why wait?" My response was, "I, too, have no reason to wait." Six of us came forth that blessed day.

The week that followed was the longest of my life. Various doubts and fears came into my mind from everywhere. I was worried about suffering ill effects from being immersed during the cold winter weather (I suffer from heart disease), and certain temptations of the world kept coming up in my mind. But thank God, I was ready when the day came, and neither bad weather, a snow storm, a blizzard, nor even Satan could keep me away from the water's edge!

It was freezing that day. After a song, a prayer, and a confession of repentance, Bro. Eugene announced that he would be baptizing Jeff Bork and myself. Praise the Lord! Our brother took us by the arms and we walked out onto the ice, which was approximately ten inches thick. There must have been about 100 brothers and sisters there, and everyone walked out onto the ice.

When my feet touched the water, my first thought was, "Oh, this is cold!" What really amazed me, though, was that the river bottom in that watery grave was so soft. It felt so good to my feet—like a blanket of comfort. I closed my eyes and began to take deep breaths (thinking of my heart condition), and Bro. Eugene baptized me.

Afterwards, the sisters threw several blankets around me in an attempt to help dry and warm me. Immediately I began to praise God, thanking Him for taking my sins away, thanking Him for allowing me to come to Him. I praised Him loud and clear, looking up to the heavens because I knew what I was leaving behind me in that grave.

Suddenly I felt the radiance of

God's presence upon me. I could no longer feel the brisk cold wind, or even the dampness of the clothing I wore. All I felt was warmth. I was not cold! Repentance, faith, and belief led me into that grave and faith, belief, and God brought me out.

Blessed be the name of the Lord! I thank God for Jesus, and I thank Jesus for each of you, my new brothers and sisters. I love the Lord; He is truly "All the World to Me."

### Ordination in Anaheim, CA

March 3, 1991, was a great day for us at the Anaheim Branch. Brother John DiBattista was ordained an elder. God manifested Himself to us that day by visions and by dreams, some of which were recorded prior to his ordination. Visions were also seen during the ordination. The Lord gave a message to a sister to deliver to Bro. John: "Walk without fear, for I will be there with you, always by your side to help you when you need Me. because I chose you to be a light on the earth and to preach My Gospel wherever you may be."

Bro. John was anointed and ordained by Bro. Joseph Lovalvo, an apostle from Modesto, California. Afterward, he was surrounded by his family and many others who wanted to show their love for Bro. John. Sister Caryl DiBattista requested prayer, that God might be with her as she holds up the arms of her husband. We had visitors from many different branches in attendance that day, and were blessed by their love. Bro. John mentioned in his testimony how much it meant to him. Sis. Lucy and Bro. Tony DeCaro sang a beautiful hymn, Who Will Work in My Fields?

A beautiful luncheon was served for Brother John and his family and all of the saints gathered here for this special day.

#### A MESSAGE continued . . .

out as experts, and when they begin walking, they do fall down. But with their father's and their mother's encouragement and help they keep on trying; they don't give up, and eventually most of that food goes into the mouth, and those steps become more and more sure. Your Heavenly Father and your spiritual mother (the Church) are willing and able to encourage you and help you in the very same way. Don't ever lose sight of that!

Welcome to the family of God. You are standing at the threshold of an exciting life indeed, that of following Jesus. Walk in love and by faith as you follow in His footsteps, asking yourself in each and every situation and before every decision you make, "What would Jesus do?" Then do it, and your life will abound with joy!

"[G]reater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4). "[B]e strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

communion, everyone sang First Love, during which the apostles went forth into the congregation to embrace the brothers, sisters, and friends gathered there.

Bro. Jim Lovalvo spoke to us about the results that follow love. He said that Peter was later questioned by Jesus, who kept asking, "Lovest thou Me?" Bro. Jim said that when Christ heard Peter's affirmative response, He commanded him to "Feed My sheep." Our brother concluded by encouraging the Church to feed mankind with love by way of the Gospel.

In his closing remarks, Bro. Joe Lovalvo told the saints to always be a lively group. He said that through Jesus Christ, we had become alive, and we must continue to present ourselves and the Gospel with this lively spirit. The congregation was encouraged to tell others the good news of Jesus Christ and His Church. We in the Southeast District were very much blessed and are thankful to God for this visit by the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

#### APOSTLES continued . . .

Dominic elaborated on the human emotion that Peter experienced as his discouragement following his denial of Christ overwhelmed him to bitter tears. Bro. Thomas concluded by speaking of our own discouragements, that we must utilize the same source that Peter did to overcome his pain, that source being Jesus Christ.

Bro. Bob Watson followed, encouraging the Church to stay focused on God in order to endure all that life offers. He told the congregation to "eat, drink, and sleep The Church of Jesus Christ." He explained that the work is still the same as it was in the days of Peter: Telling others about Jesus Christ and His Gospel.

Bro. Joe Lovalvo, presiding over the meeting, felt directed to observe the Lord's Supper at this time. A wonderful and peaceful spirit enveloped the congregation as communion was passed. Following

### **GREETINGS** continued . . .

to us, "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," and finally, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." What a glorious finale!

In 1960, while visiting Rome, my niece Giuseppina LaFata took me to the prison where Paul spent his final days. Today it is called Castel Sant'Angelo. To enter, we had to bow almost to our knees. As we stood still, looking at the inscriptions on the wall, I could remember Paul writing to Timothy by way of Luke, the beloved physician: "Only Luke is with me" (II Tim. 4:11).

I asked Giuseppina, "If you were in this room for five days, what would be your thoughts?"

She became very calm; tears ran freely, then she said, "Death, Uncle Marco."

"What kind of people were the saints?" she asked.

(Continued on Page 12)

### **GREETINGS** continued . . .

"They were touched of God." I answered.

How about you, reader? Are you touched of God? If not, then seek to be.

God bless you, Mark Randy

### CAMPOUT '91 continued . . .

By the close of the camp, I can speak for many in saying that the blessings of God were truly evident in our midst. I feel as Mormon did in Ether 12, that words are insufficient to adequately relate the true spirit that permeated this camp. I am convinced beyond doubt that these "sightings," these manifestations of the presence of God, were a direct result of the continued dedication of the saints in the

Southeast Area (and elsewhere)

vigil of fasting and prayer. It is

towards the request for a week-long

thus concluded that to "Tap the Source" is to ask and to receive from God.

### MOC REPORT continued . . .

recent venture funded by the DMOC, is on Station WELK in Elkins, West Virginia. Brother Frammolino is in charge, assisted by Brothers Lawson, Paul Ciotti, and Manes. Phone calls and visitors indicate that people in both localities are listening and responding to the invitations which are given.

Because Clairton, Pennsylvania, a mission in our district, has only two elders, brothers from four branches (Aliquippa, Glassport, Imperial, and McKees Rocks) participate in a rotation schedule the first Sunday of each month. The assistance provided is welcomed and greatly appreciated.

Brother David Nolfi of the Glassport Branch recently began visiting the Soup Kitchen in McKeesport, where the very poor are fed. With help from a few brothers and sisters, Bro. David attempts to show the love of God by sharing testimonies, songs, scriptures, and prayers as the opportunities allow. Recently, many from the Kitchen visited the Glassport Branch for a special evening meeting which featured our Mexican brothers and sisters from Tijuana, who were visiting Pennsylvania over April Conference weekend.

Activities in the district have included door-to-door campaigns, fund-raising drives, and Gospel Concerts. As a continuing activity, we have planned four Sunday evening meetings to be held in various branches during this year. Preaching, testimonies, singing, teaching, and fellowship will be enjoyed. The first meeting was held on May 5, highlighting the areas of involvement of the DMOC. Our goal is to keep all members well informed of our endeavors.

A special thank you is extended to all the brothers, sisters, and friends who participate in all our district missionary efforts in any way. Their able and willing assistance is indispensable.

# Children Blessed

On December 23, 1990, Jenna Marie Thompson, daughter of Brett and Dana (Bilsky) Thompson, was blessed in the Roscoe, PA Branch by Bro. James Abbott.

Bro. Elmer Santilli blessed Joshua Anthony Kline, son of David and Angie Kline, at the Perry, Ohio Branch on April 21, 1991.

Danielle Marie Chepanoske was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. William Chepanoske, on April 28, 1991, in the Monongahela, PA Branch. Her parents are Anthony and Andrea Chepanoske.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

### CARRIE MAE KELLER

Sister Carrie Mae Keller of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch died on January 13, 1991. She was the daughter of the late Bro. Henry and Sis. Viola Johnson.

Services were conducted by Bro. Lawrence King.

Our sister leaves behind her husband, Ralph, four sons, and one brother, Bro. George Johnson of Phoenix, AZ. Sis. Carrie was much loved by her grandchildren, friends, and brothers and sisters in the Gospel. Her belief and faith in the Restoration were an excellent example to all.

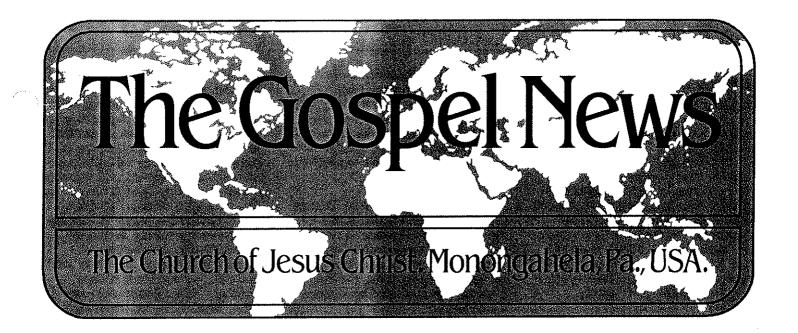
#### LOTTIE BENTZ

Sister Lottie Bentz of the Vanderbilt PA Branch passed away on March 19, 1991.

Services were conducted by Brothers James

King and Richard Lowther.

Affectionately known to all of us as "Granny Bentz," she leaves behind one daughter and a number of grandchildren and step-grandchildren. Granny was a soft-spoken, quiet sister and will be sadly missed by all.



July, 1991

Volume 47, No. 7

# Dedication at Saline, Michigan

By Gary L. Carlini

Sunday, November 4, 1990 is a day that will long be remembered by the saints at the Saline, Michigan Mission. This long-awaited day was made to give God all honor and glory as we dedicated our new church building.

Our hearts were overflowing at the sight of the huge turnout of brothers, sisters, family, and friends that came to share this special day with us. Visiting members of the priesthood included Brothers Dominic Thomas, Gorie Ciaravino, Nicholas Pietrangelo, Joseph Calabrese, Joseph Ross, Alex Gentile, Peter Scolaro, Louis Vitto, Anthony Lovalvo, Leonard Lovalvo, Daniel Parravano, and Kerry Carlini.

To begin, Presiding Elder Jim Cotellesse related that long before this dedication day, the Lord was always with us, directing us and blessing us as a mission. Bro. Jim also expressed a special thanks to Brother Querino (Reno) Bologna, our "patriarch" elder, for his efforts in making the Saline Mission become a reality. Bro. Jim then asked Bro. Joseph Calabrese to offer the dedicatory prayer. In his prayer. Brother Joe asked that the hard labors of the saints would now bring lights from heaven above to shine down upon the building, so

that all who passed by would be able to see and feel that this is The Church of Jesus Christ.

The children opened the service by singing three selections: This Is God's House, What Joy It Is To Worship Here, and I Am the Church. The choir then followed, with a song entitled Bless This House. After an ensemble of sisters sang a medley of Light Your World and Our Church, Bro. Gary Carlini

gave a brief history of the mission, from the "early days" of life in Saline to the present (See accompanying article).

Bro. Peter Buffa, representing the mission's board of trustees, was the next speaker. He stated that when the land was first purchased, it was the desire of the Buffa and Morle families to donate a portion of their land to the Church, with the dream that one day there would be a little church for the saints in Saline. Bro. Pete also expressed how grateful he was to the trustees

(Continued on Page 3)



The Saline, Michigan Mission

## A Brief History of the Saline Mission

By Kerry and Gary Carlini

It all started back in the spring of 1978, when a dozen or so families, then current members of Detroit, Michigan Branch #2, moved west, from Detroit's southwest suburbs to the countryside southwest of the college town of Ann Arbor, Michigan. Seeking the quieter lifestyle of the country, this was the beginning of "life in Saline.'

Soon the pastoral landscape was dotted with temporary living quarters as homes were being busily constructed. When they weren't busy working into the night on their houses, the saints would often gather over coffee and goodies, sharing friendship and hearty laughter. Living in an environment surrounded exclusively by the saints brought about a certain feeling of security and well-being. Always, one could find a helping hand, friendly conversation, or needed words of encouragement. Oftimes, the whole group would rally together to tackle the more serious problems and trials we encountered.

With our individual homes completed, the dream of the families was to now build a much greater "Home" for the saints. A house dedicated to God-our little countryside church. Back in those early days, we first met on Wednesday nights in the homes of the saints. We called it "Family Room Church"; the year was 1981.

Regarding the next event, we would like to quote the writings of then-District Historian, Brother Frank Morle:

"On Januray 10, 1982, the District Officers, consisting of President Spencer Everett, First Counselor Carl Frammolino, and Second Counselor Leonard A. Lovalvo, met in the home of Brother Joseph and Sister Virginia Carlini with members of Branch 2 in Allen Park, Michigan who lived in the Saline area. The purpose of this meeting was to organize a new mission in the

Saline area. Since the new mission was to have two elders, it would become an Established Mission under the district. Brother Reno Bologna would be presiding elder, and Brother Frank Morle would be his counselor."

At the February, 1982 District Conference, the district approved the Established Mission in Saline and recommended to the General Church Conference that they do so as well. In April, 1982, the Saline Mission was approved by General Conference.

Our first official Sunday service was held on April 25, 1982, in the York Township Hall. The availability of this building for our use was mainly a result of the efforts of Bro. Peter Buffa, who prevailed upon the township to rent us the building. To our surprise, Bro. Pete reported that we would incur no cost in using the building for Sunday Services!

Early on in the mission's existence came the awareness that monies would be needed to erect a church building. Starting with one and a half acres donated to the mission from the Buffa-Morle parcel of land, the group of saints moved full steam ahead in undertaking activities to both raise money and promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In the years to come, involvement in fundraisers such as spaghetti dinners, coupon refunding, bake sales, newspaper articles, corn roasts, bike-a-thons, and our famous Christmas Parade floats all became a way of life for the mission's members.

It was late in the fall of 1983 that the mission encountered its first stormy trial. The news that our elder, Bro. Frank Morle, had been diagnosed with cancer delivered a sledgehammer blow to our group. Bro. Frank would eventually succumb to that dreadful disease on January 1, 1985. To the end of his life, however, he never lost sight of the glory, power, and love of his Lord and Savior, nor of his love and devotion toward the Church.

On April 29, 1988, the membership voted and decided that the time had come for us to build a

church building of our own. The mission trustees spent the summer months making preparations for construction, and on September 30, 1988, the mission held its groundbreaking ceremony. Standing in that cornfield along with the mission members was official representation from the General Church and the Michigan-Ontario District.

Construction began in earnest the following spring, in May of 1989. Finally, the dream was becoming a reality! The "day shift" consisted of our three retired brothers, Peter Buffa, the crew boss; Reno Bologna, who forgot all about his age; and Joe Carlini, following in the footsteps of his father, Bro. Emil. Ever faithful in her consistent presence, Sis. Eleanor Buffa lent her support in providing food, running errands, and occasionally directing the crew boss. The rest of the members, coming home from their daytime jobs, devoted their evenings and

(Continued on Page 11)

# Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for all the cards, gifts, and flowers sent from all over the Church to our daughter, Bobbi Jo, after her bike accident. Above all, we would like to thank you for all your many

The doctors have given us no hope for the eyesight in her left eye to return, but we know that with God all things are possible. Bobbi Jo is getting stronger daily, both mentally and physically.

We are so thankful that the Lord extended our daughter's life and allowed her to be with us longer. We know that the situation could have been worse.

We ask that you continue to pray for her, that God will give her the strength to endure whatever He has planned for her.

May God bless you all.

Sis. Judi (Giovannone) & Bart Gensburg and Family

### 50th Anniversary

For her fiftieth year in the Church, the Anaheim, CA Branch added Sis. Helen Stroud's name to the plaque kept in the vestibule of our Church, and she was given a personal plaque as a reminder of her fifty years of serving the Lord. Sister Helen has served the Church faithfully for these many years through its growth and development in Bell, California. She transferred to the Anaheim Branch on July 11, 1973. We have enjoyed her fellowship and testimony through the years she has served God with us. She is now 85 years of age and is still praising God. This is her testimony:

"Two little girls who went to the same school became very good friends. One was named Harriet Stroud and the other was named Norma Kennedy, As so often happens, the parents of these two little girls became friends, too. Living on the same street in Cleveland, Ohio, we visited each other often. This was in 1937.

"Times were very hard then, and Mr. Stroud had been laid off and had no work. I, Mrs. Helen Stroud, began to tell Mrs. Kennedy about our problems and the lack of help from the people of the church I had been attending. I had gone to many different churches, and at this time, I was very disheartened with all of them. None had come forward to give any aid or comfort.

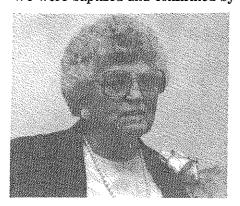
"Mrs. Kennedy began to tell me about a church where the ministers did not get paid, and where the people loved one another. She told me that the church was called The Church of Jesus Christ. I thought that sounded very good, and I was eager to hear more. I was told about the Book of Mormon, and found no objections to it. Mrs. Kennedy taught me how to pray and ask God to show me if this was the True Church.

"I was anxious to hear what God would say, so I prayed, and heard God speak to me, asking, "Are your hands in the right position?" I did not understand this, and asked Mrs. Kennedy if she knew what it meant. Mrs. Kennedy felt that God was asking me if I was in the right place to accept this church. There was no branch or mission in the Cleveland area to take me to, so Mrs. Kennedy just continued to witness to me.

"One evening, four years later, Brothers Rocco Biscotti and Charles Ashton came to visit the Kennedys. I was now living with my family upstairs from the Kennedys, andwas invited down to meet them. As soon as I did. I saw something different about these men. I saw a glow about Bro. Biscotti's face, and he appeared to be as an angel of God. We were informed that meetings were being held on Wednesday nights for the saints in that area, and we were invited to come. There had been some saints in Cleveland for some time, but the Kennedys had never known about them.

"I was very anxious to meet these people of God that I had been hearing so much about. I knew that I wanted to belong to this church. We attended the next Wednesday night, and there was such a strong Spirit of God there that I stood on my feet and asked to be baptized. Arrangements were made to baptize me the following Sunday, February 13, 1941.

"My husband, Ben Stroud, went to visit Bro. Rocco Biscotti and after talking with him he made the decision to be baptized with me. I did not know about this until the morning of our baptism. Needless to say, I was overjoyed. The weather was very cold and Lake Erie had frozen over, so they had to break the ice. On that day we became Brother and Sister Stroud. We were baptized and confirmed by



Sis. Helen Stroud

Bro. Rocco Biscotti.

"In August of 1944, we moved to California and resided in Downey. The Church had not been established in California as yet. My husband wrote to Bro. Rocco Biscotti, asking if there were any other members of the Church in California. He was informed that an elder, Bro. Rocco Meo, was living near Riverside. We contacted him, and soon he bought a home in Los Angeles where he could hold meetings. That was the beginning of the Church in the Los Angeles area."

In 1946, Sister Helen was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Rocco Meo. She was set aside by the washing of feet by Sis. Louise DiBattista from San Diego. In honor of her fifty years of service, a beautiful luncheon was served for Sister Helen, her family, and all the visitors and brothers and sisters from the branch who came to celebrate her special day with her.

Incidentally, Mrs. Kennedy, who introduced Sis. Helen to the Church, later became Sister Evelyn Perdue. What a missionary she was!!

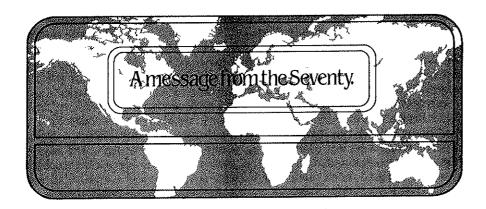
### **DEDICATION** continued . . .

and members of the mission for the long hours of hard labor that were required to make this dream a reality.

General Church President Bro. Dominic Thomas spoke next, admonishing us, if we want to dedicate our Church to His honor and glory, to be serious in our service to God! The "House of God" cannot be used in an inappropriate way. It behooves us as the people of God to be a modest people, always showing reverence to God.

Bro. Dominic related how Solomon's temple was dedicated in a sacred and powerful way. The scriptures describe how God blessed the people and gave them what they needed. Likewise, this "house" is to be used for holy ordinances: sacrament, blessing of children, praying for the afflicted,

(Continued on Page 11)



# Trip to Guatemala Mission May, 1991

By Frank Ciotti, Chairman, Pacific Coast DMOC

My wife, Sister Shari, and I arrived in Guatemala late in the evening on May 17, 1991. We had come at a good time, because there were three baptisms planned for the next day.

Everyone gathered at Church about 7:00 a.m. the next morning, from where the membership travelled to the baptismal site in a rented bus. The trip to the Lago de los Pinos is about one and one half hours. The three persons to be baptized were Luis and Maria Cristina Villatoro, and Zoila Rojos.

The baptism service was beautiful! The laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost followed at the waters. Bro. Luis was baptized by Bro. Luis Marroquin and confirmed by Bro. Isidro Dominguez. I had the honor of baptizing the other two and of confirming Sister Zoila. Bro. Marroquin confirmed Sister Cristina.

#### FIRST EVANGELISTIC SERVICE

That evening (Saturday), the first evangelistic service of our trip was held. The text for the sermon was from III Nephi 15:9-10, the theme of the message being Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, keeping all the commandments which Christ taught, and enduring to the end in order to receive eternal life.

The text for the Sunday morning sermon was Revelations 20:11-15, concerning the preparation needed as each person

ultimately stands before God to be judged by the deeds done in this life. The Books of God were enumerated, including the Book of Life, and Saturday evening's message was tied in as the means of preparation. There were about 60 people in attendance.

We began Monday morning in prayer at 7:30 a.m. After a beautiful season of prayer, I was inspired to embrace both Brothers Isidro Dominguez and Luis Marroquin at the same time. At that moment, Bro. Isidro felt another set of arms embrace all three of us. There was a wonderful feeling of love and unity.

On Monday we also began our visits to the homes of the brothers

and sisters and friends of the Church in Guatemala. By Wednesday, we had made over 15 visits, beginning early in the morning and going until late at night.

#### ESPECIALLY BLESSED

The Wednesday night service was especially blessed. The text of the sermon was I John 4:4, regarding the power of God that is in us which gives the victory not only in this life but also when we stand before the judgment bar of God.

After the service closed about 9:00 p.m., a sister asked for prayer. She was suffering from intestinal problems and had pains in the abdominal area. During the prayer, the pain was removed. A powerful spirit was manifested, and one person after another came forth for prayer.

Bro. Nuyo saw a vision of the Three Nephites. When we were praying for Sis. Zoila Rojos, one of the personages put his hand on top of the hands of the ministry as we prayed. The other hand he lifted in the air and held up a book with golden edges. At that moment, Bro. Isidro felt another hand placed on the ministry's hands.

As the night went on, a special request was made to have me offer a prayer on behalf of the Seed of Joseph. As we all knelt in prayer, our supplication was that Christ

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Guatemalan elders Dominguez (left) and Marroquin (right) with Frank Clotti and three new converts.



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### Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In this month's Children's Corner, Sister Jan talks to her readers about saying "no," and meaning it, when confronted with the temptations they encounter each day to drift from the ways of the Lord. While her column is directed toward younger readers, the subject of meaning what we say—and knowing the reasons why—is something to which we all can relate, regardless of our age.

In teaching right from wrong (or anything, for that matter) to young children, we are certain to hear them ask, "Why?". Our answer to their first "why," furthermore, will likely be followed by the same question again. I believe God put children on this earth so we might realize the importance of knowing the reasons behind what we're doing and saying—so that we can do it with meaning.

We usually become frustrated by the time a child asks his fifth or sixth "why" (as soon as we become uncomfortably aware that we aren't so sure ourselves of the reasons behind our actions and beliefs). To avoid probing deeper for the answers ourselves, or to avoid the humiliation of honestly admitting that we don't know, we can bring the discussion to a convenient close with a "Because I said so," or "Don't ask so many questions." In the long run, however, the thinking child will recognize our lack of reasoning, and will place less and less value on our beliefs, opinions, and convictions. Without the strength of reasoning, it no longer matters whether we're right or wrong—the child will reject our beliefs in favor of learning for himself, regardless of the cost.

As servants of the Lord Jesus Christ, we go through our daily lives choosing good over evil, righteousness over sin, the ways of the Lord over the devilish nature of the flesh. As we do so, we are challenged from time to time by nonbelievers who ask us to give reasons for what we believe and do. If the only answers we can give are, "Because that's the way we do it in our church," or "It's against our religion," can we honestly expect anyone (including our children) to place any value on our opinions and beliefs, or to desire to know more about the Church?

While it's true that we in The Church of Jesus Christ possess the Truth of the Restored Gospel, we can still find ourselves feeling uncomfortable—shaken—by persistent questions that we cannot answer. Even more frustrating is the fact that we can't conveniently stop someone who's interested—for whatever reason—from asking those difficult "why" questions. Clearly, in these instances, it isn't so much the Truth that cannot stand up to questioning, but rather it's our understanding of the Truth that is lacking. If we don't ask these questions ourselves, we'll never be able to answer them for others. And while it's the Spirit and the Love of God that draws sincere souls to Christ, we can only help people to understand the Gospel to the extent that we understand it ourselves.

Just having the Truth does not make you a successful servant of God. It's knowing the Truth—applying it in your life and having a purpose for all that you do in your service to Him—that frees you from the "Don't ask questions" kind of thinking and makes you "ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you" (I Peter 3:15).

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that serving Christ will make you stronger than your friends who do not serve Christ? Not only can God strengthen or heal your body, but He also will make you stronger inside.

You will learn how to say "no" and mean it when someone tries to talk you into something that is wrong. If all of your friends decide to do the wrong thing and you feel confused, you can ask Jesus what to do. It will only take you a second to



cry out in your heart to the Lord. You can say, "Lord, help me!

Lord, this is wrong; help me to say 'no'!"

And if your friends try to talk you into the wrong decision or act like they hate you for not going along, you can pray. You can tell Jesus you are lonely. You can pray and ask God to send you a new good friend who will not do wrong things. You can ask God to protect you from those who might hurt you.

It is really, really hard to be

kind to someone who has treated
you or is treating you badly. Our
human side wants to be hateful
back towards anyone who is hateful
to us. If someone says mean things
about us, we want to be hateful
back to them.

Our human side wants us to return hate for hate, a hit for a hit. Our human side wants to get revenge for everything mean or unkind that is done to us.

Can you imagine how Satan wins when we give in to our human side? For every bad thing that happens, he'd like to see another bad thing returned. Picture a long chain of hate just getting longer and longer, each link hooked to another link of hate.

Then picture Jesus' way. Jesus taught us to return good for evil. He wants us to be peacemakers. He said in Matthew 5:44-45, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven."

He wants us to break hatechains. When someone does something rotten or cruel, he wants you to forgive them and pray for them.

That way the hate-chain gets broken. That way Satan loses power. Every time you return good for evil, evil loses some of its power.

Jesus spoke in Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you."

So when you need the power to break hate-chains, ask Jesus. Jesus will give you strength to stand up for what is right. Jesus will comfort you when evil people leave you out. Jesus will give you new good friends.

friends.
Your memory verse for this month is Matthew 7:7. So far we've had smart kids putting memory verses in their minds from Windsor, Canada; Edison, New Jersey; Lakeside, Arizona; and Glassport, Pennsylvania. I know there are great teachers and wonderful children out there who also need to put God's word in your heart. For (Continued on Page 7)

		FORM		
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### Our Women Today

Three Days of Light

### Southeast Area Ladies' Retreat

By Judy Graziosi

After six months of careful thought, planning, and prayer, the Southeast Area Ladies' Retreat finally began on Friday, May 3 at the Ramada Hotel in West Palm Beach, Florida. Words cannot express the amount of work and love that our director, Sister Nancy DiFede, put into every last detail of every event. God inspired Sis. Nancy with our theme, "You Can Light Up Your Life with HIS Help," and she wrote special lyrics to the tune of You Light Up My Life for the sisters to sing, which we did many times over as we focused on ourselves in the role of wives, mothers, children of God, sisters, and friends.

As we arrived at the hotel, we received our welcome packets, name tags, and a box of homemade cookies baked by Sisters Peggy Benyola and Carmela Mazzeo. The hotel provided a hospitality reception at the beginning of the retreat, where we were able to welcome each other and immediately forget the burdens of the world we left behind. We had visitors from Arizona, Michigan, Kentucky, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Georgia. We were truly a collection of women from all walks of life, but when we came

together, we all felt equal as the children of God and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Friday night our song leader, Sis. Lori Monaghan, taught us some new songs, and then we heard an opening address from Sis. Nancy DiFede, inviting us to open our minds and hearts to each other. Next came a keynote speech by Sis. Shirley Paxon on "friendship." A panel discussion entitled "What's the Difference?" followed, moderated by Sis. Judy Graziosi. This discussion focused on how very different people can be because of the problems or circumstances in their individual lives or the diverse backgrounds from which they came. The goal of the discussion was to promote understanding and empathy for those going through difficult times, who feel alone, or are the only member of their family in the Church. It was an emotional time of honest sharing and caring that got the weekend off to the right start. We truly felt closer in the love of Christ after sharing these inner feelings.

Saturday was a day for making new friendships and learning to feel better about ourselves. We enjoyed four keynote speakers, Sharon Staley, Marie Cihomsky, Alyse Genaro, and Letti Obradovich. After lunch we went into four different workshops on Enriching Your Life in Your Role As a Wife, a Mother, a Sister and Friend, and As a Child of God.

Saturday evening consisted of a formal dinner, followed by a piano recital by Dr. Susan Joyce, who presented three selections from the works of the composer Frederic Chopin. Then Sisters Lori Monaghan and Terri Benyola got us together for a fun evening where we shared stories, pictures, and a musical look at the joys of motherhood.

Sunday morning we had a church service at the hotel, with Brothers Dennis Moraco and Ken Staley conducting the service. Upon opening the service, all 70 of us joined hands, and as we did, we experienced the Spirit of God like electricity flowing from one to the other. It was a beautiful service of preaching, testimony, and song, after which our brothers administered the Lord's Supper.

General Ladies' Uplift Circle
President Arline Whitton, Area
President Sharon Staley, and Area
Vice President Susan Moraco spoke
a few closing words, and brought
our retreat to an end. It was difficult to describe our feelings in
parting from this sweet communion
of spirit. But after that beautiful
three-day weekend of 'light,' we
were ready to return to our
families, branches, and jobs, much
stronger in the love of God and
refreshed after the time we spent
together.

#### CHILDREN'S CORNER continued...

teachers of sixth grade, young adults, and older, your classes should write me as soon as they have memorized Galatians 5:22-23, the fruit of the Spirit.

I'm looking forward to hearing from all of you.

With care, Sister Jan

### **MBA Highlights**

### Program in Vanderbilt, PA

The Vanderbilt, PA Local MBA sponsored a program on April 5, 1991 and invited the Pennsylvania Area members to attend. The theme was "America, the Choice Land."

The program involved the younger members reading scrip-

tures from the Book of Mormon and the Bible, relating how God prepared this land, the American continent, as a promised land, a choice land, a land above all others. Songs were sung by several of the saints to blend in with the theme.

Afterward, pizza and pop were enjoyed by all. It was an evening well spent, and we are looking forward to the next time. A video of this program is available. Anyone interested may contact Richard King.

### **Branch and Mission News**

### News from Greensburg, PA

Once again, the members of the Greensburg Branch have been blessed with God's goodness and mercy.

On March 14, 1991, Mark Luffy entered the hospital to undergo surgery to remove a growth in his shoulder. Mark and his family were quite discouraged, because three years ago Mark was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's Disease, but at that time felt that God had healed him of this affliction. Now, he and his family were worried that the cancer had returned. The members of our branch were asked to remember Mark in our prayers.

To remove the growth, it was necessary for the doctors to make a 10-inch long incision that was five inches deep. His mother, Sister Daun, testified that later that same day, Mark was walking around, had no need for the pain killers he was offered, and was asking for a regular meal as opposed to the restricted diet. And on March 15, one day later, Mark left the hospital! Test results showed the tumor to be benign.

"How Can I Ever Sufficiently Praise Him?"—what an appropriate song for the members of the Greensburg Branch as the Lord has once again carried us through another of life's trials.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank those that have visited with us in Greensburg. On March 17, 1991, Bro. John Ali from Glassport spoke to us on the high technology that God has allowed us to experience and enjoy during our lifetime. However, we must be very careful how we use this technology—that we use it to the benefit and glory of God.

We were blessed to have many visitors with us on Sunday, March 24, 1991. Among our visitors were Bro. Tom and Sis. Tava Jones and Bro. Bruce and Sis. Danielle Picciuto from the Atlanta, GA Mission and Sis. Lana (Fallavollitti) Anspacher from Maryland. Bro. Tom gave an inspirational talk,

discussing the difference between "sight" and "insight." Bro. Tom began by saying that our meetings often serve to "boost" us through the upcoming week. We can certainly say this was the case for us as we heard our brother's words this day.

We were quite excited to have Bro. Fred, Sis. Charlotte, Jason, and Sister Sue Olexa, along with Stacy Miller, in our midst on Sunday, April 7. Also visiting this day were Sisters Joanne and Linda Ali of Glassport. Bro. Fred posed the question: "Would we, today, be like the two disciples on the road to Emmaus who did not know or recognize the Lord?" He presented a very uplifting, yet thought-provoking, sermon.

We are thankful for those that visit with us, and we pray that God will richly bless them for their efforts. We extend an invitation to all to come and worship the Lord with us.

## Children's program in Quincy, FL

Restoration was the youngsters' theme as they put on a play of "The Golden Book of Mormon" in Quincy, Florida. The young people's voices were like thunder as they quoted scriptures that illustrate how the Bible and Book of Mormon are joined together.

Visiting the Quincy Mission was Bro. Joe Calabrese. He spoke on the scripture of Isaiah 2:1-3, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Bro. Joe Calabrese continued to speak concerning the apostasy. He said that the falling away of the Gospel took place in a period of time when darkness fell upon the earth for 1260 years. This darkness was due to "innovations" within the Church during that time. Some of the basic things like baptism, sacrament, and the washing of feet were changed by men. Bro. Joe told the congregation that God does not change, and that the changes which dealt with the ordinances of the Church were not authorized by God. He encouraged us to ask God in order to receive.

We had a number of visitors with us in Quincy that day, and our prayer is that God would bless all.

### N. Jackson, Ohio Mission

By Kathy Vinsick

On April 28, 1991, Bro. Frank Giovannone opened the service by reading and speaking on John 10:9-10, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Bro. Richard Santilli followed, telling of his trip to the Chichen-Itza and Tulma ruins in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula, where he had an experience while talking about the Book of Mormon. It was a very enjoyable and enlightening account.

During the meeting, the brothers called forward those who would like to be anointed. There were eight that came forward. among whom was 13-year old Bobbi Jo Gensburg, granddaughter of Bro. Frank and Sis. Ina Giovannone. Bobbi Jo met with a very serious accident when she was hit by a pickup truck while on her bicycle. Her left eye, and much of the bones on that side of her face, were crushed as a result of the accident. While the bones were successfully grafted and wired together, the eye specialist said there was no hope of her seeing out of her eye again.

Before anointing this young girl, Bro. Richard Santilli asked that we sing *God's Touch*. He then anointed her, stating that the

Brother of Jared cried out to the Lord, "Shall we cross the great water in darkness?" and that he then went and melted out of a rock 16 small stones that were clear as glass. He prayed to God for the Lord to touch these stones, that they might shine in the darkness, so they might have light in their vessels. Because of his exceeding great faith, the Lord did touch each stone with His finger.

During Bro. Richard's prayer, Sis. Virginia Comedena of the Roscoe, PA Branch also felt to pray, in her heart, in this same manner—on the great faith of the Brother of Jared—that if God touched the stones to give light, the Lord could touch Bobbi Jo's eye and make it whole again.

We all need to strive for this perfect faith, even as the Brother of Jared, believing that God can do all things. As we seek to climb higher and higher, we ask that you all please continue to pray for Bobbi Jo. May the Lord bless each and every one of you.

### Baptism in Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

We have been blessed in Freehold to see yet another soul give his life to Jesus Christ. At the General Church Conference in April, 1991, James Crudup Jr. asked to be baptized. A sister at the conference said the Lord had revealed to her that there were three there who should not leave until they surrendered themselves to the Lord by requesting baptism. Bro. James was the first to come forward and ask. Thank God the other two decided as well to choose the Lord at Conference.

The following Sunday, April 28, back at Freehold, James Crudup Jr. was baptized by his father, Bro. Jim Crudup Sr. It was a beautiful day as the entire Crudup family was there to witness James's baptism. He was confirmed by Bro. Willy Brown and during the confirmation, a sister had a vision of two white hands on Bro. James's shoulders. Then she saw the two hands place a golden helmet on his head. Praise God another name has been written

down in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Our branch is in the process now of being expanded to accommodate the influx of new members, visitors, and the Seed of Joseph. Each Sunday the branch is overcrowded, so the need arose to enlarge the building. Although it requires much work naturally, we rejoice in knowing that if it weren't for the spiritual work that has been going on here, the expansion would not be necessary. We have come to understand that the spiritual work is primary in serving God. We also realize we must not stop the spiritual work. There are many new faces every Sunday of the Seed of Joseph in our meetings. Lately, the visitors have outnumbered the baptized members, and little by little, they are learning and accepting more of the Restored Gospel. We are praying that soon many more of the visitors will come forth and request baptism. We can see God's promises to the House of Israel unfolding rapidly before our very eyes, and we humbly thank God to be a part of it.

Recently in a meeting, a sister had a vision of two of the three Nephites enter our branch and kneel down at the front of the building. A voice told her, "If you want to see the third Nephite, you must pray in faith believing." She did, and suddenly she saw the third Nephite enter in and kneel down with the other two. "And they are as the angels of God, and if they shall pray unto the Father in the name of Jesus, they can show themselves unto whatsoever man it seemeth them good" (III Nephi 28:30).

That evening, a brother from Ohio called and said the Lord revealed to him that our sister would have a vision of the three Nephites today; a confirmation of the experience. At the end of the Sunday meeting, a vision was seen in which Jesus Christ was on the pulpit with His arms outstretched. The very next Sunday, at the beginning of the meeting, the same vision was seen. Praise God for His miraculous power manifested among us. Truly we can say, "It's breakfast time, the dawn has broke, deliverance broke the dawn!" Dios los bendiga.

## Soul converted, blessings felt in Spartanburg, SC

By Harold Littlejohn

The Spirit of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ has called another soul, Brother Fred Hall, into The Church of Jesus Christ by glorious, divine revelation.

Mr. Hall began to visit the Church regularly after his wife, Sister Jessie Hall, was baptized in October of 1990. That was when God commenced to work with him. Fred had a habit of using tobacco. One day he discovered a dark area in his mouth, along with discomfort, both of which he knew were caused by his use of tobacco. For a few days he struggled within to rid himself of this habit; then mysteriously the taste for tobacco left him.

He also regularly indulged in alcoholic beverages until one night, when he became severely ill after drinking. This affliction caused him to struggle again to lay this second habit aside. Thus, even before he was called into the Church, Mr. Hall was reaping benefits and blessings as he sat under the sound of the beautiful Restored Gospel.

It was during the week of the General Church request for Fasting and Prayer, February 3-10, 1991, that the Lord gave Fred a dream. In his dream, he was in a valley and felt extremely lonely. He said to himself, "I don't know where I am. I don't even know who I am."

Walking upward from the valley, he found himself on a road. He was confused concerning which way to go, whether to the left or to the right. On the left was much noise, and he could hear people loudly laughing and having fun. On the right was quietness.

Although he was attracted to the left, a voice told him, "Take the right." He obeyed. As he walked down the road to the right, he could see there were very few people on it. Every now and then he met a traveler.

At the end of the road was a beautiful rainbow. Never had he seen anything so beautiful! Under

(Continued on Page 10)

#### SPARTANBURG continued . . .

the rainbow was written, "John 3:16," and the words, "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."

When he awakened from this dream, Mr. Hall's room was all lit up with very bright light. The following Sunday, February 10, Mr. Hall related this dream to the congregation and told the priesthood that he wanted to be baptized. That day he was baptized and confirmed into The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Harold Littlejohn.

Another blessing the Lord bestowed upon us during this special week came by way of divine inspiration. The saints were instructed to gather at church each night. On Thursday evening Bro. Littlejohn felt inspired to serve Communion. A sweet, solemn, beautiful spirit prevailed as the Lord's Supper was served. After the meeting, a sister deaconess related to Bro. Littlejohn that she had dreamed the night before of two Communion baskets. It was later learned that the Edison, NJ Branch, under which the Spartanburg Mission is established, also served Communion during that week. Such blessings cause us to joyfully sing,

O the Gospel Restored in these the Last Days, With the Gifts and the Pow'r from above, Teaches all of mankind who will trust and obey The true way to be happy with love.

### Baptism at Sterling Hts., MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Sunday, April 28, 1991, members of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch met at our district baptismal site to witness the baptism of our young Sister Kristen Bashaw. Kristen called for her baptism at the April, 1991 General Church Conference, but wanted to be baptized here at her home branch. She was led into the water by Bro. John Straccia.

Back at the church, Bro. John told of how he felt as he walked into the water. He reviewed in his mind the accounts of Alma at the Waters of Mormon and Peter on the Day of Pentecost, both instances in which many souls were baptized. Being Kristen's Sunday School teacher, Bro. John related how she was always asking questions about the Bible and Book of Mormon, and what would happen to her if Christ returned to earth. He said that her questions were good ones, showing much thought, and that he began to see a change coming over her as time passed.

At the April Conference, a sister arose and, at the Spirit's prompting, said that there were three people who wanted to call for their baptism. At that moment, Kristen began to cry and asked to be prayed for. After the ministry laid hands on her and offered prayer, she asked to be baptized. Many at the Conference were given experiences to confirm the Lord's calling Spirit there.

After Kristen was baptized today, while we were still at the lake, she asked Bro. John if she could give her testimony right there, as she wasn't sure if she could get up the courage to stand before the congregation in church. She related to us how she had heard the calling of the Spirit, and knew it was her time to surrender her life to Jesus.

Bro. John used Matthew 12:38 as his text, where the Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign. All of us are able to see and hear for ourselves what we must do, but just like the Pharisees, we must choose whether or not to listen and obey. Today, Kristen chose to serve Jesus and she now has the Lord with her. If we believe and trust God, and act upon our faith and trust, God will reward us and richly bless us.

Bro. Sam DiFalco followed, asking each of us to remember where we were and what we were doing when we felt the Lord call us. He said that as we each go through life there are sure to be dark days, but with the Lord in our lives there is a new peace in our heart. We must follow Jesus with real intent, and always have Him in our mind and

His name on our lips.

The elders knelt around our new sister and Bro. Lou Vitto called upon the Lord to send His Spirit down upon her. Bro. Spencer Everett then bestowed the Holy Ghost upon her by the laying on of hands. The Lord chose to give us a beautiful, warm day, and we all went home rejoicing, knowing there was a new name written down in glory.

### Deacons ordained at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Sunday, March 24, 1991 was a day of rejoicing for the members and friends of the Detroit Inner City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Four young laborers were called to be ordained as deacons in the Church. They are: Brothers Jim Bork, Gordon Ciaravino, Chris De Roo, and Abraham Nieves.

During the ordination service or Sunday afternoon, Presiding Elder Eugene Amormino stated that when Presiding Deacon Bro. Roy DePerno said he needed more help, the branch priesthood, who had already been praying for more help in this part of the vineyard, prayed more fervently for God to choose the men qualified for this office.

The following time the brother elders met about this issue, the names of our four brothers came up and our brothers in the ministry all agreed. They felt a unity of Spirit in their decision.

Bro. Eugene likened our brothers unto Stephen of old, who was full of faith and possessed a great portion of the Holy Ghost. Stephen was one among seven men chosen for this office because the needs of the Church became so great. In the past few years, the Inner City Branch has experienced great changes. Our membership is growing, and we have many regular visitors who either want some day to be baptized, or are seeking more understanding of the Lord and His Church. And to help look after the needs of this increasing flock, we definitely feel the need for brothers

who are filled to the capacity of the Spirit that Stephen was.

Bro. Amormino reminded the congregation to pray for and support our brothers, because the work is hard and they will need our prayers. He also addressed the wives of our brothers, encouraging them to support their husbands and be there to uplift them when they feel discouraged. Afterwards, Bro. Steve Champine sang I Will Go and Do What the Lord Hath Commanded. Then Brothers Jim, Gordon, Chris, and Abraham went forward to be set aside by the washing of feet and to be ordained.

Bro. Jim's feet were washed by Bro. Mike Coppa, and he was ordained by Bro. Gary Champine. Bro. Gordon's feet were washed by Bro. Nick Francione, and he was ordained by his father, Apostle Gorie Ciaravino. Bro. Mario Zaccagnini washed Bro. Chris's feet, and he was ordained by Bro. Eugene Amormino. And Bro. Abraham had his feet washed by Bro. Dean Coppa, after which he was ordained by Bro. Flip Palacios.

After the ordinations took place, we sang To the Work. Our newly-ordained brothers then gave thanks to God for bringing them to The Church of Jesus Christ, and for calling them to this office. They also shared with us different experiences they had had, as did some members of the congregation, regarding the Lord's calling them into the office of a deacon. Bro. Eugene then called all the deacons, teachers, and elders forward to sing The Standard of Liberty.

It was a beautiful day of singing and rejoicing, and we were blessed to have many friends and visitors from throughout the Michigan-Ontario District to share their love and support on this very special day. Our prayer is that God will continue to strengthen our brother deacons, that they may do all that the Spirit of God inspires them to do.

Earlier in the day, during the morning service, we learned that 10-year-old Christina (Tina) Bork, Bro. Jim Bork's daughter, wanted to be blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Donna Amormino sang Jesus Loves Me for Tina, and she was blessed by Bro.

Eugene Amormino. May God bless her and set His angels 'round about her to protect her and guide her pathway ever closer to Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **SALINE MISSION continued...**

weekends consistently to constitute the "night shift," with Brothers Harold Batalucco and John P. Buffa as the night chiefs.

By the autumn of 1989, our church building was not only completed, but also completely paid for, mortgage free! Praise be to God.

In closing, we would like to say that the most difficult thing with writing this article was trying to find the words to describe the spirit of excitement that radiated from all who were involved when this work started thirteen years ago. We owe much to the brothers, sisters, friends, and our Saline neighbors for their support of all of the activities and the many hours of labor that were required to make our mission a reality. Most of all, we all thank God for His constant direction and the strength He provided for us to accomplish this task. When all is said and done, we pray that God's response would be, "Well done and Amen!"

#### **DEDICATION** continued . . .

and a place to bring newly-baptized converts for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Our brother commented on a few of the miracles we had experienced as a mission (as recounted in the history), stating that God has blessed His people and His Church from the beginning, and He continues to do so.

As Bro. Thomas brought his comments to a close, he spoke of how we all must reach beyond our limits in testimony and service to God. We each must strive to be a better saint for the betterment and growth of the Church. The Church must grow in order to allow new members to come in, and to allow our children to grow up and become part of this Church. He concluded by reiterating his earlier thoughts, that while we dedicate our buildings to the honor and glory of God, the

most important thing is that we dedicate ourselves.

Bro. Jim Cotellesse followed with closing remarks on the responsibility we should all feel as we leave this meeting. We now must have a greater dedication within ourselves to the service of God. Our meeting was brought to a close with an ensemble of brothers presenting God's House. District President Bro. Peter Scolaro closed in prayer.

A beautiful buffet luncheon was served at Saline High School by the members of the Saline Mission. We fellowshipped with one another and then said our good-byes as we headed home. We extend an invitation to all who pass through this part of the countryside to please stop by and share our joy in serving God. God bless all.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

would manifest Himself among us. At that moment, Bro. Cesman saw a great light enter the room and encircle all the people. Bro. Luis Marroquin then felt that as I had prayed for Israel, Israel prayed for me. This season of prayer and anointing lasted for about one and one half hours, yet nobody wanted to leave.

A woman visiting the Church for the first time stated that she felt something very special. She said she had visited other churches, but what she felt here was so very different. She stated that when we spoke of baptism, she didn't understand; but she knew it was something beautiful and something she needed. God truly touched many lives that night.

We all gathered in fasting and prayer once more on Thursday morning prior to our leaving for our return to the United States. The Lord was truly with us in our visit to Guatemala.

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

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### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### HARGULA-JOHNSON

Mr. Christopher Hargula and Miss Samantha Jean Johnson were united in holy matrimony on April 20, 1991, at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Sam DiFalco officiated at the service,

assisted by Brother Gary Champine.

Musical selections were provided by Brother Steve Champine, accompanied by Sister Kathie Perkins.

### Children Blessed

Mary Ann Evans was blessed on December 9, 1990 by Bro. John P. Buffa at the Saline, Michigan Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ. She is the foster child of Bro. John and Sis. Leona Buffa.

Mark Anthony DeCredico was blessed on April 17, 1991 by Bro. Mark Naro in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Nathan Clark Heaton was blessed on May 26, 1991, by Bro. John Ross Jr. in the Tucson, AZ Branch.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### NUNZIATA CONTI

Sister Nunziata (Nancy) Conti passed on to her eternal reward on April 17, 1991. She was born on November 16, 1894 and was baptized in Detroit,

Address Change					
~					
Phone					

Michigan on June 28, 1931 by Bro. Joseph Giansante. She served as a deaconess in the Church for many years.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Frank Vit-

to and Joseph Furnari.

She is survived by two daughters, Sisters Mary Vitto and Theresa Piacentino, one son, Bro. Frank Conti, eight grandchildren, and nine great-

grandchildren.

Sister Nancy's main interest in life was her family and the Church, and was loved by all who knew her. She shared her love, warmth, and pleasant smile with everyone, and will be remembered fondly by her family and by the brothers and sisters of Detroit, MI Branches 1 and 3.

#### GLADYS NEELY

Gladys E. Neely passed from this life on May 8, 1991. She was born September 17, 1926.

Brothers Mark Naro and Joel Calabrese conducted

the funeral.

Mrs. Neely is survived by her daughter, Sis. Iva Davis of the Lorain, Ohio Branch, and two grandchildren, Greg and Sis. Tonia Davis.

#### KAY DORE

Sister Kay Dore was called home to eternal rest on May 13, 1991. She was born August 9, 1924, and was baptized by the late Bro. Frank Calabrese on September 27, 1964. She was a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers

Joseph Calabrese and Mark Naro.

Our sister is survived by her husband, three sons, and several grandchildren. May the Lord comfort them in their time of sorrow.

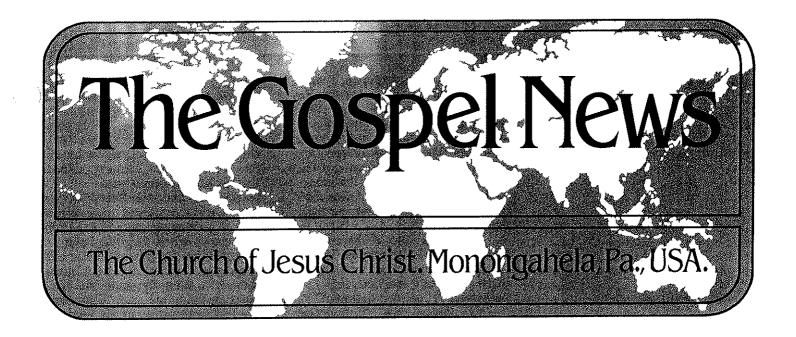
#### JEREMY JENKINSON

Jeremy Jenkinson, born July 21, 1971, passed away on May 25, 1991. He had numerous afflictions upon his body and was confined to a wheelchair for his entire life.

The funeral was held at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, with Brothers

Lou Vitto and John Buffa officiating.

Jeremy is survived by his parents, Fred and Nancy, one brother, one sister, and his four grandparents. May God comfort them as they feel the loss of this young member of the family.



August, 1991

Volume 47, No. 8

### Blessings in Lorain, Ohio

By Iva L. Davis

On Sunday, April 28, 1991, Bro. Joe Calabrese felt to speak about the Three Nephites, since they were seen and spoken of so much at the General Church Conference. He brought out the experience of the open book seen at conference with the words, "Blessed are those whose names are written in gold."

Bro. Frank Altomare brought out the experience when the Lord told him the Three Nephites would come and comfort His people when they would suffer for the things of this world. He also mentioned the time that John the Divine was seen here and told us, "I have come to comfort the people." Our brother also told us of a dream that he had, where he was in church with some brothers and sisters, and saw that there was some work to be done. A ladder appeared, and as he was climbing it, he heard a choir singing. As he looked up he could see our departed Bro. Corrado in the choir singing. This dream was given to our brother on the same morning that Bro. Pete Buffa had died.

At a fasting and prayer meeting neld at our branch on Saturday, May 4, 1991, much was said about the many sick and afflicted throughout the Church. Bro. Mark Naro read the special request from Bro. Dominic Thomas that the

Church fast and pray for these needs. A sister at this meeting saw the words, "Pray on, pray on."

Before our service got under way on Sunday June 2, 1991, Bro. Tony DeCredico stood on his feet and asked to be baptized. The word of the Lord came forth, saying, "I am the one who will call. I will call the humble and meek, saith the Lord." As they made ready to go to the water's edge, Bro. Tony's wife, Shelby, was overcome by the Spirit and asked for her baptism as well.

While Bro. Tony and his wife were attending our services, a dream was had where their house was seen with a dark cloud hanging over, and little by little it began to disappear. The Saturday before their baptism, at our fasting and prayer service, a dream was related in which Sis. Shelby was telling the sister who had the dream to come and see what had landed at her house. She stretched forth her hand, opened it, and a dove landed on it.

Brother Joe Calabrese baptized both Bro. Tony and Sis. Shelby. We gathered back at the church for the laying on of hands. Before this took place, a sister saw two men standing with lambs in their arms. Sis. Shelby was confirmed by Bro. Frank Altomare. Bro. Tony was confirmed by Bro. Joe Calabrese.

Another sister told of a dream she had the night before, where she saw some flowers to be planted and some dirt that had been worked up by the late Brother Frank Calabrese. The flowers were small, but she knew that they would grow. After this dream was related, Bro. Joe Calabrese told us that it was Bro. Frank Calabrese who had married them. Praise God for a wonderful day.

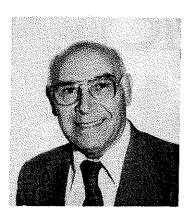
We remembered Sister Aileen Calabrese in prayer this summer, as she had been told that she had cancer cells in her tongue. She was anointed and had surgery, and the cancer was removed from her tongue. All went well; some skin was grafted in the place of her operation. She is now home recuperating. The doctors now tell her all the cancer was removed and that no cancer was found anywhere else on her body. Praise God!

### Editor's New Address

The Gospel News editor's new address is as follows:

Anthony J. Scolaro 32C Donald St. Bloomfield, NJ 07003 Tel. 201-743-6773

### Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Greetings in Jesus Christ,

"Be not anxious how or what you shall speak" (Matthew 10:19). "Neither do you premeditate;

"Neither do you premeditate; but whatever shall be given you in that hour, that speak you; for it is not you that speak, but the Holy Spirit" (Mark 13:11).

On my first trip to what is now known as the Six Nations Reservation, near Brantford, Ontario, Canada, Wade Riggen and I made the journey with his car. Bro. Wade had been there before. It was the middle of August, 1936. Upon arriving, we found that Brother and Sister Beaver and Sister Hill were away harvesting fields. It was on one of the harvests, in 1934, that both the Hills and the Beavers heard of the Restored Gospel from the people working alongside them, who were brothers from Muncey, Ontario.

Brother Wade decided to travel further to Toronto, to visit Mrs. Irene Rigby and her mother. I remained at the Reservation visiting.

Mrs. Mary Anderson offered a place for me to stay while Brother Wade was gone. I spent three days there. The first day I was not given breakfast. I took my briefcase with me, and carried several pamphlets of the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ. I walked through the countryside, visiting each house on the way, with no lunch or supper.

The second day, I received the same treatment. By the third day, I could hardly speak. My mouth was so dry; the weather was very hot

and humid. That afternoon, I was visiting Mrs. Gibson, about four or five miles from where I slept. She said to me, "Are they trying to starve you? They are doing a good job of it." The news was spreading that a Mormon was bringing a false doctrine. They accepted the pamphlets, but they did not allow me into their houses or offer me some water.

I had read Paul of Tarsus' testimony in II Corinthians 11:27, "In hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold (I was hot) and nakedness (I had my clothes)."

Mrs. Gibson said, "I am going to get you some water and cook you some food." She had made me sit down and brought me some water as she went on to cook. When I rendered thanks on the food, I also blessed the house. She said to me, "Marco, you may stay here if you care to."

"But I must return to Mrs.
Anderson," I thanked her. She then
told me of her nephew, who had
been run down by an automobile,
and having lost his leg was unable
to care for himself.

The meal and the time spent with Mrs. Gibson was worth much to me. That evening three ministers came to Mrs. Anderson's house, each carrying his Bible. "Young man, you must prove your doctrine of the falling away and the restoration from the Holy Bible; no dreams or so-called visions." I agreed, but asked if they would speak one at a time, and allow me to answer each question. They agreed that food and water came to me at the proper time.

I answered every question they had, and had them read out of their Bibles. "You sure know your Bible," they told me. If I ever thanked and praised God for the time and effort spent with Brother Thurman Furnier, who trained me, it was then.

"If we do not have any authority, as you say, then where did you get yours?" they asked. I had them read from Revelation 14:6, "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, kindred, tongue, and people." After they read this, I continued,

saying, "Now I will tell you how this Gospel was restored as at first.

"The entire Bible is the Revelation of God. This same, loving God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, sent an angel to Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. After the Book of Mormon was translated, both men fasted all day, and at night continued their plea to God. A personage came forth from the woods where they had been. They fell on the ground in fear. The personage touched them and made them rise, then the angel laid his hand on them and said, 'Upon you my fellow servants, in the name of the Mesiah, I confer this priesthood and this authority, which shall remain upon this earth, that the sons of Levi may yet offer an offering unto the Lord in righteousness.'

Upon reading these words to them, I felt a heavenly flame in my soul. Mrs. Anderson stood up and spoke to the three ministers. "You have ordered me not to feed this young man. I have starved him. Other Indians have likewise offered him no water or food for these three days. I want to be baptized." Then she directed her words to me, "Brother Marco, as you read of the Angel of God, I felt the whole house fill with His glory. I am sorry I treated you in such an unchristian manner." The three ministers also asked me to forgive them.

The next day, some thirty Indians came to witness the baptism. Brother Riggen arrived just in time to see it, too. The three ministers were present also. This was the first baptism in the Six Nations Reservation.

As I write of this glorious experience, I feel the same fire in my soul as I did that night. Later, Mrs. Gibson became Sister Gibson and her nephew Joby Hill became Brother Joby. The saints in Detroit and Windsor donated the cost of an artificial leg for him, and Bro. Frank Ford found him a job in Windsor.

Was the Lord watching me on those three dusty, hot days? Indeed God saw me and touched the heart of Mrs. Gibson, who fed me and gave me water, which gave me the physical strength for the evening which followed.

(Continued on Page 11)

### A Beautiful Experience

On April 16, 1991, I had some necessary, serious eye surgery. The previous Sunday I had been anointed at church, wanting the Lord to calm my fears and protect me during my ordeal. I was very serene the day of the surgery.

I should mention that the procedure is done under local anesthetic, therefore I was fully awake during the procedure. While my left eye was being operated on, my right eye was covered. But about midway through the operation, I saw what appeared to be a window. In the window I could see a small bottle, partially filled with a clear liquid.

I commented to the doctor that I could see a bottle which he was using. His reply was that he was not using any bottle, and furthermore, I could not see anything because my eyes were covered.

While the doctor did not believe my report, I can testify that I did indeed see a small bottle and a clear fluid. I know now that this was the oil used for anointing, and that my Lord was showing me that He was performing a healing on my eye. Since that day, my vision has been good and my family has marvelled at how quickly my eye has healed. I thank God for this experience and His kindness towards me.

Sis. Anna Progar Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

### Note of Thanks

Our Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends,

We wish to thank each one of you for all of your prayers, your love and concern, and all the phone calls and the beautiful cards for my husband, Bro. Anthony Brutz.

Brother Anthony had angioplastic heart surgery, and during the operation, his heart stopped. They had to use CPR to bring him back. Many complications set in; he suffered loss of memory and was paralyzed from the waist down as a result of a stroke.

We praise God that today, after a number of weeks, his memory has returned and he is beginning to move his legs. He is back home now, after a rehabilitation period at the La Jolla, CA Veteran's Hospital. Please continue to pray for him. If God sees fit, his legs will become strong once again and he will be able to walk once more. Our faith and trust is in God. All things are possible with Him, and His will shall be done.

Love in Christ, Sis. Grace Brutz and family

I would like to thank all my wonderful brothers and sisters who have shown their love and concern for me during my long illness. I appreciate every card, phone call, and of course, all your prayers.

I am now staying at:

Westwood Rehabilitation Medical Center 7148 West Blvd. Youngstown, OH 44512 Telephone 216-726-9061

I enjoy hearing from you. I love my spiritual family. May God continue to bless each of you with His love and His Holy Spirit.

In Christ, Sister Minnie DePiero Youngstown, OH

### To All Members

The Historical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ is in the process of writing the new history of our Church.

We are therefore making an URGENT request for the following items:

- Pictures that relate to historical events. Please include a short analysis of the picture—identifying both the people and the event.
- (2) Revelations and experiences that fall under the following categories:

- (A) Healings
- (B) Miracles
- (C) Conversions
- (D) Confirmations of the Faith
- (E) Establishments of Branches and Districts
- (3) Special events of a historical nature.

These items can be submitted in writing or on cassette tapes.

Please send all items to the General Church Historian.

Robert A. Watson Star Rt. 5 Box 36 Gallup, New Mexico 87301 Tel. (505) 371-5760

### Married 65 Years

On July 4, 1991, Brother Nicholas and Sister Pauline Ritz of Miami, Florida celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They were married by Brother William H. Cadman at the General Church Conference in Monongahela, Pennsylvania on July 4, 1926.

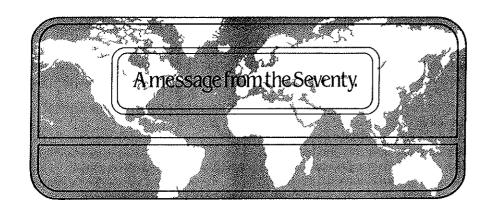
Recently their eight children honored them with a family dinner in Orlando, Florida. They have 22 grandchildren and 17 greatgrandchildren.

Brother Nick has been a member of The Church of Jesus Christ for 70 years, being baptized on May 1, 1921. He has served as a teacher and a deacon for many years, and now enjoys helping the Homestead Missionary effort, south of Miami. He loves to give his testimony to the migrant Mexican

#### (Continued on Page 6)



Nicholas and Pauline Ritz



### 1991 Conference of the Americas July 9-14, 1991

History in the making! So profound and divine was the revelation of God as we witnessed the occurrence of the prophetic utterance, "And the time cometh that He shall manifest Himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews and also unto the Gentiles, then He shall manifest Himself unto the Gentiles and also unto the Jews, and the last shall be first, and the first shall be last" (I Nephi 13:42).

Words cannot express the beauty we experienced during the conference. From the season of prayer held to open the conference, as Bro. Frank Ciotti prayed that Christ would manifest Himself at the conference, a brother beheld streams of light entering every window of the building on both sides and join together where he prayed. As the conference began to progress, there was a special feeling among the priesthood. We experienced a bond of unity, love, and dedication that had never been felt so strongly before. One brother after another expressed his desire to work for the Lord and stated, "Just tell me where you want me to go and I will go!" Also, there was a maturity and strength displayed within the ministry of the Seed of Joseph that had not been seen before. God has been laying the foundation for His great work.

On Thursday, the Lord directed the conference to hold a discussion on the "doors" that lay open for the spreading of the Restored Gospel. A brother baptized only five months ago expressed how the Lord has been working with his family in his home area of Leon Guanajuato. He related a dream of how he was working in that area and saw a group of people singing, "The four are alive and soon will be made manifest," referring to the Three Nephites and John the Divine. This brother, being newly exposed to the Church and recently baptized, had no real understanding of these men who chose to remain on this earth until the Lord returns.

As the meeting continued, each brother at the Conference went forth to write on a blackboard the geographical area where it was his heart's desire to labor in the vineyard of the Lord. Great was the blessing of the Lord as each expressed his desire. Bro. Daniel Mora wrote Chihuahua as his desired location. He has never been to this area. When asked why he wrote Chihuahua, he began to weep under the Spirit of the Lord and he could only say, "I felt it in my heart." Bro. Daniel was unaware of an experience his mother-in-law had had several months before when she heard the voice of the Lord say that Daniel would be going to Chihuahua.

Another brother expressed the desire of a group in Oaxaca that has been waiting for The Church of Jesus Christ to come there for three years. The burden of the work of the Lord fell upon all, and we knelt in prayer petitioning God's assistance and forgiveness, recognizing the financial inability of the General Church to fund expansion of the work, yet feeling strongly the burden of the Lord to answer

His call to labor.

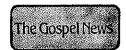
On Friday morning, we gathered in fasting and prayer and to share the sacrament of Our Lord. The meeting was blessed, but great power came forth as Bro. Isidro Dominguez prayed before administering the wine. Great was the Spirit of the prayer, and several knew it was the Lord forming our brother's words. It was a prayer of forgiveness, sanctification, and dedication to the Lord, and for the manifestation of Christ amongst us. As Bro. Isidro rose to his feet, his right hand rose in the air and a divine message came forth. We sat in awe as we listened, and heard the following words included in the utterance that came forth: "Thus saith the Lord, I am the one whose blood was shed for you. I have given unto you my gospel, power, and authority, that all nations will listen. Receive this blessing. O House of Israel. I have shown you the way. You have shown my love; I will be with you. Work together, O House of Israel."

The power we felt is indescribable. Bro. Isidro felt the Lord Jesus Christ walking with him as he administered the wine. The robe of Christ brushed up against him as he walked. Brothers Sam Randy and Frank Ciotti experienced the same manifestation of power, that is, when the cup was passed, their bodies shook under the power of God and Bro. Sam stated he felt sanctification come forth from the wine—truly as from the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sunday service was tremendously blessed, as the service lasted in excess of six hours. The sacrament table was set by four deaconesses from four different missions in Mexico. As the table was being set, two violins played To See the Morning Light. In Spanish, these lyrics are translated, "to see the light of a new day." The selection of this song seemed at first strange, but God works so marvelously to fulfill His will.

As the table was being set, Bro. Frank Ciotti felt inspired to have the gentile brothers of the Mission Operating Committee administer the sacrament to the congregation.

(Continued on Page 10)



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### Editorial Viewpoint . . .

By George A. Neill (Reprinted from the August, 1966 Gospel News)

Years ago the saints used to sing a hymn called *The Great Judgment Morning*, and I quote the first verse:

"I dreamed that the great Judgment Morning Had dawned, and the trumpet had blown; I dreamed that the nations had gathered To judgment before the white throne. From the throne came a Bright Shining Angel And stood on the land and the sea: And swore, with his hands raised to heaven, That time was no longer to be."

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God: and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works" (Revelation 20:12). Daniel says, "Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened." Malachi says, "A book of remembrance was written." These scriptures, as well as many others, raise the question in our minds; Is there really a library in heaven—a library of many books of record, and records seemingly without number? Do these books record the works and deeds of man—every word spoken, and every single thought conceived? Will these records be made public some day and man be rewarded according to his works? Whether we believe these to be literal books or otherwise makes no difference; the fact remains our whole life is recorded in Heaven.

Jesus Himself said, "For there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed: neither hid that shall not be known. Therefore whatsoever ye have spoken in darkness shall be heard in the light; and that which ye have spoken in the ear or whispered in the closets shall be proclaimed upon the housetops" (Luke 12:23). "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36). All of this seems to suggest that some day every person finally will face himself—his real self—and one of these days he will face God in his actual moral life. There he will stand bereft of any physical support, all earthly esteem; everything of that nature will be gone. The man of wealth will stand without the power his money gives him; the movie queen will stand without her beauty; the preacher will stand without his oratory. Thus, when we stand before God at the end of our earthly existence we shall be shorn of the camouflage of earthly things. Only two legs will support us—namely, what we are and what we have done.

Let us make certain the fact that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, for, if this is true, our bad deeds and past sins will have been cast into the sea of forgetfulness, never to be remembered against us any more. On the other hand, if our name is not recorded on those pages, white and fair, our bad deeds and past sins will destroy us, for whosoever's name is not found written there shall be cast into the lake of fire.

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls and Friends,

This week a young person asked me if I believed in ghosts. My answer was "no." But the scriptures do teach me that there are such things as evil spirits and bad thoughts sent out from the devil to trouble the world. And these scriptures tell me how to be safe from anything evil.

First, I am told to avoid anything or place that even has the appearance of evil. Then I am also taught that if I feel or sense an evil spirit, all I have to do is call on Jesus in my mind.

"Jesus help me!" I cry. And speaking to the bad feeling or spirit that I sense, I tell it, "Leave me alone in the name of Jesus!" and say, "Jesus-help me! I am your child, Jesus, hear me!" As I call on my friend Jesus for help, I'll feel my fear leave me; no evil spirit is stronger than Jesus.

We, who are followers of the Lord, must not be afraid of these evil spirits. The Bible tells us to put on the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:12-18). It tells us that we battle "not against flesh and blood but against . . . powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Our other job is to never, never get involved one bit with astrologists, fortune tellers, psychics, or people that try to deal with evil spirits. Our future is in the hands of a great big, living, powerful God. We should never read the newspaper or magazine columns that pretend to predict things about our lives. Playing around with the occult is forbidden by God.



We also do not believe in having your future told by looking at the lines in your palm. Within recent years, a group of insurance companies hired researchers to study the hand lines of people who had died. The companies wanted to see if there was an accurate match with death predicted by hand lines and actual date of death. Then they'd have a great new way to decide whether to sell someone life insurance or not. They found out there was no match. This, too, is another trick.

We should never play with ouija (pronounced wee-gee) boards. This is another obvious way of trying to get diverse spirits contacted. It is not for us. We can contact the powerful, pure Spirit of God for anything we need to know. We can fast and pray for quick answers.

And finally, never play with tarot (pronounced tare-oh) cards or ever call a telephone psychic. These are people who are supposed to contact spirits to tell you what to expect. We have the Bible and Book of Mormon to tell us how to live. We have the gifts of the Holy Spirit; we have the powerful love of God.

When the Apostle Paul was followed around by a person with a bad spirit that could tell the future, he spoke to the spirit and told it, "In the name of Jesus, leave!" It did. Then the girl did not have to be a fortune teller any more. She could be clean and whole.

Just like this woman, there may be times when you must call on the priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ to cast out an evil spirit that troubles you or a friend. If you've

ever made a mistake, stop now. Ask God to help you, ask the elders to pray for you, and don't ever get involved with these evil things again.

In America today, movie makers are using made-up characters who are evil. There are photographer's tricks to make 'ghost busters," "witches," and "spirits" look real. Don't watch those movies. Satan sneaks these thoughts into our minds to make us believe in him and fear his power. Don't fear him. Trust God.

God, who made the heavens and earth, is all-powerful and has control over that ugly devil. We can count on God's Spirit to be fair and merciful and kind. God will give us precious gifts like healing, having good dreams, visions of the future. love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness.

Watch, little children. Be wise and count on Jesus. He will never leave you, or turn away from you. Trust and obey.

With care, Sister Jan

Memory verse for "smart kids": Ephesians 6:12 & 13 (older), Psalm 91:2 (younger).

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Karen Alessio 3601 Hannan Rd., Apt. 204 Wavne. MI 48184 Tel. (313) 722-7841

#### MARRIED continued . . .

workers, telling them, "The Lord has been my strength all my life. He is the One who has sustained me through many accidents and illness."

Sister Pauline was baptized 68 years ago, on May 22, 1923. She is a deaconess in the Miami Branch, and has a strong determination to serve the Lord under any condition.

They were both faithful members of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch for 42 years before moving to Miami 17 years ago. May God continue to bless them.

### The GMBA Continues to Proclaim the Glory of the Lord

DID YOU MISS GMBA CAMPOUT 1991? WERE YOU FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO ATTEND AND WISH YOU COULD RECAPTURE THE FEELING FROM THE CAMP? Well here's your opportunity to join the membership of the GMBA as we hold our November 8 - 10, 1991 GMBA Conference Campout Style. This November's Conference will be held at Ciotti Manor, near Butler, Pennsylvania (see map on reverse side), beginning at 7:00 PM, Friday, November 8, 1991 and concluding on Sunday, November 10, 1991 after the morning meeting. Accommodations for the weekend are available for the following prices which include meals:

	y, November 8, 1991 four meals)	Adult Child (3-12 years) Child (under 3)	\$52.00 \$33.00 free
	lay, November 9, 1991 three meals)	Adult Child (3-12 years) Child (under 3)	\$25.00 \$15.00 free
Meals only	Adult or child (3-1	2 years) lunch dinner breakfast	\$ 5.00 \$ 5.00 \$ 4.00

No advance payment is required, however registration in advance is required. All checks are to be made payable to the General Missionary Benevolent Association. Registration forms are to be mailed to:

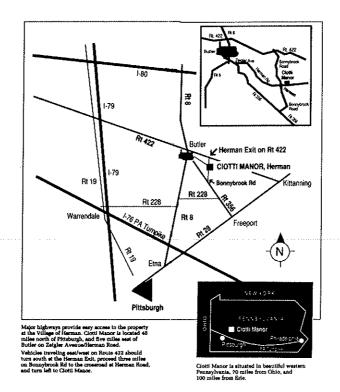
Rhoda L. Jumper 102 Oak Drive Aliquippa, PA 15001 (412) 375-3638 [after 7:00 PM]

Registration will be on a first come, first serve basis. All lodging is dormitory style, however families may stay together. Linens, towels and bedding are provided. Showers and bathrooms are not adjacent to the rooms, but within reasonable proximity to the rooms.

In addition, there are a number of hotels in the vicinity of Ciotti Manor and the highways which lead to the facility, two of which are:

Days Inn (412) 287-6761 Super 8 (412) 287-8888

Special activities are planned for Friday evening and Saturday, so make arrangements to come early, you won't be disappointed! Make sure that your children nine years of age and under are there for Saturday morning in order to participate in the Children's choir. If you have a special musical talent, come prepared to participate. Make the effort, the GMBA will make it worth your while!



### **Branch and Mission News**

## Blessings in Vanderbilt, PA

GMBA Campout 1991 brought a number of blessings to many people; one of these blessings was very special to Vanderbilt Branch. After feeling the Spirit of God and receiving a number of experiences, Patricia King made her decision for the Lord and asked for her baptism. She is one of four that surrendered to the call of Jesus. Arrangements were made for Patricia's baptism to be performed the following Sunday morning, June 30, 1991.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear, and after Sunday School a motorcade proceeded to the Youghiogheny River, about two miles from the church building. Patricia was led into the water by her father, Bro. James L. King. As our new sister and Bro. King came out of the water, sirens and bells went off in the little town of Dawson, PA. We thought it an appropriate fanfare (later we learned there had been a medical emergency downstream). We returned to the church for our usual Sunday services. Sister Patricia was confirmed by Bro. Joseph Bittinger, and in his prayer Bro. Bittinger asked God to grant her the gift of the Holy Ghost, and to give her very specific blessings throughout her entire life.

Another day of blessings was enjoyed by our branch on July 21, 1991. All the brothers and sisters of the Roscoe, PA Branch travelled to Vanderbilt for a joint meeting. Bro. Matthew Laktash introduced our morning service using the 15th chapter of John as his text, speaking of Christ being the true vine, and our role as the branches of that vine. Bro. James Abbott followed on the same theme, adding some of his personal experiences with the Lord.

After partaking of a nice lunch prepared by the sisters, we continued with our afternoon service. While we were just beginning the meeting, our Sister Pamela King became ill in the basement, suffering chest pains and having difficulty breathing. The brothers anointed her, and during the prayer, she was immediately relieved and was able to stay for the remainder of the meeting. Praise the Lord for His blessings to us!

Bro. Lawrence King introduced the service, telling us of the "more excellent way" in Jesus Christ. Hymns of praise and testimonies to the goodness of God filled the remaining time and we came to a close of the meeting, feeling that God surely had been with us.

## Another called in Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

On May 5, 1991, our Lord blessed us here at the Roscoe, PA Branch by calling Brother Dennis Charles Roberts into His Church to labor for Him. It was a day of great rejoicing for our branch. Our brother repented of his sins and entered into a covenant to serve God all the days of his life. Bro. Roberts had been attending all of our services and visiting other branches whenever he had the opportunity. He had made it known many times that his desire was to be baptized and to serve God, but he wanted to be sure that it was the Spirit of God calling him.

Our brother testified that as he was preparing to come to Sunday School this morning, the Lord showed him, as He had many times before, how He loved him and had blessed him and his family in providing for them. Bro. Roberts felt so unworthy, and began to thank God for showing him that today was his day to come to the Lord.

Brother Roberts' son, Charles, had had a dream where he saw Bro. James Abbott baptizing his father. That dream was fulfilled: it was Bro. Abbott that led him into the river and performed the ordinance

of baptism. It was a beautiful baptism, the first one our young Bro. Abbott ever performed.

We returned to the church, where Bro. Roberts was confirmed by Bro. Abbott. Afterward, as we sang A New Name in Glory, the congregation went up one by one and greeted our new Brother Roberts. We all greatly rejoiced over our new brother, but his wife, Sister Christine, rejoiced even more, for now they can really walk together in the Lord.

### Ordination in Tampa, FL

The Tampa, Florida Branch was filled to overflowing both naturally and spiritually on Sunday, April 7, 1991, as we witnessed the ordination of Bro. Scott Griffith into the office of a deacon. We had 85 people in attendance, including visitors from Lockport, NY; Atlanta, GA; Detroit, MI; Hopelawn, NJ; and Lake Worth and Hollywood, FL.

Bro. Peter Scolaro exhorted us from the book of Acts, Chapter 6, relative to the growth of the early Church and the calling of deacons to assist with the needs of the saints.

Presiding Elder Ken Staley then related several experiences confirming Bro. Scott's calling as a deacon. One of these experiences occurred during the recent Florida Area MBA Campout. As Bro. Jim Lovalvo was addressing the congregation on Sunday, he looked in Bro. Scott's direction and saw an extremely bright glow appear around our young brother. After the service, when Bro. Jim related what had transpired, he was informed of Bro. Scott's forthcoming ordination. What a wonderful confirmation!

Bro. Bobby Woods, Tampa's presiding deacon, washed Bro. Scott's feet. After prayer was offered by Bro. Ken Staley, Bro. Scott was ordained a deacon by Bro. Malcolm Paxon.

After a spirit-filled season of testimony and the administering of the Lord's Supper, our service was concluded as we formed a circle and sang *Let It Shine* before we dismissed in prayer.

## Two baptized in Monongaheia

The bells of heaven were ringing on Sunday, June 23, 1991 for two souls returning to God. The Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch enjoyed cups overflowing with blessings when Frances Rullo and James William Kolosky were baptized. Brother Richard Scaglione baptized Sister Frances, and Brother Bill was immersed by Brother Robert Nicklow Jr.

During the morning service, Brother William Chepanoske confirmed Frances. Bill was confirmed by Brother George Johnson.

The preaching was introduced by Bob Nicklow Jr., who read from III Nephi concerning Christ descending upon this land. He stated that the Nephites had heard prophecies of Christ from their youth. At the point of Christ's descent, the revelation of Christ came into their hearts. Many of us hear of Christ when we're young, and then, on our day of baptism, He is revealed in each of our hearts. We need to seek after this revelation, listening to His still, small voice.

#### GREETINGS continued . . .

Are we serving the same God and preaching the same gospel? If so, we need therefore to preach with the same zeal and the same faith in Jesus Christ as the men of old did in the scriptures.

Grace be unto the readers.

Your servant in Christ, Marco Randy

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

He felt that, as in a relay race, the baton was being passed from the gentiles to the Seed of Joseph.

Bro. Isidro Dominguez opened the service from Habakkuk 14, of which verse 2 states, "For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Bro. Isidro related how the Lord opened his mind during the setting of the

sacrament table to the sign of the solar eclipse—a phenomenon which occurred during this conference and whose effect was most pronounced over Mexico and Central America. The Lord revealed to our brother that as the moon caused the darkness upon the earth during the eclipse, so was it a day of darkness unto the House of Israel. Then, as the sun came forth, so shall it be a new day for the Americas. God's power and glory will be upon the Seed of Joseph. So penetrating was the revelation that we knew it was God who had spoken through our brother.

As Bro. Isidro spoke concerning the new day, Bro. Matthew Picciuto spoke in the gift of tongues, and the interpretation came forth, "Receive this blessing, O House of Israel." As Bro. Isidro moved his hand across the ministry, he told them that God had forgiven all their past and had prepared them to take the Gospel to every nation. As his hand passed in front of each brother, a great power was felt by each. A sister had a vision in which she saw Christ walking amongst the ministry, which confirmed the great power that they felt.

During the service many visions were had. Numerous brothers and sisters beheld the angels of God descending into our midst. Sis. Maria Dominguez had a vision

(Continued on Page 11)

### Financial Awareness

Dear Readers:

How aware are you of the financial picture of The Church of Jesus Christ? Do you know why your money is needed and where your dollars are spent? The General Church Finance Committee wants you to understand the financial picture of the Church, our Church, so you will clearly know the needs of the Church.

Major Spending Plan Items—1991 The following is a list of planned expenses for The Church of Jesus Christ during the year 1991. Just as you do in your own home, we are able to use past expenses to estimate what our expenses for the next year will be. (In fact, the committee is already planning expenses for 1992 based on this year's costs.)

THOO'S O It TO	e 40 100	(t
WCC* Operating Expenses	\$ 40,100	(mortgage, utilities, maintenance)
WCC Addition Mortgage	23,412	
Insurance	64,600	
Trustees Expenses	12,840	
Presidency	1,680	
Secretarial	4,920	
Print House	21,600	
Finance Committee	3,150	
National Education Committee	3,500	
Music Committee	13,790	
Book of Mormon Committee	4,585	
Gospel News	14,300	(English and Spanish)
Historian	6,160	
Quorum of Twelve	10,255	
All Missionary Activities	275,218	
TOTAL	\$500,110	

\*WCC: World Conference Center at Greensburg, Pennsylvania

First Six Months' Receipts In order for us to pay for \$500,110 worth of expenses in 1991, we will need \$500,110 worth of receipts during the same period. When we break the year into three-month periods (quarters), we can see the status of our receipts without waiting until December 31 to

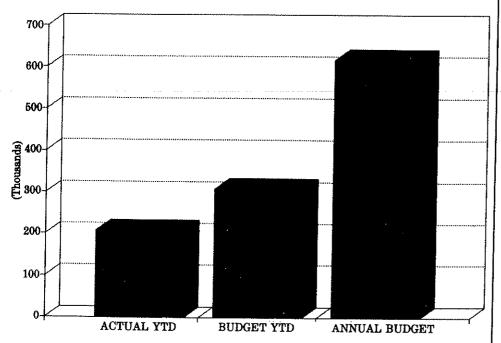
add up all our receipts. Using information from last year, we can also compare this year's receipts to last year's to determine whether we're doing "better" or "worse" this year.

For the sake of keeping records, receipts have been divided into seven groups—one for each District of the Church in North America. Each of these districts contains a different number of people, so there's no point in comparing one district to the next. The purpose of this chart is so you can compare 1991's receipts to those from the same period of 1990, for your district, and more importantly, for the General Church.

DISTRICT	1990	<u>1991</u>
Atlantic Coast Michigan/Ontario Ohio Pennsylvania Pacific Coast Southeast Southwest	\$ 27,684 53,437 24,235 55,891 36,724 22,589 12,101	\$ 28,483 40,283 21,593 57,814 24,380 22,784 11,429
TOTAL	\$232,661	\$206,767

Year-to-Date — First Six Months 1991 In October, 1990, the General Church Conference voted to approve a \$550,110 spending plan for 1991 (see chart on opposite page). This means we need to receive \$125,027.50 per quarter in 1991 to cover approved expenses. The graph below depicts the Church's Actual First Six Months' Receipts next to "Budgeted" (Approved) First Six Months' Expenses, along with a graphic representation of the entire year's Approved Expenses.

### ANNUAL BUDGET



The General Church Finance Committee plans to update you periodically and provide you with additional financial information through *The Gospel News*. Please let us know if you have any questions, and please don't forget your **Free Will Giving** to the Spending Plan. If 2000 of us, in the course of 1991, each donated \$250.06 to the General Church, we'd meet our 1991 Expenses free and clear. (Do the math if you don't believe it.) Are we all doing our part? May God bless you for your continued support.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

which lasted for over an hour during the service.

In part of her vision, Sister Maria saw a mountain behind the rostrum, from which angels descended holding white flags, which they planted on the sides of the mountain. She also saw a torch beside each flag. Overcome by the Spirit at one point, she kept repeating, "Yes, Lord, I will obey! I will go." The understanding was given to her that the flags represented the nations that would come to Zion and the torch was the light of the Restored Gospel that would be preached to each nation.

Prior to administering the sacrament, a spirit of singing prevailed as we sang To See the Morning Light. As the chorus was being repeated, God's call to repentance entered the congregation. A sister saw Christ touch individuals, and then, along with the rest of us, saw these individuals break down under the spirit and ask for their baptism. Five gave their lives to the Lord as we sang the chorus over and over. What a glorious moment we experienced as the spirit of repentance entered in!

During the service, God placed upon the hearts of several ministers the necessity of going out to a mission field. Everything was coming together. We could see how God had moved all week long; the love and unity experienced by the ministry, the willingness to go, the sanctification of our lives, and now the divine message of a new day for the Americas! Plans are being made to send laborers into the harvest. This year will be a glorious one. Never before has the Lord directed, in such a powerful manner, the need to take the Restored Gospel forth. Bro. Frank Ciotti requested that the Seed of Joseph share in the financial burden of this undertaking. God will provide.

Yea, a new day has dawned, and glorious will be the hour as God makes bare his arm in the eyes of all nations.

### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### BURNS-DAVELLA

Mr. James Michael Burns and Sis. Michele Davella were united in holy matrimony on May 11, 1991 at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Paul Benyola officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Bro. Richard Benyola and Jim Nusso.

The newlyweds are residing in Red Bank, NJ. May God richly bless them in their new lives together.

#### KEIBLER-DRASKOVICH

Mr. Dale Keibler and Miss Sherry Draskovich were united in marriage on Saturday, May 25, 1991 at the Greensburg, PA Branch.

The wedding ceremony was performed by Bro. Paul Gehly. Musical selections were provided by Bro.

Joe Saeli, accompanied by Sis. Alice Saeli.

It was truly a beautiful day for all those in attendance. We pray that God's presence and Spirit will always follow Dale and Sherry throughout their life together.

### **OBITUARIES**

#### FREDRICK WHITTINGTON

Brother Fredrick Whittington passed away on May 12, 1991. He was born on June 10, 1907, and was a member of the Bell, California Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, baptized in May of 1965.

The funeral service, held at the cemetary, was of-

ficiated by Bro. Bob McDonnell.

Name Address				
Phone _	 	 		

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sis. Catherine, one daughter, three granddaughters, and one great-grandson. Bro. Fred was a faithful member of the Church, known for his regular attendance at all meetings, even accompanying his wife to Ladies' Circle. His sudden death came as a shock to us, and he will be dearly missed by his family and all his loved ones in the Bell, CA Branch.

#### JENNIE CIARROCHI

Sister Jennie Ciarrochi passed on to her eternal reward on May 16, 1991. She was born July 8, 1901 in Donora, Pennsyslvania, and was baptized in Niles, Ohio on December 6, 1925.

Bro. Joe Genaro officiated at the funeral, assisted by Bro. Jerry Giovannone. Sisters Barbara Nuzzi and

Betty Gennaro provided musical selections.

Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Nazareth, in April, 1980. She is survived by one daughter, two sons, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

We pray that Sis. Jennie's family will feel the Lord's comforting arms around them during this time

of loss.

#### LARRY LUXEUIL

Brother Larry E. Luxeuil was taken from this life on July 5, 1991. He was born on September 14, 1942, and was baptized on March 19, 1969. He was a member of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Brothers Mike Italiano and Ralph Berardino per-

formed the funeral.

Our brother is survived by his mother and two sisters, Sisters Wendy DeAtley and Betty Quinn. Bro. Larry was an invalid for most of his adult life, but was always smiling and cheerful. He enjoyed singing hymns and discussing the scriptures with all the brothers and sisters. His great faith carried him through a long illness. We will miss him. May God bless his family.

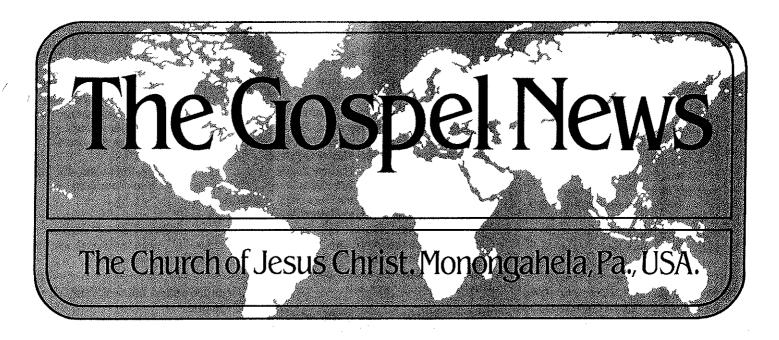
#### VICTOR CIAROLLA

Brother Victor Ciarolla passed from this life on June 16, 1991. He was born October 8, 1905 in Rossaroao, Italy, and was baptized on May 1, 1932. He served as a teacher in the Church for over fifty years.

Bro. Bob Ciarocchi officiated at the funeral, with Sis. Barbara Nuzzi providing vocal and piano

selections.

Left to mourn the loss of our brother are his wife, Sister Annie, two sons, three daughters, 18 grand-children, and 29 great-grandchildren. Bro. Victor's loss will be felt by the many lives he touched in such a loving and special way. May God's Spirit fill the void left in his family's hearts.



September, 1991

Volume 47, No. 9

### Messiah a Jew

By T. D. Bucci

Jews, whose very existence is one of the most remarkable facts of history, can trace their lineage back in time about four thousand years. During the course of centuries, they have been ruthlessly persecuted and scattered throughout the world. In spite of their suffering for so many years, God has miraculously preserved them.

Christians as well as Jews hold that the ancient Israelites were chosen of God for a peculiar destiny as a "Holy People," through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed. Prior to and during the Second World War, an estimated six million Jews were killed in Europe. However, they have placed an indelible mark on the whole of western civilization with some of the noblest ethical ideals, as well as many of the greatest creative geniuses in the arts, sciences, and business. It is through the Jew that we have the conception of one God. Through an Israelite called Moses, we have the great moral code called the "Ten Commandments," upon which many of our civil laws are based.

Christians believe that about two thousand years ago, through a Jew named Jesus of Nazareth, came

(Continued on Page 3)

### Blessings in Modesto, CA

By Valerie Dulisse

"Then thou shalt call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and He shall say, Here I am" (Isaiah 58:9).

We at the Modesto, CA Branch felt the Lord's sweet Spirit in our midst on this day, with the visit of three elders who are very close to our hearts. Bro. Joe Ciarolla from Riverbank, CA; Bro. David Picciuto from San Carlos, AZ; and Bro. Rusty Heaps from Anaheim, CA joined us in praise and worship on July 21, 1991.

After opening prayer, several of our sisters requested to be anointed. Our sister Lisa Martinez and her son Joshua had been involved in a terrible car accident the week before, in which a car drove into the rear of our sister's car. Their car was destroyed and the doors had to be sawn off so the paramedics could gain access to Lisa and Joshua, who were covered with broken glass. Neither of them received a scratch, and our sister was only stiff and sore as a result of the accident.

Lisa and Joshua were anointed that there would be no repercussions from this accident, physically or mentally. How wonderful our Lord is, protecting and shielding us from the dangers we face daily! Many times we take it for granted that God is watching over us, and we don't fully appreciate His mercy and compassion as he manifests it in these ways on a daily basis. This realization may come to us only after a very traumatic experience, such as an accident, in which we were spared by His hand.

Bro. Joe Ciarolla opened the meeting with the theme, "Keep your focus on Jesus Christ." Our brother exhorted us to make an agreement with the Lord, and from the agreement we need to have an association, and through the association, we will have access to God. Then we will have the authority, and through the authority we gain blessed assurance. Throughout life's trials, tribulations, and afflictions, he explained, our focus should remain fixed on our Lord Jesus Christ. Our actions, thoughts, and the words we speak should all reflect adherence to His Gospel at all times. If we have a marital, financial, or physical problem, we need to focus ourselves on Jesus Christ. Our brother urged the saints to be more righteous; in order to have access to God, we should live a righteous life. "The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Prayers are being answered. Miracles have been taking place here in Modesto.

Recently, our Sister Frances Camarda came forth to have the

(Continued on Page 3)

### 50th Anniversaries

On May 19, 1991, we at Branch #1 celebrated with Sis. Lydia Lombardo her 50 years in the Church.

She was baptized on May 8, 1941 by Bro. V. James Lovalvo at the young age of 17. She was ordained a deaconess on September 11, 1977.

Sis. Lydia said she feels so blessed with a wonderful family, her two sons, two daughters-in-law and five (plus one on the way) grandchildren. Our sister feels that when she made that commitment to serve the Lord. He served her more and better than she could ever serve Him, and also expressed how the brothers and sisters have been a great source of strength to her. Sis. Lydia mentioned that many times she felt she failed the Lord, but He was always right there to pick her up again. She quoted a hymn that she holds near and dear to her heart and truly expresses the way she feels: "How can I ever sufficiently praise Him/For all the things He has done for my soul?" Her testimony this day was an inspiration to us all.

Sis. Johnna Lesperance



Sis. Lydia Lombardo

By Linda Reynolds

In May of 1991, Sister Betty Azzinaro of the Simi Valley, California Branch celebrated 50 years in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sis. Betty was baptized on

Mother's Day, May 11, 1941, at the Brooklyn, New York Branch by Bro. Gabriel Mazzeo and confirmed by Bro. Nicholas Faragasso. Both of these brothers have gone on to their reward, and Sis. Betty tells us that they were wonderful brothers.

On the same day, our sister's mother and Sis. Caroline Gerardi were also baptized. Her father was baptized in San Diego, California, 15 years later in 1956. Sis. Betty's husband, John, and her two sons, John and Dan, are also members of the Church.



Sis. Betty Azzinaro

Sis. Betty expressed her feelings to all of us here in the Simi Valley Branch by telling us that the blessings and healings in her life have been many. She has many joyful memories of serving the Lord, and her sincere prayer is that she would remain faithful to the end of her days. Sister Betty has served the Church as a deaconess since she was ordained on March 25, 1979.

### Note of Thanks

Brother Chris Bilardo of New Brunswick, New Jersey would like to thank the saints for their prayers and cards of well wishes that he received during his recent heart attack and hospital stay.

I want to thank all my wonderful brothers, sisters, and friends for your prayers, love, cards, and calls.

Your thoughtfulness has been a source of strength during my husband Pete's illness and death. I strive to live daily in the Lord's arms.

My prayer is that God will bless all of you for your love and kindness.

Sister Eleanor Buffa

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends:

We wish to express our thanks, firstly to the Lord for extending His hand of mercy toward my granddaughter, Carrie Carrabia, during her recent four-month hospital stay, having been seriously afflicted with a rare type of bacterial pneumonia.

She went through many rigorous tests and procedures during those four months. At one point we thought we were going to lose her, but the Lord saw fit to bring her back to us. She has certainly come a long way, and is now home, completing her recuperation and therapy.

Secondly, but just as important, we would like to thank all of you for your concern, as shown by your thoughts, prayers, and cards. They are all very greatly appreciated.

May the Lord continue to richly bless all of you and keep you in His tender loving care.

Love in Christ, Sister Vienna Carrabia and Family

Sister Theresa Del Brocco of the North Jackson, Ohio Mission has been very ill. She has had two heart attacks, and has spent time in the hospital's ICU.

She is feeling a little better, and she wants to thank all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, cards, and phone calls.

May God bless all of you for your thoughtfulness towards her.

### Trees

By Olive Elzby

A song was written some years ago about a tree. The first line of the song said, "I think I shall never see/A poem lovely as a tree."

Men are referred to as trees many times in the scriptures. The blind man whom Jesus healed said before he could see clearly, "I see men as trees walking."

A tree can begin with a very small seed. Matthew 13:31 speaks of the small mustard seed. It is the least of all seeds, but when it is grown, it becomes a tree that the birds can lodge in.

In Alma 32, Alma says that if we nourish and care for the good seed that was planted within us, that it will get root and grow into a tree that will spring up into everlasting life. It will bring forth fruit unto us that can be plucked and eaten. We can feast upon it until we are filled.

Psalm 1:3 refers to a godly man as a tree planted by the rivers of water that bringeth forth fruit in its season; his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

In Daniel 4, King Nebuchadnezzar saw himself in a dream as a large tree growing in the midst of the earth. The tree grew to be strong, and the fruit thereof was much. It was meat for all.

Some trees take longer to grow than others. The less sturdy ones are tossed to and fro, whichever way the wind blows. If trees are planted too close together, their branches don't have a chance to spread out.

Some trees die young, while others stand the ages of time. In Isaiah 65:22, God says, "For as the days of a tree are the days of my people."

As the song ends, the last line says, "But only God can make a tree."

#### MESSIAH continued . . .

the Messiah or Savior, whom the Jews had been taught to expect. And by rejecting Him, they brought about the condition of their dispersion and persecution for many centuries. Some Christians also believe that there will be a literal gathering of the whole House of Israel, of which the Jews are only a small part, to their God-given land of inheritance.

Jews have returned in masses to a land which had been desolate for many centuries, have reclaimed that land, revived their ancient language, built cities and villages, and established a vigorous and ever-growing community. This was accomplished against all odds and despite strong opposition. Although the Jews created their state in the land of Palestine in 1948, they have had to fight four wars to maintain their security and independence. I believe that all of these events pertaining to the Jews are a fulfillment of prophecy. The Lord God has set His hand for the second time for the restoration of His ancient covenant people and the fulfilling of the covenants made to the Jewish patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Having such a notable history, we are now viewing the beginning of a great and marvelous era for the House of Israel.

It is important to understand the Jew. The events transpiring in the world today are a warning to the nations of the world. Let us pray for our nation and the nations of the world, that they may recognize God's program, for the time draws near and the day will come when the Israelites will be persuaded, by none other than Jesus Himself, that the same Jesus of Nazareth is truly the longawaited Messiah. The Church has made very good progress among the Native Americans; let us exercise evangelism toward the Jew as well.

#### **MODESTO** continued . . .

elders lay hands on her for the affliction of her ears. She was experiencing a terrible ringing in her head, and her ears were plugged. Immediately after she was anointed, the ringing stopped and her ears were clear. Praise God! When the doctors can do nothing to help us, our Holy Father is able and willing to answer prayer.

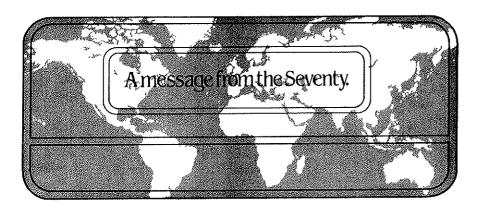
Bro. David Picciuto then stood to expand upon the message brought forth by Bro. Ciarolla. He asked us, as we focus on Jesus, to remember the point in our lives at which Jesus found us lost in sin, and brought us out of sin, that by His grace we might attain salvation. The goal of this life is obtaining this salvation. We need to strive to achieve a love like Christ's, and to keep our spiritual attitude high, to get close to God in the face of turmoil and temptation. Remember, "We are more than conquerors!"

Bro. Heaps' sermon drew an analogy between the physical temple of the Old Testament and our spiritual service to God. In the days of Moses, God required the children of Israel to build a tabernacle. Before the priest could enter the Holy of Holies, the very innermost chamber, he was required to offer a sacrifice, placing it on the altar. Bro. Rusty rehearsed for us the story of Abraham, who was told by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac. He also reminded us of the unequalled sacrifice made by God Himself when He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to take upon Him the sins of the world. Bro. Rusty reminded us that "Salvation could not be purchased with money, but by no means did it come free.' In order to claim the promises of God, it is first necessary that we make an offering on the altar of sacrifice—our lives.

As an analogy of the tabernacle progressed, our brother explained about the menorah, the sacred candle stand, inside the Holy of Holies. He encouraged us to keep the lights inside of us burning brightly, that others might see. The fuel for our lights will be provided by the Holy Spirit in our lives. Only after we have sacrificed, and made our light shine, can we hope to receive the covenants of God which are like unto the covenants of blessing given to the Children of Israel.

A beautiful season of testimony followed. We felt very uplifted in hearing the thankfulness of our Brother Art Martinez as he praised

(Continued on Page 6)



### Atlantic Coast Missionary Work

By Matthew Rogolino, Atlantic Coast DMOC Chairman

Freehold, New Jersey The work among the Spanish speaking people in Freehold continues with much success. It is a place where we have found the love of God in a special way.

Over 35 years ago, Brother Cleveland Baldwin had a dream to take the Gospel to Freehold. Through the years, many souls have come through those doors to find new life. It's a place where I've seen men's lives changed and made over again.

The memory from the past of the love which we have found with the brothers and sisters there will never be erased. I suppose I could fill pages telling experiences received in that little white building, because part of me is there, and it will always be special to me.

Now that our new brothers and sisters are coming to this branch, our heart swells with happiness. I was there on a Tuesday night and could look into their eyes and see their expressions of love, even though I could not speak their language. There is something about a soul that has found Jesus Christ that can communicate that love without words.

The elders currently there are Brothers Jim Crudup, Joseph Perri, and Willie Brown. Incidentally, before Brother Willie came into the Church, he had a dream that he would die in 1969. It troubled him as he told the elders. Brother Cleve said to him, "Willie, it's November; what are you going to do?" The next day Willie came to church and heard the words sung, "Have you

counted the cost/If your soul should be lost?". Willie broke down in tears and made a covenant with God. He died that day, spiritually, in November of 1969, and was born again. May God bless our brothers in the work they are doing.

Brunswick, Maine The Brunswick, Maine Mission was dedicated this past July 21. Behind the scenes of this well-established mission is the toil of many years.

About 20 years ago, a cry was made, "Bring the Gospel up here!" Brother John Onorato was requesting that an elder would come or send an anointed handkerchief because of an illness. Brother Frank Zaher was about to anoint and send a handkerchief when God spoke to him, saying, "Why don't you go there yourself?" Through Brother Frank's efforts, there were several baptisms.

There are 13 members meeting there now. Today we look back and are glad that someone had the vision to see a work become a reality. No one knows the tears and prayers that go into building a mission more than the ones who labor in the field.

Cottageville, South Carolina The work among the Seed of Joseph (American Indians) is moving forward in South Carolina. Our late Brother Joe Arcuri, who recently passed away this July 29, and the brothers and sisters who have gone with him, left a distinct imprint in that state.

On October 10, 1974, Sister

Stella Benyola had a dream in which she saw a large group of the Seed of Joseph waiting outside her mother's home. She ran inside and asked where her brother, Joe Arcuri, was. Her mother told her he was upstairs sleeping. She went upstairs and called him, saying, "Joe, the Seed of Joseph is outside waiting for you." Since that time, Brother Joe did not cease to labor among them. Today, we have a mission in Cottageville and a meeting place.

Brother Joe is greatly missed, but with God's help, our desire is that this work would flourish. Brother Philip Arcuri has taken over the reins.

Spartanburg, South Carolina The work in Spartanburg, SC started through the desire of Sister Josephine Hicks from Freehold. About 20 years ago, she testified, "Brothers, I have to go to Spartanburg and tell them about The Church of Jesus Christ." She could not go, however, because she was feeble and could barely walk.

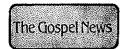
Our late Brother Evangelist, Nathan Peterkin, heard these words and put them into his heart. He could not rest until he started and fulfilled the desires of this sister. I never dreamed that I would see so beautiful a mission as we have there now.

In the last year there have been four baptisms. They have a membership of 17, and Brother Harold Littlejohn presides as their elder. Sister Hicks had a vision, Brother Nathan exercised the faith, and now others have found the reality. May God bless their efforts.

New York City The work in New York's Bowery started eleven years ago. It began when a nurse asked us to help her start a mission in the Detoxication Center. Since that time, the work has been turned over to us.

The men there needed someone to talk to about their troubles and fears, and we have enjoyed being able to reach them. Space does not allow us to tell the stories of the men who turn away from addiction because they have now found a

(Continued on Page 6)



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### Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints" (Revelation 19:7&8).

These words, given to the Apostle John on the Isle of Patmos, speak of the day when the Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, comes to wed His bride, the Church. She has made great preparations for this wedding day, making herself ready, as is expected of all brides, in a fine white garment, "the righteousness of saints."

We are blessed to know, in these latter days, that these things must shortly come to pass. God has made us part of a chain of events which no other religious organization understands or accepts. As we read how God will use this Church to bring Israel back to Him, and how He will ultimately use Israel to bring all nations to His truth, we are humbled to realize what an important work the Lord has given us to do.

We also believe in the continued revelation of God to His people. As the Lord directed Noah to build an ark, as He led the family of Lehi to a promised land, as He showed men such as the brother of Jared and the Apostle John all things from the creation unto the end of time, we know that He continues to reveal to us and to direct us today.

The revelations of this never-changing God are always consistent with the words recorded in the Bible and Book of Mormon, for they, too, are the revealed words of God. It should come as no surprise, then, when the Lord gives us a commandment to become a more righteous people in His sight. As the wedding day of the Lamb of God approaches, the bride must make herself ready. According to the scriptures, in order for the Bridegroom to wed His Church, she must truly be arrayed in that fine white wedding garment, "the righteousness of saints."

While we know that many things must come to pass before the Son of God will return to claim His bride, we must not use this knowledge as an excuse for failing to attain greater heights of godliness in our lives. We have been commissioned to bring the Restored Gospel to Israel and to the four corners of the earth. Without the direction, power, and Spirit of God upon us, we will surely wander in the wilderness. Unless we yield ourselves fully to the dictates of the Holy Ghost, we will continually lean upon our own frail understanding, which is truly foolishness in the sight of God.

The righteousness of saints brings faith, strength, and power to The Church of Jesus Christ. But this righteousness is not something that comes about all by itself. The decision to live more righteously rests with each one of us, with you and with me, not so much for men to see, but for God to see our willingness to serve Him and abide in His will.

It may take time for us to fully attain the level of righteousness God seeks, learning and growing a little day by day. Being human, however, is no reason for us not to put forth our full efforts. As we endeavor to reach the throne of God, He will use us in greater and greater ways to bring about the restoration of the House of Israel. All nations will come to the mountain of the Lord's House, and Satan will be bound. Most importantly, we will at last be the people that God wants us to be; the Bride of the Lamb will finally have on her wedding garment.

### The

### Children's

### Corner

By Jan Steinrock

### Following Jesus

Dear Girls and Boys,

The Book of Mormon tells us that people had waited for Jesus since the earliest days of man. After the Tower of Babel days, the brother of Jared saw Jesus in a vision hundreds and hundreds of years before He was born.

Finally the time came when an angel told Mary she would have a baby who would be the Savior of the world, so long awaited. As a young boy, Jesus sat in the temple and spoke with the priests there until they were astonished by His understanding. That understanding of people and God's love grew and grew until the time came when multitudes of people followed Jesus wherever He went. Often He healed many; always He taught them more about living a peaceful, loving life.

Jesus picked twelve men to go with Him—to learn from Him. He called them apostles. His plan was for these men to continue spreading the good news about God's love and power after the time of Jesus' death. Later some of these twelve wrote down their experiences of the days they walked with the Lord. These books in the Bible are called the New Testament. You can read what the Apostle Matthew remembered about a day with Jesus and then read in the other books what the Apostles Luke or John remembered.

In the Book of Mormon, we learn that Jesus picked another twelve special followers in the Americas. He called them His twelve disciples. They also wrote a record of the things Jesus had taught them.

One thing that Jesus Christ



made plain to all from the very beginning was that following Him and being a true Christian was not an easy job. Jesus taught people to think about doing things that would make their souls strong. For example, He told them that they were to love their enemies! They (and we) were to forgive people who hurt them even if they hurt them the same way over and over, seventy times seven. But best of all, we are to love everyone, all people, like we love ourselves.

His own apostles had trouble controlling their feelings at times. When the night came that Jesus knew the soldiers would come to arrest Him to be put to death, He was praying for strength. The soldiers came with Judas and took Jesus. The Apostle Peter leaped up and with his sword hit one of the enemy on the side of his head, cutting off his ear. You and I probably would have wanted to fight too, but the Lord took the ear of this man, touched it and healed him.

Jesus was our example to follow. When things get too tough for us and we don't think we can control ourselves, He will help us. He had all power—to heal, to do anything—yet He allowed His body to be put to death to prove to us there is a heaven, a better way of life that strengthens our souls and leads to peace. No matter who you are or how old you are, He is the one Lord; and He has a special job for you and a special love for you, too.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

Memory verse for "smart kids": John 10:16 (younger), and Matthew 16:28 (older).

#### MODESTO continued . . .

God for sparing his wife and son in the car accident. Many others testified of God's light and love, which they had felt in their lives as they struggled with some trial or frightening circumstance. Throughout all passages of life, one thing remains fixed, unchangeable, and constant: God's abundant grace toward all mankind. We are here on this earth to learn to love *Him*, as well. I pray we will all be successful, through Christ Jesus.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

reason to live. Those of you who have contributed by sending clothing and pajamas have been a great blessing.

When our radio broadcasts were about to end, over 35 men from the Bowery signed a request, unknown to us, hoping to keep us on the air. We ask for your prayers that we may always continue this work in the Bowery.

Dedham, Massachusetts The Dedham, MA work started in 1979 in the home of Brother Genaro D'Arco. Since that time, meetings have been held in that vicinity. Evangelist Dominick Rose and his wife, Sister Belle, have traveled there faithfully for the past twelve years. In recent years, Bro. Sam Sgro has accompanied them.

In 1989, Louis and Dora Calisi, who live in the area, were told about the Gospel by Sister Sally Romano of Florida. The Calisis gave themselves to God and were baptized. To hear their testimony is a blessing.

We were saddened by the passing of one of the faithful elders of the Mission, Bro. Donald Valenti, during the past year. It is our prayer that the Lord may bless the continued efforts of our brothers and sisters there.

We have endeavored to give you a report of our missionary wor in the Atlantic Coast. I believe there is a yearning in the heart of every soul who has found the Truth

(Continued on Page 10)

### **Branch and Mission News**

### Baptism at Detroit Inner City

By Karen Mancinelli

Sunday, April 14, 1991 was another day of celebration for members and friends of the Detroit Inner City Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. It was the day that Brigido DeLeon had given his life over to the Lord. He was baptized by Bro. Gary Champine and confirmed by Bro. Flip Palacios.

A few months earlier, Brigido had walked into "La Iglesia de Jesu Cristo" (The Church of Jesus Christ) on 25th and Vernor (Mexico Town) as a Sunday evening service was being held.

He walked into church a broken man. He had been living on the streets, sleeping in storefront doorways and on railroad tracks. He had lived outdoors through a freezing Michigan winter—it's a miracle that Brigido survived. Through all this, however, he kept having experiences which eventually led him to The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Gary Champine recalled that when Brigido entered the church building for the first time, he could hardly walk. He was chilled to the bone, and it was evident that he had been drinking. As Bro. Gary looked upon him that day, a verse of scripture suddenly came to his mind. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares" (Hebrews 13:2).

Our brother then called Brigido forward to be anointed, after which many noticed a slight change in his countenance. From that day forward, Brigido showed a sincere interest in the Church and a spirit of determination to better his life.

Some of the saints who live in Mexico Town helped Brigido by bringing him into their homes and providing for his physical needs as well as his spiritual needs.

Bro. Sam DiFalco, visiting from the Sterling Heights Branch, spoke about the plainness of the Lord, and what He expects us to do: Repent of our sins and be baptized. He also pointed out that God will talk to anybody. He speaks to everyone according to their own understanding. God is plain and He does not set limits on whom He will speak to.

Brother Brigido heard the Lord, and was obedient to His command to repent and be baptized. Our hope is that our new brother in Christ will continue to grow in the Spirit of our Lord and be used as a mighty instrument in His hand.

#### New workers at Branch 4

Over the past two years our little branch in Redford Township, Michigan has enjoyed the increase of three good workers: Brother Jonathon Marinetti as a teacher, and Sisters Josephine Pepper and Santina LaCivita as deaconesses. Since their ordinations, these individuals have enriched and uplifted our membership. All three of them carry many responsibilities for our branch. Brother Jonathon particularly instructs both the adult Sunday School class and the men's class in a very gentle yet steadfast manner. Sister Santina and Sister Josephine are always ready with helping hands. In addition to their duties as ordained deaconesses, they both go the extra mile in servicing the membership of our branch. Sister Josephine has kept a pictorial and audio tape history of the branch for many years, both of which are treasures to us. Sister Santina plays the piano for us every meeting.

The day of their ordinations was a beautiful one. It was November 19, 1989, and our building was filled to capacity. Bro. Dominic Thomas introduced the service and mentioned his delight in seeing these members being set apart in their vocations for the Lord. He went on to explain how there are many people who do good things, but being called to work for the Lord is special. He read from both Philippians and Ephesians, ex-

panding on the idea of being generous in our service. Brother Dominic then explained the role of a deaconess, and how this service is a labor of love. He then spoke to Brother Jonathon about the responsibilities of a teacher. He read from I Corinthians 4:15, and explained that Brother Jonathon's calling would be that of a father to the membership of the branch. He said, "He will embrace the membership of Branch 4 as if they were his children." In his closing comments, Brother Dominic stressed his pleasure by saying, "In these ordinations we are adding strength to Branch 4. We are adding good service and elements for success."

Brother Nick Pietrangelo followed Bro. Dominic, very carefully outlining the duties of teacher and deaconess. He stressed that these are offices to be valued and respected. After Bro. Nick's words, Brother Jonathon had his feet washed by Bro. John Impastato, Sis. Josephine's feet were washed by Sis. Anne Lovalvo, and Sis. Mary Vitto washed Sis. Santina's feet. After a prayer by Bro. Tullio LaCivita, Bro. Jonathon was ordained by his uncle. Bro. Nick Pietrangelo; Sister Santina was ordained by Bro. Paul Vitto; and Sis. Josephine was ordained by Bro. Kerry Carlini.

Since that special day we have enjoyed every endeavor of our newly ordained officers. They are a blessing and an encouragement to us all. We would pray that the Lord would continue to inspire, direct, and encourage them in the things that He would have them do.

### Baptism at Branch 1

By Johnna Lesperance

This article should help to encourage all the saints who have been waiting for years for a loved one to ask for baptism. Bro. John Soave asked to be baptized on April 24, 1991.

His wife, three daughters, and three sons-in-law are all members of the Church, and they always hoped

(Continued on Page 8)

#### BRANCH 1 continued . . .

and prayed that he would join them in the united spirit and peace they felt with Jesus. Bro. John has been suffering with headaches for years; he's even undergone several surgeries, but still no relief. On this particular day, the pain became increasingly worse and nothing seemed to help, so he felt to call on the ministry to be anointed.

Bro. John and his wife, Sis. Mary Jane, went to Bro. Nick Pietrangelo's house, where he was anointed, but then Bro. Nick felt to rebuke the evil spirit from John. Bro. John felt a struggle within him and had to leave the room. He knelt in the other room and prayed for strength. When he came back into the room he fell to his knees, grabbed Bro. Nick's arm and begged for help, and then asked for his baptism.

Fifteen years earlier Bro. John's mother-in-law, Sis. Mary Gianzante, had a dream that John would ask for his baptism on a Wednesday. She encouraged the family with this experience. Well, Sis. Mary's dream came to pass. John did ask on a Wednesday and was baptized that evening. Bro. Louis Pietrangelo baptized him and Bro. Peter Scolaro confirmed him. At least four branches were represented there, on a Wednesday night. It was very uplifting to see so many come out to witness someone's baptism.

Please remember to pray for our new brother; he still gets those headaches but he knows, along with the rest of us, that with Jesus all things are possible.

## Baptism at Sterling Heights, MI

By Hazel Zoltek

Sunday morning, July 28, 1991, we met at the lake to witness the baptism of our new Brother Joseph F. Adickes. He was led into the water by Brother Louis Vitto.

A newcomer to The Church of Jesus Christ, Brother Joe has had several experiences in his life which continually led him to seek the Lord. At the young age of seven he was walking alone in a field when the realization came to him that he had a spirit dwelling within him. At age twenty, another revelation came to him regarding the nature and existence of God, and that it was He who had created the world. Up to this time, Joe had never attended church or been exposed to religion.

In May of this year, in his own words, "God yanked me out of a worldly life and let me know He had work for me to do and it was time to get started." He had been reading the Bible and was absorbing what he read. He then began his search for a church. Running his finger down a page in the yellow pages, he stopped at the listing for The Church of Jesus Christ; it was near his home.

He walked in on a Wednesday night. The Ladies' Uplift Circle was meeting upstairs, and the brothers were meeting in a class downstairs. Hearing the men's voices in the basement, Joe went down and joined them, asking many questions concerning the Church. He liked what he heard.

On the following Saturday night, Joe had a dream in which he saw the interior of a church with red carpeting and white and gold light fixtures. The concept "anointed servants" came strongly to him in his dream. Joe came back on Sunday and, seeing the upstairs of the Sterling Heights Branch for the first time, his dream was fulfilled. Up until this time he had never attended any church for more than two meetings, but suddenly he knew that this was the church for him.

Our Brother Joe attended every service since that time, and in between, the brothers of our branch have been to his home to meet with him, spending many hours listening and talking, getting to know Joe and discussing with him the plan of Salvation. By the time he asked for his baptism, the brothers in the ministry were convinced of his sincerity.

Already, Brother Joe has introduced a friend to the Church who is also interested and attending regularly.

As we returned to church from

the baptismal site, Bro. Lou Vitto spoke to us concerning our need to focus on the future—to look for a better life through our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Brother Joe was transformed today, and his name is now inscribed in the Lamb's Book of Life.

As the elders knelt around our new brother, Bro. Sam DiFalco called upon the Lord in mighty prayer, then Bro. John Straccia laid his hands on our new brother for the reception of the Holy Ghost. It turned out that today was also scheduled for feet washing, and our new brother had the privilege of participating in that ordinance as well.

It was a full day for all of us and we, too, were blessed. We need workers in our branch, and Brother Joe has already shown his willingness. Please join us in our prayers that others will soon choose the better life as well.

### Rochester, NY

On Sunday, April 7, 1991, we were blessed to have Bro. Wayne and Sis. Tina Martorana and their children with us.

After we opened the service with community singing, Bro.
Wayne spoke to us from Genesis
49, "Joseph is a fruitful bough; even a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches run over the wall."
The time of the Gentiles is at hand, where they have the leading role in the Church. Our brother spoke of the plan of God, saying that God's way is the best way. He exhorted us to be committed to the Gospel by exercising faith, for great things are to come forth in the future.

Bro. Frank Natoli followed, reinforcing the message brought to us this morning by Bro. Martorana. We than heard Sis. Kathy Natoli sing On a Rugged Hill.

On April 14, the Rochester Mission traveled to Lockport, New York to visit and fellowship with the saints there. Bro. Vince Gibson was visiting from Ohio, and brought a group of young people along with him. They sang Give Me Understanding, Lord, and Bro. Gibson spoke from Hebrews 13, "Let your

conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." They were words of uplift and encouragement to all.

On April 18, Bro. Joe and Sis. Carmel Genaro visited us from Niles, Ohio. Bro. Genaro read from III Nephi 20, where Christ told the people on this land that they are of the House of Israel. Bro. Bob Batson followed, speaking of God's covenant to Abraham, and how we are a part of this blessing. We look forward to the gathering of the House of Israel.

Bro. Frank Natoli expressed the joy of belonging to the family of God. He presented Bro. Bob and Sis. Ruth Batson with a framed picture of "Home, Sweet Home," a parting gift as they leave Rochester after two and a half years to move to Kent, Ohio. All of us here at the Rochester Mission will miss the Batsons very much.

Bro. Joel and Sis. Ruth Gehly visited us with their family on May 9, 1991. Bro. Joel read from the 9th chapter of John, where a man born blind was healed. Bro. Bob Batson followed, admonishing us to show the love and compassion that Jesus Christ showed, that as a light, we might shine in darkness.

Bro. Adam Costarella visited us on July 7, and spoke to us on Christ's sermon on the mount. On July 14, a busload of saints and friends from the Detroit Inner City Branch came to fellowship with us after viewing the pageant at Hill Cumorah the night before. As they joined us in singing, it sounded as if a choir of angels were singing Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul.

During the opening prayer, a brother spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was given to two sisters: "I will be with you until the end." In a vision, a sister saw Jesus come down in a cloud and bless us. As the meeting was opened for testimony, many beautiful words came forth and the Spirit of God was felt by all.

Bro. Frank Natoli spoke of Lehi's dream of the tree whose fruit was desirable to make one happy. This is the word of God. Our brother extended an invitation to those who were not baptized to come and partake of this fruit that will fill your soul with exceeding great joy.

The next Sunday, several carloads of brothers and sisters from McKees Rocks, PA visited with us, having viewed the Hill Cumorah pageant the night before. Bro. Ralph Ciotti read from Psalm 8, "O Lord how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" We also heard from Bro. John Manes. We were happy to share God's love and blessings with the saints from different places.

On June 29, it was 58 years that I was baptized. On July 20, it was 44 years that I was ordained a deaconess. They have been wonderful years in the service of God; the more I serve Him, the sweeter He grows! God bless you. I love you all.

Sis. Carmella D'Amico Rochester, NY Mission

## Visitors at N. Jackson, OH

By Kathy Vinsick

On July 14, 1991, we had a wonderful day. Many visitors came into our midst that day, including Bro. Tullio and Sis. Santina
LaCivita, Sis. Irma Nerone, and Sis. Lydia LaCivita from Michigan; Ann Williams from Youngstown, and Mr. & Mrs. Gruver from Orangeville. Also, from the Warren Branch, Bro. Bob and Sis. Millie Ciarrochi, Bro. Dan and Sis. Lori Prokup, and Bro. Stanley and Jan Ainsworth along with their son Ed and his wife.

Bro. Tullio opened, saying how thankful he was that he had godly parents whom someone had taken the time to tell about The Church of Jesus Christ. We, too, should tell others of what God has done for us. Our brother read from Matthew 20, where every man received a penny for his labor, and how some of them murmured against the goodman of the house about their pay. In the Gospel, everyone receives the same

reward. We serve a wonderful God and we are all the same in His sight. One of the things our brother touched on this morning was the story of the woman with the issue of blood.

Bro. Bob Ciarrochi spoke next, expressing how we all should be faithful and firmly rooted at all times, and that it's time to step out and seek God for joy and happiness. There is nothing more important than having God in our lives.

Bro. Richard Santilli followed, and said how when we are baptized, we arise a new person. He also spoke of how many great church buildings were built during the Dark Ages, but the gift and power of God was not there. The Reformation took place because men had left the teachings of God. The Restoration came by the power of God, and not the will of man. The end will not come until the Gospel is preached to all kindreds, tongues, and people.

I hadn't been feeling well during the week, and I didn't think that I would be able to attend church on Sunday. I had a great desire to go, because we had heard there were going to be visitors.

When Sunday came, I was able to go to church, and as I was walking into the room where the brothers and sisters were, a strong feeling came over me about the woman with the issue of blood.

We had Sunday School and then went into the preaching service. When Bro. Tullio LaCivita mentioned the woman with the issue of blood, I knew God was telling me to believe and have faith, and I would be healed.

After the preaching was over, Bro. Frank Giovannone asked if any wanted to be anointed. I walked to the front, and the elders formed a circle around me. I had such a strong feeling that Bro. Tullio would pray for me. That feeling was confirmed when it came to pass. In his prayer he mentioned once again how the woman was made whole by touching the hem of Jesus' garment. When he said this, my heart felt like it jumped inside of me. I knew then that I would be all right, that God had healed me.

(Continued on Page 10)

#### JACKSON, OH continued . . .

By the time I got back to my seat, I felt something different inside of me. I then got up to testify, and I told of how God brought that scripture to my mind, how Bro. Tullio preached on it, and then how he came to anoint me, not knowing that I had had this experience. How God loves His children and how good He is to us, if only we will serve Him in Spirit and in Truth!

After the service, we all gathered together for a dinner. We enjoyed the fellowship and the being together. It is wonderful to be able to meet and talk about the blessings of God.

### "Why us, Lord?"

By Norma Kendall

As we are about to write of another blessing given to us by Our Lord, we ask, "Why us, Lord?" The word of the Lord comes to us by His Spirit with the answer: To edify My Church, and did not I say unto you, "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest" (Matthew 9:38, Luke 10:2)? And, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). This is what we experienced at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch on July 14, 1991:

It was a beautiful Sabbath morning as we met for our church services. Bro. John Bilsky taught our Sunday School lesson, and in our preaching service, Bro. John Kendall used the third chapter of Colossians, "Set your affection on things above," as his text. We enjoyed both services.

Between our morning and afternoon services, Mark Malandro, who
has been regularly attending all of
our meetings, asked for his baptism. We opened our afternoon service and, after announcing our new
brother's desire, we all went to our
baptismal site in Elco, where Bro.
John Kendall immersed Mark into
the waters of regeneration. All present said that it was a beautiful

baptism.

Back at the church, Bro. James Abbott laid hands on Bro. Mark to confirm him. Afterward all present came forward to greet our new brother in Christ. We continued to rejoice until the end of the meeting.

We would like to share with you our Brother Mark Malandro's testimony:

During the fall of 1989, I had a dream in which I was sitting in the Roscoe, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Bro. John Kendall was sitting in front of a group of men which included myself, teaching us the word of God.

I was not attending church at the time, neither was there a men's class in Roscoe then. I attended the New Year's Eve watch service that December 31, and in January 1990, the brothers at Roscoe decided to start a men's study class, which made my dream a reality. I had not revealed my dream to anyone, but told it when the men's class was started. I feel that God truly brought me to this Church by showing me the things in this dream.

Some months went by, and I prayed for some type of sign as to whether I should ask for my baptism. I did not see a sign until I asked God to help me stop smoking (something I had been doing for nearly 20 years). I had tried to quit on my own many times and couldn't. I prayed, "Lord, help me to stop smoking and I'll know that this is the right church and that I should get baptized."

Six more months went by, and only with the help of God, I stopped smoking. I still procrastinated, putting off my baptism week after week for two more months. My life was not right until I was baptized on July 14, 1991. Praise God!

### Greensburg, PA

We were fortunate to have Brother Russell and Sister Ethel Cadman attend our Branch on Sunday, July 28, 1991.

Brother Russell related his personal testimony, and told how God

delivered him through many of life's trials as he spoke upon the verse found in the 14th chapter of John, "Let not your heart be troubled . . . " He also exhorted the saints of Greensburg to live more righteously.

The presence of God was felt throughout the day, but was more strongly confirmed when our sister, Carol Emerick, received a vision of the Lord Jesus standing beside our Brother Apostle. She heard him say, "I am here. I am here."

We thank the Lord for His Spirit, His mercy, and His abounding love, which He bestows upon His Church and His people.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

to go and tell others. May we ever be looking to find souls that need Jesus.

I would like to conclude with an experience had by Bro. Cleve Baldwin about 25 years ago. We were in a fasting and prayer meeting when he told us of a dream in which we were singing Hymn #405, the last verse:

"As Children of Zion, Good tidings for us, The tokens already appear;"

But the words of the last part were given to us more strongly:

"Fear not, and be just, For the kingdom is ours; The hour of redemption is near."

# Correction: Songs of Zion Ordering Information

An incorrect address was printed in *The Gospel News* for ordering hardcover *Songs of Zion* books. The correct address is as follows:

Sandy Sullivan 1604 S. Medina Dr. Anaheim, CA 92804 Tel. 714-776-1751

### \* WEDDINGS \*

#### OPALENIK-CALABRESE

John R. Opalenik and Sister Anita L. Calabrese were joined in marriage on June 8, 1991 in Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Mark Naro officiated at the ceremony. The newlyweds are living in Lorain, Ohio. May God bless them with a long and happy life together.

#### CORRADO-STEINBACH

Dominic Vincent Corrado and Debra Ann Steinbach were joined in marriage on July 6, 1991 in Huron, Ohio by Brother Joel Calabrese.

#### KING-WALTERS

Thomas Gerald King, son of Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Suzanna King, and Jacqueline Sue Walters, daughter of Lawrence Matty, were married on July 13, 1991. The bride and groom are students of California University of Pennsylvania. Our prayers and best wishes are extended to the newlyweds.

#### MISTOVITCH-MOORE

Richard N. Mistovitch and JoLynn Moore were united in holy matrimony on July 13, 1991 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Youngstown, Ohio.

Brothers Henry Cardillo and Ralph Berardino officiated at the service. Musical selections were presented by organist Vic Marsilio and soloist Eric Wintersteller.

JoLynn is the daughter of Sister Elaine and Bob Moore of the Youngstown Branch. The newlyweds are residing in Campbell, Ohio. May God bless them with a joyful life together.

### **New Arrivals**

Juliet Marie to Joe and Sister Donna Bogle of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Audrey to John and Lisa DiRado Keenan

of Metuchen, New Jersey.

Justin Eric to Louis and Beverly Visconti of Sterling Heights, Michigan.

### Children Blessed

On May 18, 1991, James Salvatore Sgro was blessed in the New Brunswick, New Jersey Branch by his father, Brother James Sgro.

Brother Joel Calabrese of the Lorain Branch blessed Rose Mary King on June 16, 1991.

Kassandra Lynn Murray was blessed on June 9, 1991 by Bro. Mark Naro at Lorain, Ohio.

Jonathan Michael Pennell was blessed by Brother Richard Scaglione on July 14, 1991, in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

### **OBITUARIES**

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

#### DENA GULA

Sister Dena Gula of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch died on February 18, 1991.

Services were conducted by Brother Paul Palmieri. Our sister is survived by her husband, Brother Andrew Gula; two sons, Lance and Kevin; one daughter, Denise; two grandchildren, and several brothers and sisters.

#### DOLLY MOORE

Dolly Moore passed from this life on April 15, 1991. She is survived by two daughters, Judy Ross and Shirley Simon.

Her funeral was conducted by Brother Tony Ross of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. She will be missed by family and friends.

#### PETER BUFFA

Brother Peter Buffa passed on to his eternal reward on April 28, 1991. He was born June 12, 1924, and was baptized on October 13, 1946 by Bro. Alfred D'Amico. He was ordained a deacon on April 23, 1978.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Reno

Bologna and Alex Gentile.

Bro. Pete is survived by his wife Eleanor, four sons, eight grandchildren, two brothers, and two sisters.

A charter member of the Saline, Michigan Mission, Brother Pete worked tirelessly to build the church building there, which was just dedicated this past year.

Brother Pete will be sadly missed by many brothers and sisters in Christ, as well as numerous friends.

#### ANTHONY PALMIERI

#### CARMELLA PALMIERI

Brother Anthony Palmieri passed away on May 6, 1991. Although sorely afflicted the last few years of his life, he had served as an elder in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch for many years. Just six weeks after his death, the Lord called his wife, Sister Carmella Palmieri, to eternal rest on June 19, 1991.

The funeral for Brother Palmieri was conducted by Brothers Paul Palmieri and Dominic Thomas. Services for Sister Carmella were conducted by Brother James Gibson.

Brother Anthony and Sister Carmella are survived

(Continued on Page 12)

#### **OBITUARIES** continued . . .

by three sons, Sela, Paul, and Ben; one daughter, Philomena DeLuca; ten grandchildren, and six great grandchildren, along with a host of brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### JOSEPHINE D'ANTONIO

Sister Josephine D'Antonio of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch died on May 24, 1991.

Services were conducted by Bro. James Gibson. Our sister is survived by her husband, Fred D'Antonio; two daughters, Hazel Cindrich and Debbie D'Antonio; and six grandchildren.

#### ANGELO MAISANO

On June 9, 1991, Brother Angelo J. Maisano went to his eternal reward. He was born on August 1, 1920, and was baptized on August 24, 1952 by Bro. Joseph Lovalvo. For many years he held the office of a deacon.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Tullio LaCivita and Kerry Carlini, both of Branch 4 in Red-

ford Township, Michigan.

He leaves to mourn his wife, Marion; two daughters, three sons, and five grandchildren, as well as his mother, a brother, and two sisters, Sisters Frances J. Capone and Santina Mercuri.

Angelo will long be remembered by his many relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ.

#### RUTH AKERMAN

Sister Ruth Elizabeth Akerman, a faithful member of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ, a worker in the vineyard of the Lord,

Address Change	
Name	      
Phone	

passed from this life on June 16, 1991 to sing Farewell

All Earthly Sorrows.

To all of you who really knew Sister Ruth, you can well remember these words, "Well, you know, it's like this." We've written her obituary as if she were relating it from the mansion which Jesus Christ prepared for her:

"I was born on April 25, 1916, the daughter of Brother Fritz and Sister Gertrude Akerman and, after the passing of my father, the stepdaughter of Bro. Isaac Smith. I was blessed with the privilege of grow-

ing up in The Church of Jesus Christ.

"One day I met the Master of the Vineyard and He called me gently. He would hire me, if I wanted, for a penny a day. I accepted on August 22, 1939, with all

my heart.

"Sometimes the labor was so heavy, I thought of more pay. I looked around and saw many fellow-laborers. As we talked and walked and worked together, I saw the same pay for everyone. I was one whose hour of hire was early, and for that I had many trials. But, oh my, I had so many blessed dividends! He was so just and merciful and full of grace, this Keeper of the Vineyard!

"As for those I traveled the road with, some are with me now and oh, what joy we have! For those left behind I say, work hard, for it's worth it all. To my immediate family, my three sisters, Helen Smith, Dorothy Curry, and Grace Curry; two brothers, Howard Akerman and Isaac Smith; a stepsister, Ruth Carr; a stepbrother, Charles Smith; and a host of nieces and nephews who were like my children: Don't be sad, but labor for that penny a day."

Sister Ruth is well remembered for her nearly forty years of service both to the GMBA (as secretary) and to the General Ladies' Uplift Circle (as vice president). Her example of dedicated service to the Lord

through His Church is unparalleled.

Officiating at Sister Ruth's funeral was General Church President Brother Dominic Thomas. Also giving words of tribute were her nephew, Richard Curry, Ladies' Circle President Arline Whitton, and Brother Alma Nolfi of the Glassport Branch. She is greatly missed, and will be long remembered by the many whose lives she touched for her faith, her humor, and her abiding love towards all. Our hope is the same that Sister Ruth carried—Eternal Rest some day with the Lord.

-Norma Wirbicki

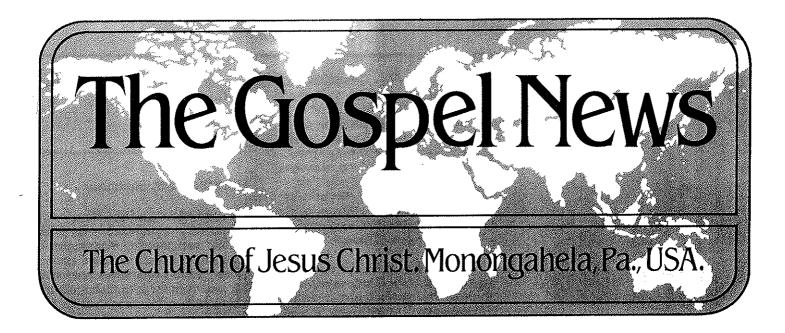
#### MARZIETTA AQUILINO

Sister Marzietta Aquilino of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed away on June 26, 1991. She was born March 1, 1904 in Raiano L'Aquila, Italy, and was baptized on April 28, 1974.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Joseph

Calabrese and Gorie Ciaravino.

Our sister is survived by three daughters and one son, and will be missed by the brothers and sisters in Lorain.



October, 1991

Volume 47, No. 10

### Mountaintop Excursions

By Elaine Sechez, Erie, PA

Mountaintops occupied a very prominent place in the experiences of the people in the Old and New Testaments. God called Moses on Mount Horeb to go into Egypt to lead the people out of bondage into the Promised Land. God gave Moses the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Moses went to Mount Nebo to see over into the Promised Land, even though he could not enter it himself. Elijah went to the top of Mount Carmel to pray for rain after the drought in Ahab's kingdom. Elijah put God and Baal to the test on Mount Carmel. Jesus went up into a mountain to present his pattern of life, "The Sermon on the Mount." He was also transfigured on the mountain.

Jesus went literally to the mountaintop with the twelve to get away from the busy rush of their daily lives; to find renewed physical and spiritual strength. There were many people and much work calling for Jesus and his helpers; they would have been surrounded by these busy demands all the time had they not withdrawn periodically.

We, too, can have "mountaintop experiences" in our lives. Our mountaintop may be the time we set aside for personal morning devotions. Our mountaintop may be that hour when we surrender our lives to Jesus. Our mountaintop may be some conference or special gathering we have attended; or church services when we have heard inspiring messages from the ministry; or our Sunday School class or some other similar group. Our mountaintop may be the reading of the Bible, or some special book or publication. Our mountaintop may be some splendid friendship.

#### OPPORTUNITY TO THINK

The mountaintop, wherever it may be for us, furnishes an opportunity to think. A father called his son to his bedside just before death came. He had his son promise to come into his room for fifteen minutes each day, to think about his contribution to the world around him. The father well knew that his son would not go far wrong if he would take fifteen minutes regularly each day for this purpose. A certain college student arose half an hour earlier each morning to spend time alone at the edge of a nearby lake. That became his daily mountaintop.

The mountaintop furnishes us with an opportunity for a backward look. We are able to see our past more clearly. There, plainly, are the reasons for our failures and our successes. We also see the various people and situations which have contributed to the past events in our lives. From all that we can see in our thoughts, we shall profit in the days and events that lie ahead. A college athletic team talks over the plays in a recent game to prepare for the next one. Games are won ahead of play!

#### OPPORTUNITY FOR A FORWARD LOOK

The mountaintop furnishes an opportunity for a broader look forward. While away from the demands of a busy life, and after having studied carefully the past in our backward look, we now can look around upon life about us, and ahead into our future. We are better prepared to set a high standard for today. Things of the moment do not seem so important to us while we are on the mountaintop, or after having been up there. We are better prepared for seeing clearly into the possible future for us and those about us.

Our mountaintop may be the opportunity we have to be with others enjoying a similar experience. We cannot have personal contact with anyone without finding ourselves raised a little higher, or lowered, because of the experience. Quite often it is so slight that we

(Continued on Page 2)

### Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

### A Child

He isn't sure of where to go, Or what he ought to do. His hopes range through a dozen fields, Although his skills are few. And unless someone will lend a hand To guide him on his way, There may be one more problem child Whose keep we all must pay.

So why not take a little time To sit down with him now? And find out what he likes to do, And where he lives, and how. For there's a place for everyone, Plus a job that he can do, If a friend could only show the way, And that friend might well be you.

My training of children started out as an idea way back in Muncey, Ontario, Canada. After two long years of presiding over the mission, having done and said everything I could possibly master, praying earnestly, searching my soul, I questioned what else I could do.

At this time, my wife and I had been living in the little apartment at the rear of our church. The people there were oppressed by the terrible living conditions, and had a right to feel the way they did. We truly loved them as if they were part of our very family; not only the church members, but everyone on the reservation.

The Indian agent, Mr. Gregg, lived next to the church. We were friends; our wives were good

neighbors. One day, I confided my dismay and my inability to find a way to better help them. They needed more than preaching the story of salvation; they also needed a better standard of living. Their favorite song was, "Jesus knows all about our troubles, He will guide 'til the day is o'er." A thought kept on coming: Why not start with the children? It came into my mind like a light; the more I thought upon it the better I felt.

The Sunday School was becoming the best part of the work at Muncey. The parents joined their children, and I urged them to help their children with their schoolwork. "They need to become teachers, lawyers, doctors, ministers. The future is bright for the young. You are not just an Indian, you are part of God's family." It began to work; our church was full.

The preschool in Modesto started out with the same intent in mind. Children are our greatest heritage, wealth, and hope for the future. Our new location at 1380 Coffee Road in Modesto is a vision for the future. We started out in our little church building as a great dream, but the new location presents an opportunity for greater things to come.

In our annual gathering of the public schools system in Modesto, city officials, the chief of police, and the clergy of several churches in the community met. The agenda covered the many problems of our community, and how we can best meet these challenges. They made several suggestions, but the superintendent of schools said, "Let us start with our children, in our homes, our churches, and our preschools." The chief of police reiterated that the churches can do a better job in helping children scholastically.

I was proud to be sitting next to a school principal who said, "We have two children from the Greenoak Preschool, who are well prepared."

"The Greenoak Christian Preschool is part of our little church, on 329 W. Briggsmore," I told him.

"Please tell them to continue the good work," he replied.

Indeed, by the grace of God, we will.

Mark Randy

#### **EXCURSIONS continued...**

do not notice it at the time.
However, our contacts with others in our mountaintop experiences have a very decided effect upon our lives. These experiences may come at conferences or similar gatherings, in local meetings led by great individuals, in our well-selected reading, or in some other way.
Many such helpful characters are waiting and are eager to share with us their mountaintop experiences.

#### OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET GOD

Our mountaintop experiences offer opportunities for us to meet God. We may not have the audible conversation such as Moses experienced at Mount Horeb or Mount Sinai. However, we shall be conscious of the presence of God with us in our mountaintop experiences. A clearer vision, renewed courage, increased inspiration, and strengthened determination will be ours because of having been with God. We shall find God is more ready and eager to fellowship with us on our mountaintops than we may be ready for it!

Our mountaintop experiences are periods of preparation for better work in the valley. Peter thought it would be better for the three disciples and Jesus to remain on the Mount of Transfiguration, but Jesus led them back, for there was a service to be rendered to the people waiting at the foot of the mountain (Luke 18:28-37).

The value of our mountaintop experiences will increase for us and for those about us, if we too will use them to prepare us for better Christian work in the busy valleys below.

### Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Children,

The words "thank you" seem too simple for how grateful we are to all of you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls concerning Mark.

Children, the pictures you sent Mark covered his wall in the hospital room. Only the love of the saints and their children could make a tragedy turn into a blessing.

Mark has physically recovered from the gunshot wound which nearly severed his leg. He will have a scar on his thigh for the rest of his life, but we know and Mark knows that God spared his life. We thank God daily and marvel at His love towards Mark. Please continue to remember him, as his spirit is still in need of a healing. We love you all. God bless your families.

Brother Joe, Sister Joann, Alison, and Mark Cotellesse

### Testimony of Sis. Elsie Gehly

Fredonia, PA Branch

On April 28, 1991, during a church service, the artery in my right ear began pulsating so loudly that it was impossible for me to hear in that ear. I asked to be

anointed, and the prayer helped slow down the pulsating.

After trying to find the cause of the problem, my physician ordered a test. He found that the artery on the right side of my neck was functioning well, but the left one was 80% blocked. A more thorough test was ordered, one which utilized Xrays. The doctor also explained how an 85% blockage was considered serious, and a 90% blockage was critical and would mean immediate surgery was necessary.

During our church service on June 9, I was again anointed. Two days later, the second test was performed. The next morning, an office nurse called me and said, "It is clear." I replied, "He must be looking at the wrong side." She looked again and said, "No, Elsie, they're both clear."

Praise God for His goodness and love. I just can't thank Him enough.

### Our Women Today

### Trip to Six Nations Mission

The Michigan-Ontario Ladies' Uplift Circle took a trip to the Six Nations Mission on Sunday, June 2, 1991. Their goal was to uplift and encourage the saints there, however, the tables were turned. The visit was every bit as uplifting

to the visitors as it was to the members at Six Nations.

Brother Kerry Carlini opened the service and spoke on having the Spirit of God in your life. He told the story of Saul being anointed king by the Prophet Samuel, and how Saul was changed in a day. Our brother urged us to be a people filled with the Spirit of God, because we are not good enough on our own strength. He admonished us to give 100% to the Lord, asking us to work at becoming an "A" student rather than being satisfied with being a "C" student.

Bro. Kerry reminded us of Bro. Dominic Thomas' dream regarding "The Great Work of the Lord," and exhorted, "We must believe with all of our hearts and souls-we must be of one mind." He touched briefly on the topic of unity and concluded by saying, "Be the best we can be spiritually."

Bro. Dick Lobzun followed Bro. Kerry, and mentioned that he had read the same scripture that Bro. Kerry had read. In his sermon, he urged us to become a more loving people. Bro. Dick said, "We as the people of God need to love the Lord completely. We must be a peculiar people."

Brothers Dick Lobzun and Gary Coppa administered the Lord's Supper, and a beautiful season of testimony was enjoyed by all.

After the service, the Ladies' Circle put together a delicious picnic-style luncheon, during which we all enjoyed each other's company immensely.

### **Branch and Mission News**

### Glory in Kinsman, OH

By Rose Corrado

Again, the GMBA Campout proved to be a special blessing to our branch in Kinsman, Ohio. This year we received a double miracle—a healing of the body and a healing of the soul.

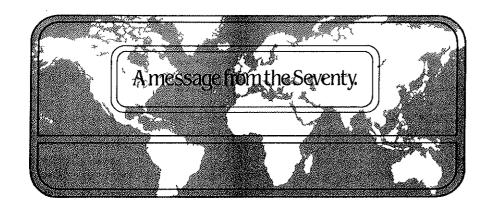
Each, without the other knowing, went to camp with a specific

desire. Bro. Howard Jackson, our presiding elder, had been to see his physician for a postoperative visit just a few days before coming to camp. He was told he had prostate cancer, and was scheduled for more surgery at a later date. Needless to say, Bro. Howard came to camp with a very heavy burden, but also with a desire that he might be anointed. On the other hand, John Ford, born and raised in the

Church, came to camp with a desire in his heart that the Lord would call him, feeling a need in his soul to walk with the Lord.

During one of our meetings at camp, it was revealed that Bro. Howard should be anointed and the Lord poured out His blessing on the priesthood during that prayer. At a 6:30 a.m. fast and prayer meeting, John Ford came forward to be anointed, and the Spirit revealed that the Lord was calling him. John made his request known that he wanted to be baptized, and once the

(Continued on Page 7)



### Michigan-Ontario District

By Evangelist Spencer Everett, Chairman, Mich.-Ont. DMOC

The following is a report to the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ and to all who are interested in the work with the Native American people. It also contains information about other missions within the Michigan-Ontario District of the Church.

The Urban Indian work, while the latest undertaking, brings some of the most exciting recent developments. Being an ongoing work, it also presents the severest challenge.

The Native American (Indian) city dweller faces insurmountable odds, opposition, and extreme despair. The streets of urban areas manifest every possible vice and sin imaginable. The Native Americans seem to be some of the most vulnerable victims. Despite conditions, God has continued to fill His people with His love for them, and sustain the desire to help in any way possible from both natural and spiritual resolves.

#### CONTINUING ACTIVITIES

Some of the continuing activities include visits to Indian Centers in the Detroit Metropilitan area where food, clothing, furniture, and other essentials are provided through individual and branch donations; assistance in securing suitable housing accommodations and health services; layettes for infants donated by the district and branch Ladies' Circles; help in providing for reconnected utilities

where Native Americans cannot afford payment; an annual distribution of Christmas food boxes donated by the Sterling Heights Branch (over 100 boxes and turkeys in 1990); and monthly canned food drives donated by the branches throughout the district and coordinated by the area MBA.

There has also been involvement in a national conference sponsored by the North American Indian Association and a meeting sponsored by the office of Urban Indian Affairs at which Native Indian administrators from centers throughout the Michigan-Ontario area were present.

In addition, we are working with Center leaders and others to assist in the education of Indian children about their culture and heritage. As the Book of Mormon says, "they shall be restored unto the knowledge of their fathers, and also to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, which was had among their fathers" (II Nephi 30:5; also I Nephi 15:14).

#### MEXICAN COMMUNITY

The work in the Mexican community of Detroit is very active and is producing many new converts to The Church of Jesus Christ. The ministers and members involved in the urban Indian activities are laboring there diligently. Preaching, teaching, anointing, testifying, and witnessing of God's Spirit have attracted many. Home visitations,

meetings with Spanish-speaking churches, fundraisers, door-to-door canvassing, scripture studies, and song meetings in Spanish have also been pursued.

Recent articles printed in *The Gospel News* have dealt with the Mexicotown Mission under the Inner City Branch. Particularly of note is that Brother Abraham Nieves of the Santa Ana, CA Branch, who has moved to Detroit, has been a major contributing influence in reaching the Hispanic people.

#### OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Several other recent developments in which the workings of God can be seen offer potential future blessings.

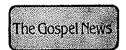
The Church of Jesus Christ is being recognized by state government officials, as well as by leaders among the Native American Nations and urban communities. It has come to our attention that, because of the natural assistance we have given, the Lord is multiplying our use in spiritual ways by opening doors of access and opportunity undreamed of by us as an organization.

For one, Senator Donald W. Riegle of Michigan, together with staff members of the Indian Centers, is reported to be contacting senators from other states and Native American leaders to compile a list of churches, businesses, and persons sensitive to the cause of helping and assisting the Native American people. I have been informed that The Church of Jesus Christ will be on that list. We are also told that a young woman attorney has volunteered to assist these people in legal matters. She is a granddaughter of one of our departed saints.

Another possibility is the opportunity of access to the media through an urban Indian radio station owned by the Native American people in the Detroit area.

More immediately, a radio broadcast is planned to start about the time this issue is published. This one, with the Six Nations people near Brantford, Ontario,

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Observing the world around us, we are made ever more aware that we live in a day when evil is on the increase. More frequently, and in more ways than ever before, the silken cord of the devil is being gently wrapped around us. And while the choice to reject evil and hold on to good has always belonged to us individually, the rapid-fire onslaught of the evil one can sometimes be wearying, and requires greater spiritual strength for us to survive.

In years past, there was security in knowing that the majority of the people around us—our friends, neighbors, and co-workers—held to a great degree the same standards and values as we did. Except for a small minority on the fringes of society, we could count on people having the same views as we did concerning what was considered good, and what was evil. Today, however, we encounter many who say that which is evil is good, and rebuke those things which are good, those things which the Lord Himself taught, as being evil.

We are likely to find ourselves in the minority—perhaps even alone—when we take a stand on issues of moral conduct and responsibility. The opposition is becoming so fierce that we're not merely looked upon as being old-fashioned, but downright stupid in adhering to the teachings of God. Today more than ever, we need the strength of the Lord to keep our light shining forth brightly to the dying souls of men in the world around us.

While it's difficult to grasp onto good for those of us who can look back a few decades to less turbulent times, it is even more challenging for the next generation—our children who grow up constantly seeing and hearing things which the Lord teaches us—by His word and His Spirit—to eschew and abhor. From their peers at school, from the television shows and movies that they see—perhaps in their own homes—and from the merchandise that surrounds them, today's children have very little opportunity to gain an understanding of good and evil. Now more than ever, we need the Lord's help in directing our children's lives toward paths of righteousness.

If there ever was a day when we could keep ourselves pure just by avoiding evil places, that day is gone. With evil so prevalent in the world around us, we can't even keep it away just by closing doors. We must all work to be ever more sensitive to its influence—in our lives and in the lives of our children—and rely more on the Spirit of God than anything else to reveal to us what is safe and what isn't. There is a spiritual alertness that we will never obtain by merely hearing the word of God preached once or twice a week, or asking people for guidance in every situation we encounter in life.

Each of us must live a prayerful life, walking closely, as individuals, with the Lord. Our own knowledge of the scriptures must increase, so that we might instantly recognize those things which go directly against it. Without each of us possessing an inner sense of spiritual discernment which comes only by living a dedicated, sacrificial life of service to God's honor and glory—we will be engulfed, one by one, in the rising quagmires of evil which so closely border the straight and narrow path of salvation.

## The

### Children's

## Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Did you know that the Lord Jesus Christ said that there were four of His followers who would never taste of death (die)? One was his apostle, John, who saw all the things recorded in the Book of Revelations at the end of the Bible.

The other three, who are still alive and on this earth today, were three of His disciples who lived on the American continent. We call them the three Nephites.

Many people in our Church today have been allowed to see and sometimes speak to these four men. The Book of Mormon says that the three Nephites are "as the angels of God, and if they shall pray unto the father in the name of Jesus they can show themselves unto whatsoever man" they see fit (III Nephi 28:29). They usually are there when people have great spiritual needs.

These three Nephite disciples were among the twelve disciples that Jesus chose on the face of the Americas. These twelve were picked, not because of their education, or their handsomeness, or the things that they owned, but because of their hearts. The Lord sees and knows our hearts. He knows if we're fighting against the bad feelings like hate, jealousy, and selfpity. He knows when we do right. He knew (and knows) which men to choose as His disciples also.

The names of the twelve in America were Nephi, his brother Timothy (who was raised from the dead), his son Jonas, another good man also named Jonas, Mathoni and his brother Mathonihah, Kumen, Kumenohi, Jeremiah, Shemnon, Isaiah, and Zedekiah.



Jesus walked and talked with these men. He taught them how to set up His Church in purity. He knew their minds and hearts. So when he asked them, "What is it that you want from me after I've gone to the father?" he already knew the answer.

Nine of the twelve desired to live and preach and bring souls to know the Lord. Then they wanted to die and be with the Lord for eternity. But three of them wanted something else. They wanted to live on the earth long enough to see all the doings of God, even up to the day when Jesus comes again in power and might. These three wanted to continue to be a part of the great work of God.

The Book of Mormon tells us that these men will be sent to the hidden, scattered tribes of Israel. They will be sent unto all nations and types of people, who speak all different kinds of languages. They'll be filled with the convincing power of Jesus Christ, and will bring many souls to know the Lord. Great and marvelous works will be done by them.

Even though unbelievers threw them into cages with wild animals, these men did not die. They were buried alive, but they spoke the word of God and were delivered. They were thrown into furnaces of fire, and were not burned.

The three Nephites worked among their people for two hundred and fifty years before the people turned wicked and the three began to sorrow for the sins of the world. They appeared to Mormon, the prophet that God used to put together the records that make up The Book of Mormon.

During Mormon's lifetime

(about 400 years after Jesus was on this land), wickedness covered the land. Ugly sorcery and witchcraft and magic became popular. The people started serving Satan until so much wickedness filled the land that the Lord took away His beloved disciples, and because of the evil of the people, the working of miracles and healing stopped (Mormon 1:13).

But God has preserved the lives of these three Nephites and the Apostle John. They are ever among the children of men, watching and praying, and working to save our souls and the souls of others.

Maybe one day they will speak with

#### (Continued on Page 11)

#### WORD SEARCH

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#### KINSMAN, OH continued . . .

news spread throughout the camp. several confirming experiences were related concerning his calling—the miracle of a soul set free!

We returned home from camp. and due to many activities, John's baptism wasn't scheduled until July 21-a long time to wait. Meanwhile, Bro. Howard entered the hospital for his second surgery and, when the lab tests were returned, the doctor told Bro. Howard he had good news for him: There was no cancer! Praise God-our second miracle! This was only a few days before John's scheduled baptism. Also, Bro. Jack Ford had been hospitalized and was released just a few days prior to the baptism. But thank God, both of our elders were able to take care of the service on our special day.

What rejoicing for the two miracles—one of the body, and one of the soul! Our little building was filled—we had visitors from Niles and Kent, Ohio, as well as from Florida and California. Bro. Jack Ford was able to baptize his son, and John was confirmed by Bro. Mario Milano of the Kent Mission.

An added blessing for our new Brother John was to have his natural brother, Paul, and his niece Angela here from San Diego. CA to share the day.

After a very inspiring service, we all fellowshipped at Bro. Fred and Sis. Rosalie Mott's home and enjoyed a delicious dinner prepared by all the sisters of the branch. Again, we want to "Proclaim the Glory of the Lord" for these two miracles in our branch.

Our desire is to keep faithful to the promise we made to serve the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, and we extend a hearty welcome to all who visit our branch.

## Trip to Cottageville, SC

By Anthony J. Vadasz

Brothers Philip Arcuri and Anthony Vadasz, along with some members of the Metuchen, NJ Branch, took a trip to Cottageville, South Carolina, where we have a

church building. We planned to hold meetings with friends in that area who had been introduced to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by our late Brother Joseph Arcuri and those who periodically traveled there with him. Our Brother Joe had a strong desire to start a missionary work in that area, and with the help of many brothers, converted a house trailer into a church building.

Brother Joe was called home by the Lord on July 29, 1991, and the work was put into the hands of Bro. Philip Arcuri. It was our desire to continue the work that was started that brought us down to South Carolina, Several brothers and sisters from Florida, from Spartanburg, SC, and from Metuchen, along with Bro. Jan Veltman, who resides in the area, were in attendance at our morning meeting.

While Bro. Philip was making some opening remarks, Bro. Anthony Arcuri had the following

experience:

"Bro. Philip was saying how sorrowful he was that God had taken Bro. Joe to his reward. He expressed that the seed was planted, and it if was God's will, he would endeavor to continue the work. At this time, I was carried away in the Spirit and found myself outside the meeting place. I saw a person in white, surrounded by a group of people. He was planting a small tree, an oak tree.

"The personage said, 'This tree has to be fertilized, watered, and nurtured.' He said that if we did this, it would grow, and he motioned with his hands as if to show us it would grow to be mighty and

I then found myself back in the meeting place, and received a wonderful blessing."

As our brother related this experience, a wonderful feeling came

down upon all present.

Bro. Philip read from Romans 8:35, asking, "Who can separate us from the love of God?" Many inspired words were spoken by our brother. He was followed by Bro. Vadasz, who answered the question by stating that we ourselves do the separating, for Jesus Christ draws us closer to Him, not away from Him. At the close of the meeting

we had lunch and fellowshipped with one another.

That afternoon we met with our brothers and sisters and some friends from the community. After a few opening remarks, we had a testimony meeting. Sister Gladys Moore, from Florida, related the following experience:

"When I awoke this morning, I had a severe headache. I felt bad, because my desire was to enjoy a day in the house of God. I went into the bathroom and knelt down to pray, not only for my headache, but also that the Lord would give something to someone to encourage the brothers.

"I began to feel better. When we were in the meeting, I kept praying, 'Please send one of the Nephites,' and as I kept repeating this, a voice clearly stated, 'John the Revelator is here.' I thank God for this, and for the experience that Bro. Anthony Arcuri had. To God be the glory and honor."

We were very grateful for the testimonies and for the experiences the Lord blessed us with during our meetings. We look forward to a wonderful work in this area, and many more blessings from the Lord. We ask the brothers and sisters to pray for this work, that soon we may see many give themselves to the service of God through His Church.

## Perry, OH VBS

By Jim Watt

July 22-24, 1991 was set aside for the Perry, Ohio Branch Vacation Bible School. The young people attending ranged in age from 3 to 18.

The theme for this year's school was a three-country tour via a time machine. Each morning we opened in prayer and gave a brief history of each country. The young people then "traveled" to the country of the day and, upon arriving, they were greeting by salutations in that country's native tongue.

After a lesson about the country, the children attended a Bible

(Continued on Page 8)

#### PERRY, OH continued . . .

class appropriate to their age group. After lunch, there were activities for each age group.

The school was attended by 29 young people, with 14 adult workers. Certificates of completion were awarded each of the young people.

The countries visited were: China, Columbia, and the United States. The Bible School's climax took place on Sunday, July 28, when a program was presented by the young people who attended.

God has truly blessed us here at the Perry Branch. The school could not have been the success it was without the Lord's blessings. God's Spirit was with us throughout the week.

#### Baptism in Lorain

On June 14, 1991, Sister Judy Kenser was baptized by Bro. Mark Naro of the Lorain, Ohio Branch. Bro. Joel Calabrese later bestowed the Holy Ghost upon her by the laying on of hands. Our prayer is that God will continue to walk with our new sister for the remaining days of her life.

## 50 year celebration at Warren, OH

By Lorie Prokup

On July 7, 1991, the Warren, Ohio Branch had the opportunity and pleasure of being host to many other brothers and sisters from Kinsman, Niles, Lorain, North Jackson, Perry, and Youngstown, Ohio: as well as Gastonia. North Carolina: Simi Valley, California; and Detroit, Michigan. We had all gathered together to honor eight of our brothers and sisters who have been in the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 50 years. We were even blessed to have in our midst family members of the saints who grew up with these brothers and sisters but never obeyed the Gospel. They showed, by their presence, that they remembered the powerful

Spirit of God that was manifested that day.

The saints that were honored today were Sisters Rose Corrado, Mary (Genaro) Krasnasky, Jean (D'Orazio) Genaro, and Carmel (Mollica) Genaro; along with Brothers Armand Genaro, Joe Genaro, Jonathan Molinatto, Frank Giovannone, and Chuck Blank.

Bro. Joe Calabrese reminisced on hearing the news that nine souls were called, and how the young people would travel together, just like they do today, to visit one another. Bro. Joe then expounded on how we are running a race, how we must run with patience and look to Jesus, as the Apostle Paul did. Our brother continued by saying that it isn't how fast we run, but that we finish the race to receive our eternal reward. We need to look to Christ for everything. He wants us to lay our burdens at His feet. God loves us so much that He gave all He had-His only begotten Son. Bro. Joe urged those who are just babes in the Gospel to talk with the saints who have endured the heat of the day for their testimony and advice.

After we sang Sweeter As the Years Go by, Bro. Ron Genaro of Niles spoke on how we need to be consistent and persistent in running the race. When we go before the bar of God, He will not be concerned with our material status. Rather, He will ask what we've done for Him. We need to prepare ourselves now for that time.

The meeting was then turned



Saints baptized at Niles, Ohio in 1941 pose with Apostle Gorie Claravino.

over to Bro. Bob Ciarocchi, who was chosen as the "emcee" for the program that was prepared by the eight honored saints. Bro. Bob told how Brothers Gorie Ciaravino and John Dulisse were inspired to visit Niles, Ohio that weekend fifty years ago. Bro. Gorie also reminisced for a few moments on that Sunday when there were nine who asked for their baptism. He said that the meeting hadn't even started and the sisters of the group had already made their wishes known! The place where they had been meeting wasn't the most beautiful-it was upstairs from a bar-but it was most glorious, for it was God's House. The young people in the Niles Branch alone at that time numbered between 50 and 60 people.

For the six months that followed these baptisms, the Niles Branch was constantly being blessed. Then a sorrowful time came when our young Brothers Joseph and Armand Genaro and Jonathan Molinatto were drafted into the Second World War. During this time. Bro. Chuck Blank enlisted, hoping to accompany his friends and brethren. They were all sent to the front lines. God truly put the saints through a test and trial. At one point Bro. Armand was captured by the Germans and became a prisoner of war. The Niles Branch united together and grew and prayed as one family. Tragedy struck when Bro. Chuck Blank was killed in action. During today's program a memorial was given in his honor. Bro. Joe Genaro read his obituary, Sis. Rose Corrado read a poem, and the group sang his favorite hymn, Lord, I'm Coming Home.

All those celebrating their spiritual birthday were given the opportunity to testify. They all praised God's name and thanked Him for all the blessings He had bestowed upon them. As we looked around the congregation, we could see how God has truly blessed these saints. Just through the generations of their families, we could fill our branch.

Several sisters sang very fitting hymns for the occasion. Sis. Betty (Giovannone) Alessio sang We've Come This Far by Faith, Sis. Kathy

Genaro sang a hymn that she wrote, When I'm Humbled Down, and Sis. Barb (Genaro) Nuzzi closed our meeting by singing Precious Memories.

With our spirits filled, we were also filled naturally by a wonderful dinner provided by those who had reached their 50th spiritual anniversaries. May God continue to bless these brothers and sisters, spiritually and naturally. And may we all someday have this same opportunity—to observe 50 years and more in the service of the Lord.

## Classes held at Perry, OH

By Elmer Santilli

The writer of a hymn says that God moves in a mysterious way, and how true! After a successful Fourth of July picnic, I came home around 7:30 p.m. The house was empty, but a note was waiting for me as I entered the kitchen.

A sense of trouble entered my mind as I read the note, for it read: "Call Dan Soucy—Emergency." Thinking that there had been an accident or sudden sickness, I hurriedly called Dan to inquire what was the problem. Finally, around 10:30 p.m., I got in touch with him.

Dan informed me that he would like to talk with me about straightening his life out and joining the Church. What a turnaround of perceived events! As Dan continued to talk, I felt something had to be done before he was baptized, because he didn't know that much about The Church of Jesus Christ.

The Spirit prompted me to say that I would like for him and his wife to first attend an instructional class, and he readily agreed. There would be four classes, and they would be held on Thursday evenings. Then the Spirit said to invite others who had been attending church. Everyone in the branch was informed that classes would be held for non-members, and they were encouraged to invite family and friends to attend.

On July 11, the first class was held, and ten non-members attended. An outline was put together

and handed out for each one to keep. The classes were held in an informal setting, and coffee and donuts added to the cozy feeling. Everyone was told that this was not a "baptismal class," though I would pray that everyone would eventually be led by the Spirit to enter into a covenant with God.

The class would be one of learning what the Word of God says about (1) Pre-Creation, (2) Creation, (3) The Plan of Salvation, (4) Jesus Christ, (5) His Church, (6) The Restoration, and (7) The Final Scene. The class would look into how The Church of Jesus Christ and mankind fit into this outline.

Many interesting questions and comments were made by different individuals, and the time went by so quickly—a sure sign that everyone enjoyed the discussion. An added benefit of the class was that some who did not know the others became better acquainted and closer to each other.

I thoroughly enjoyed this class and the discussions we entered into, but the greatest blessing is that so far four have decided to make Jesus their choice and have been baptized. Pray for the others, that they too might come into the joy of the Lord.

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

Canada, is an opening for us over a Native American owned station at Oshweken. It will enable us to reach thousands of Native Americans on at least two reserves serviced by our Six Nations and Muncey Indian Missions. Your support in prayer is asked, that this may be a means of further assisting the Seed of Joseph in a spiritual way.

#### MISSION NEWS

The Muncey Mission is doing well under the leadership of Brother Rodney Dyer, who lives there with his wife, Sister Judy, and their children. Four new members have been baptized there in the past year, with exciting experiences. The Mission had one of

the largest and most successful Vacation Bible Schools in its history, with workers coming from all over the United States and Canada to assist.

Branch No. 3's mission at Harrison, Michigan is now staffed by Bro. Lyle Criscuolo, who was ordained an elder last June 19. He is assisted by Bro. Silver Coppa, who resides nearby during the summer months. They are attempting an outreach program for attendance and growth.

The groups in Ontario, Canada at Meaford and nearby South Hampton are currently operated under the Windsor Branch by Brothers Rick Elzby of Meaford and Matt Collison of South Hampton. There are currently 14

members at Meaford and five at

South Hampton.

Each year from September through October, a group of migrant workers comes to the Meaford area from Mexico and Central America. For the two-month period, this mission has both a church and a "bunkhouse" mission, where these workers are taught English and The Book of Mormon. They also attend the Meaford Church service on Sundays as transportation is available. During this time, the Meaford Mission is busy seven days a week. The number of people served is between 40 and 60 each year. When they return home, the mission keeps in touch with them by mail and forwards their names and addresses to Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters of the Church in California.

The Saline, Michigan Mission recently had its dedication service. As their history was published in *The Gospel News*, we won't duplicate their report here.

It is with a great deal of praise and thanksgiving to God that we can share this news with our brothers and sisters and friends in the Lord. We've only one life,/Twill soon be passed,/And only what's done for Christ will last.

God bless you all.

#### News from Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

On Saturday, August 24, 1991, the Roscoe, PA Branch held its annual Sunday School Picnic. We had a very good turnout of brothers, sisters, friends, and children. A good and happy fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended.

Later that evening, after we had all gone to our homes, Kathy Malandro, wife of our recently-baptized Brother Mark Malandro, telephoned Bro. James Abbott and asked if she could be baptized the

next day!

As we gathered for our Sunday services, we were blessed and our cups were filled to overflowing. The Spirit of God was in our midst, both in Sunday School and in our

preaching service.

Our afternoon fellowship service was opened in prayer by Bro. John Kendall, who then dismissed us to the baptismal site. Once there, Bro. James Abbott took Kathy into the river and baptized her. It was a beautiful baptism, and our new Sister Kathy just glowed as they walked back to shore. A hymn was sung and Bro. John Bloom, Sis. Kathy's father, offered prayer. At the church. Sis. Kathy came forward to have hands laid on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Prayer was offered by Bro. John Kendall, and Bro. James Abbott confirmed our new sister.

Sister Kathy's testimony follows:

"In March of 1990 I had a vision of Christ while attending The Church of Jesus Christ in Roscoe, PA. I knew that this vision was for me, because no one else mentioned that they had seen anything. He had His arms held out to me, and I knew that He was calling me into the Gospel. But I felt that I had to be perfect and have everything in my life in order before I was baptized.

"After I rejected His invitation into the Gospel, everything seemed to get worse. I was attending church faithfully, so I didn't understand how things could be getting worse in my life. Then I realized that God wanted more of me, that just coming to church wasn't

enough. He wanted me to make that commitment. I knew that I didn't have to be perfect in order to be baptized, but that God was going to work with me.

"Little did I know, however, that the Lord was also working with my husband, Mark. He asked for his baptism on July 14. A week or two after his baptism, God gave me a dream in which Mark and my two children were standing at the bottom of a golden colored hillside. They turned and looked at me, as if to say good-bye, and Mark took the children's hands and started up the hill. They never looked back at me again. I knew that I could not go with them because I was not yet baptized.

"Just a couple of weeks later, I asked for my baptism, on August 25. I'm thankful that the Lord gave me another chance to enter into the Gospel. I'm thankful that He didn't reject me the way I had rejected Him the year before. He gave me this dream to show me how important it was for me to be baptized."

## News from McKees Rocks, PA

The year 1991 began with a sorrowful event for the McKees Rocks, PA Branch. On February 19, our dear Sister Mary Clements (daughter of the late Brother Vincent Clements) passed away. Brothers John Manes and Bill Colangelo conducted the funeral service. Sister Mary was a faithful member for 54 years and is sincerely missed by all who knew her.

After the cold winter months, spring truly began with a triple blessing. Kevin Monaghan requested his baptism on March 24. He attended our branch services several times with his cousins, Patrick and Jason Monaghan. Brother Paul Ciotti baptized Kevin, and Brother Bill Colangelo confirmed him. On the same day, we joyfully returned to the waters. During our testimony meeting, Matthew Ricci asked for his baptism. Then, Dennis (Matthew's father) rose to his feet and spoke these words: "Praise God, for the Risen

Lord awaits at the banquet that is from everlasting to everlasting." While Matthew was testifying, Brother Dennis spoke under the Spirit of God stating, "This day the Lord hath born unto you a servant of His Church." Sister Renee Zeh had a dream on March 23 which confirmed the two baptisms. Also, Sister Martha Laird had dreamed that two baptisms took place.

March ended with the third special event—the birth of Ian Michael Lewis, son of Sister Debra and Kevin Lewis. Ian was blessed on April 14 by his grandfather, Brother Ralph Ciotti. Chase Allen Clements, son of Sister Rhonda and Don Clements, was blessed by Paul

Ciotti (Chase's uncle).

The month of April began with another soldier enlisting in the "army of the Lord," when Jason Monaghan was baptized by Brother Paul Ciotti and confirmed by Brother Ralph Ciotti. During the laying on of hands, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues, witnessing to the congregation that Brother Jason had indeed received the Holy Ghost. Brother Jason is blessed with many dreams. He related a dream during our testimony service which prompted him to think seriously about his commitment to Christ.

Our blessings continued to flow throughout the summer months. During the GMBA campout, God's spirit fell upon Jonathan Rogalla, who asked for his baptism. On July 7, Jonathan was baptized by Ralph Ciotti and confirmed at the McKees Rocks Branch by Brother Dick Lawson. We enjoyed a spirit-filled day with many visiting brothers from Detroit, Tampa, South Carolina, Aliquippa, Monongahela, Glassport, Greensburg, and Imperial, including visiting elders Ken Staley and John P. Buffa.

Terry Snyder, a friend of Sister Martha Laird, witnessed Jonathan's baptism and was touched by the Spirit of God. She has attended many of our services. On July 21, she stated her desire to be baptized. After she was confirmed, she requested that her two-year-old son, Aaron, be blessed in the Church. How true are the words, "The mercies of God, what a theme for my song."!

#### CHILDREN'S CORNER continued . . .

you or direct you, if that is God's will. Ask some of the older brothers and sisters in your branch or mission if they know someone who has spoken with or seen these men.

Most of all, remember. Remember that God cares about you. You are precious to Jesus. He knows your heart and your needs, and He loves you. He can make you feel clean inside, full of hope and joy, just as He did with His disciples and apostles of old.

Sincerely, Sister Jan

## WEDDINGS \*

#### FRANCIONE—CARTINO

Brother Andre Francione and Sister Lisa Marie Cartino were joined, in the sight of God, into the state of holy matrimony on Saturday, August 31, 1991.

Bro. Paul Francione, father of the groom, joined Lisa and Andre as one, with Bro. John Ross Jr., cousin of the bride, assisting in the ceremony. Beautiful musical selections were performed by Bro. Pete Giannetti and Sis. Tracey Francione, cousin of the groom. Sis. Barb Nuzzi played the piano.

May God bless Andre and Lisa as they begin their life together. May He watch over them and provide many years of love, happiness, and service to God as one. They will be making their home in Michigan and

attending the Saline Mission.

## Children Blessed

Jonathan Michael Pennell was blessed on June 30, 1991 at Lorain, Ohio by Bro. Bob Batson.

Joshua Michael McGuire was blessed by Brother Richard Scaglione on July 14, 1991, in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

On August 18, 1991, Zachary Daniel Bell, son of David and Cynthia Bell and great-grandson of Sister Rose Nalevanko, was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ by Bro. Paul Gehly at the Greensburg, PA Branch.

Bro. Paul Benyola blessed Joseph John Pittius Jr., son of Joe and Colleen, on September 8, 1991 at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

Brian Henry Thompson Jr., son of Brian and Bonnie (Edwards) Thompson, was blessed by his grandfather, Bro. Mitch Edwards.

Cody Ryan Hunt, son of Terry and Diane (Miller) was blessed by Bro. Jerry Giovannone at the Warren, Ohio Branch.

Jessi Lynn Coleman, daughter of David and Rose, was blessed by Bro. Bob Ciarrochi at the Warren, 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.

#### RICHARD BLAZER

On March 16, 1991, Richard E. Blazer Sr. passed from this life. He was 56 years of age.

Funeral services were held in West Grove, PA by Brothers Anthony J. Vadasz and Philip Arcuri.

He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, Sister Edith Blazer of the Metuchen, NJ Branch, his mother. three children, six grandchildren, and many relatives and friends. May God comfort our sister and her family in their time of mourning.

#### JOSEPH ARCURI

Brother Joseph Arcuri, an elder in the Metuchen. NJ Branch, passed from this life on July 29, 1991 at the age of 60. He was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ in 1949.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Richard Lawson, with the assistance of Brothers Ken Lombar-

do and Joseph Perri.

Surviving are his wife, Sister Susan; two children, Bro. Joseph Darrell and Sis. JoAnn Catalano; daughter-in-law Sis. Demetra and Son-in-law Bro. David; two grandchildren; three brothers; and four sisters. In addition, he will be missed by many brothers and sisters in Christ, many friends and relatives, and many acquaintances among the seed of Joseph, both in New Jersey and South Carolina, where he did missionary work.

Our prayer is that God will bless and comfort those he left behind.

#### VIOLA HOWELL

Sister Viola Howell passed from this life on August 29, 1991 at the age of 71. She was a member of the Elkins, West Virginia mission. Sister Vi was a faithful member of the Church and will be missed by all.

#### JOSEPH SCAGLINE

Brother Joseph Scagline passed on to his eternal reward on September 10, 1991. Brother Joe was 94 years old. The funeral was conducted by his nephew, Brother Richard Scaglione.

Our brother is survived by three sons, three daughters, and many grandchildren and greatgrandchildren. May the Lord comfort those who will

feel his loss.

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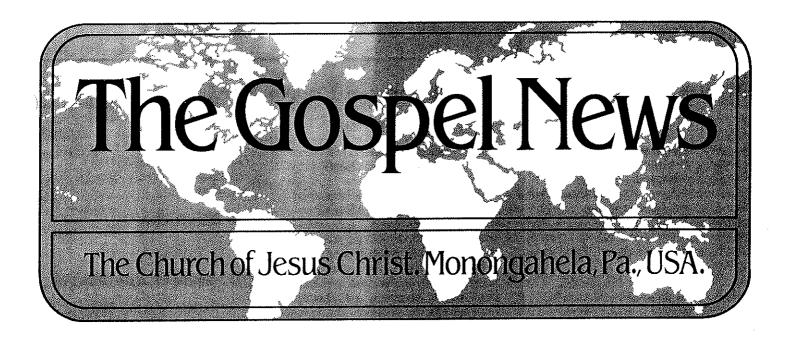
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November, 1991

Volume 47, No. 11

## The Ministry of God's Word

By David Majoros

In his July, 1991 Gospel News "Editorial Viewpoint," our Brother Iditor brought home to me some vital points. I hope that all of us recognized what he was trying to say to us. He wrote, "Just having the Truth does not make you a successful servant of God. It's knowing the Truth—applying it in your life and having a purpose for all that you do in your service to Him—that frees you from the 'Don't ask questions' kind of thinking and makes you 'ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you' (I Peter 3:15)."

After reading this final paragraph of his editorial, my mind went immediately to Mosiah 6:3 which reads, in part, "King Benjamin . . . appointed priests to teach the people, that thereby they might hear and know the commandments of God, and to stir them up in remembrance of the oath which they had made. . . ." In this precious passage of scripture God gives very clear directives to His priesthood. We are to read the Vord to God's people so that they near it. Next, we are to explain the Word of God so that His people will know or understand it. And we are

to remind God's people of the oath

or covenant that they have made

with their Lord and their God.

Alma 43:1 reads, "And now it came to pass that the sons of Alma did go forth among the people, to declare the word unto them. And Alma, also, himself, could not rest, and he also went forth." What is it about the Word that drives us to read it, share it, and declare it? It is alive. It is part and parcel of His breath. And it is His breath that gives life! Genesis 2:7 reads, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. This portion of the "breath of God" that rises from the pages of His Word refreshes and enlivens us. As He is alive, His Word is alive; and as we take it in, we become more and more alive.

Psalms 1:1-4 reads, "Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. The ungodly are not so. . . ." As we take time

each day for reading the Word, it seems that everything else falls in place in our lives. Because we 'delight'' in reading the Word and understanding it, everything seems to bloom and brighten around us. Life takes on a more colorful appeal. Life becomes more manageable, more liveable. Life becomes more worth living. When we have His Word inspiring and motivating us-even in the face of frightening newspaper headlines and depressing radio and TV news broadcasts-we do not waver or doubt. The Word of God is our bulwark against fear.

For preachers and teachers of classes who want dynamic, inspiring sermons and Sunday School or MBA sessions, the Word of God must be the foundation of everything that is said. As speakers and teachers, our testimonies and experiences are vital. Our ideas and opinions can be important. But if these things are not grounded on the bedrock of scripture, then we stand on shaky ground. God's Word makes what we say come alive, and the lesson stays longer with the listener. This requires more thought and preparation beforehand, but our people are worth the extra effort! After all, their edification is the main reason, basically, for God's calling us to our various offices.

God calls us to walk with Him

(Continued on Page 10)

## To the Family of God

By Barbara Heaps

For forty years I have had the privilege of praying to Our Lord on behalf of others and seeing the Lord work in the lives of those that were prayed for. However, there comes a time in our lives when we can't pray for ourselves, and that is the time when we need "The Family of God."

That time came in my life, when I was diagnosed as having very aggressive breast cancer, which developed into cancer of the lymph nodes almost overnight.

Rusty and I talked it over, and decided to continue on our mission of visiting throughout the Church and take the treatments as they came. We did not realize how much time the treatments would take. As it turned out, I had four operations, six chemotherapy treatments, and six weeks of radiation therapy in nine months' time. The Lord was with us in all of this.

It is one thing to pray for others, but it's another to be the recipient of the thoughts and prayers of "The Family of God." Each card brought new courage and peace. They came from brothers, sisters, and children, some of whom I had never met as well as from saints that I have known for years. Your prayers were heard of God, and the last report from my doctor, after taking all the tests, is that I am cancer-free as of this date. Praise God!! For this I give all thanks to My Savior. To Him first, and then to all the saints for their prayers. I thank God also for the fine doctors He led me to. Continue to remember me in your prayers as we remember all of you.

With all our love, Sister Barbara Heaps

#### DIRECTORY UPDATE

Amormino, Eugene and Donna 26134 Woodland Mt. Clemens, MI 48045 Tel. (313) 949-0412

## A Testimony of Praise

By Tina Sechrist

GOD HEARD YOU AND HEALED ME

The love of the brothers and sisters for Christ and His saints was demonstrated to my mother (Barbara Heaps) and me when we were diagnosed with cancer.

I truly wish I could personally thank all of you for your genuine compassion, concern, prayers, and support for my mother and myself. I pray that this article will help to convey my gratitude to all the saints, and that you may praise Him with me.

I thank God for the value of my past tribulations, which taught me how to develop a spiritual foundation of trusting and understanding God's will. Without the heartaches and trials, I never could have understood the faith and love of God which sustained with peace through it all.

Knowing our faith and God's love for His children, it is my hope that no one will become discouraged over the cancer that has wounded my family.

Praise God, the doctor's report revealed that after my surgery, I no longer have any sign of cancer!

With God's help and the prayers of the saints, I was able to increase my faith and receive God's healing. Christ's compassionate heart yearns to heal us more than we have the capacity to desire it.

Before the surgery, I asked God if He would give someone a dream regarding His will for me. God answered through several experiences, among which was the following dream given to a sister for me:

"I dreamed that Tina and her mother and father were in a room together. Brother Rusty laid his hands upon Tina and began to pray. It was the most beautiful prayer I had ever heard. He was pouring out his heart to God, and I wept as I listened, knowing in my heart that God would answer his prayer. Then a voice spoke to me and told me it was not Tina's time to die, because she still had much work left to do

here."

My Savior resolved the probler of cancer, and instilled in my doctor's mind that I was totally healed and would not need to undergo radiation or chemotherapy treatments. I praise Him for His deliverance!

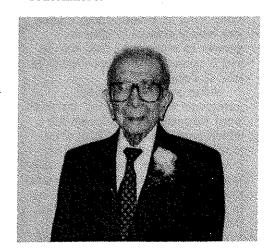
Sis. Tina Sechrist

## 70 years in the Gospel

Brother Antonio Molisani, who is 106 years old, celebrated his 70th spiritual birthday on September 10, 1991.

After the Church had been established in Detroit with five charter members, Bro. Molisani was the sixth member to be baptized there, in September, 1921. The five preceding him were Bro. Ralph and Sis. Anna Frammolino and their daughter, Louise, and Bro. Giuseppe and Sis. Mary Gianzante.

Although old age is causing his health to fail, Bro. Molisani still at tends church regularly at Detroit Branch 1 on Sundays. An ordained teacher, he has kept the faith and has never hesitated to give his testimony to whoever crossed his path. The saints of Branch 1 honored him with a beautiful boutonniere.



Bro, Antonio Mollsani

"The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened" (Proverbs 10:27).

## **MBA Highlights**

#### Trip to Singles' Retreat

By Terri Bravo

On Friday, July 26, 1991, a van filled with eight people from the Atlantic Coast District headed to the Singles' Retreat, held at the Ciotti Manor in Butler, PA. The retreat was sponsored by the GMBA and the General Ladies' Uplift Circle. The theme of the weekend was a positive one, "You Have What It Takes." We found ourselves being drawn together by our love for Jesus Christ and for one another. We enjoyed each other's company and the fellowship of all those who attended. We renewed old acquaintances and met new friends. There were seminars, meetings, and activities to participate in.

As the weekend progressed, the attendees grew closer together. We began sharing experiences, joys, goals, and problems. We were encouraged to be humble and to seek the Lord's will in our lives. At our Saturday evening meeting, Bro. Phil Buffa asked that a prayer be offered on behalf of the young people. Bro. Paul Ciotti offered the prayer, and then Sisters Arline Whitton and Lorraine DeMercurio led an activity which helped us to get to know one another and support the positive qualities we each possess.

After services and lunch on Sunday, we reluctantly headed back home. Michael Lane, a fourteen-year-old attending his first General Church function, summed up the weekend in five small words, "I feel good about myself." This was in response to five other small but meaningful words, "You Have What It Takes."

## Singles' Retreat a successful joint effort

By Karen Progar

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle and General Missionary

Benevolent Association (GMBA) sponsored their first combined endeavor. As you have already read in Sister Terri's article, the retreat began on Friday evening and concluded after lunch on Sunday. Singles from the Atlantic Coast, Ohio, Michigan-Ontario, and Pennsylvania Districts met in the beautiful, rolling hills of Butler, Pennsylvania. Individuals ranging in age from 14 to 60+ attended the retreat, which was intended to address the concerns of ummarried members of our Church's various organizations.

From the moment we arrived, the group felt a rapport not common to such a mixed assembly. Friday evening, many of us discussed the problems and conditions we deal with into the wee hours of the morning.

Saturday morning's seminars were very interesting and well-planned. The facilitators are to be complimented for their preparation and presentation. Special thanks also to Sisters Rhoda and Joyceann Jumper, who handled registration and accommodations.

Our afternoon activities deserve special mention. Immediately after lunch, a seminar on personal finances was presented by Bro. Brian Martorana. Sports were to begin immediately following this seminar; however, as we left the meeting room, we were overwhelmed by the exquisite harmony which filled the halls. Those who had planned to participate in sports gathered in the meeting room and were singing praises to the Lord. Softball, bowling, and volleyball took a back seat to the singing. What a wonderful experience to see a group of young people who would rather praise God than participate in sporting activities. This impromptu activity set the pace for the balance of the day.

The Circle and GMBA officers had not planned an evening spiritual meeting, but the Spirit was allowed to lead us, and the evening activities began with preaching, singing, and testimony. Many who had been baptized at GMBA-sponsored activities expressed themselves. As Bro. Mark Palmieri testified, an experience was had in which the visage of his recently

departed grandfather, Bro. Tony Palmieri, was seen on his face.

We concluded the night's activities with a pizza party and "getto-know-you" game. Once again, no one was eager to retire, and we enjoyed fellowship long past bedtime.

Apostle Paul Benyola was the opening speaker on Sunday morning. We were delighted to have him, along with Bro. Dick Lawson, representing the General Church. Bro. Paul quoted the scriptural question, "What shall I do to have eternal life?" and discussed the importance of our souls, concluding with a reminder to us to be concerned for one another. Bro. Dick Lawson asked us if it is truly well with our soul, and reminded us that we have what it takes, and that we can set the pace and make a difference. We were privileged to hear from many brothers who joined us for the day, as well as the testimonies of many brothers. sisters, and friends.

We are truly grateful for these activities, which bring us closer as saints, and especially for activities which address specific needs. The GMBA and General Circle truly showed a spirit of cooperation and love in jointly sponsoring this retreat. We hope to experience many more such occurrences in the future, trusting that God will continue to bless the officers and members.

## **Publication Notice**

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## Two New Evangelists

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Two elders, Ford K. Boadu of Ghana, West Africa, and Wayne R. Martorana of the Ohio District, have been called to be evangelists in The Church of Jesus Christ. They were recommended for ordination into that office by the General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, which met on October 3, and they were approved by the General Church Conference the next day.

Brother Boadu has been in the priesthood for 15 years, and has served as President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Ghana since the Church was established there. Through his efforts, there are now seven locations in Ghana, and the Church is recognized and highly respected there. He supervises the entire membership of over 500 in that country. Bro. Ford is an untiring worker in spreading the Gospel of Christ, and has had to overcome tremendous odds and obstacles. Until three years ago, he was the only elder in Ghana.

Brother Martorana has been an elder for 12 years, and has been very active in his district's missionary activities. Serving as Chairman of the Ohio District Missions Operating Committee, Bro. Wayne is also a member of the North American Indian Cultural Center, and has conducted seminars on the Restoration of the Gospel with them. He is on the Ohio visitation schedule, traveling to Omaha, Nebraska; South Bend, Indiana; Rochester, New York; Columbus and Cincinnati, Ohio; and other places. He is also involved in the

Ohio District's outreach program.

The two callings filled the vacancies left by the passing of Evangelists Raymond Cosetti in 1990 and Paul Vitto, this August 15. Brother Cosetti's departure, his many years of service, and the presentation of a plaque to his wife and their family have been reported. A similar plaque is to be given to Brother Vitto's wife and family by the Michigan-Ontario Evangelists on behalf of the Quorum.

Brother Vitto spent many wonderfully exemplary years in the Gospel. He had been baptized 57 years ago. He was ordained an elder on April 22, 1956, and an evangelist on May 25, 1975. His living testimony, his very tender and caring manner, his deep concern for people, and his deep-rooted faithfulness will be greatly missed. Besides his wife, he left two sons, one daughter, two grandchildren, two brothers, who are also evangelists, and many other relatives, brothers and sisters in Christ, and friends.

#### OTHER MATTERS

Other important matters were discussed at the October 3 Conference session. Many of them now fall under the Missions Operating Committee, which reports to the Seventies, which, in turn, reports to the General Conference. The committee has been charged with the responsibility of interfacing with the former General Church Board of Missions and to make certain that all missionary activities of the Church are being maintained and expanded as directed.

The MOC report was given by

the chairman, Brother Thomas Liberto. He stated that the Interface Process is about half completed, in accordance with the predetermined two-year timetable. He said many good things are going on, and the missionary programs are continuing. He iterated that it was essential to have everyone's support, so that the Gospel can go forth.

Brother Liberto reviewed the reports of the Americas Missions Operating Committee (AMOC), Foreign Missions Operating Committee (FMOC), Media Committee, and General Development Committee. He pointed out specific highlights in each area. Districts' and foreign growth were analyzed, and future prospects and goals were included. Media and General Development activities were also noted.

Interestingly, there are many brothers and sisters who are working in many areas, and, of course, all their efforts are genuinely appreciated, as Brother Liberto emphasized. Unfortunately, due to limited time, it was impossible for him to report on all of them.

#### COMMUNICATION IMPORTANT

The importance of communicating about missionary activities to all members and friends of the Church is being addressed by both the MOC and the Missionary Foundation Committee. It is hoped to finalize a slide presentation which will depict the missionary progress being made. Viewing the advancements and successes will not only give insights about what is being achieved but will certainly bless us to see how the Lord is calling souls into the Gospel in various parts of the world. The slide program is a joint venture involving both committees.

To further coordinate all phases of missionary operations, the chairmen of the General Church Board of Trustees and the General Church Finance Committee have been added as non-voting members of the MOC. The importance of their inclusion on behalf of their committees and responsibilities is

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## The Gospel News

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When I began reading this month's Children's Corner (next page), I thought our sister was going to tell the children about Zion, so closely did her description parallel the words of Isaiah. Reading further, however, I saw it was the Church in IV Nephi she was describing, whose glory, like the Church in the Book of Acts, reached a climax, but then waned as people's feelings toward material goods supplanted—even if only slightly—their love toward God and one another.

The similarity of the early Church to Zion is worth noting, and should cause us to rejoice in the anticipation of dwelling, in the flesh, in a condition of unmatched spiritual unity with our fellow beings, enjoying the power and visitation of the Lord Himself in His Church like never before. How magnificent it would be to live in such a day as that!

The two scriptural accounts we have of such conditions prevailing are found in Acts 3 & 4 and the first half of IV Nephi. In both places it is noted that unity, liberality, and commonality pervaded the saints' natural—as well as their spiritual—dealings with one another. These people recognized God as not only the Provider, but also the true Owner of all they possessed. They glorified His name with their belongings, relinquishing the carnal desire to acquire and own in exchange for the blessed joy of giving and sharing. In both scriptures it states, "they had all things common."

It is no coincidence that this blessed spiritual state was accompanied by an unsurpassed sharing of wealth and possessions. In fact, the remarkable blessedness of both early Churches came to an unhappy end when just a few of their members yielded to that carnal need to have more than everyone else in the way of natural wealth.

Today, as we look forward to enjoying the blessings of the Peaceful Reign, we must ask ourselves—individually—what place natural possessions take in our lives. Are our homes truly open to one another and to our fellow beings, or does having to share our possessions frighten or embarrass us? Does the notion of tithing to the Church upset us, despite strong scriptural evidence to support ten percent as a minimum on which to build our giving?

The Church of Jesus Christ holds a key position in bringing the Restored Gospel to the Seed of Joseph, the House of Israel, and the world. Our opportunities to carry the Gospel further, however, are blocked by financial inability. While there are those who give to the Church liberally and generously (please keep it up!), our overall track record is severely deficient, with under \$20 per month—on the average—coming into the General Church from each of us.

As we enjoy the natural blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us, I would hope that each of us would prayerfully and scripturally examine our financial practices, realizing that the Lord who has given us all that we possess will some day hold us accountable for our financial decisions. Let's apply the truths of Sister Jan's lesson in our lives today—to set an example to our children, and to bring us all closer to Zion.

## The

## Children's

## Corner

By Jan Steinrock

## Treasures That Last

Dear Boys and Girls,

Can you imagine how it would be if everyone in this land was completely loving and kind? What if every stranger was a brother or sister, living in God's way, in The Church of Jesus Christ?

Imagine; you could play outside in the moonlight and shadows and never be afraid. You could leave your house unlocked and open, and leave your toys anywhere, and nothing bad would happen. If your little brother or sister went for a walk or hike and didn't come back for two or three days, no one would worry because they'd know the child was just visiting one of our Church people. Every stranger would be a friend to know, to share with, to pray with. No one would worry about money, or try to buy things to look important, because everyone would share.

That was what it was like on this land after the time when Jesus came to visit. There had been a huge destruction. Only the more righteous were spared. For three days, Jesus walked and talked and taught the people about God's love. He took each child and offered a special blessing and prayer for them. Angels were seen.

These children grew up and never forgot the love and power of Christ. They raised their children the same way. And their children grew up and also served God with great peace. Everyone was safe and happy.

More and more children were born, but then things changed! "What made them change?" you ask. "Why would anyone want to



give up such a wonderful, joyful way of living? How did this happen?"

The Book of Mormon teaches us that this land was very rich in gold, silver, pearls, and plants and animals to make beautiful fabrics and dyes for cloth. In the two hundred and first year after Jesus came, a small number of people wanted to look better than their friends. They decided not to share fully what they had. They began to divide into classes, or groups. Their riches became more important to them than loving or caring for others.

And Satan made others really want these riches, too. Jealousy started to be a problem. Some people also wanted to steal the riches from others. So now, those who loved their riches had to lock doors and worry. They knew they were wrong. Down deep inside they felt bad. At Church they knew they were wrong. In The Church of Jesus Christ the three Nephite Disciples were still very much alive and guiding their people, even after two hundred years.

Those who loved riches had to form their own churches, where they could change the simple laws of loving and serving one another. They began to hate the good people of Christ; they persecuted the Three Nephites. Little by little, they let that old, ugly devil confuse them into thinking that "stuff," possessions, would make them happy and feel good inside.

What can we learn from this? Actually, it is a message that we all already know very well: The things of this world do not bring lasting happiness or satisfaction. Love does. Kindness and caring for others does.

Whatever you buy this year will, no doubt, be "out of style" next year. The advertisers on television trick us into believing we'll be popular or happy if we just buy a certain toy, or game, or pair of jeans or sneakers. It's not true. Think how many times you've tried that and never felt lasting happiness.

Now, think about the times your family was proud of you, or the times you knew you had done right. That's not a feeling we can buy. In The Church of Jesus Christ, love is free. Love grows when it is shared. Love never grows tired. Love gives us patience. Love helps us stick up for each other. Love

#### (Continued on Page 11)

#### WORD SEARCH

GOD	THROWN
LOVE	AWAY
LASTS	EVIL
PATIENT	UGLY
AND	WICKED
PEACE	SATAN
JOY	TRICKED
FOR	NEPHITES
TWO	SONS
HUNDRED	LOST
ONE	JOY (2 times)
YEARS	,

A	P	D	E	R	D	N	U	H	N
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D	Т	E	Y	L	U	Н	Т	E	S
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R	Н	С	N	V	N	V	J	С	Y
D	P	I	D	E	v	E	0	E	L
N	E	R	I	J	0	Y	v	L	G
U	N	T	W	0	Y	0	J	I	U
Н	A	Y	E	A	R	s	Н	G	L
P	F	0	R	w	I	C	K	E	D

## Our Women Today

## General Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

"We pledge ourselves to read and search the Scriptures and ask God to direct and bless our Ladies' Uplift Circle in every way. We will do our duty in visiting the sick; we will not find fault in word or deed but will be a help to each other and help others to the best of our ability, and will assist the Church with missionary work." These were the opening remarks of the General Circle President Sister Arline Whitton. Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, vice president, read the Bible from Colossians 1:12 and 3:15, and from I Thessalonians.

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held at Greensburg, PA on October 5, 1991. Sisters were present from all over the country. Many were able to attend because the General Church Conference convened at the same time at the World Conference Center. The minutes of the last con-

ference, held at Aliquippa, PA, were read; and the roll call of officers was taken. A communication was read from New York's Bowery. They thank everyone who gave clothes and asked that we continue in this project. The singles' retreat, held jointly with the GMBA, was held on July 26 at Ciotti Manor. We heard reports from: Atlantic Coast, Southeast, India, Michigan-Ontario, Ohio, Pacific Coast, Pennsylvania, and Southwest Circles. All of the Areas are busy working for the Church. Our Card Sender, Sister Pierina DiFalco, sent out 50 cards.

Money was sent to the Memorial Fund in memory of the following: Ruth Ackerman, Rocco Biscotti, Richard Blazer, Dan Casasanta, Jennie Ciarrochi, Victor Ciarolla, Mary Clements, Nancy Conti, Evelyn Crall, Josephine D'Antonio, Mary Dominici, Diana Gula, Carrie Keller, Ruth Kirschner, Angelo Maisano, Louise Micale, Gerta Miller, and Alfred Vernia.

The questions and answers assigned were: "What city will be wiped as a man wipeth a dish and turned upside down?" (II Kings 21:13), and "What signs shall follow those that believe on my name?" (Mormon 9:24 and II Nephi 26:8-9).

Contributions were made to the General Church Treasury for: Africa, India, Italy, Mission Foundation, Media Committee, and to the Indian Mission Funds. A total of \$1555.00 was raised for the church building in Tijuana, Mexico—this project is to continue.

The officers were all re-elected with the exception of the Librarian: Sister Laurie DeSantis was elected. with Sister Sandy Bittinger as her

assistant.

A vote of thanks was given to the sisters who cooked for us.

Sister Judy Coppa gave a brief report on the Day Care Center that was held for the first time during our Conference. Eleven children attended and ten sisters volunteered.

Sister Jan Cornell, chairperson for the Pennsylvania Area, had Scripture reading and sang songs on the question, "How can we have joy in our sorrow?"

She drew the analogy of an airplane trip. Anyone that has ever been in a plane could relate to what she was portraying. The remainder of the meeting was spent in singing and testimonies. The next General Circle Conference will be held in San Diego, California, on April 25, 1992.

## **Branch and Mission News**

## Tse Bonito Branch reaches out

By Ron Brutz

The summer of 1991 was energized in the Tse Bonito, NM Branch with the annual Vacation Bible School and a musical program. The VBS is in its sixth year here at our new building, following previous efforts in the Red Lake Community. The music experience also extends over several summers, and has featured many guest directors, singers, and accomplished musicians.

The level of anticipation always crescendos as the week of these activities approaches. The branch core of participants is always complemented by visiting volunteers, who bring a fresh enthusiasm and excitement to blend with the dedication and hope of those who have served here, some for over eighteen years. We were advised by Presiding Elder Peter Genaro to expect a week of blessings, punctuated by hard work and complete exhaustion.

Sister Chris Mancini facilitated the Vacation Bible School, which served 54 children and youth from the branch and the community. The Theme, "Sonward Ho!", provided an avenue for the exploration of Jesus' love and purpose for our lives as we pursue His will on the

trail of life.

Brother David Majoros conducted the youth and adult choirs, and challenged us to achieve higher levels of musical expression seasoned by the Spirit of God. The theme, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," conveyed a simple yet profound message to the many parents and visitors who gathered on that Friday summer evening to witness their children and the two choirs praise God in song.

A cassette tape of the program is available for a nominal donation; please contact the Tse Bonito Branch for further information.

We pray that everyone located throughout the vineyard of the Lord in every town, city, reservation, and foreign land will be joined by thousands who will sing the

(Continued on Page 8)

#### TSE BONITO continued . . .

words of the program's theme song, which ends with the words, "No turning back, no turning back." That sums up our desire and testimony.

As you pray for an opportunity to expand your service to God with involvement in a mission field—in addition to your own daily endeavors—the Tse Bonito Branch extends an invitation to youth and adults alike to plan ahead for the summer of 1992. Join us in reaching out to the surrounding Navajo community. You will not be disappointed, both in exerting your energy to the limit, and in receiving blessings you cannot contain. May God bless His Church and His Covenant People Israel is our fervent prayer.

## Baptisms at Detroit Branch 2

In the past six months, Detroit Branch 2 has been blessed with the baptisms of two very wonderful young women. Sis. Tonya Parravano was introduced to the Church by her husband, Bro. Andrew, before they were married. Sis. Carolynn Gentile, daughter of Bro. Alex and Sis. Cathy, was born and raised in the Church. Following are their heartfelt testimonies of how God has worked in their lives:

Sis. Tonya Parravano—"Long before Andrew introduced me to the Church, God stirred up a desire in me to search for a church. While I lived in New York, I visited so many churches by myself. I was brought up in the Lutheran church, but even that church never felt comfortable.

"My first impression of The Church of Jesus Christ was that the meeting was really different than I was used to, but the people were incredible. There was something about the Church that really kept me interested. I had such a strong desire to learn about the Church. I read every piece of literature I could find about it. I was actually very surprised one day when I realized how important this church

was to me. I realized that I wasn't here for Andrew; I was here for me. I started to see all of the wonderful ways that God has been a part of my life. I had never been able to see this before. This gave me an even stronger desire for more.

"I think if I tried to sum it up in one word what God has done for me, it would be *desire*. He has given me the desire to learn, the desire to pray, and ultimately the desire to commit the rest of my life to Him.

"I don't know how I could be where I am today without the difference God and the Church have made in my life. I am so thankful for the education I have received. I am so thankful for God allowing Andrew and me to find each other. I have a wonderful husband, a beautiful home, a terrific family, and so many other things.

"I found that it is so easy to take these things for granted. I was given several experiences over the past year, but it wasn't really until Friday, April 5 of this year that I realized what was going on. I was at work and something made me think about the opportunity in front of me. I had an opportunity that would meet my spiritual needs, and I was ignoring it! All at once, everything that had happened to me made sense. I just couldn't ignore it any more. When I made the decision to be baptized, a happiness filled me up that I cannot begin to explain.

"I realize that by being out in Grand Rapids I am a long way from Branch 2. God has given Andrew and me another wonderful blessing, Sis. Eva (Coppa) Cain. Together the three of us study, pray, and support each other. We all feel like we have so much to gain and so much to give by working together. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve God in this way. I am looking forward to the difference that God will continue to make in my life."

Sis. Tonya was baptized on April 7, 1991 by Bro. Dan Parravano and confirmed by Bro. Peter Capone.

Sis. Carolynn Gentile—"I was born and raised in The Church of Jesus Christ and took advantage of a close relationship with God. I had several experiences in the past, and I knew that in the future I would render obedience to the Lord; but so far it had not exactly fit into my plans. I was never able to put it first.

"I had been living on my own for five years and always enjoyed a very fast-paced, crazy lifestyle. I was involved in many things that I thought were important, and my goals were set for an exciting, funfilled life. Unknown to me, God had

a different plan.

"Approximately three months prior to my baptism I became very ill and was unable to work. I began going to the doctors. After several tests, I still had no answers. I would have my good days and bad, but the majority of the time I was home (now at my parents') unable to do much of anything. Over this time I prayed and was anointed several times. Finally some news came from the doctors-it was discouraging. I began to pray fervently for a chance to get better and start my life again. But I also began to look at things in a whole new light. I realized that I had spent much of my adult life striving for things that were so unimportant. When I got sick, these worldly things that I had acquired were taken away from me, but that was okay. I began to realize that I could control many aspects of my life, but I could not control my illness. I really didn't deserve for God to heal me after denying Him my soul. I got a chance to look at my mistakes and correct them before it was too late. I thought about getting baptized. I began to pray that if it was my time that this feeling would grow and not leave me.

"Over the next two weeks, I started to feel a little better, and finally, on September 29, I asked to be baptized. As I write this, I am a new member of only a few days. I do not know what God's plan is for me, but I do know that whether I spend the rest of my life with an illness or whether I get a chance to start over, I have made the first step towards happiness and eternal life. I thank God for the wonderful family and brothers and sisters in the Church who have stuck by me

and were patient with me.

"I encourage all young people who have been raised in the Church but are not yet members to sit back and take a long look at their lives and their reasons for waiting. Put your priorities straight. You never know if you'll get that chance in the future to give your soul to God. Continue to pray for me and all the young people in the Church. I know it won't be easy, but I also know with the prayers and support of the brothers and sisters of this Church anything is possible."

Sis. Carolynn was baptized on September 29, 1991 by Bro. Alex Gentile and confirmed by Bro.

Leonard A. Lovalvo.

## Baptisms at Detroit Inner City

By Becky De Roo

The members of the Detroit Inner City Branch are becoming very familiar with the maze of streets that lead from the Church to our Belle Isle, where we baptize. On Sunday, April 28, 1991, two more names were written in the Lamb's Book of Life, Judith Ann Smarda and Collins Armstrong Hippolyte. That makes a total of fourteen baptisms since 1989. What a blessing! We rejoice in the Lord for touching the hearts of our new brother and sister.

Brother Eugene Amormino baptized Collins, whose face was alive with a radiant smile as he stepped back onto the shore. Brother Flip Palacios brought Judy into the water. She, too, was full of joy when she walked back to the shore. We sang a few verses of *Amazing Grace*, and Bro. Tony Gerace closed in prayer.

Brother Gerace opened the meeting with a sermon on the desire to be baptized. He was followed by Bro. Amormino, who read from the 18th Chapter of Mosiah, explaining how Alma baptized in the wilderness. Our brother emphasized that the hearts and souls of those baptized have been sanctified by the blood of Jesus Christ.

After the brothers called upon the Lord, the Spirit directed Bro.

Gary Champine to lay hands on Brother Collins, and Bro. Eugene Amormino was directed to bestow the Holy Ghost on Sister Judy. After their confirmations, our two new members gave their testimonies. Sister Judy spoke of how the Lord has dramatically changed her life since the Lord allowed Sister Cindy Ciaravino to share the Gospel with her. Brother Collins, who has known of the Church since the days when we met in the Rex Hotel-over ten years ago-expressed his great desire to do the Lord's will. He told the congregation about his great adventure travelling to the U.S. from the West Indies, and how he safely managed to arrive in New York without being deported. He has many things to thank the Lord for, as do we all.

We continue to thank and praise the Lord for His goodness and mercies.

## Ordination in Tampa, FL

By Sharon Staley

Sunday, September 8, 1991 was a very special day for our branch, as we heard our newly-ordained elder, Bro. Isaac J. Smith, open our Sunday service for the first time. Reading from Luke 6:46-48, our brother exhorted us to make certain that our spiritual foundation is solid. He explained how in a natural sense, when a structure is being built, there are certain inspections required after each phase of construction is completed. Until everything is verified to be built correctly according to specifications and code requirements, the work cannot continue. Sometimes revisions or corrective measures are needed.

And so it applies spiritually! It is our responsibility as members of the body of Christ to examine ourselves and re-evaluate our standing with the Lord.

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The previous Sunday, September 1, 1991, we were privileged to witness Bro. Ike's ordination into the ministry as a large gathering of saints and friends from throughout the Southeast District met with us at the North Boulevard Community Center. It was an added joy to have in attendance Bro. Ike's parents, Bro. Isaac and Sis. Bonnie Smith of Lakeside, AZ, and his grandparents, Bro. Joseph and Sis. Vicky Calabrese of Lorain, OH.

Bro. Duane Lowe read the duties of an elder to his son-in-law. Bro. Ike was then set apart by having his feet washed by Apostle Joseph Calabrese, after which he was ordained by Bro. Isaac Smith.

Many experiences were given relative to Bro. Ike's calling. One that was especially touching was related by Bro. Ike himself. Many years ago as a young teenager, he was in attendance at a meeting at the Lorain, Ohio Branch. While bearing his testimony, he expressed a desire to someday be able to work among the Seed of Joseph. At that moment, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation given: "Be patient and I will work with you."

One additional blessing we all received the day of this ordination was in witnessing Bro. Ike administer the Lord's Supper.

Our branch is grateful that God has called our brother to labor for Him, and our love, prayers, respect and support are with him.

## Baptisms at Perry, OH

On August 11th, the Perry Saints were in for a blessing that they had been looking forward to for a long time. The morning service was a good one with Bros. M. Milano and E. Santilli bringing forth the Word of God.

In the afternoon service, six people came forward to be anointed and as Sandy Boerner was asked the reason for prayer, she said: "I want Jesus to take away my sins!" Bro. Santilli asked if she desired to be baptized and she responded that she did. A beautiful spirit prevailed during the anointings.

(Continued on Page 10)

#### PERRY, OH continued . . .

After the meeting was over, Dan Soucy came back upstairs and stated that he would like to be baptized. It seemed like nobody felt like going home as we enjoyed the outpouring of the spirit. It was decided to hold the baptisms the following week so family members could be present.

In the meantime everyone prayed for others because there were those who were struggling. Sure enough, before the week was over, Bobby Smith informed Bro. Santilli that he, too, was ready to turn his life over to Christ. Bobby had asked the Lord if he was ready and God revealed to him in a dream of a promise that was made around a year ago.

Bobby had been watching his young nephew Jeremy and Jeremy suddenly stopped breathing and was turning blue. Bobby began to panic and fortunately fell upon his knees and asked God to restore Jeremy's breath and he would serve Him. When he got upon his feet his nephew was beginning to breathe again.

In the dream, which was about a year after the incident, God allowed Bobby to relive the agonizing experience of his nephew not breathing and of his prayer and promise. When he awoke from the dream he realized that God was still holding him to his promise and he knew what he had to do. What an experience!

## Miami, FL

The first weekend in September brought great joy to us in Miami. Several members from Cape Coral visited our branch for the weekend. The MBA had planned an outing to the Metro Zoo, which we all enjoyed, and then we were honored to have our friends from Cape Coral stay with us overnight. We all got to know our brothers and sisters a little better.

While listening to a cassette tape of an Inidan sister singing Send Hunters and Fishers on the way to church, a brother heard a voice say, "Jesus will be in your midst today."

Brother Milford Eutsey Sr., of Cape Coral, spoke upon the topic of Zion. His words were filled with the Spirit of God as he read from Isaiah 2, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it." In speaking of our hope for Zion, Bro. Milford told of many experiences concerning The Songs of Zion.

Our brother was followed by his son, Bro. Milford Eutsey Jr., who spoke on the same subject. He told of an experience he had back in 1974, when he dreamed about singing a song which he had never sung or heard before. He later asked his mother if the Church had a song book called *The Songs of Zion*. This took place several years before any of the songs were written down.

We had two visitors in church that day, a gentleman and his granddaughter. They requested that a prayer be offered on behalf of the child's mother, who was in a coma. We all knelt in prayer, and poured our hearts out for this woman. During our prayers, a sister had a vision in which she saw an angel go to the bedside of a woman and hold her hand. We hope to hear of a miracle in the future, as God's Spirit was felt in this meeting.

Beautiful testimonies were shared. We gathered to eat lunch together and continued enjoying the fellowship generated by this weekend visit from the Cape Coral saints. It was painful for us to say good-bye to them. Truly we are a family, and we thank God for the beautiful day we shared.

#### beauthur day we shared.

#### GOD'S WORD continued . . .

on the mountain slopes and on the mountaintops. He calls to us, "Come sheep! Taste the grass on the summit!" Sure, it's a bit of an effort. It's a lot easier to hang around with so many others in the lowlands, not far from the river shore; but as we decide to give the extra time and exert a little more

effort, we find that the grass is greener and it is a little sweeter than down near the base of the mountain, where the grass is trampled by so many feet that have covered the same parcel of ground again and again.

It is in making our way toward the mountaintop of God's Word, step by step, line upon line, precept upon precept, that we get a better, a more panoramic view of life. As we ascend the slopes and we learn to read deeply into the Word of God, our perspective on things increasingly approaches the Lord's. It is in God's Word that we can hear His voice and sit at His feet—every day.

Oh, that the people of God would each, individually, covenant with Him to turn to His Word every day-to take time for Himto take time with Him. He is worthy of our time and attention. We manage to find time for everything else! There are certain newspapers we have to read, certain TV programs we have to watch, certain meals we have to eat at certain times of the day, certain hours of each day that have to be devoted to certain aspects of our lives-or we feel that things just don't flow right. Doesn't God deserve the kind of attention and respect (even devotion!) that some of these items of daily routine demand?

As we spend time in God's Word, we will find ourselves falling deeper and deeper in love with Him. We will find ourselves thinking of Him more often throughout the day, pondering what He has said to us, given to us, and done for us. We will begin to think like Him. Our heart will grow to be more and more like His heart.

One writer, E. M. Bounds, wrote, "God's acquaintance is not made hurriedly. He does not bestow His gifts on the casual or hasty comer and goer. To be much alone with God is the secret of knowing Him and of influence with Him."

If we would say, "Lord, I covenant with You to spend more time in Your Word every day. Will You, in turn, give me more joy and peace? If I faithfully read and ponder Your Word each day, will You fill my mind with Your thoughts? Will You begin to gently

shape my heart so that it will be more like Your own?"

His answer to us will be, "Yes."

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

easy to understand. Beyond that, their participation tends to make all operations more efficient and effective. Working in harmony has allowed the Church to grow, and it will allow for further expansion as the Lord directs.

As mentioned, the need for continuing support for all missionaries is most imperative. Additionally, the ability to respond more readily to inquiries about the Gospel from around the world, and to have missionaries visit various nations, should be cultivated. Ironically, discussions on obtaining sufficient funds were conducted at the

General Conference, and the necessity for strong support was analyzed.

General Quorum President Isaac Smith had keynoted at the beginning of the meeting that we must take on the huge workload for the Lord with faith and understanding that He will be with us in all things. Brother Smith emphasized that everything that is done should be undertaken from this perspective. "God will be with us," he said. This, we all agree, is true!

#### CHILDREN'S CORNER continued...

makes us strong in quiet, important ways. Love lasts.

So, next time you think to yourself, "Oh, if I only had this-orthat, I'd be so happy," stop! The Bible tells us, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt (ruin), and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will be your heart also."

That means, don't waste love and longing on the riches of this world. Be rich in love. That's the gift you can take with you. For the holidays, don't just think of presents you can buy—think of those you can "pay for" with love: helping, sharing, and caring for others. Be kind to the kids that other people are mean to. Invite them to church. Be honest and loving. You can start on your heavenly treasure collection today.

With care, Your friend Sister Jan

Memory Power Verses: Matthew 6:19-21 or Matthew 16:28.

## \* WEDDINGS \*

#### MORLE-JONES

Brother Ronald Keith Morle and Sister Kimberly Jones were united in marriage on Saturday, September 21, 1991 in Bell, California.

The wedding ceremony was performed by Bro. Tom Jones, father of the bride, assisted by General Church President Bro. Dominic thomas.

Musical selections were provided by Bro. Bruce Picciuto and Sis. Tracey Francione. It was truly a beautiful day for all those in attendance.

The newlyweds will reside in Atlanta, Georgia. We pray that God will bless them always.

#### SCOLARO-CALABRO

Brother Anthony Jon Scolaro and Sister Linda Jean Calabro were married on September 21, 1991 at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of the Church.

They were pronounced husband and wife by the bride's cousin, Bro. James Huttenberger, after a sermon by Bro. Peter Scolaro, the groom's brother. Vocal selections were offered by Sis. Rosanne Champine, Bro. Larry Champine, and Sis. Marilyn Scolaro. Sister Kathie Perkins played the piano and organ.

The couple are residing in Bloomfield, New Jersey, and request your prayers for God's blessings as they endeavor to serve Him.

#### BOERNER-BUSHNELL

On July 9, 1991, Roy Martin Boerner II and Sandy Sue Bushnell were united together in holy matrimony at the Perry, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Bro. Elmer Santilli performed the ceremony, and Sis. Betty Santilli played various musical selections. May the Lord bless this couple with a long and happy life together.

## Children Blessed

Chase Allen Clements was blessed on April 14, 1991 by Bro. Paul Ciotti at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch.

Bro. Ralph Ciotti blessed his grandson, Ian Michael Lewis, at the McKees Rocks Branch on April 14, 1991.

Aaron Jacob Snyder, son of Jay and Sis. Terry Snyder, was blessed on July 21, 1991 by Bro. Carl Frammolino at the McKees Rocks Branch.

Joshua Tyler Olexa, son of Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Sherry Olexa, was blessed on September 1, 1991, by his grandfather, Bro. J. Fred Olexa, at the Edison, NJ Branch.

On September 8, 1991, Bridget Lee and James Harold Kuhn were blessed by Bro. Elmer Santilli at Perry, Ohio. Bro. Adam Costarella blessed Kimberly

(Continued on Page 12)

#### CHILDREN BLESSED continued . . .

Nicole Salerno, and Bro. Mario Milano blessed Christopher Ryan Salerno on the same day.

Jameer and Megan Irizarry were blessed by Bro. Willy Brown in Freehold, New Jersey on September 15, 1991. On the same day, Bro. Jim Crudup blessed Deaia Brown.

April Marie and Randy Elizabeth Massie were blessed at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch on September 22, 1991. The sisters are foster children of Michael and Sis, Grace Bashaw.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

#### MARY CLEMENTS

Sister Mary Clements of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch passed away on February 22, 1991. She was born August 28, 1918 and was baptized on August 22, 1937.

Brothers John Manes and Bill Colangelo performed the funeral.

Our sister is survived by one brother and one sister, and numerous nieces and nephews. She will be remembered for her deep love for God and for others. The brothers and sisters of the McKees Rocks Branch will sincerely miss her.

#### ALFIA PONTILLO

Sister Alfia (Fina) Pontillo passed from this life on August 15, 1991. She was born in Italy on November 19, 1901, and was baptized on September 13, 1931 by Bro. Carmine Campitelle. She served as a member of

Address C	<u>hange</u>
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Phone	

Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Sam DiFalco.

Our sister is survived by a son, Bro. Jack; a daughter, Sis. Rose Benyola; five grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Sister Fina was a strong and faithful member of the Church, always full of love and encouraging words. She was a beautiful example, and will be remembered by all who knew her.

#### PAUL VITTO

Bro. Paul Vitto passed on to his eternal reward on August 15, 1991. A native of Italy, he was born on January 19, 1917. Our brother was baptized November 26, 1933 by Bro. Giuseppe Gianzante, and was ordained a teacher, an elder, and an evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ. He was a member of Branch 1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Bro. Leonard Lovalvo of Modesto, California conducted the funeral, assisted by Bro. Nick Pietrangelo.

Bro. Paul is survived by his wife, Sister Mary, three children, and two grandchildren, along with two brothers, Brothers Frank and Louis Vitto. Our brother's soft-spoken ways were filled consistently with wisdom and love. He was a tireless worker for the Gospel, and will be deeply missed by all who knew him and looked upon him as a spiritual friend and father. We take comfort in knowing that his soul rests in a better place.

#### JAMES STALEY

James Staley passed from this life after an extended illness on September 9, 1991. He was born on October 21, 1950 to Sister Elizabeth "Suds" and the late Brother Tom Staley Sr. and grew up in Glassport, Pennsylvania.

The funeral service, which took place in Indiana, was performed by Brothers David Nolfi and Paul Palmieri. Sis. Flo LaRosa, Jim's aunt, sang First Love. At the gravesite, Bro. Mitchell Edwards read Psalm 25, a favorite of Jim's, and Bro. Tom Ross closed in prayer.

In addition to his mother, Jim is survived by his wife Vicki, a son and a daughter, three brothers, and a host of family and friends.

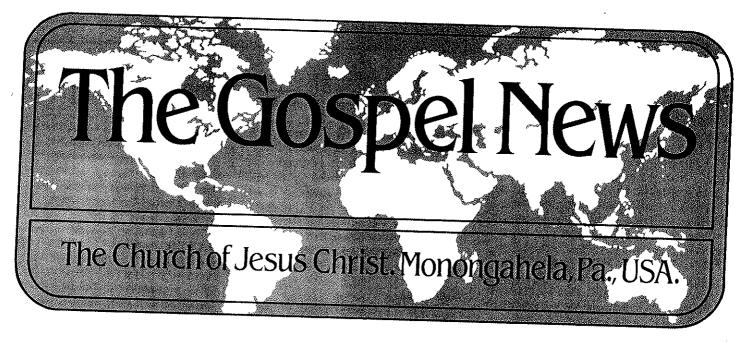
#### BESSIE CHECCHI

Sister Bessie (Griffith) Checchi of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch passed away on September 24, 1991. She was born March 11, 1916 and was baptized into the Church on September 18, 1938.

The funeral was performed by Brothers John Kendall and Matthew Laktash.

Our sister is survived by one daughter, two sons, three sisters, four grandchildren, and many nieces and

nephews.



December, 1991

Volume 47, No. 12

## The Church Established in Palm Harbor, FL

By Scott Griffith

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" Matthew 18:20).

On Sunday, September 15, 1991, a new work was dedicated to the Lord in Palm Harbor, Florida. The brothers and sisters of the Tampa Branch saw the opportunity to spread the Gospel more and agreed upon a "growth break." Thus the beginning of the Palm Harbor Branch.

Bro. John Griffith, our presiding elder, opened our Sunday dedication service by welcoming everyone to the Palm Harbor area. Bro. Eugene Perry led the service by reminding us that we are the temple of God. He related the parable of the Good Samaritan and explained how that a priest, who was supposedly a man of God, passed by a man in need on the side of the road. However, a common man stopped to help this individual. This common man was filled with the love of Christ, and we should also be filled with His love. We should act the role of the Good Samaritan as members of The hurch of Jesus Christ, showing

love and compassion to those in

need. He encouraged us to show

our light in this area, and reminded

us that this Church was established

by divine direction. He encouraged us to be persistent, petition God at all times, and He will perform the work.

Bro. Dennis Moraco followed Bro. Perry, suggesting that we not be weary in doing good! We should seize the opportunity to live the word of God.

Bro. John Griffith told of the growth of the Church throughout the world, and how there are numerous requests for the Restored Gospel. He related the dream that was had some years ago, where the lights of the Gospel were seen lighting up the western coast of Florida.

Bro. John D'Orazio, our district president, reminded us that we have the love of God and encouraged us to give it to the people of this area. He then offered a dedicatory prayer for the Lord to bless this new work in this new part of the vineyard.

After communion was passed, Bro. Griffith related the experience that one of our members, Bro. Sam Risola, Jr., had on his way to our first meeting in Palm Harbor. Looking at the sunset in the clear sky, he saw two suns. A rainbow emerged from one of the suns con-

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#### God's Love

By Louis Ross

I recently experienced my first major surgery and extended stay in a hospital, neither of which were very pleasant, to say the least.

I was not fearful at any time during this trial. My attitude was that I would accept whatever the Lord had planned for me. Emotionally, I was fortified with the many telephone calls, cards, visits, and prayers by my brothers and sisters throughout the Church. I offer my sincere thanks to all of you for your love.

The doctors had informed me that the tumor in my colon was malignant. This prognosis created a time of serious thinking for me. Foremost in my mind was my son, Ryan Gene Ross.

While reflecting about Ryan, I questioned in my mind why the Lord had healed him in 1977, and then called him home in 1987. As I pondered upon these unanswered questions, I began to recall my son's last year with us, and his attitude toward God. Never did he murmur against God; not in public, not in Church, nor in the privacy of his own or his parents' home. He continually gave honor and glory to God through his words and his actions, whether it was at Church

(Continued on Page 2)

## Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On behalf of my wife, Sister Lena Bologna, and myself and family, I want to express our thanks and gratitude to each and every one of you for all your cards, prayers, calls, and visits during her illness. She is still in the hospital and very weak, but with the Grace and Love of our Heavenly Father and all the prayers and love of each of you, we will continue to fight this with her! Thank God she has a very good and dedicated staff of medical people who are right there whenever we need them. These last seven months have been easier to bear just knowing that she is receiving the best attention from people who genuinely care. Praise God for that. Once again thank you all; it means so much to all of us. May God bless and be with each of you always.

Love,

Bro. Joe Bologna Modesto, California

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank each and every one of you for the lovely cards and letters that you sent during my recent illness. Most of all, I want to thank you for your prayers. I also want to thank you for your outpouring of love. I pray that God will bless you and your loved ones and keep you in His loving care. I miss seeing all of you, but we have that hope that one day we'll never have to part from each other. God bless you all.

Your Sister in Christ, Anna Dintino Pape

My new address:

Baldock Health Center Anna Pape Room 225 8850 Barnes Lake Road N. Huntingdon, PA 15642

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The family of Bro. Paul Vitto wish to thank all the brothers and sisters throughout the Church who sent cards, called, and prayed for us during the passing of our beloved husband and father.

Words are always inadequate in expressing the gratitude that we feel towards the saints for their love in this time of sorrow.

We seek your continued prayers for courage to go on. God bless you.

With Love, Sis. Mary Vitto and Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to thank so many of you for writing to me while I adjust to living in Guam. I feel so close to home when I hear from you. The Lord blesses me through every letter I receive. The students I am teaching are wonderful to work with, and the Chamorro people here are very friendly. Continue to remember me in prayer. I feel your prayers as the Lord continues to work with me.

My new address in Guam is:

Sis. Donna and Tim Eskut P.O. Box 21538 GMF, Guam 96921-1538

May God bless you!

Sis. Donna Miller Eskut

#### LOVE continued . . .

functions, in Church services, at work, or in recreation. Ryan taught his own father how life should be lived!

I feel there is a real message behind the healing of my son in 1977, his being called home in 1987, and the healing of my body in 1991:

Ryan was the subject of many prayers and fasts in 1977, and he was healed. For the next nine years and eight months, he continually gave honor and thanks to the Lord. He was the recipient of the same

acts of love in 1987, but he was not healed; he was taken home to be with the Lord. I feel that the exam ple that he showed to all of us was the ministry given to him in his service to the Lord Jesus Christ.

All this brings me to my main point, which came to me in overpowering strength while I was recuperating in the hospital: We are all labeled "terminal" at the time of our birth. God is the Giver of all life, and He allocates a certain amount of time to each and every one of us as He wills. We all face an appointed time to be called home to the Lord. We will all, at some time, pass from this temporal life to our eternal life with the Lord. We all bear witness to the fact that our prayers do not always result in a physical healing. I don't know the reason why, but God does. God has His own plan, and man cannot alter it.

With all the love that was showered on me, I began to see more clearly what God would have us to do in our lives as His saints in The Church of Jesus Christ. As the love mounted, I began to realize that all this love was a miracle in itself. Surely this is what the Lord meant when He said, "Love ye one another as I have loved you." Here I was, witnessing an outpouring of love by my many brothers and sisters toward one person, me!!

My thoughts then turned to the fact that the love of one person, the Lord Jesus Christ, was directed to all mankind, each and every one of us. He wants me not only to return the love that I have received, but to love beyond the point of "repayment" to the limitless bounds of my capabilities through Him!

Surely trials come into our lives. Everyone has them, and some are more serious than others. We must remember that any trial is serious to those who are involved. The miracle of love that I have witnessed is the vehicle that gets each of us through our trials and blots out the feelings of anger and bitterness that destroy our love towards God.

I thank all of my brothers and sisters for their prayers on my behalf. But most of all, I want to

(Continued on Page 10)

## MBA Highlights

## Pennsylvania Area MBA

By Lucetta Scaglione, Editor

The Pennsylvania Area MBA held their semiannual business conference in McKees Rocks on September 27, 1991. They have been busy the past six months and have many activities coming up in the future.

These upcoming activities include another Area Retreat to be held at Antiochian Village in 1992. Brother Larry Ali will be the camp director and Brother Tony Ricci will be his assistant. March 27, 1991 will be our next business conference in Greensburg. The Area officers are looking into the possibility of having a Men's Retreat during February, 1992. The Area's annual icnic will be held on Memorial Day, with the Monongahela local in charge. It was also decided to hold a social activity some time this winter.

The Area MBA is looking into the possibility of chartering a bus for the GMBA Campout in Florida in 1992. A letter will be sent out to the locals regarding these arrangements.

## Pennsylvania Area MBA Retreat: "Fit for the King"

By Lucetta Scaglione, Editor

The Pennsylvania Area MBA gathered at Antiochian Village on the weekend of September 13-15, 1991 for their annual retreat. There were approximately 154 who registered, including 21 children under the age of 6.

We met together on Friday evening for a short orientation. After the opening of the meeting, Brother Richard Lowther read from III Nephi. He said he had been praying for this retreat since he knew he was coming, and he knows the Lord will be with us. If we want Jesus with us, we can have Him just for the asking. Let's wrap our arms around Him and never let Him go.

Area President Brian Smith encouraged us to dismiss all our cares and relax with Jesus Christ, and we would enjoy His blessings this weekend. After this short meeting, everyone enjoyed refreshments, along with fellowship.

After breakfast on Saturday, we gathered for our chapel service. Then we broke up into our age groups for seminars. The subject was "Fit for the King." Everyone seemed to enjoy good discussions, and we learned something about our need to be spiritually fit.

In the afternoon, those who felt physically fit participated in various sports. Others attended a fitness workshop to have their fitness tested. Some passed, while others failed these tests. Of course, there were those who were afraid to be tested, so they stayed away from this area.

Saturday evening brought a large crowd together to hear the word of God, with the attitude of becoming more "Fit for the King." Brother Paul Ciotti, the opening speaker, reminded us that we were at the camp to seek God's Spirit that we might be revived. He read Alma 33:11, where Zenos said the death of Christ will turn God's judgment from us as sinners and give us life. Jesus' Spirit will make us spiritually fit for His kingdom.

Brother Paul Palmieri told us how God's love and the Gospel have had an effect upon our lives. It took Christ to show people how to love and serve God. We must make that covenant with God and keep it in order to be fit for His kingdom.

Brother Brian mentioned the many sick and afflicted throughout the Church. It was a great blessing to have Sister Janice Brown in our midst and know she is doing so well. Brother Pete Gianetti Sr. offered a beautiful prayer for all the afflicted. The remainder of the meeting was spent in testimonies and singing.

Pizza was then brought out, and

the rest of the evening was spent eating, talking, and enjoying the fellowship of the saints.

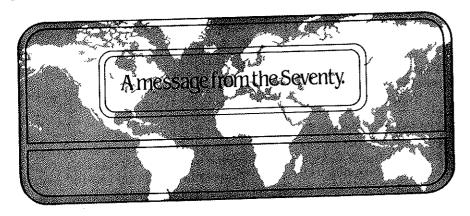
The last meeting of the weekend was Sunday morning. Our opening speaker, Brother Art Gehly, read, "This is the day the Lord has made; Let us rejoice and be glad in it." He stated that we were in attendance because of our desire to serve God and to learn to become "Fit for the King." Brother Art thought about what it is like to be a saint of Latter Days. He read from Ecclesiastes, where we are told there is nothing new under the sun. We are still involved in that endless struggle between good and evil. We must humbly approach God and say, "Here I am, Lord. Take me, mold me, and use me." Then we have the promise that we will be His jewels and through Jesus Christ we will be God's sons and daughters.

Brother Rich Scaglione read where Malachi told the people they were not fit and they were robbing God. But no matter how unfit we might feel, God has a plan by which we can become fit. Brother Rich noticed that some people avoided the fitness tests the day before. Of those who did participate, some were totally fit, while others were only partially fit and needed improvement. Some people work their entire lives to become fit physically, but the Lord made it easy for us to become spiritually fit. Through the word of God, we can attain this fitness. When we appear before the bar of God, we will know if we are fit. We should be able to say, "I am fit and I want my crown."

Brother Dick Lawson asked us, "How much do you give God?" We are in His debt and we must meet the challenge. We must run the race and keep the pace by staying fit. What's in it for us? God will open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings that our cups can't contain.

Brother Brian Smith advised us to examine ourselves and see if we are fit to be in the army of God. Let the mind that is in Jesus Christ be in you.

We sang *The Standard of Liberty*, and Brother Tom Ross closed our retreat with prayer.



## Ohio District Missionary Report

By Wayne R. Martorana, Ohio District DMOC Chairman

(Following is a report from the Ohio District about the missionary activities under its DMOC. Other districts are also reporting periodically so readers can stay current with missionary events and have greater awareness of the work being performed.—Evangelist Editor)

The Ohio District Missions Operating Committee (DMOC) is actively servicing 12 geographical locations in which there are six missions and a combined membership of 100. Each mission has either a resident minister or one who services them regularly. Also, there are other established missions which fall under the responsibility of the district.

We are awed by the vastness of the territory covered by the DMOC. It is approximately 1,000 miles east to west and 800 miles north to south. Each mission is included in the district visitation schedule. Through the fine efforts of the district brothers and sisters, scores of visits are fulfilled for the spiritual welfare of the missions.

In our recent organization in conjunction with the district evangelists, Brother Wayne Martorana was elected chairman, and Brother Vince Gibson was elected vice-chairman. Nine additional active brothers complete the committee.

#### OMAHA, NEBRASKA/BEDFORD, IOWA

The Omaha/Bedford Mission is the westernmost location. It started

in 1969 when one sister gave her testimony to four women trying to fill a spiritual void in their lives. They formed a weekly scripture study group. Within one year, these women were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ and became the "charter members" of Omaha.

Brothers Frank Calabrese and Harry Robinson frequently visited the sisters, organized their efforts, and instructed them about the Gospel.

In 1980, Brother Mitchell Edwards began going to Omaha, and the Matthews family moved to Bedford, Iowa from Monongahela, PA. Bedford is about 100 miles from Ohama. This move resulted in a joint work with both locations.

In 1981, Brother English Webb moved to Omaha, becoming the first resident elder. A year later, Brother Cliff and Sister Valerie Wells relocated to Omaha from California. In 1983, Brother Webb returned to Pennsylvania. Brothers Cliff and Cal Matthews, as ordained teachers, assumed responsibility for the work with direction from the missionary board. In 1985, a home was purchased and converted to a church building. Currently, Brother Wells is the resident elder.

Each July the Mission sponsors a weekend mini-conference, inviting saints from South Bend, Indiana; St. John, Kansas; Independence, Missouri; and other locations for revival, blessings, and fellowship.

Several neighborhood visitors have attended and many outreach efforts to the community have stimulated interest.

Occasionally, Brother Cliff visits and services a group of saints in St Paul, Minnesota.

## SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

In the early 1970's, a sister from the Omaha Mission dreamed that a tree with large branches touched down in several cities. The tree represented the Church and one of the cities was South Bend, Indiana. In 1973, Brother Edwards of Warren, Ohio followed the direction given him and began to frequently visit these members. He was often accompanied by Brother Frank Calabrese and held services at least monthly. Several other elders added their efforts, and from 1973 to 1980 there were several baptisms and visitors, which increased their nucleus.

In 1984 the current church building was purchased, and Brother Edwards is now the resident minister. About 15 members and several visitors attend. Recently the mission has enjoyed a season of blessings, with both baptisms and membership renewals. The mission annually conducts Vacation Bible School and singspirations.

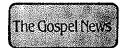
## ELIZABETHTOWN, KENTUCKY

Elizabethtown, initiated during July 1989, is one of our most recent works. Brother Matthew Rogolino, of the Atlantic Coast District, contacted the district brothers concerning the Brother John Hill family living in Elizabethtown and holding scripture studies in their home. The next month, Brothers Elmer Santilli and Mario Milano visited Elizabethtown. There were two baptisms that weekend, which were reported in *The Gospel News*.

On a weekend trip there, visits are made to local neighborhoods and nursing homes. After several such visits, five were baptized, bringing the total membership to nine

Recently Brother John Hill was ordained a teacher and Sister Shirley a deaconess. Since 1990, Brother Gibson, the minister-incharge, has visited monthly to hold services and administer the or-

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## Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Human beings are strongly motivated to work at satisfying their basic needs. We work hard in school, at our jobs, and at home so that we can have the basics, like food and shelter, and enjoy other fruits of our labors. Some of the goals we work toward lie far ahead of us, while others are more immediate. But we're all working to fulfill and satisfy basic needs for ourselves and those who depend on us for survival.

The world we live in also offers things like status, recognition, and fulfillment, which also serve as incentives to work hard and produce for our employers. Over the years, companies have discovered they can increase productivity by appealing to the more sophisticated, self-serving needs of their employees with appropriate rewards.

As we become involved in the Work of the Lord, specifically within His Church, we must realize that Christ set up and taught a completely opposite system of rewards and incentives from that which the world offers. While the benefit of salvation is "paid" from the time we start, the Lord commands us to continually "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" (Matthew 6:20). In our service to God, we work for the eternal, and do not look for the immediate, carnal rewards we receive in other types of work.

One of the most carnally satisfying rewards we can receive, or give, is that of recognition. Like everything else, there is nothing evil about recognition in itself. But it's a strong incentive. Any fund-raising consultant will tell you that if people know their names will be printed or broadcast for donating to a cause, they're more likely to contribute. In modern day art posters, the name of the artist often takes as much space as the picture itself. Recognition appeals to the wrong kind of pride—our ego—and serves to heap honor upon ourselves rather than giving all honor and glory to God.

We all need to be encouraged from time to time. As servants of the Living God, we have an adversary who tries constantly to wear us down and weaken us through discouragement. Children especially need constant affirmation and encouragement as they attempt to develop a healthy, positive sense of who they are in a world of rejection and cruelty. The world, unfortunately, substitutes recognition for encouragement. The Lord says of those who are motivated by recognition, "Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." We must remind ourselves that kind, sincere words of appreciation, quietly spoken by an individual, have far more lasting value than the briefly intense intoxication we might experience from the applause of a crowd.

A continuous appetite for recognition, while fostered and encouraged by the world, will hinder our ability to be used by God. Were we to incorporate the world's system into the Church, we'd begin looking at elected offices as positions worthy of gratitude and praise, and view ordained offices as rungs on a corporate ladder. Our service to God must be ruled by humility and motivated by nothing else than our love for Him and His creation. Yes, we need to feel good about ourselves, but it must be in the context of our relationship with God through His Son Jesus Christ. Let us glory in nothing else but in seeing His name glorified.

## The

## Children's

#### Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

Did you ever think about why our Church people are happier than most of our neighbors? One of the biggest reasons is because we each know that God is in charge, and that brings us peace.

When we go away on a holiday and leave our homes, we don't worry about robbers. We say our prayers, we lock our doors, and we trust in the Lord. Down deep in our hearts we know that even if something did happen to our "things," God would still be there to help us in every way. We have peace.

Peace means that you don't have to fear the future. When we think about scary things like, "What would I do if my mom or dad died?", we have peace. We know that everyone does die eventually, and we say our prayers and trust that the Lord will help us handle the problems of the future just as He helps with today's problems. Jesus taught us, "Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof." That means, it's enough to worry about today's problems. The Lord would never forget us, ever. He will always help us.

Another way we have peace is about money. When we think, "What will we do? Where will we get money for college, or a bigger house, or big new toy?", we can tell ourselves to remember that God's in charge. If we pray and work and depend on the Lord, He will supply whatever we need.

Notice that I did not say whatever we want. Sometimes we humans want and want every pretty new toy or invention; but those aren't "needs." "Needs" are: food, love, housing, health, and spiritual



peace. "Wants" can be anything from a mansion to the latest "in style" jacket or expensive pair of shoes.

Peace means that we can learn to value the things that we have. We do not have to just go and buy and buy everything that television or the kids in school tell us to buy. We know deep in our heart that toys and clothes wear out or get lost or torn. Peace and feeling happy never do.

Peace comes from having faith that God is in charge and that He loves you so much. We get peace from praying and telling the Lord our fears and heartaches. Then we turn the problems over to Jesus to solve, and we trust in Him.

As humans we often make mistakes. Children make mistakes, and so do teenagers and adults. What is important is to be truly sorry and to ask forgiveness from God and the person we have hurt. Then ask God to help you never to make that mistake again. Sometimes we have to fight against our human side. We have to give up feelings like hate, jealousy, gossiping, and the desire to "get even." We have to return good for evil and say good things. We have to show our trust and hope in Jesus.

That means that we say good things about working out troubles, and that we forgive ourselves and others too. We're not stupid or dumb, we're just God's children trying to learn how to show His love and have His peace.

We don't have to worry about nuclear war, because Jesus and God are in charge, not us. Our job is to pray to God in the name of Jesus to tie up old Satan. The other part of our job is to find a way every day to show others the love Jesus has put in us.

Trusting in Jesus will change each of us a little bit each day, until we love more, pray more, trust more, and, best of all, have deep peace in our hearts.

With care, Your Friend Sister Jan

## Our Women Today

## Southeast Area Circle

BUSINESS MEETING AND SEMINAR DAY

We are . . . the Light of the World, the Salt of the Earth, Overcomers!!! This was the focus of discussion at the Southeast Area Circle's annual business meeting and seminar day, hosted by the Hollywood, FL Circle on Saturday, September 21, 1991. What a wonderful day of fellowship we shared!

We used excerpts from the seminar "Do You Know Who You Are?" that was presented by the General Circle in April 1991. Many of our sisters shared testimonies of how they endured setbacks and obstacles in different facets of their lives through faith in the Lord and through the prayers, love, and encouragement of the brothers and sisters.

We explored the spiritual challenges of praising God during trials and difficulties, and of keeping our minds focused on Christ even in our weakest moments as humans. We came to the conclusion that, yes, we can be overcomers!

Our business session was brief but productive. We are in the process of compiling a cookbook of favorite recipes submitted by our sisters.

We extend a very special thank you to the Hollywood sisters for their gracious hospitality. The delicious meal, the fresh-cut flowers and the beautifully decorated table, are all indicative of the warmth and love with which they welcomed us. May God bless all of them for their devotion!

## **Branch and Mission News**

## Blessings in Ft. Pierce, FL

The Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch has been enjoying God's blessings over the past few months. On one particular Sunday, Brother Joe Graziosi opened the meeting by calling the hymn Before Jehovah's Sacred Throne. This song was truly an inspiration for the remainder of the meeting and throughout the day. Our Brother Joe was then inspired to speak on the subject of Unity. After he finished, Bro. Norman Campitelle followed on the same theme.

The meeting was then turned over to testimony. Sister Juanita Rogolino testified that she had prayed the evening before concerning the Gifts of the Spirit, and she told the Lord how she desired to see them in our midst. Brother Anthony Arcuri rose to his feet, overcome with joy, and related a vision that he had just seen that morning. While our opening hymn was being sung, he saw a personage standing on the rostrum with his arms outstretched. Our brother noted that he had tried to see the personage's face, but he was unable.

A tremendous blessing flowed from vessel to vessel upon hearing of this beautiful vision. The gift of tongues was then spoken as the Spirit of God poured out upon us. Sis. Rosalie Campitelle added her testimony of God's manifestation, stating that while this same song (noted earlier) was being sung, she heard more than just our congregation singing. She said that it sounded to her like "a thousand voices singing."

Everyone present agreed that all we experienced this day was beautiful. It is truly a blessing when all can feel the Lord's presence in our midst. Saints and visitors alike left the House of God on the mountain top!

At our fasting and prayer service held on May 11 (called by the General Church), we met together specifically on behalf of the afflicted brothers and sisters throughout the Church. The Lord was certainly

present in our meeting and did truly manifest Himself. The following is a vision that Bro. Ken Hatch had during the prayer meeting:

"As our fasting and prayer meeting was being opened and Bro. Joe Graziosi was praying, I saw Jesus standing on a rock ledge. He was dressed all in white, and He was carrying a physician's bag. He was standing there, weeping, waiting for all the brothers and sisters to finish their prayers."

This vision lifted the spirits of everyone in the branch, as all confirmed that they experienced the feeling of God's presence in our midst that day. Our meeting was closed in a circle of love and prayer.

## Baptism at Lake Worth, FL

The Lake Worth, Florida
Branch began their day on Sunday,
July 21, 1991 with a baptism. Sister
Marie Cursie had requested her
baptism the Sunday before, during
the afternoon testimony meeting.
On this particular morning, all met
at the water, where Sis. Marie was
baptized by Bro. Charles Maddox.
The brothers, sisters, and friends
present then returned to the
branch.

Our building was filled that day, as we were blessed to have visitors from the Quincy and Ft. Pierce Branches present on the occasion of our sister's baptism. Brother Frank Rogolino opened the meeting with an appropriate topic, the Love of God. Brother Mike Radd followed on the same subject, concluding the morning service.

A season of fellowship was enjoyed during the lunch break. The afternoon meeting began with testimonies from the young, along with the more mature brothers and sisters. Our new Sister Marie, in her testimony, told how she has been affiliated with the Church for over 35 years through her family.

We were then treated to a few

musical selections from our visitors from Quincy and Ft. Pierce. It was truly a beautiful day for the saints in Lake Worth as the meeting ended by joining hands in a circle of love.

#### **Detroit Branch 2**

By Loretta Lovalvo

The members and children of Detroit Branch 2 were honored to be the guests of the Aliquippa, PA Branch on the weekend of August 24 & 25, 1991. It was a weekend of traveling, eating, playing, singing, entertaining, preaching, praying, testifying, meeting new friends, renewing old friendships, and just having a wonderful time.

From the moment we got on the bus very early Saturday morning, until we returned Sunday night, the Lord was with us, enabling us to enjoy all the activities planned. We knew the trip was truly a success when, on the way home, each of the young people testified to how much they had enjoyed themselves over the weekend and how God had blessed them in their young lives.

The brothers, sisters, and friends of the Aliquippa Branch were wonderful to us and treated us royally. We thank them for their hospitality and pray that God will bless their branch abundantly.

While we were in Aliquippa, we helped Sis. Rose Milantoni of

#### (Continued on Page 8)



Sis. Rose Milantoni

#### BRANCH 2 continued . . .

Branch 2 celebrate 50 years in the Church. She was presented with a corsage and given the opportunity to express herself.

Sis. Rose was baptized on August 24, 1941 by Bro. Jim Heaps and confirmed by Bro. Dominic Cotellesse, her natural brother. On April 13, 1969 she was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Fred Straccia after Sis. Anna Carlini had washed her feet. Sis. Rose has been a member of Branch 2 for most of these 50 years, except for the years she spent on missionary work with her husband, Bro. Joe Milantoni, and her daughter, Sis. Karen, in Muncey, Ontario; San Carlos, AZ; and Detroit Inner City. Always a hard worker in the Church, Sis. Rose expressed that it was a privilege and a blessing to go on missionary work, and she has benefited and learned by all that she has experienced in the past 50 years. Her desire is to keep working for the Lord in whatever capacity He sees fit for her.

#### Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

On Sunday, September 22, 1991, the manifestation of God's presence and power was remarkable in our meeting. At the onset of the service, a brother of the Seed of Joseph had a desire that we offer a prayer up to God that He would manifest Himself in our midst today. The prayer was offered in both English and Spanish. During the prayers, the brothers asked that not only would Jesus manifest Himself, but the Three Nephites and John the Divine as well. These four never tasted of death and remained in a transformed state upon the earth. They would manifest themselves and do a great work among the House of Israel and the Gentiles, as God would see fit. During the service, a sister of the Seed of Joseph had a vision of five chairs up front with the ministry, and the middle chair was especially brilliant. At first she did not understand the meaning of the vision, but immediately the ministry, under the power of God, said that the middle chair represented the presence of Jesus Christ and the other four represented the presence of the Three Nephites and John the Divine. Our sister, along with everyone else, was overcome with the Spirit of God as we realized the miracle that had occurred.

Bro. Jim Huttenberger of the Dallas, Texas Mission was visiting with us today and preached on the fig tree having buds now and there being bloom on the vine, signifying that we are at the door of the establishment of Zion. The manifestations that occurred today confirmed the truth in the preaching as well as the many testimonies that brought out the desires of many to possess last-day righteousness. We were thankful for this day and for our visitors. The Spirit of God was tremendous from the beginning of the service until the end.

The week before, there were three babies blessed into the Church. As Bro. Willy Brown was blessing the first child, a sister had a vision of God taking the baby up, then giving it back to Bro. Willy. She then saw a hand on the baby's head. Overwhelmed with the Spirit of God, she asked the Lord if what she was seeing was true. Just then, her ten-year-old son, sitting in front of her, turned and said, "Mommy, did you see that hand on the baby's head?" Her son had also had a vision of the hand of the Lord on the baby, confirming her vision. Praise God! There were visions of heavenly lights and gold lights around the other two children as well.

We are thankful for God's love toward us and for showing us His power every time we meet.

## Simi Valley

By Linda Reynolds

In October our branch had a farewell party for Bro. Sal and Sis. Alice Molisani, who are moving to Florida. Our brother and sister have been members of the Valley Branch for many, many years. Bro. Sal is a teacher in the Church, and

his kind words of encouragement will be missed by all. Bro. Sal was usually the first one to church for meetings.

Here in Simi Valley we have been without a church building for over 10 years. Our building is now complete and we are meeting there with much rejoicing. We hope to have a dedication service after the first of the year. We are so thankful for all the hard work all the brothers from other branches have put forth. One day we had a planting party and had brothers and sisters from several branches in California lending a hand. We pray God will continue to bless us in our new building as He has through the years in the building we were renting.

#### Riverside, CA

Sunday, November 4, was a very special spiritual day at the Riverside Mission. Our visitors were Pacific Coast District President, Paul Liberto and his wife, Sis. Orletta, from San Diego; Bro. Tom Liberto and his wife, Sis. Marcia; Bro. Clarence and Sis. Anna Kirkpatrick from Yucaipa, CA, along with Sis. Flo Benyola and her son Jeremy; Sis. Goldie Jones from Bell; and sisters Linda and Cristy Reynolds from Simi Valley.

We began the day with a beautiful baptism, witnessed by about 40 people, of Greg Larmore. Our new brother was baptized by Bro. Ken Jones and confirmed by Bro. Paul Liberto. When Bro. Greg was brought out of the water his two very young sons began to cry. It was a very different kind of a cry and not the normal cry of young children. It was almost as if they knew something wonderful had happened to their father and they wanted to be a part of it. All of us at the water's edge were very touched. Bro. Greg's wife, Sis. Lorraine, is a deaconess at the Riverside Mission.

Many beautiful songs were sung this day. Some by a group of sisters from the Riverside Mission, a duet by Bro. Kirk Kirkpatrick and his wife, Sis. Carol, and Bro. Ken Jones sang I Asked the Lord. We

had requests for prayer, and the reinstatements of two brothers and a sister back into the Church (Brothers Jose Tellez, David Metzger, and Sis. Cheryl LaVella).

At 4:00 in the afternoon we ended our service and the sisters served a beautiful meal. Our hearts were so full of love and joy and we thank the Lord for filling our cups.

## Aliquippa visits Youngstown

By Betty Gennaro

On Sunday, November 3, 1991, the saints of Aliquippa, PA spent the sabbath day with the Youngstown Branch. What a joyful spirit prevailed as we heard Bro. Pete Giannetti, Jr. sing Upon This Rock, Sis. Marty Jumper, Jesus Is Lord to Me, and Sis. Karen Progar, The Storehouse of the Lord.

Bro. Joe Ross opened the service, reading from I John 3:1-11. "What manner of men are we, that we should be called the sons of God." This man should do the will of God. He should be baptized and receive the Holy Ghost. In the upper room only 120 gathered with Jesus. The world didn't know Him. Today the world doesn't know us, but we are still the sons and daughters of God. We shall see God and be judged for our works, to either stand in the paradise of glory or in the depths of hell.

First there is faith, repentance, baptism, and reception of the Holy Ghost. Then we learn to depend on Him for all things, both spiritual and natural. As little children depend on their parents, we should be completely dependent on God. Job proved himself and became a son of God. When we break the laws of God, we suffer for it. He left His throne of glory and came down to be persecuted and suffer death—all because of His love for us.

When you want to become the sons and daughters of God, you will not sin! The Holy Ghost will lead you to all truths. We must make the choice. Baptism only forgives our past sins. It is up to us to sin no more. The seed of God remains in one born of God. If you follow the

teaching of God in all truths, you cannot sin. Some sickness is nigh unto death, but we have a right to call on God for His help if we live in righteousness. The only thing that changes us is when the Lord touches us. Only God can change a man or woman. If we abide in Him, He will bless us. We are a small Church, but we are a powerful Church. The power of God has been given to us through our priesthood. By our love for one another, the world will know us. May God bless you all.

## A Beautiful Experience

By A. Devanandam

"All things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

Our Dear Brothers and Sisters and Friends, we wish to thank each one of you for all your prayers, your love, and concern.

On May 11, 1991, I fell sick. We went up to the hospital in our van for treatment. After the checkup, I became unconscious and fell down. The doctor there urged that I be taken immediately to the General Hospital in Madras, as he had no medicine for this type of serious case.

Within an hour, I was taken to Madras. I was unconscious for the space of two hours, and didn't know where I was.

During this time, I had a vision. The hospital ward was full of light, and three persons appeared to me. They held on to my hand and said, "Fear not; we need your service. We are always with you." Then they disappeared.

Finally, after four doses of the medicine, I regained consciousness and learned where I was from the doctors standing around me. After a thorough checkup, I learned that I had hypertension, along with some complications in my blood and urine. With medication, diet, and exercise, this condition has improved. I followed the doctors' orders and now am feeling much better day by day, praise God.

While I was in the hospital, our Church members held a fast and prayer meeting and prayed with a burden for my miraculous healing. In the middle of the prayer meeting, one of our youth, Bro. Stephen Chandren, had a vision. He said that in his vision he, too, saw three persons standing near me, surrounded by light. They touched my hand, and he saw me arise, stand, and walk. He said that they all looked like angels. All were happy to hear this vision. Praise God. the Lord sent His angels to heal me.

I informed Bro. Joe Calabrese of this beautiful vision. He wrote to me, saying that surely God has honored me to be visited by the Three Nephites. He said it is a very special privilege indeed. He also said that they are still alive, and still with us. They can appear any place, any time, as an angel.

Bro. Stephen's vision also confirmed my experience of the Nephites coming to visit me in the hospital. Thank God for our loving Brother Joe Calabrese, who revealed the hidden truth to us from III Nephi 28th Chapter.

Thank God for the beautiful experience. Thank God for the Book of III Nephi—especially the truth from the 28th Chapter.

Thank God for the Restored Gospel reaching India. Please continue to pray for me and the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ in India. May God continue to bless each of you with His love and His Holy Spirit.

#### PALM HARBOR continued . . .

necting the two together. It was felt that God was pleased with this work. Bro. John also related an experience had during our first fast and prayer service for the blessings of God over this work. The Word of the Lord came forth saying, "Thus saith the Lord, Go in faith and I will be with you. Thus saith the Lord."

We solicit your prayers in our new endeavor for the Lord and invite you to visit us and the Tampa Branch from time to time.

#### LOVE continued . . .

thank the Lord for allowing me to be a witness of this great miracle: The Miracle of Love. May God bless all of you, and may He watch over and protect you from harm's way as He has done for me!

Your Brother in Christ

Louis Ross Aliquippa, Pennsylvania

#### MESSAGE continued . . .

dinances. During 1991 there were five more baptisms and many beautiful experiences.

#### CINCINNATI, OHIO

A sister and her family lived in Cincinnati for 33 years before any work was established. In 1981, Brother Joe Furnari and family moved from Detroit to Cincinnati for employment. Shortly there were two baptisms, and in November 1982 the mission was organized, including a Sunday School. Although the Furnaris returned to Detroit, God provided for the mission. During one district meeting, Brother Paul and Sister Karen Pezzenti of Youngstown, Ohio felt the desire to do missionary work. Their desire was realized in June 1988 by Brother Paul's transfer to his company's headquarters in Cincinnati.

Lately other saints moved there from New Jersey, Georgia, and Indiana. The mission now holds services in a music studio. In addition to Brother Paul as the resident elder, Brothers Randy Ciccati and Jim Miller are ordained teachers.

Both Ladies' Circle and MBA groups were organized this year. In May, there was a special weekend of evangelistic services, which included door-to-door contact, anointing the sick, and hymn singing.

#### COLUMBUS, OHIO

The Columbus Mission was started in 1986. Now there are six members, along with their families. Meetings, including Sunday School, are held regularly in a rented facility. Brother Phil Jackson of Kinsman, Ohio is currently in charge, supported by Brother Fred Olexa. Monthly, the saints from Cincinnati visit the fairly-closeby Columbus Mission for a weekend of fellowship. Periodic outreach efforts in the community met with some limited success. Columbus has been the host location for Thanksgiving dinners for American Indians and other needy persons.

#### KENT, OHIO

Kent is the oldest mission under the DMOC. It was initiated in 1955 by Brother Tony Piccuito, then attending Kent State University and boarding with a couple. Later that year, the couple was baptized, and eight more baptisms followed shortly thereafter.

In 1962, Brother Piccuito moved to California, but several others brothers continued the work. Eventually, Brother Milano was placed in charge, assisted by our late Brother Oliver Lloyd, who moved to Kent in 1967 and assumed responsibility. Although members moved away, God called others to their reward, and the mission membership declined to two. Transferees in through relocation bolstered the mission. Recently, members have been baptized from Akron and the surrounding vicinity.

Brother Milano presides again, and now a "trial-basis" opportunity to meet on the campus of Kent State University is being pursued. The ability to reach 35,000-40,000 students offers immense potential for spreading the Gospel. Please remember this effort in your prayers.

#### WORK AMONG NATIVE AMERICANS

Since the early 1970's, American Indian work in Cleveland, Akron, Youngstown, Columbus, Kilvert, and Corning, Ohio, as well as in western New York, has been ongoing. Brother Gibson was contacted in the early stages by Bob and Mary Hosick, founders of the North American Indian Cultural Center (NAICC), requesting the Church's involvement. The NAICC services all Ohio counties, providing job training and placement, food, clothing, and temporary housing. The Church has provided food and clothing for the needy.

Initially, Brothers Richard Santilli, John Genaro, and Wayne Martorana volunteered for the work. Subsequently, Brother Santilli has focused his efforts to western New York among the Mohawk and Tuscarora Indians. Brother Martorana has served as a NAICC Board of Directors member since 1976. This involvement provided in roads with Mr. Hosick and his family, who supported the Church verbally and periodically attended our services.

The district initiated a publication called *The True Vine Journal* in 1978. It was begun by Brothers Mark and George Kovacic with several contributing editors. With circulation of 1,000, the newsletter offers a means to spread the Gospel to the Native Americans, enabling them to read excerpts of the *Book of Mormon*, concerning God's promises to their lineage.

In conclusion, you can see God has brought our district widespread, significant work. There have been many successes through God's help, but there remains so much to do. We are only saddened by requests that we cannot fulfill because of distance, shortage of laborers, or lack of finances.

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Ford, John and Susan 1924 16th Street Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44223 Tel. 216-928-3788

## \* WEDDINGS \*

#### D'ORAZIO-FIELDS

John A. D'Orazio and Sarah Fields were married on April 5, 1991, by the groom's father, Bro. John D'Orazio. The wedding took place on Singer Island, Florida. The couple will be residing in Miami. May God bless their lives with love and happiness.

#### WILLIAMS-PERSICO

David Williams and Sister Barbara Persico were joined in marriage on June 1, 1991, in Hollywood, Florida.

Bro. Douglas Obradovich officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola, the bride's uncle and aunt, along with their children, Philip and Christina Benyola.

The newlyweds are residing in Coral Springs, Florida. May God fill their life with His blessings and joy.

#### CORNELL-BOTWRIGHT

David F. Cornell and Kelly Renee Botwright were united in marriage on May 10, 1991, at the Imperial, PA Branch.

The service was officiated by Brothers Dick Christman, uncle of the bride, and Bob Buffington. Musical selections were offered by Sister Iva Fedorka and the bride's mother and stepfather, Sis. Nancy and Bro. Carl Frammolino.

May God bless Dave and Kelly with much love and blessings.

#### FORD-HARDMAN

Bro. John J. Ford and Susan J. Hardman were united in holy matrimony on October 19, 1991.

The ceremony was performed by Bro. John B. Ford, father of the groom. Scripture was read by Bro. Paul Ford. Brother Steve Champine and Sister Sandra Ford each sang an inspiring musical selection. Additional music was provided by the Kentland String Ensemble and organist Gordon Brooks.

The newlyweds are residing in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. May God richly bless their new life together.

#### BECKER-LARGE

Brother Todd Michael Becker and Sister Letti Lynn (Pebbles) Large were united in marriage on October 26, 1991, at the Harbison Chapel of Grove City College in Grove City, Pennsylvania.

They were pronounced husband and wife by

Brother Alex Gentile, after a sermon by Brother Douglas Obradovich, the bride's cousin. Vocal selections were offered by Brother Leonard A. and Sister Loretta Lovalvo, with Sister Olivia Parravano accompanying at the piano.

The couple are residing in Ypsilanti, Michigan. May God bless them with a long and happy life together.

## Children Blessed

Kalli Zickafoose, daughter of Tim and Mary Jane (Miller), was blessed by Bro. Jerry Giovannone at the Warren, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Lindsey Morgan Long was blessed by her great uncle, Joseph Calabrese, on March 12, 1991, at Cape Coral, Florida. She is the daughter of Linda Sue and William Daniel Long.

Amber Nicole Farally, daughter of Tom and Bobbie Jo and the great-granddaughter of Sis. Rose Nalevanko, was blessed by Bro. Paul Gehly at the Greensburg, PA Branch on September 8, 1991.

Brother Gerard J. Valenti blessed his grand-daughter, Amanda Jean, at the Levittown, PA Branch on September 29, 1991. She is the daughter of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Patricia Valenti.

Marissa Nicole Zane, daughter of Paul and Sis. Linda, was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. John Manes, on September 29, 1991 at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch.

Thomas Frank Banyacski, son of Bro. Tom and Sis. Linda, was blessed by his great uncle, Bro. Julius Kovacs, on October 20, 1991, at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch.

Bro. James Benyola blessed his granddaughter, Kelly Elizabeth, at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch on October 20, 1991. Kelly is the daughter of Tony James and Kathy Benyola.

Mario Coppa IV was blessed by his uncle, Bro. Tom Banyacski, at the Hopelawn, NJ Branch on October 20, 1991.

Christopher Scott Beam, son of Brian and Shelley Beam, was blessed on October 27, 1991, by Bro. Jesse Carr at the Greensburg, PA Branch.

Elijah James Verstraete, son of Bro. Roy and Sis. Esperanza, was blessed at the Riverside, CA Mission by Bro. Clarence Kirkpatrick on November 4, 1991.

Visions of Zion dance through my head By the Spirit of God the saints are led. It won't be long, we'll be there soon, Jesus will be there, and we'll sing a new tune!

Bro. Scott Culver

# \$AVE A FEW FOR 92 1992 GMBA Campout

June 20-26 \* Leesburg, Florida

## **PAYMENT PLAN**

For more information WRITE or CALL:

David Catalano 194 Jonathon Place Somerset, NJ 08873 (908) 560-0289

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Name _ Address	 		
Phone _	 	 	

## **OBITUARY**

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

#### GRACE DIGRINO

Sis. Grace DiGrino passed to her eternal reward on October 15, 1991, at the age of 87. She was a member of the Monongahela, PA Branch, baptized on August 31, 1960.

Left to mourn her passing are one son, Pete, and daughters, Agathy Dainty and Sister Lucetta Scaglione, as well as 15 grandchildren, and 30 greatgrandchildren. May God bless all who loved our sister with the assurance that she is now at rest in paradise.