

The Gospel News

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

January, 1993

Volume 49, No. 1

A New Year's Message

We would like to wish all of our friends, all over the world, wherever this paper may reach—A Very Happy and Contented New Year.

As you noticed, I did not say “prosperous,” because the Bible teaches us to be content with the food and raiment, wages or whatever things you may have. Prosperity never brought much contentment. It always seems to drive us on and on for more and more. Oh, it's nice to have money and the things that it can buy, but there are some things far more important than those things.

Jesus said, “What doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?” There were rich men in the Bible who had many possessions—Abraham, David, and Solomon, to mention the outstanding ones—but the only time any of them were content was when they were close to God and on their knees before their Maker, submitting themselves to the will of the Father.

Another thing we wish for you is Liberty: To live, to serve, to worship and to be happy. Now I am not speaking of freedom—although we wish that everyone, everywhere were free—but I am talking of Liberty within one's self, between yourself and God.

The word of God states, “Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is Liberty.” It is a wonderful thing to have Liberty with the Lord. It is a blessing in our personal lives and in our relationships toward one another to have the spirit of Liberty: The ability to express our concerns, our hurts, and even our opinions without any fear of being put down or rejected by someone.

Some might use this kind of Liberty to do wrong, but when they come to their senses, it's important for us as saints of the Most High God to always be there to help them find the way back. When they come back recognizing that they have misused the Liberty that God gave them and we accept them in spite of it, they become much stronger in the Faith.

Liberty in the Lord is a beautiful thing to have. Paul says, “Stand fast, therefore, in the Liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.” And again, he says, “For brethren, you have been called unto Liberty, only use not Liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve ye one another.” It is not good for any man or woman, whether minister or lay person, to try to take away our spiritual

Work with Seed of Joseph progressing in Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

Since our first Thursday night bilingual meeting took place, we have seen a great interest from our Spanish friends in learning more about their heritage and Christ's Church. We have had a total of five meetings on Thursday nights and our first meeting on a Sunday afternoon, which was on October 25, 1992.

At our second Thursday meeting, after several selections of Spanish hymns, Brother Michael Radd opened the meeting by reading the 3rd chapter of the Gospel of John, concerning Nicodemus.

Brother Oscar Lopez translated and bore an inspiring testimony. We also enjoyed a time of fellowship and refreshments with our friends.

Our next Thursday meeting was well attended, with a total of 44 enjoying the blessings of God. We all again enjoyed singing praises in Spanish and afterwards, Brother Eugene Perri Jr. opened by reading From Isaiah 1st chapter about making a choice to serve the Lord and how the prophet gave the formula.

(Continued on Page 9)

(Continued on Page 10)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Let us start the year nineteen ninety-three (1993) by considering some "Facts of Life."

Here is one fact of life I know, and this one I will gladly share; no one truly cares how much you know until they know how much you care.

In the 1920's, the first branch in Detroit, later known as Branch 1, was finished and several new converts had been added to that Church on the corner of Devine and Hall. Among these new converts were a couple who had moved to Detroit from Rochester, New York. Frank Rosati and his wife had moved because Detroit had job openings while Rochester had unemployment.

But their stay in Detroit was of short duration. Shortly after moving, Mrs. Rosati became ill. Both met with wonderful, caring saints who took them into their homes and to church. Both husband and wife were baptized, but their happy existence lasted only a short time, since the new Sister Rosati was worsening in health.

Many prayers did not help much; she died, and our new Brother Frank decided to return to his relatives in Rochester. The wonderful, caring members of the Church felt that their love and prayers had not availed much. "We shall never see him any more," they said of Brother Frank.

Brothers Ishmael D'Amico and Joseph Dulisse had moved to Detroit from Glassport, Penn-

sylvania. They were two dedicated ministers of God; however, they felt just like the rest of the congregation, that this was the end of Brother Rosati.

The saints of Detroit did not realize what their caring prayers and love had meant to the Rosati family. Carrying that affliction, and even death, could not erase them from the memories of Brother Frank. He related to his relatives of the kind of loving and caring, and what it had meant to him during the time of his wife's tragic affliction and death. It had made a lasting mark on his life.

To the surprise of Bro. D'Amico, the small congregation in Detroit received a letter from Frank Rosati. In part he wrote, "I have given my testimony to my relatives in Rochester. Some of them want to be baptized. Brother Ishmael, please come."

What a great surprise! How beautiful must have been that joyful news. I am not sure if there were three or five who wanted to join this wonderful, caring, and loving Church of Jesus Christ. Truly, "no one cares how much you know until they know how much you care."

Our God has a way to deal with each of us. Brother Thurman Furrner had moved to Detroit from Pennsylvania with his family. That set Bro. D'Amico free to go to Rochester, NY. My sister, Virginia, and my father's family were baptized in the early 1930's when Bro. D'Amico's family was still living in the Frammolino's upper apartment and Bro. Ishmael was living in Rochester.

A similar experience happened in Detroit with the Cerami family. They had come to Detroit from Colorado, looking for work. They were formerly members of the Pentecostal Church, but upon hearing the love and care and doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ, they too were baptized.

Shortly after losing their job, however, they moved back to Colorado. They also carried with them a new, living testimony to their former church and minister. This pastor, a man by the name of Costa, called on Ishmael D'Amico to come to Colorado, and when he did, the minister and the entire con-

gregation became members of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Costa offered a prayer at our wedding on July 10, 1937. He was visiting Detroit at the time. He seemed a fine man, well-versed in the word of God.

The love and hospitality of the Church at that time could be compared to the New Testament Church.

I thought of these two families, who truly made their mark in the history of the power of love and caring. They may not get into the history books of man, but in the Book of Life they are symbols of glory. Brother Costa told us, "The Cerami family were members of our Church, but when they returned to us, they were like the living stones that Peter wrote of in his first letter, 'You also as living stones, are built upon a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God by Jesus Christ' " (I Peter 2:5).

Loving and caring cannot be overdone. Try it.

A Testimony of Praise

My mother joined the Church in March of 1920. I was nine years old when my family was introduced to the Gospel. My aunt, Maryann DiNinno, came from her house in Glassport, PA to bring the news of The Church of Jesus Christ. When she arrived at our door, my mother cried because they hadn't seen each other in a very long time. I had prepared dinner and the family was seated at the table when my aunt informed us that she did not begin dinner until a prayer was said. She had a beautiful voice and offered a beautiful prayer. My father was so impressed that he asked her where she had learned it. My aunt replied that she had learned to pray at the Church. The Church had been a wonderful influence on her life and her attitude—she recommended that my father join.

Elders from the Church came to visit and my father was even more interested. The elders told my father to kneel down and ask the

(Continued on Page 10)

Our Women Today

Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Circle Conference

By Linda Reynolds

September 19, 1992 was the first time the Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was ever held in the Lindsay, CA Branch. The Lindsay sisters went to a lot of effort to make the weekend very pleasant for all of us.

On Saturday the day began with a continental breakfast served by the brothers of the Lindsay Branch. The brothers in the Pacific Coast Area have been very supportive and helpful to us, and we are all very appreciative of everything they do for us.

We sang one of our beloved *Songs of Zion, Don't Let Anyone Take Your Crown*. Sis. Lucy DeCaro welcomed everyone and thanked them for making the effort to come to the conference, and Sis. Norma Kennedy opened with prayer.

Sis. Bennie Jones from the Riverside Mission gave the devotional on "The Working of God in Our Lives." She read some scripture and explained the importance of keeping God in our lives.

Along with our business and report giving we also discussed to whom we would like to send cards of encouragement. There are many who need prayer for illnesses and some need to be encouraged and to know that we love them.

We had the disbursements of funds, taking all the money that is turned in from locals' fundraisers. We discussed and voted on whom we would like to support financially.

After the morning business, we went to a beautiful nearby park and had a wonderful buffet luncheon. Once again the brothers handled everything for us. Everything was set up and waiting for us when we got there.

In the afternoon we finished up a few items of business and sang some more songs. Sis. Linda Reynolds from the Simi Valley Branch did a seminar on "The

Miracle of Forgiveness." Sis. Cindy Hood was asked to open the Seminar in prayer so that the Lord would open our minds and to be with the sisters who were participating in the Seminar. Sis. Linda asked Sis. Jeanne Frammolino from Modesto, Sis. Valerie Dulisse from Modesto, and Sis. Lydia Cavallaro from Lindsay to relay a personal experience in their lives relating to forgiveness.

In the evening we returned to the church for an Ice Cream Social.

On Sunday we were truly blessed with every word that was spoken and every song that was sung. Bro. Chuck Curry from Tse Bonito, New Mexico, continued on with the theme of Forgiveness, and Bro. Stacy Light from San Diego also spoke on the same subject.

Bro. V. James Loyalvo from Lindsay spoke to us and relayed an experience that he and his brother, Bro. Joe Loyalvo, had had regarding the Ladies' Circle when they were newly ordained into the ministry. It was a wonderful experience and we in the Ladies' Circle were encouraged by his words.

There were many that day who asked to have the elders lay hands upon them. There are many needs in our District, and we ask all to please remember us in your prayers.

Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Meeting

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Uplift Circle meeting was held on November 7, 1992 at Imperial, PA. Sister Jan Cornell, the chairperson, was happy to see all who attended and she commented that she had the opportunity to visit all of the Area circles this past summer. The Glassport circle took charge of the devotions by reading the Scriptures and singing songs on "Communing with God."

All of the officers were present and the reports from Aliquippa, Fredonia, Glassport, Greensburg, Imperial, McKees Rocks, Monongahela, and Vanderbilt were read. There will be a retreat and

Mother-Daughter Banquet some time in 1993. The projects for the coming year are to sell 1993 calendars and flower postcards. The officers that were elected were Linda Ottavian, chairperson; Jan Cornell, secretary; Karen Progar, treasurer; and Dora Rossi as auditor. Carol Monaghan was elected the card sender. Money was sent to the Homestead Mission, Florida and to the Pennsylvania Area Mission Fund.

A delicious potluck lunch was served by the Imperial Circle. All those that attended the meeting went home uplifted and determined to keep busy in the coming year in helping wherever there is a need.

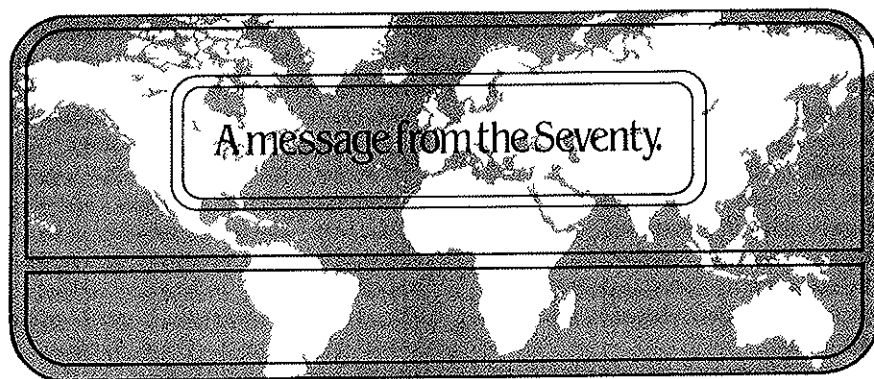
Layettes appreciated

Greetings from the Lakeside, Arizona Ladies' Uplift Circle. We would like to relate to you the gratitude we feel for all those that continue to support our layette program. We have been donating layettes to newborns on the White Mountain Apache Reservation for some 22 years. This project has given us much joy and opportunity to share our love and present information about the Church at the same time. Occasionally we are able to renew acquaintances when delivering layettes to families celebrating another birth.

Some of the many items that we have used over the years include diapers (cloth or disposable), undershirts, receiving blankets, quilts, sweater sets, socks, powder, baby oil, bottles, nipples, crib sets, pajamas, and various other items used in caring for a newborn. Also much appreciated are the monetary donations sent.

Sister Shirley Hemmings has been heading this project for several years with much love and dedication. Her address is Rte. #1, Box 835, Mountain View Drive, Lakeside, AZ 85929. Again, thank you very much for your support, without it our efforts would face conclusion. God bless you for your caring is our prayer.

Sister Bonnie Smith
President



Two More Baptisms in Guatemala

By Frank Ciotti, Chairman, Guatemala AMOC

The Church of Jesus Christ in Guatemala sends the saints in the United States love and deepest appreciation for all the support you have provided. Brother Luis Marroquin, Presiding Elder, and his wife, Sister Darlene, dispatched a special greeting of love and expressed the strength they receive from your prayers and love. Our missionaries to Guatemala have labored very diligently to bring the Restored Gospel to their people.

The Lord truly blessed us on our trip to Guatemala in late November. Among the highlights during our time there were the baptisms of Gustavo Lima Marroquin and his wife, Matilda Isabel (Mati).

They had attended on occasions since 1985; however, a great change occurred in their lives when Brother Ken Staley from Tampa, Florida prayed for them this August. There was a great outpouring of the power of God, and since that time, they have been faithful in coming to all the services and functions of the Church.

In October, Sister Mati was touched by the Spirit of God, and she asked for her baptism. She requested to wait until our arrival to be baptized. On November 16, God gave her a dream in which she was dressed in white ready for her baptism. Her husband appeared unto her also dressed in white, and he asked, "Did you think I'd let you go into the waters by yourself?" On Sunday morning, November 22, her dream was fulfilled. Brother Gustavo spoke the words of her dream and made his decision to serve the Lord.

EARLY SUNDAY MORNING

Everyone gathered early Sunday morning to leave for the baptismal site, located about an hour from the city at a lake called Laguna de los Pinos, where the first baptisms in Guatemala had taken place in 1988. Then a messenger of God was physically seen by Sister Darlene Marroquin, Traci Ciotti Russell (our daughter), the Church's attorney in Guatemala, and her friend. This was an outstanding miracle!

The presence of God was felt strongly. We prayed that the messenger of God would be with them as he was in 1988, and Brother Nuyo Ramirez had a vision of the messenger embracing Brother Gustavo and Sister Mati. When the candidates entered the water, Brother Nuyo saw a vision that the waters became blood and another sister saw a cloud of fire and drops of blood falling into the water. Truly, our new brother and sister were washed in the blood of Christ.

At the church service, as the elders knelt in prayer prior to the laying-on-of-hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, Brother Nuyo saw in a vision that a messenger of God entered the building and said his name was Gabriel and that he was sent from God. The messenger approached Sister Mati with a silver sword, very brilliant, and told her to take hold with all her strength. The messenger then gave Brother Gustavo a pair of marvelous sandals and told him he would have to walk great distances. Truly, the power of

God was felt in the laying-on-of-hands. Our new brother and sister both testified of their desire to work for God and how their lives have been changed.

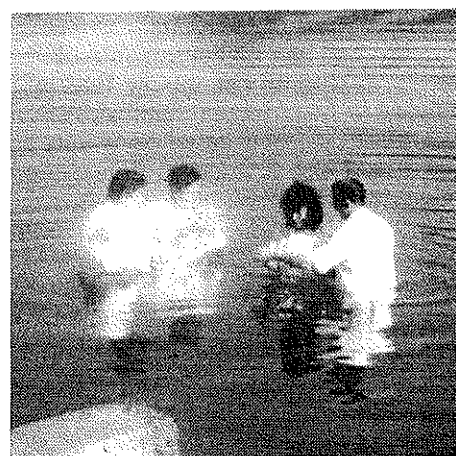
WENT TO MORALES

During this trip, we made a two-day visit to Morales, the Lake Isabel area. God had given Sister Darlene a dream in which she saw three rainbow bridges go from Guatemala City to different areas of Guatemala. She was given to understand the destination of two of them, one of which was the Lake Isabel area.

The brothers had visited there twice before, and during one of the trips, God healed a baby only 15 days old under the anointing of Brother Isidro Dominguez. The doctors had given up on the infant and said there was nothing they could do for him. The baby had to be fed with an eye dropper. After the prayer, the child began to take nourishment from his mother.

That night, God also gave Brother Nuyo a dream in which he saw the baby healed. The next day, when the brothers returned, the child's health had improved, and Brother Isidro had the privilege of blessing the baby. This time, we had the opportunity to see the infant, now about 10 months old. Beautiful and healthy, his mother said he has been well since the prayer.

(Continued on Page 10)



Two are added to the fold in Guatemala.

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Kenneth Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

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

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord" (Isaiah 55:8). One of the great mysteries of God is that no matter how intelligent we may think we are, or how close we believe we are to the Lord's thinking, we are continually amazed by the marvelous ways in which He carries out His will.

As men and women, we sometimes make plans according to the way we *think* the Lord would do things, and then energetically pursue these plans as if the Lord Himself told us to carry out the project. Regardless of how good our intentions might be, we will frustrate our own lives and the lives of others unless the Lord is the true Author of our plans.

As we meet as branches and missions at the beginning of the year to take care of business, we sometimes see our "plans" conflicting. Especially when supporting and carrying out one plan makes it impossible to implement another, we may be tempted to resort to political means to resolve the conflict, rather than putting aside our personal desires and examining whether our pathway is in alignment with God's plan.

In The Church of Jesus Christ, more is lost than gained in a political victory. While the use of shrewd, underhanded tactics may succeed in turning the vote our way, it also has a lasting effect on our relationship with the family of God, our brothers and sisters in Christ. Worldly strategies—regardless of how successful they may appear unto men—undermine the fragile unity of the Church, which is a spiritual force rather than a natural one. When we allow the Lord to lead us—individually and collectively—His Spirit is manifested, and His peace unites our hearts and minds. When all are intent on doing the Lord's will, there is no cause for heated debate.

How do we get to this point? Each of us must open ourselves to the will of God. We must constantly go to Him in prayer and in His Word and ask, "Lord, what would *You* have us to do?" If our desire is truly to be used of God in whatever capacity He sees fit, we will be guided and directed in the right way to go. As willing, submissive servants of God, we will put our own desires aside, and gladly take up the work He has set before us.

All these things have been said before; indeed, we've probably heard it preached to us, or talked about it ourselves in a Sunday School, MBA or Ladies' Circle class. Yet there are times when what *we* want as individuals becomes more important in our minds than what *God* wants. If this is our weakness, we can depend on God's grace to strengthen us. In the meantime, let's put into practice at least once a year—in our business meetings—the love and mutual submission toward one another that we read, pray, sing, and testify of throughout the rest of the year.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



shalt not tempt the Lord thy God."

And when the devil saw the temptation did not work, he left.

Don't forget, the devil knew Jesus was going to teach people a new power—the power of love and forgiveness. And that is the power we have today. So ask Jesus to help you when that old devil makes someone try to hurt you or do hateful things to you. Ask Jesus to help you see past the glittering beauty of all the kingdoms of the world.

(Continued on Page 10)

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that there is a new, dangerous drug out there called ecstasy? Ecstasy means extreme happiness, and it is a false name for a dangerous problem.

Kids are told, "Oh, this won't hurt! It's not a *real* drug, it's a synthetic drug." (One made by chemists—as if that makes any difference.) Liars selling it to make money tell kids, "Just try it. You'll see beautiful colors. You'll really enjoy the music. You'll feel so happy and make new friends."

And some confused kids are buying this drug and hoping it will make them happy or find new feelings of fitting in and being accepted.

But what this drug is really doing is causing some kids to lose their minds. It is causing other kids to forget their families and true friends, and trust dangerous people who really only want their money or body. This all is just another sneaky way that the old devil is working today in people's lives.

You must remember that the devil always tries something new if he thinks he can trick us. He'll take the same old bad ending—like getting sick and lost from drugs or drinking—but give it a new beginning. That's like the ecstasy drug and dance parties where kids are told they'll see beautiful lights. And liars tell them it's harmless.

Now that's the same way the old devil tried to trick our Lord Jesus. It was like this: Jesus knew He had come to earth to teach us about loving and trusting God. Jesus was given all power to raise the dead, to save the dying, to calm the storms.

But Jesus was going to go on the cross and let evil people painfully crucify His body. He let them torture and mock Him; He suffered until He died. Then He came back joyfully to teach us more about heaven, God, and love.

To get ready for this terrible sacrifice, Jesus went alone to the mountains to fast and pray to God. And of course the old devil had to go too, to try and trick Jesus. He tried three times.

Knowing Jesus was starving, He said, "If you're the son of God, turn these stones into bread."

Jesus replied, "It is written that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."

Then the devil took Him to a high mountain and in a moment of time showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. The devil said, "All this power, and the glory of them I will give to you. If you will worship me, it will be yours."

Jesus said to the devil, "Get behind me, Satan: for it is written, thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and Him only shalt thou serve."

Then the devil brought Jesus to Jerusalem to the holy temple and set Him high upon a tower. He challenged Jesus, saying, "If you are the son of God, throw yourself down from here. For it is written (in the scriptures) that 'He (God) shall give His angels charge over thee to keep thee. And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time you could even hurt your foot on a stone.'"

But Jesus never let His pride or temper get in the way. He answered Satan, "It is said, thou

WORD SEARCH

GOD'S
PROMISE
TO
US
IS
FOR
LOVING
YOU
AND
FORGIVING
OUR
SINS
JEALOUSIES
JESUS
GIVES
A
CLEAN
HEART

PEACE
JOY
GENTLENESS
LONG
SUFFERING
AGAINST
SUCH
THERE
IS
NO
LAW
DON'T
BE
TRICKED
LUKE
CHAPTER
FOUR

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

Branch and Mission News

Born Again

By Samuel French

John 3:3 & 7 read, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." On Sunday, August 16, 1992, Marjorie McLaughlin was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in Muncey, Ontario. She had asked for her baptism earlier in the week, on Tuesday, August 11.

She was taken into the waters of regeneration by Bro. Peter H. Capone and received the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Bro. Rodney Dyer, thereby becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We of the Muncey Mission are overjoyed, as were those who traveled here from different branches of the Church to see one of the Seed of Joseph come into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Much of Sister Marjorie's family attended, and our prayers are with them, that God will watch over them and bless them.

We are very thankful that the Lord's Spirit moved upon our sister to make that commitment to join the family of God. Our prayers are for Sis. Marjorie, that the Lord will richly bless and keep her in her daily walk with Christ.

May God richly bless one and all.

Ordinations and Blessings in Warren

By Lorrie Ciarrochi-Prokup

On Sunday, September 14, the Warren, Ohio Branch welcomed many visitors to join in the blessing of Brothers Ron Giovannone and Dan Prokup being ordained deacons. Brothers and sisters from Michigan, Pennsylvania and surrounding Ohio branches joined us in this blessed day.

Sis. Karen Progar, from Aliquippa, began our meeting by sing-

ing *Good Morning, God*. Bro. Richard Thomas of Detroit, Branch #1 opened the meeting, speaking on I Timothy 1:8, of the importance of deacons in our Church. He exhorted on how being called to labor is a holy office. We all have had a divine calling and have been chosen by God to be His servants; we are vessels.

We are like the clay in a potter's hand, to be molded and used, without excuses. The Lord gives us many things and anoints us with gifts. With these gifts we are to work together and labor as one body.

Bro. Richard explained how brothers are not ordained to be "janitors," but their ordination is made so that they can serve the brothers and sisters. When they are in the service of their brothers and sisters, they are in the service of God. They can set the feeling for the service by the way they greet us. Deacons have a special zeal; they welcome us with a smile and open arms. They have the peace and the love of God in them.

Deacons, along with all the saints, have a tremendous work and they need tools for this work. The tools are many—prayer, that when we call on God, we are not strangers to Him and that we are able to move His hand; and sacrifice, yielding our hearts unto God, so that others "see something different" in us, the need to enrich the lives of others. We have tools because we have the Spirit of God demonstrated by the reality of faith in our lives.

Bro. Richard concluded by telling us how we need to prepare for Zion. Pray for the young saints, that God might be with them, that they might help bring forth the mountain of the Lord.

Sis. Marty Jumper, of Aliquippa, then sang *I Am Thine O Lord*.

Bro. Jerry Giovannone followed by reiterating how the apostles found seven servants who were worthy to be ordained deacons. How Stephen was so filled with the Spirit of God, he asked the Lord to

forgive those who slew him.

Being a deacon is an office of honor because God places that office. Deacons give courage and strength, they serve the leaders, teachers, and saints, but most of all they serve God.

The congregation sang *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*, as preparation was made for the washing of feet. Bro. Ron's feet were washed by his uncle, Bro. Frank Giovannone and he was then ordained by his father, Bro. Jerry. Bro. Dan's feet were washed by Bro. Richard Santilli and he was ordained by his father-in-law, Bro. Bob Ciarrochi.

During our testimony meeting, Sis. Kathy Vinsick told of a healing that she received. She has had six surgeries for the same problem and was to have a seventh. She went to the physician's office for the reading of her CT Scan. Upon reading the scan, her doctor told her that there was no hope for her condition. She was anointed the following Sunday. She later had a dream. In her dream she saw a doctor that was to do her surgery. He was dressed in white and he smiled at her. She later returned to her physician and he decided to look at her CT Scan again. Her doctor told her that it was negative and he wouldn't even think of doing surgery. Sis. Kathy expressed her thankfulness to God.

During the closing remarks, Bro. Bob Ciarrochi told of an experience. This was the first time that Bro. Dan's parents had ever been in one of our meetings and we felt that it was good for everyone to be aware of the blessings God so mercifully bestows upon us.

Bro. Dan's father had gone to the bank to cash his monthly check. Upon leaving the bank he dropped the envelope that contained a large sum of money. He did not know this until he got home and was unable to find the envelope. Meanwhile, Sis. Ina Miller, of the Warren Branch, was getting out of her car at the same bank and saw that someone had dropped this money and there were people trying to take it. Sis. Ina told everyone in the parking lot to drop the money because it didn't belong to them.

(Continued on Page 8)

WARREN continued . . .

and that she was going to bring it back into the bank. After Sis. Ina left the bank, Mr. Prokup came into the bank looking for the money. When the teller told him that she had his money, he couldn't believe it!

Bro. Dan's father was telling him this story and commenting on how lucky he was that someone was honest enough to turn in the money without a cent missing.

A couple of weeks later on a Sunday evening at Bro. Bob's home, Sis. Ina was telling us all about how she was at the bank and told her part of the story. Bro. Dan asked her what bank it was, realizing that the story sounded familiar. Sis. Ina confirmed that it was the same bank. Bro. Dan was grateful to be able to tell his parents that the person that found their money belonged to The Church of Jesus Christ. God truly knows how to bless us, and may He bless all of you!

Branch 2 goes camping

By Anthony Gentile

Winter's chill has now arrived and summer is a faded memory for the saints in the Michigan area. The young people of Detroit's Branch #2 have one special weekend to

remember in the summer of '92.

Twenty-five young people from the branch, ranging in age from eight to thirtysomething, all joined together at the Timberland Campground in Dexter, MI. The event was a weekend of camping aimed at enhancing interaction between children and young adults while attempting to bridge the age gap we have in the branch.

The younger kids were assigned older "friends" to make sure that everyone was safe and having fun. We all shared the responsibilities of preparing meals, which were cooked over a fire.

Some activities enjoyed during the daytime included fishing, volleyball, basketball, and going on a hayride given by the camp's friendly owners. Some just took the liberty to relax and enjoy each other's company. At night everyone gathered for snacks around the campfire and played games while fellowshiping with one another.

On Sunday morning, after breakfast, everyone gathered as Bro. Mike Pandone and Bro. Todd Becker spoke about housing the Spirit of God inside ourselves, despite our human imperfections. Bro. Mike made an analogy of a glass of water with scratches and imperfections and noted that as the glass was not perfect, it is still perfect for holding water.

The weekend was a great success given the unusually hot and muggy weather. Leah Steinrock,

age 12, said, "I had a lot of fun. The best part was at night by the campfire." Jody O'Connor, age 24, agreed with Leah and added, "It was nice to spend time with some of the younger kids, because we don't often get the chance. The fact that we all shared chores added to the feeling of group union and friendship."

We all look forward to more upcoming events when we can strengthen the relationships we have with one another through our wonderful Church.

Bronx, New York

Sunday, September 8, 1992 was a special day at the Bronx, New York Branch. We, and visitors from various branches of the Atlantic Coast District gathered to witness the ordination of Sister Alice Suska to the office of deaconess. Brother Jim Link welcomed everyone and told us to prepare ourselves to receive the blessings of God. Brother Philip Arcuri, visiting from the Edison Branch, opened the service with prayer.

Following the singing of the hymn *If That Isn't Love*, Brother Paul Benyola, visiting from Levittown, began his sermon by informing us of the importance of setting our priorities in order. He explained how the Gospel of Christ can change our lives and how, by opening our eyes and unstopping our ears to the voice of the Spirit, we could be led to the kingdom of God. The parable of the sower, found in Luke 8:5-8, was read. Brother Paul encouraged us to be as the good ground upon which the seed fell, who having heard the word, keep it and bring forth fruit with patience. He further explained how by serving God to the best of our abilities, we could be secure in the knowledge that the Spirit of God would motivate and lead us.

The congregation then sang *Bringing in the Sheaves*. Brother Leonard Benyola of Hopelawn followed, speaking on the same theme, stressing that we all have a work to do in bringing the word of God to the world.

The hymn *I Will Serve Thee* was then sung and Brother Dominic



Young people of Detroit Branch 2.

Rose from Brooklyn spoke concerning the wonderful love of God for His people, and the importance of exercising our love to one another.

Brother Jim Link reflected on the wonderful message given by our brethren and in summary, thanked God for the written word that has been given to guide us. He then read the duties of a deaconess, and the hymn, *Take My Life and Let It Be* was sung.

A wonderful spirit was felt as Sister Alice's feet were washed by Sister Lydia Link, and the same spirit continued as the prayer of ordination was offered by Brother Jim Link.

The meeting was then opened to the congregation for testimony. Many expressions of love and joy in our sister's ordination were given, along with a confirming dream and experiences.

The Lord's Supper was then solemnly administered and all experienced the feeling of oneness in the Spirit. Our cups were filled with spiritual food.

After the meeting we gathered to partake of the natural food prepared by the sisters of the Branch. It was truly a blessed day.

Our prayer is that the Lord will richly bless Sister Alice with the gifts of the Spirit, and that He will continue to be by her side as she strives to serve Him.

News from Windsor, Ontario

Wonderful things have been happening in the Windsor Branch. We have not only gained new members through baptism, we also gained Sister Sue Girard (through reinstatement), and Brother Frank and Sister Kay Vitto (through transfers).

There was a wonderful spirit prevailing when Sister Sue requested to be reinstated. The Lord was seen with his arms outstretched.

Windsor has a new face. Through the generosity of many brothers and sisters, we have been able to purchase new padded pews, padded chairs for the pulpit, and new coverings for the windows.

God's house looks beautiful.

Our young people have been blessed with enthusiastic testimonies of the joy of their salvation, the beauty of the Gospel, and the assurance they find to overcome their fears during these troublesome times. Upon returning from Saugeen Reserve in Southamptton, Northern Ontario, Bro. Don Collison was greeted with the wonderful news of his son-in-law's (John Dalimonte) baptism. What a joy we, as parents, feel when we see our children, regardless of age, render obedience to the Gospel of Christ. John was baptized on March 8, 1992. He has a wonderful testimony. His previous three months were physically and mentally troublesome. Through all this, he felt determined to go to church and ask for his baptism. That Sunday the theme was baptism. His heart pounded within him. Bro. Bob Stanek related how he had quit the band that he played in, the night before his baptism. John felt everything was directed towards him. He asked God, "If this is my day, please have someone say something." Brother Rick Lobzun stood up and said that he felt someone was being called. At that point, John stood up and asked to be baptized. Brother Armond Hotte said that he saw in a vision someone all in white walking towards the waters' edge.

How wonderful when we can see the Spirit of God confirm His word from one person to another. It's that sweet still voice that tugs at our hearts, and we know "all is well with our soul."

Pray for all our young people. They have so much to contend with.

Detroit, Branch 3

By Frances Cece

Brother Spencer Everett of the Sterling Heights Branch was visiting Branch #3 on July 12, 1992. He spoke very well about how we are all God's *creation* and yet we are not all God's *children*. He talked about how we must have God's Spirit in order to have faith. God made laws so that things would

work for each of us, not against us. With the Spirit of God in us we will not question these laws, but we will follow them, knowing that God has our best interest in mind. When hands were laid on us, we each received the Holy Spirit, and now God lives within us. All we need to do is remember this and then walk in the Spirit and follow the Scriptures, then we will have nothing to fear. Our life's problems are simple, if we trust in God. He that is in us is GREAT!

There was a great season of testimony and the Spirit of God was alive in our midst. Sister Mary Coppa said that she saw a personage on the rostrum behind Brother Spencer. Sister Ida Napolitano saw a personage standing off to the side of the rostrum. He held an open book in His hands and appeared to be reading it. Brother Ken Brown was anointed by Brother Joe Furnari and exclaimed of God's goodness, as he was healed immediately. Praise God Almighty! It is wonderful to see God's blessing and presence. We pray that God will spread that goodness to all the branches and missions throughout His Church.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Biscotti, Angeline M.
Tel. (216) 526-2722

Locci, Andrea, Teresa & Eleonora
Tel. (716) 381-2188

Parravano, Andrew & Tonya
1406 W. Foster #3
Chicago, IL 60640
Tel. (312) 275-5464

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE continued

Liberty by placing us again under the bondage of men's laws. As Paul was teaching the Galatian Church, "to be free from the laws, so walk in that Spirit and you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh."

So, be content and have the Liberty of the Spirit, and your New Year will be blessed.

In the love of the Lord,
Brother Rusty Heaps

LAKE WORTH, FL continued . . .

Brother Oscar Lopez was again our translator and followed our Brother Gene very carefully. Brother Eugene put a call out and an invitation to all of our friends to come and work in the vineyard of the Lord. The meeting was then opened to our friends to bear their testimony. Our friend Olivio gave a very beautiful testimony and a miraculous experience of how the Lord healed him. At the third meeting Olivio was anointed by the priesthood because of an eye problem the doctors said would require surgery to correct. Olivio went back to the doctor and after an examination the doctor told Olivio that there was no need for an operation and no problem with his eyes. Oh, how wonderful our dear Lord is, and because of Olivio's faith and the faith of our brother elders, our friend was healed of his affliction and all of our friends and members were witnesses to God's miraculous touch. Many asked for prayer at the close of the meeting and we all rejoiced in seeing the Lord's wonders performed.

We continue seeing an increase in attendance and interest from our new friends and as many as can, come to encourage and share in the blessings the Lord has in store.

Our first Thursday meeting in October was opened by singing *En La Viña Del Señor (In the Vineyard of the Lord)* and continued by singing *Ven Si Tienes Sed (Come All Ye That Thirst)*. We then learned some new Spanish songs that were from Santa Ana, CA and Mexico. Brother Oscar Lopez explained the meaning of the new songs. Brother Michael Radd read from Luke chapter 4 and exhorted us on why Christ came into this world. He came for the sinners, poor, sick, and the troubled in spirit.

Brother Oscar then spoke and expressed himself in Spanish, and we all enjoyed a most peaceful spirit.

Finally at our first Sunday afternoon Spanish meeting, our Brother Gene Perri spoke with great persuasive authority and power in again putting out the call to our friends to follow Christ and be baptized. Brother Gene read

from Philippians 3rd chapter concerning the conversion of the Apostle Paul. Next Brother Oscar expressed himself, explaining that Jesus is the Bread of Life and you must follow Him and His Church when Jesus knocks at your heart. At this time many were invited to come up and have hands laid on and also anointed for sickness. At the end of the anointings a little baby girl, Karina Franco, was blessed of the Lord. Brother John D'Orazio asked the Lord's blessing.

Our friend Guadeloupe wanted to come up to the front to say something and as Brother Oscar interpreted, our friend said that the Spirit of the Lord touched him that night and he asked for his baptism. At the close of our meeting, our friend Olivio, who had been healed of the Lord, also made his wishes known that he wished to join the Family of God. How we all rejoiced and were thankful to God for this miracle!

We so much enjoy our new friends and know that the Lord is richly blessing us in this wonderful work. We ask for everyone's prayers that the Lord would continue to be with us and guide us along the road to salvation and sharing this jewel with others.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Morales is where Sister Mati's parents live. Her father is 82 years old, but he has a great testimony of a life change about 32 years ago. There are a number of people who truly love the Lord but are not affiliated with any church.

Sister Mati's father has been instrumental in inviting the Church to his home and in bringing people to the meeting. A service was held Friday evening, and 15-20 people attended. One woman testified she had placed herself back in line with God after Brother Luis and I prayed for her earlier that day.

William Stedding from the Tampa Branch also made the trip to Guatemala, and he has been very helpful in the work.

CHILDREN'S CORNER continued...

Don't be afraid to tell the devil to get behind you. Keep your eyes on the beautiful and peaceful kingdom of God. That's the peace that will never go away. Call upon Jesus; say His name in your mind and heart. Sing a hymn praising Jesus and our worshipful God.

Remember who loves you truly, and who are all the caring people God has put in your life. Our feelings do pass. They really go fast if we give them to Jesus. And that's the true happiness, the true ecstasy—the joy and peace of the Lord.

With love and care,
Sister Jan

PRAISE continued . . .

Lord for guidance. After we had all gone to bed that night, he knelt in the kitchen and prayed. With his eyes open, he saw two hairy hands making a pile of silver dollars and remembered the biblical passage, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and give to God what belongs to God."

The next Sunday, my father piled five children and my mother into the sidecar of his motorcycle and drove us to The Church of Jesus Christ. My father loved the Church and the people and soon after both he and my mother were baptized. My brothers and sisters and I grew up in the church.

After Raymond and I were married and our son, Joseph, was born, we were baptized in the Church. I was 20 years old. The Lord has been good to me and my family, and Raymond and I have had some wonderful experiences in the Church.

I broke my hip in Florida on March 20, 1992. I was alone in the dark and I crawled on my back, using my good leg, to the kitchen. Once in the kitchen, I got the phone and found something with which I could hit the light switch to turn it on. However, even with the light on

I could not read the numbers on the phone to call my brother-in-law, Jack Constantine. I then crawled over to the refrigerator, and from the light inside the refrigerator I was able to call for help. Brother Jack rushed over, broke the chain on the door and called 9-1-1. Both an ambulance and a fire truck came and they praised me for my intelligence in using the refrigerator for a light. The Lord inspired me to help myself at a time when I could

have died. After the first night, I knew that my health and strength would come back. The nurses in the hospital were wonderful. One night when I was in horrible pain, a nurse came to me in the middle of the night and prayed with me. My hospital stay lasted until April 14.

My son, Joseph Cosetti of Pittsburgh, PA, my daughter Elizabeth Fesler of Akron, and my granddaughter, Kim Bruns and my great grandson Christopher Bruns, also of

Akron, came to be with me in Florida.

I am grateful to all the brothers and sisters for their cards, flowers, and their prayers. The Lord has been good to me and my family. As a member of the Church for 63 years, I am grateful for all the help and the love I have received. I was able to go to the McKees Rocks Branch on June 27.

Sister Mary Cosetti

* WEDDINGS *

DiFEDE--KEMP

Brother Jerry DiFede Jr. and Sister Heather Kemp were united in marriage on August 8, 1992 at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Doug Obradovich officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Michael DiFede, Amy Jones, and Richie Benyola. The couple is residing in West Palm Beach, Florida.

The day of our brother's and sister's wedding was enjoyed by family and friends from far and near. May the Lord's blessings always accompany them in their life together.

HUTTENBERGER--ROSS

On October 24, 1992, Sister Suzette Ross and Brother Carl Huttenberger II were united in marriage at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Jim Huttenberger, the groom's brother, along with Bro. Thomas Ross, the bride's grandfather, officiated at the ceremony. As special vows were exchanged and a poem was read by the groom, all in attendance were touched by the presence of God's Spirit.

Sisters Tracey Francione and Janice Huttenberger provided musical selections, both at the ceremony and the reception.

The couple attend the Freehold, NJ Branch and are residing in Dayton, NJ. May the Lord continue to guide them in fulfilling their commitment to Him and to each other.

RICCI--GOLDEN

Brother Anthony S. Ricci and Joyce M. Golden were joined in matrimony on October 24, 1992 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of

Jesus Christ.

The ceremony was conducted by Bro. Paul Ciotti. Musical selections were presented by Sis. Nina DiCenzo.

The newlyweds are residing in Wexford, PA. May God's richest blessings accompany them in their new life together.

PANDONE--MILANTONI

On November 27, 1992, Brother Michael Anthony Pandone and Sister Karen Jo Milantoni were joined in holy matrimony amongst a large congregation of family and friends at Detroit Branch 2 in Allen Park, Michigan.

Brother Doug Obradovich delivered the sermon and Brother Don Pandone, the groom's father, married them. Brother Dominic Thomas offered a special prayer on behalf of the couple. Sister Loretta Lovalvo and Brother Steve Champine sang, accompanied by Brother Eugene Amormino.

The newlyweds will be residing in Allen Park and attending Detroit Branch 2. May God bless them both in this new beginning.

Children Blessed

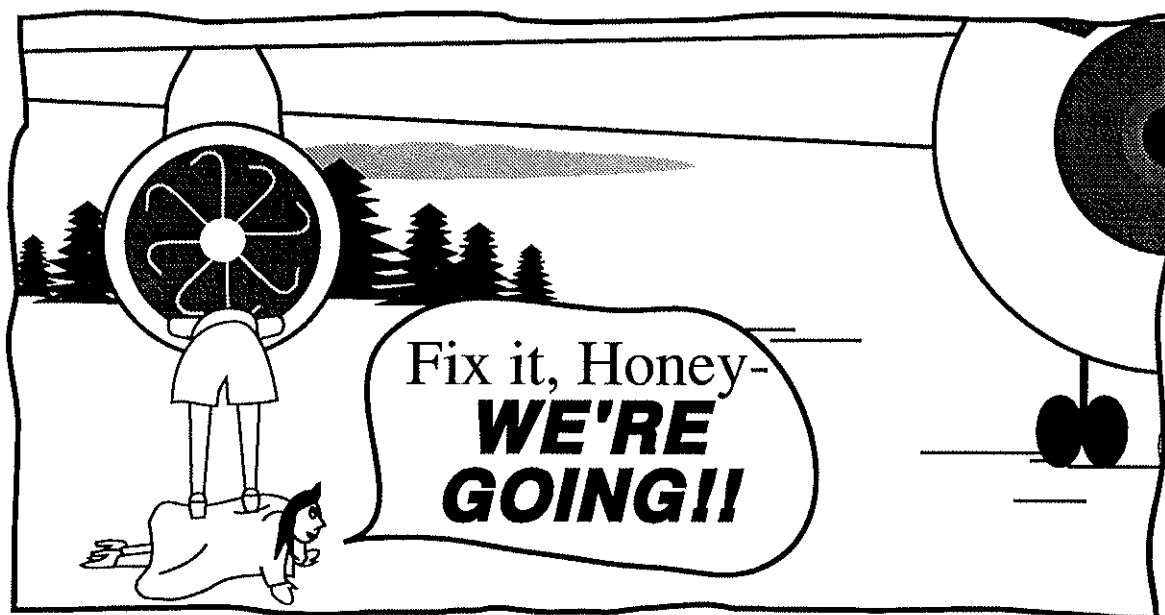
On May 17, 1992, Bro. Nicholas Pietrangelo blessed Chiara Liset Castillo at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Ashley Latifah Tyler was blessed on November 22, 1992, by Bro. Jim Crudup at the Freehold, NJ Branch.

On December 13, 1992, Jared Paul Calabro, son of Bro. Gary and Sis. Maureen Calabro, was blessed in the Freehold, NJ Branch by Bro. Jim Huttenberger.

Bro. John D'Orazio blessed Priscilla and Nicolino LeSeur on October 21, 1992 in Lake Worth, Florida.

On October 25, 1992, Karina Franco was blessed by Bro. John D'Orazio in Lake Worth, Florida.



Marriage Enrichment/ Singles' Weekend Retreat

March 5-7 at Salt Fork, Cambridge, Ohio

SPONSORED BY GMBA AND GENERAL LADIES' UPLIFT CIRCLE

OBITUARIES

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

BETTY BUFFINGTON

Sister Betty Buffington of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch passed away on September 26, 1992.

Bro. Dan Buffington conducted the funeral service as we gathered to say good-bye to our sister.

She is survived by her husband, Bro. Herb Buffington, and two children, Roger and Billy Kay. May the Lord continue to comfort them.

CHIARA GENTILE

On October 5, 1992, Sister Chiara Gentile passed on to her eternal reward. Known as Nona (Grandma) to most, Sis. Chiara was born in Italy in 1901. She married her husband, Antonio Gentile, in January of 1922. After the birth of their first child, Pat, Bro. Antonio came to the United States, where he worked

hard to bring the rest of his family here. It was then that he was introduced to The Church of Jesus Christ. After a trip home to visit his wife, their second son Dewey was born.

Nine years after his first trip to the USA, Chiara and her two sons joined him here. He introduced her to the Church; he had already been baptized. At first Chiara was very unhappy that he had left the religion of his birth, but she soon saw that she was wrong. She was baptized in 1935 as a member of Detroit Branch 2 and at the time was carrying her third son, Alex. Her daughter Maria and son Peter were soon to follow.

Sister Chiara promised God at the time of her baptism to do her best to serve Him until the end, and she fulfilled that promise. She was a woman of unwavering faith, never afraid to testify of her love for God. Sis. Chiara had a gift of dreams from the Lord. She was often able to help or comfort the brothers and sisters of her branch with the experiences and dreams the Lord gave her.

Our sister is survived by her sons, Dewey, Alex, and Peter; and her daughter Maria. She has 18 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren.

She is greatly missed by her family and by the brothers and sisters at Branch 2. She was a wonderful example to us all.

The Gospel News

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

February, 1993

Volume 49, No. 2

Modesto, CA

By Valerie Dulisse

July 27, 1992 was a very special day at the Modesto, CA Branch with the visits of our Brother Louis Vitto from Michigan, Brother Joe Ciarolla from the Riverbank, CA Mission, and Brother Tony Picciuto from Lindsay, CA.

In his opening message, Bro. Louis Vitto remarked how he loved seeing the faces of the saints glowing in singing praises to the Lord. He reminded us that we should not hold back in raising our voices; God is worthy to be praised, most of all for the supreme sacrifice of His Son's life for the entire world. Because of this sacrifice, when one comes to Christ, sin will not have any dominion upon him or her again. But no man can serve two masters; it is a matter of choice.

Brother Louis commented on his life before accepting Christ. Before he made his commitment, he feared he would be criticized if he left the wide path leading to destruction in order to get on the straight and narrow path with the Lord. He had been concerned that it would change his life too completely; therefore, he delayed making a choice for the Lord, and in the delay, he *was* actually making a choice. He encouraged us to choose the life of a servant of God.

The time is drawing nigh when the Lord will return. The Church needs a revival. We, not the world, need a revival in order to bring souls to Christ. Because of the Spirit and Power of God we should be carrying, we have the ability to keep evil from entering our Church and taking hold. And the promises of God are that those who are righteous will be spared of the destruction which is to come.

If there were to be a real breakthrough of a revival with the Church, a tremendous outpouring of the Spirit of the Lord would prevail. How does a revival start? It starts within each one of us. The spirit of unity and love which came within the group of disciples on the day of Pentecost was followed by gifts of the Spirit, healing, and speaking in tongues.

Brother Lou told us of his experience; he saw brothers and sisters with needs; then God spoke to him, saying, "If you will praise Me and lift Me up, I will answer your prayers." Bro. Lou then saw the ceiling of the church open up and God's power come down to heal the sick. Then the doors of the church opened and all of the children of the saints filed in and came to Christ.

The promises of God are real and true. Do we become complacent or satisfied in our lives and ways? We should rid ourselves of this feeling in our hearts. The world needs

a friend like Jesus. Have we told someone about the Lord Jesus Christ? We need to discover if God is satisfied in what we are doing. A still church is like still water—it's the first thing to freeze. Nothing is too great for God to accomplish. Bro. Lou also recounted some past healings which had taken place upon immersion in the waters of baptism. What greater healing is there, however, than the healing of the soul?

Bro. Joe Ciarolla continued on the theme of our inability to serve both God and Mammon. God must come first in our lives, in spite of any natural concerns. He questioned, "How can we get closer to God and feel His presence in our lives?" The answer is to remove malice, pride and selfish ambition from our hearts and focus on Christ. The Apostle Paul was not ashamed to preach the Gospel, because he had contact with God daily. We need to have a closeness with Christ, and the world needs to see that. They will ask us what is different about us if they see the love of Christ in us. Brother Joe told us of the way God had healed him of a terrible back affliction, and how He had spared our brother's life during an accidental gunshot incident. If God comes first in your life, He will surround you with His Spirit. If you are filled with God's

(Continued on Page 6)

Branch and Mission News

Ordination in Palm Harbor, FL

By Scott Griffith

On September 27, 1992, the Palm Harbor Branch was blessed in experiencing our first ordination, the ordination of Sis. Alyse Genaro to the office of deaconess.

Bro. Jim Speck opened our meeting by discussing the helpfulness of women in the Bible. He focused mainly on Phoebe, in Romans 16. Bro. Jim explained to us the respect that the Apostle Paul had for the work that this woman had done for the Church and had explained to us that this is one portion of scripture in which we, The Church of Jesus Christ, base our belief in the office of deaconess. Bro. Sam Risola Sr. then followed Bro. Jim with the duties of a deaconess.

After the duties were read, our presiding elder, Bro. John Griffith, related to us the experiences that confirmed the calling of our sister. For one month prior, our branch priesthood had been prayerfully seeking help in the branch. During a recent Sunday service as communion was being passed, our brother was inspired with these words while offering the communion to Sister Alyse: **"Thus saith the Lord, strengthen thyself, I have a work for you, thus saith the Lord."** The following Sunday, as our sister finished playing the opening hymn, the word of the Lord came forth saying **"Thus saith the Lord, I call you to my service, I call you to serve, I call you to my service, thus saith the Lord."** When our brother spoke in the Spirit, as the first segment of the statement was said, his hands were raised straight up in the air. As he stated the next segment, "... I call you to serve ...", his hands stretched towards Sis. Alyse sitting in the front at the piano. Later in the meeting, Bro. John had stated how when he spoke in the Spirit he had at first felt a calling for all of those unbaptized, and then felt a drawing

force to our sister and a specific calling for her. All who witnessed this manifestation felt the Spirit of God present with us.

After these experiences were related, Sis. Carolyn Griffith washed Sis. Alyse's feet. A prayer before the ordination was offered by Bro. John, and Sis. Alyse was ordained by Bro. Jim Speck. We were then able to witness our sister set the Lord's Table for the first time.

Brothers and sisters, it is amazing and wonderful to see the arm of God moving in our midst. We know that where two or three are gathered, the Lord will be in the midst of them. We continue to pray for all of you and solicit your prayers as well.

McKees Rocks' News

By Carol Monaghan

On October 18, 1992 we started our Sabbath day as always, with Sunday School. As we prepared to go into our morning service we were privileged to have visiting from Anaheim, CA, Sister Nancy Ciotti and from Niles, OH, Brother Ron Genaro and family. As we looked upon their faces, we were reminded of the blessings we shared the last time we met together in God's house. We looked forward to our day anticipating what the Lord had in store for us, and surely we were not disappointed as our cups were filled to overflowing with His Spirit. Brother Ron unfolded the theme for the day from Philippians 4:19. "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Brother Ron made a comparison as to how the world seeks to meet their needs and how we should look to the Lord for all our needs. He opened our spiritual minds to how the world defines their identity by attractiveness, intellect, material possession, a higher education ... but our true identity in the Lord is

simply that we are the sons and daughters of the Most High God. He brought forth many more comparisons, such as the world's love being conditional, based on performance, or "what can you do for me?" It is not a lasting love, but the Lord's love is unconditional. There are no regulations. He loves us now, right where we are.

After a time of fellowship we continued with our afternoon service. The Ministry asked for those who needed prayer to come forward. Sister Cathy Genaro expressed that she had been having headaches for some time and she wanted the Lord to simply take away the headache. As Brother Paul Ciotti prayed for her, he spoke in the gift of tongues and Brother Dennis Ricci immediately received the interpretation, "Believest thou art healed in the name of the Lord and thou shalt be healed forever." We thank God once again for the manifestation of His Holy Spirit and for His goodness and mercy toward us, His children. We had the opportunity to talk to Sister Cathy on Sunday at our GMBA Conference and ask how she was. She exclaimed that she hasn't had a headache since she was anointed. We truly praise God for His unfailing love.

A new sister in New Orleans, Louisiana

"And none were received unto baptism save they took upon them the name of Christ, having a determination to serve Him to the end" (Moroni 6:3).

As those words were being read, a young woman was reflecting on her desire to serve the Lord. When given a chance to testify, she boldly stated her wish to be baptized and become new in Christ.

Sister Laurie Brand began her lifelong journey by being immersed in Lake Pontchartrain by Bro. George Kovacic of the Miami, FL Branch.

Bro. George was visiting the saints in the New Orleans area and received a great blessing not only

(Continued on Page 9)

MBA Highlights

PA Area Campout

JESUS, MY WONDERFUL FRIEND

"This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his Lord doeth; but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you" (John 15:12-15).

The PA Area MBA held their annual retreat at Antiochian Village, September 18th to 20th. Those who arrived on Friday evening met for a brief orientation meeting. The remainder of the evening was spent in fellowship.

Saturday morning at chapel, Bro. Bill Colangelo opened by reading John 1:12, "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believed on His name." Bro. Bill stated that God gave us His Spirit to help us become better saints. He gave us a vision if we prove faithful. Let God infiltrate our lives that we might become His sons and daughters, filled with His Power.

The seminar theme for the day was *Jesus, My Wonderful Friend*. There were classes for everyone from the youngest to the oldest. We all enjoyed discussing how great it is to have Jesus as our friend. We also analyzed the friendships of several people in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Love, sympathy, interest, loyalty, sacrifice and likemindedness were some of the qualities of a true friend.

In the afternoon everyone was involved in a variety of activities. The young, along with those who were a little older and had the energy, participated in sports. The little children made crafts, played games and, best of all, broke a piñata filled with candy. The sisters made beautiful baskets in their craft class.

Area President, Bro. Brian Smith, welcomed a large crowd to our Saturday evening meeting. After the meeting was opened with prayer, the children presented a short program.

Bro. Paul Aaron Palmieri addressed the congregation, asking, "Are you a friend of Jesus? If so, What kind of friend are you? How can you become a better friend? Can others tell you are Jesus' friend?" Bro. Paul told how Peter and John were friends of Jesus. When they told the man, "Silver and gold have we none, but such as we have, arise and walk," they displayed the power of God because they were His friends. They had been with Jesus and it showed. Bro. Palmieri said he wanted no other title after his name but, "Friend of God." Sometimes those we think are our friends are not, but Jesus is always our friend no matter what comes our way. There is a reward in being Jesus' friend. We reap blessings both natural and spiritual. He closed by saying, "It's good to be among friends tonight."

Bro. Lou Ross requested that we all close our eyes and go back to the day of our baptism and ask ourselves, "Are we still a friend of Jesus?" Bro. Lou reminded us that in our seminars we heard that Jesus is our BEST friend. We can be friends but we are not always BEST friends. We must have love to be friends.

The meeting was left open for testimonies. Many praised God and told how He is their BEST friend. Seven adults and children from our mission in Elkins, WV sang *I'll Fly Away*. Bro. John Ali closed the meeting with prayer.

We all enjoyed sitting around visiting and talking with one another. We especially enjoyed eating the pizza, hoagies and other refreshments provided for us.

Sunday morning a large group including many visitors gathered together to hear more of the word of God. After the opening prayer, Sister Patti Giannetti sang, *I Come to the Garden Alone*.

Bro. John Ali opened the service. He stated that the weekend was about friendship and we had come together through the name of JESUS, our greatest friend. Bro.

John read from John, chapter 15, "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you; continue ye in my love." He said, "I wish I could love you like Jesus loves you." Jesus laid down His life for us and said, "Father forgive them." What person do you know who would do this for you? We are surrounded by friends, but Jesus is our TRUE friend. Jesus said, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you . . . love one another." What did Jesus see in us? No matter who you are, the Lord is there for you.

"A friend in need is a friend indeed," was spoken by Bro. Bob Nicklow. He reminded us of the scripture in the 8th chapter of John concerning the woman who committed adultery. She was in need and Jesus came to her aid. That woman became a friend to Jesus because of His act of love and forgiveness. If we are TRUE friends we need this love to forgive and forget. Thank God for the examples Jesus set for us!

(Continued on Page 10)

Pennsylvania Area MBA

By Lucetta Scaglione

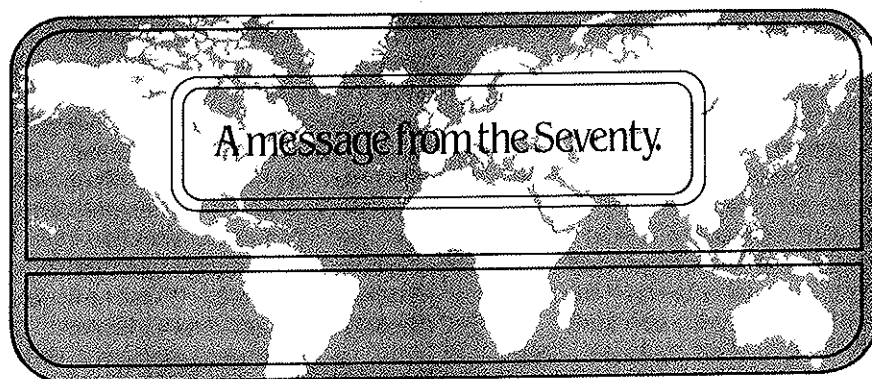
Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri was elected the new president of the Pennsylvania Area MBA at their business meeting on September 25, 1992.

Under new business, the next Area conference was scheduled for Friday, March 26, 1993 at Aliquippa. It will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Area picnic will be held on Memorial Day with the McKees Rocks local in charge.

The Pennsylvania Area Campout for 1993 will be held from Friday, September 17 to Sunday, the 19th at Antiochian Village. Brother Tony Ricci will be the camp director and Brother Tom Stroko his assistant.

The Area donated \$200 to the Florida Relief project.

We look forward to receiving many blessings in the future and pray that everyone in the Area will be involved in the activities.



Successful Trip Made to India

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Brothers Phil Jackson and Brian Martorana made a very successful two-week trip to India at the end of 1992, during which God's guidance and presence allowed them to visit many of the Church locations.

They were met by Brothers Dev and Babu, who accompanied them almost everywhere in their travels.

Details of their report indicate that their first stop was on December 1, at the then-almost-completed church building in Madras, about 20 minutes from the airport where they had just arrived. They were impressed with the beauty and spaciousness of the building, and that there would be electricity for fans and lighting, if necessary. Brother Jackson offered a prayer that God would bless the saints in Madras, and all who sacrificed throughout the years to make this structure possible.

They next journeyed to Coimbatore, via Bangalore. There, a new elder, 65-year-old Brother Manuel, travels to the villages where our members reside and holds weekly meetings.

VILLAGE AREAS

The brothers continued on their way to Erode, from which they traveled daily to and from the village areas, approximately two hours by car. Many people had asked for their baptism, and their requests were soon to be honored.

In Mulnar village, the brothers met with four ordained teachers, three deaconesses, and three deacons. They also spoke to about

30 unbaptized people who were desirous to come to the Lord.

At the next village, Thirumangalam, both brothers spoke about Christ, and Bro. Phil offered prayer. There, they saw a boy who had been bothered by an evil spirit and whom Bro. Joseph Calabrese had anointed on the last trip. He remembered the anointing and thanked God that he was feeling much better.

It was then on to Metupatti, where Brother Phil greeted the saints and Brother Brian asked God's blessings on their village.

They stopped at another village and Brother Martorana spoke on the saving power of Christ and His ability to change the hearts of men and women. Three young women sang a song, and Brother Jackson asked God's blessings upon this village. (Asking for God's blessing is important to the people, because they saw how God brought water and electricity to one of the villages for which they had prayed on their last visit.)

The brothers proceeded to a baptismal site, and were greeted by 57 people from several villages waiting to be baptized. Brothers Babu and Dev spoke to them on baptism and its great meaning, and the converts were very joyous and thankful to be taken into the waters. They were confirmed at the next day's night meeting.

The following day, our brothers went to two other villages and prayed, and then journeyed to a village where 44 other converts were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ, and were confirmed at

the water's edge.

This brought the total of newly-baptized members to 101 in four villages. These new areas were visited by four teachers, who brought them the Gospel. That evening, Brother Paulisamy was ordained into the ministry by Brother Jackson, after having his feet washed by Brother Dev. He is the first elder living in this village area.

The 57 members baptized the previous day now had hands laid on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Also, Brother Manuel's wife, Sister Mary, was ordained a deaconess by Bro. Dev after a deaconess of the village washed her feet.

A prayer of blessing was offered on the home of Bro. Manuel's son and his wife, where meetings are held periodically.

AYALUR

The next destination was Ayalur, for the Sunday Service. The brothers were met by about 100 members. After the opening prayer, everyone walked to the baptismal site and Brothers Stephen and Dev baptized nine people. Everyone returned to church for the confirmations.

Brother Brian opened the meeting, using Luke 4:18 and recalling how Christ stated He was anointed to preach the Gospel to the poor. Brother Jackson followed on the subject. They participated in the Lord's Supper, after which anointings for affliction—as were asked at all places—were performed.

After the meeting, the brothers traveled to visit the HOINA orphanage founded by Sister Darlene Large. Currently there are 30 young girls there, many handicapped, who are being cared for by the orphanage. The children sang a few songs, and the brothers had prayer with them.

The next day, Brothers Jackson and Martorana left for Ambitor with Brothers Dev and Stephen. Bro. Stephen is holding house meetings here with his Hindu neighbors. About 20 people attended this meeting, including a man who

(Continued on Page 10)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Kenneth Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

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

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Church growth has been the subject of much discussion over the years. Many creative, innovative concepts have come forth concerning how we might more effectively spread the Gospel and increase the size of our congregations. Despite the profusion of ideas, however, an objective look at past successes—and failures—in promoting the growth of the Church shows that personal testimony is the *only* effective method of furthering the Gospel. While we all admire our brothers and sisters who tell others about the Church and bring them to our meetings, the idea of our telling someone about the Lord, be it friend or stranger, is often greeted with much less enthusiasm.

All of us know what we *should* be doing, but a clear understanding of what our motives must be is essential to our success. It is to bring souls to Christ that we tell others about Him, that much we know. However, when we're faced with the actual task of telling people, we sometimes lose sight of our purpose. Rather than seeking to tell others how Christ has changed our life, we might use our natural eyes to search out people who "look" like they'd make good Church members, or attack a professing believer in a debate over whose doctrine is superior. Methods such as these lack that special, spiritual ingredient—genuine concern for the welfare of men's souls—and are therefore unsuccessful.

A sincere burden for the souls of mankind, like that possessed by Alma and the four sons of Mosiah, is truly the key to bringing forth fruit in spreading the Gospel. Unless we're properly motivated by a godly love for the human family and a desire to see souls come unto Christ, we will judge whether or not individuals are qualified to be potential members of our own congregation, rather than seeing them simply as souls in need of Salvation. A yearning for souls overcomes our carnal inclination to be picky about who we would have sitting next to us in the pew—a worldly attitude which would disqualify about 90 per cent of the earth's population.

Another key ingredient for successful evangelism is wisdom—a God-given knowledge of whom to talk to, what to say, and when to say it. Like the hunger for souls, this comes to us through much prayerful searching. Ammon, the son of Mosiah who converted King Lamoni and his domain, spent much time in fasting and prayer, and then waited until the king was "all ears" before he spoke a word about the Gospel to him. We might ruin an opportunity to speak at length later on by saying too much too soon. At other times, the right thing to do is act quickly and not waste any time. Like Ammon, we must be in tune with God's Spirit to know when the time is right.

Whatever our motivation, whatever our methods, the life we live in Christ Jesus must project itself strongly from our presence, to the point that people notice "something different." Our example is not something we consciously display for the sole purpose of winning souls; it should not even be something of which we're consciously aware. The light that shines from us if we're living righteously, combined with a hunger for souls and the applied wisdom of God, will have a positive impact on the lives of everyone around us—both those who are seeking and those who are not.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



God Is the Same, Yesterday, Today and Forever

Dear Girls and Boys,

We read about great people in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Everyone seems like they are braver than we are, or have more faith, or are more special and had an easier time of it than we do today. But that's not true; sin is as old as the Garden of Eden. God always blesses people who love Him and search to learn His ways.

But when people are blessed, they often feel confident and strong and then they stop leaning on God. They forget to say their prayers and ask God for direction. Then they go down the paths of life and make one little wrong turn, then another, and then another.

Sometimes people have to be really lost or fall into a big hole before they remember God—the marvelous God who first created them and who has blessed them so much in the past. Many people are hard-hearted or stubborn and must travel dark paths of unhappiness before they believe and see that the beautiful peace along the pathway to God's kingdom is also the most joyful path. It's a path full of God's mysterious power.

In the Old Testament days, God worked eighty years with Moses to teach him before he was chosen to lead thousands of the Children of Israel to freedom. Moses and the Lord worked long, and hard, and patiently to show the people the beauty and power that could be theirs when they walked on God's pathways. But those people, who

had all been slaves in Egypt, were used to sinful ways, and used to feeling like sophisticated Egyptians and were quick to forget God's ways and His blessings upon them.

First they had seen God send ten plagues upon the Egyptian nation while He protected them. Then they were heaped with gifts and riches by their Egyptian masters before they left on their journey.

God guided them by night with a huge, towering cloud of fire that gave them light, and by day with a tall, tall cloud to shade them from the hot desert sun. When the Pharaoh and his armies came rushing after them on horseback and on chariots, God sent an east wind to blow a path through the sea so the people Moses led could cross over on dry land. And the Lord stopped the wind when the Pharaoh's armies crossed so they were all drowned and could not harm Moses and the children of Israel.

Yet the people still complained after a few days that they were hungry, so God sent a delicious special food from heaven called manna. Every day they gathered enough to eat, but they still wanted meat, so then God sent flocks of quail, a delicious bird which they caught and ate, and then a few days later they complained again.

In the Book of Numbers, in Chapter 21, the Lord delivered the house of Israel from another great battle. A short while later the people became discouraged again and complained, saying, "Why did we

have to leave Egypt and be in this wilderness? We're sick of manna, too!"

And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and the serpents bit them and many of the people died. The others stopped to think about what they were doing and said, "We've sinned, complaining against the Lord." They asked Moses, "Pray unto God, that He would take the serpents from us!" And Moses prayed.

And the Lord said unto Moses, "Make a fiery serpent out of brass and put it on a pole, and anyone who is bitten only has to lift up their heads and look, and they will live.

Yet some of the people were so angry and stubborn that they refused to lift their heads and look. It's just like Jesus today. Anyone who will look to Jesus and lift up their problems in prayer to Him can be healed of their problems or the pain of their problems.

Just like the children of Israel who lifted their heads and were healed, we can be healed, too. We can tell Jesus we were on the wrong path and He will take us back to the right path and begin to help us. As God did in the days of Moses, He will do today—because Jesus tells us, "God is the same, yesterday, today, and forever."

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

MODESTO continued . . .

Spirit, you have an overwhelming desire to serve Him, to come to Sunday School, to mid-week meetings or services, and to fellowship with the saints of God. None of us knows when God will come to take us home. The scriptures say, "I come as a thief in the night." Let us be ready, brothers and sisters. It is good to serve God *today*. It takes righteousness—a prayer from a righteous man availeth much. Then God will abide in us. We need His wisdom, knowledge and understanding to guide us.

Bro. Tony Picciuto spoke to us on the subject of choices. Our Brother asked, "How do we arrive at the choices we make in life?" "No choice" is a choice, when we are referring to obeying the Gospel. Have we made a choice for God? Have we made the proper investment for the proper return? Bro. Tony then recounted the experience which motivated him to come to Christ. While drowning in the Atlantic Ocean, he asked God to have mercy on his soul, and was brought by breakers to the shore. Bro. Tony immediately found his way to the closest Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ from that shoreline.

"What circumstances are going to lead you to Calvary to make that choice for our Lord Jesus Christ?" our brother questioned us. There must be something very specific that motivates us. Brother Tony submitted to us that we should consider the word of God; research and study it and then make this choice of a lifetime so that we can honor, love and obey God in our lives. Then we will see the big picture of what life is all about.

Our brothers were truly inspired of God on this day. We want to encourage more of you to come and visit this part of the Lord's vineyard. It is good to fellowship with all of God's people!

LOUISIANA continued . . .

in performing the baptism but fellowshiping with Sisters Marlea Frentzos and Hilary Sauer.

After Sister Laurie had hands laid on her to receive the Holy Spirit, her children, John and Hilary, were blessed.

We thank the Lord for those He is calling to become His saints in these last days.

Riverside, CA Mission

On Sunday, November 15, the Riverside, CA Mission had a beautiful day with nearly 100 attending, including several

brothers and sisters and visitors from surrounding branches.

This day was set aside for the ordination of Sister Eleanor Carrillo into the office of Deaconess. Bro. Isidro Dominguez from Santa Ana opened in prayer, followed by the song, *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome in This Place* sung by the Zioneers. The Zioneers are a men's singing group made up of Brothers Ken Jones, Joe Nicosia, Bob Sullivan, Sal Azzinaro, and Ken Buck. These brothers have a special sound and a sweet spirit, and sing at some of our conferences and get-togethers. They are accompanied at the piano by Sis. Nancy Buck, who is also part of the group. We always enjoy Sis. Nancy's piano and musical abilities. They were followed by Bro. Clarence Kirkpatrick and his wife, Sis. Carol, who sang, *Are Ye Able, Said the Master*. Bro. Bob Sullivan sang a beautiful selection from the *Songs of Zion, From the Innermost Prison*. The Zioneers followed by singing, *Ready to Go*.

After Bro. Ken Jones spoke a few words of welcome and encouragement, he spoke concerning being ready to do the Lord's will and how so many hang on to their worldly possessions. Bartimaeus was the example he used. He told us we must cast off anything that would hinder us from serving God.

After Bro. Ken's talk, the Santa Ana Branch sang a beautiful song in Spanish.

At this time all the deaconesses were called up front, where Sis. Bennie Jones asked them to form a circle. Sis. Eleanor was then called up front, where her feet were washed by Sis. Lavalla Rodriguez from Santa Ana. While her feet were being washed, Bro. Ricardo Nava saw a vision of two lights coming from above down to touch Sis. Eleanor's eyes and tears flowed from her eyes as a fountain.

Bro. Ken Jones offered a prayer for Eleanor and Bro. Bob McDonell, from the Bell Branch, anointed and ordained our sister. Bro. Jim Scalise from the Bell Branch spoke from the Book of Romans in the last chapter about Phebe. He also spoke of Mary and Martha.

There were many testimonies

(Continued on Page 8)

Our Women Today

General Ladies' Uplift Circle Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SEMINAR DAY

DATE:

Friday, April 16, 1993

PLACE:

The Church of Jesus Christ,
Greensburg Chapel
Greensburg, PA

TIME:

10:00 to 12:00 and 2:00 to 4:00

SUBJECT:

"Giving Your Best"

Come share a day of
fellowship, song and praise.

GENERAL CONFERENCE

DATE:

Saturday, April 24, 1993

TIME:

10:00 a.m.

PLACE:

The Church of Jesus Christ
Branch 2, Allen Park, MI

ACCOMMODATIONS COORDINATOR:

Sis. Karen (Milantoni) Pandone
14920 Anne
Allen Park, MI 48101
Tel. (313) 386-1663

Come and share a day with us.

Sis. Arline J. Whitton

RIVERSIDE continued . . .

this day, including many from the young people and very young children. We thank God for the spirit of our young people. There were many testimonies and experiences relating to the calling of Sis. Eleanor, and many had pleasant and kind remarks about our sister. We know the Lord will bless her all the days of her life.

The Bell Branch came forward and sang *Our Church*. There were many there from Bell, as it was the branch where Sis. Eleanor was raised before moving to Riverside.

Bro. Harry Marshall from the Bell Branch also spoke to us from the Book of John, chapter 14.

Bro. Clarence Kirkpatrick and Sis. Carol Kirkpatrick sang another selection, *Make Me a Blessing*. Bro. Clarence plays the guitar as they sing.

Sis. Vivian Gonzales' baby was blessed by Bro. Isidro Dominguez. The beautiful baby's name is Melissa Marie, and we pray also that the Lord will bless her all the days of her life.

Bro. Paul Liberto from the San Diego Branch spoke to us about cleaning out his garage and how many things he had in there that he didn't need in his life. He said he was very tired from doing this, but wanted to put forth the effort to attend this ordination service because of the good Spirit he felt. He said Sis. Eleanor had to have been cleaning her life as he had cleaned his garage. We all have to be willing and ready to go do God's work. He spoke of Hanna.

Bro. Bob McDonnell spoke to us about caring for one another in times of need. He gave some examples of some sisters he knows who do this. We welcome God's Spirit in our lives in all that we do.

Bro. Ken Jones and his natural sister, Sis. Linda Reynolds, from the Simi Valley Branch, sang *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord*. We sang two hymns in closing, *Where the Day Has No End* and *Softly and Tenderly*. Bro. John Vela from the Santa Ana Branch closed in prayer.

The sisters in Riverside had prepared a beautiful buffet lunch for us, and we sat out at picnic

tables as it was such a beautiful day. We thank the Lord for His Holy Spirit.

Hopelawn Branch 50th Anniversary

The Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch celebrated its 50th anniversary on November 15, 1992. We were truly blessed to receive many visitors from the Metuchen, Edison, New Brunswick, Freehold, and Levittown Branches. At the very beginning of the meeting Brother Paul Benyola asked members of the choir that existed many years ago to sing an old favorite, *Awakening Chorus*. Brother Paul then opened the meeting. The theme of his sermon was the ten commandments. Brother Paul recounted many memories of things he had experienced in the years he spent at the Hopelawn Branch.

Brother Joe Perri followed Brother Paul, speaking on the third chapter of Helaman. Brother Joe recalled an experience that took place when he was working on a scaffold. The scaffold fell, Brother Joe landed on his back, and Brother Walter Cihomsky landed on his feet. Brother Jim Mercurio anointed Brother Joe and thanks to the Lord he was healed. After Brother Perri's remarks, Brother Len Benyola read a brief history of the branch.

The Hopelawn building was dedicated in January 1942 and organized as a branch in 1948. Over the years, a total of 193 members were baptized in the branch and 96 weddings were performed.

During the communion service, Sister Angela Reyes saw a vision of a woman in a veil sitting in a chair and extending her arms to the congregation. As the woman looked at the communion table, Sister Angela saw a plate of food. Brother Jim Huttenberger explained that the veil will be lifted when Christ is in our midst.

We truly felt the Lord's presence throughout the day. We enjoyed fellowshiping with the saints afterwards over lunch. The Lord has truly blessed our branch, and we pray that it will continue to

grow. Although we suffered many losses this past year, our prayer is that we will lead others to salvation and share the blessing we are allowed to enjoy each day through Christ our Savior.

Baptism at Branch 3, Sterling Hts., MI

By Brenda Capone

August 2, 1992 brought excitement to us at Branch 3 when Marylynn Kroth entered the building and asked for her baptism. What a wonderful way to open our Sunday service!

Marylynn has been attending The Church of Jesus Christ all her life. Her husband, David, attends with her. They have one daughter, Colleen. Sister Marylynn is the sister of Sis. Violet Quinlan, who was very happy to witness the baptism of her natural sister.

After staying for a few minutes in the church building, we dismissed to meet at the baptismal site. Bro. Peter H. Capone baptized our new sister, and then, upon returning to the branch, Bro. Paul Whitton laid hands on Sister Marylynn for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

There was a beautiful season of testimony, and joy was felt by all there. The following Sunday, everyone brought their lunch to church so that we could stay a while and fellowship with our new sister. Our prayers are with Sister Marylynn as she walks more closely with God.

Lake Worth, FL

By James Bond

Fruitful and blessed are two perfect words to describe the Lord's work in this part of the vineyard in the past six months. We in Lake Worth have seen, miraculously, five new converts baptized unto Christ, most recently two of our Spanish friends making their wishes known at our last bilingual meeting. What an unspeakable joy it is to see a person

reborn unto our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Our month of May, 1992, almost summer, began with a baptism on Sunday, May 10. Ira Williams, now our brother in Christ, was introduced to the Church by two of our newer converts, Bro. Jim and Sis. Tina Baca. Brother Ira continued attending meetings and began to experience the true love of Christ. Finally, one day our Lord gently called him to follow. On that beautiful Sunday morning, Ira was brought into the waters by Brother Eugene Perri and was confirmed by Brother Michael Radd. This day was filled with jubilant singing and wonderful, uplifting words spoken by Brother John D'Orazio concerning baptism. He spoke on the test of Romans 12, and touched on the scriptures concerning Naomi, Ruth, and Hannah. We all felt the spirit of peace and joy in our midst.

The following Sunday, we were blessed to have visiting with us Brothers Nicholas Pietrangelo and Doug Obradovich, who were inspired to bring the word of God to us. Bro. Nick was directed to speak from Romans 12, using it as a "report card." Our brother urged us to be united as one, and to let love be without dissimulation. We must be sincere and genuine. Brother Doug encouraged us to look on the bright side and to go forward.

Sunday, August 9, was a day of praising our God in song and testimony along with many of our visiting brothers and sisters, who were in town for the wedding of Bro. Jerry DiFede and Sis. Heather Kemp. Some of our visitors were the Staley family from Tampa, Bro. Richie and Sis. Mary Benyola from Hopelawn, New Jersey, and Bro. Phil and Sis. Linda Benyola from Tampa. Bro. Richie played the piano during our service, and Bro. Ken spoke on being weighed in the balance.

Our brother also read to us from Daniel 3 and 5. Bro. Ken reminded us to rely on the Spirit of God, and not upon ourselves. We should count our blessings and check on ourselves daily.

In the beginning of September, another soul was brought down to

the waters of baptism. Cynthia Yvonne Lopez, daughter of Bro. Jim and Sis. Tina Baca, was cleansed white as snow on Sunday, September 9, 1992 at Lake Osborne. Cindy, as she is known, was taken into the waters by Bro. Eugene Perri and was later confirmed by Bro. John D'Orazio.

Our new sister, prior to her calling, prayed to the Lord for a vision and an experience confirming her baptism, and the Lord answered her prayer. She received a vision during a Sunday meeting one of the first times she visited The Church of Jesus Christ. At that time, she saw a light around the people, and a large, beautiful chair. Under the name of the Church, Cindy saw a very tall man with a sparkling or blinking sword or staff next to him. The staff stayed there throughout the entire meeting.

Another time, at home in her bed, Cindy awoke and saw a bright white hand, and a place of water, with a gold cup at one side. The hand was beckoning her to the water to be baptized. The next night, Cindy had another vision while in her bed of a large ball with the Lord's hand on it.

She went to the Lord in prayer, asking Him particularly what the blinking staff and the ball meant. Cindy then opened the Book of Mormon to Mosiah 1:16, which tells of the Sword of Laban and the ball or director. What beautiful things the Lord shows to those who truly ask in faith. We rejoice in the conversion of Cindy, and pray she will be a good worker for the Lord.

Toward the end of September, we again had visitors in our midst. Brother Ike and Sister Sandy Smith and their children, all from Tampa, were with us. It was the first time Bro. Ike had visited our branch since being ordained an elder. The Lord truly blessed our brother, and all received a blessing in the humble and loving message Bro. Ike brought to us.

In October, the Lord again showered His people with rich blessings in returning to the water's edge with three new converts. Jean-Marie LeSeur, his wife Bernadette, and Madeline Robinson, the daughter of Sis. Marie Kersey, were taken into the waters on Sun-

day morning, October 12, 1992. Brother Eugene Perri baptized all three on a beautiful, sunny, warm and peaceful morning. There was an air of anticipation this day, because Bro. Jean-Marie and Sis. Bernadette had made their wishes known at an earlier date. However, Sister Madeline made her decision after an encouraging word from Sister Carmela Mazzeo after the other two baptisms had taken place. Needless to say, we were all surprised and overjoyed to hear Madeline ask to be baptized, although she had been attending church very regularly.

Later that day, our new family members were confirmed. Bro. Jean-Marie had hands laid on him by Bro. John D'Orazio, Sis. Bernadette was confirmed by Bro. Eugene Perri, and Sis. Madeline was confirmed by Bro. Michael Radd. Bro. Ken Baldwin sang an inspired hymn, *The Mercies of God*, as our day filled our cups to overflowing. Our day continued with the ministry encouraging everyone to exhibit more charity, and to bring the Gospel of Love to the spiritually poor in this world.

The following Sunday, we were visited by Bro. Carl Frammolino from McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. Our brother was directed by the Spirit to speak to us concerning the peace of the Lord as recorded in the Gospel of John 14:27. Bro. John D'Orazio followed, exhorting us to "come let us reason together" and to put our trust in Jesus.

We ended the month of October with a message of great hope from the ministry that we should be the happiest and most joyful of all people, and it should show in our lives, on our faces, and on our lips. Our brothers also reminded us of what a marvelous work and wonder the Gospel Restored is, and how this Church has all the power and authority, gifts and blessings now as when it was first set up.

We wish to thank God for all of our friends and visitors who help to fill God's house with love and joy, for it is a real blessing to share this beautiful gift with all.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Natoli, Frank & Kathy
2758 Renshaw Drive
Troy, MI 48098
Tel. (313) 740-8418

Morle, Ron & Kim
3040 Signature Blvd.—Apt. C
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Tel. (313) 761-5866

PA CAMPOUT continued . . .

Bro. Ike Smith from Arizona thanked God for his many friends in PA. We really don't have too many close friends that we can open our lives to. Jesus knows all about us. We can't keep any secrets from the Lord and we can tell Him anything. We need that special friend in Jesus. If you don't have a friend in heaven, you have a void in your life. We need someone to walk with us and sometimes even carry us. Even though we need one another, we need that TRUE friend in Jesus Christ.

Bro. Dick Lawson thought we probably choose friends by what they can do for us. But it should be, "What can we do for them?" Jesus is our friend even though there is not much we can do for Him except love and serve Him. Christ wiped our slate clean because He loves us and all He requires of us is our hearts. Employ the "Buddy" system with Jesus, and what a life we will have!

Bro. Pete Giannetti asked us, "Why are we here this morning? What draws us to this place?" Paul was a persecutor of the Church until he was struck down and became converted. What kept him going? When we bend toward the Church, Jesus becomes our friend. He touches our hearts with His spirit. Then we become His friends and He blesses us. We receive these blessings among our friends in The Church of Jesus Christ. We are here to praise God for being our PERFECT friend.

Bro. Chuck Jumper reminded us that Jesus is a FAITHFUL friend TO US. If we are a faithful friend to Him, how glorious it will be when He introduces us to His

Father as His friend. Then we shall receive that great reward of eternal life.

In the closing remarks, Bro. Brian Smith hoped we had become greater friends with each other and most of all with Jesus Christ through everything we heard this weekend. We sang *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*, and Bro. Joel Calabrese from Ohio closed in prayer.

Lucetta Scaglione
Editor

MESSAGE continued . . .

was healed of a nervous condition during their last visit. Both he and another man want to be baptized. Brother Brian opened the service with the words of Christ in Matthew 5:6, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." After several anointings, a prayer for the children was offered so that they could study well.

On Tuesday, the brothers traveled to Vijawada and were met by Brother Livingston. They were amazed how God had strengthened him since the year before, when he was very afflicted.

On the following day, they went to the village of Nallamadu, where there is a large group and a beautiful church building. It is one of nine congregations in Brother Livingston's region. Our two elders and nine teachers were present.

Brother Phil opened with the scripture, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). Brother Brian continued on the topic, while explaining how Nicodemus sought after Christ. After the speaking, they walked to a baptismal site where 12 converts were baptized by Brothers Livingston and Pusppraaj.

In the afternoon service, the converts were confirmed and two deacons, the first in Brother Livingston's area, were ordained.

Later in the day, Brother Brian spoke to the 27 orphans living on the property next to Brother Liv-

ingston's home. He told them of the importance of growing naturally, spiritually, and intellectually; and he urged them to learn about Jesus and to follow His teachings. Brother Babu also talked to them and sang a solo.

BACK TO MADRAS

The brothers then returned to Madras. On Friday night, they held the first meeting in the new church building, which has about 70 members and had been their first stop on this trip to India. They were joined by Brothers Dev and Stephen, from the Ayalur Branch. There were over 250 people in attendance, and several had to enjoy the service from outside.

Brother Phil asked for God's blessings upon them, and all who would meet in this building. He opened the service from Genesis 22, quoting how God told Abraham to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Because of Abraham's obedience, the angel told him, "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven . . ." (Genesis 22:17).

Brother Brian continued on the theme of sacrifice, and the blessings that follow as a witness that we are God's children.

Three children were blessed, and many prayers for the afflicted were offered. It was learned after the meeting that a couple who seemed unable to have children are now expecting a child after they had been anointed on our brothers' last trip. Also, a young man who could not walk the last time is now walking.

The next day, several brothers and sisters visited Brothers Jackson and Martorana before they departed, and expressed their love and concern for our brother's welfare.

Brother Brian later had a dream as they were returning to America showing how God had protected them throughout their journey, sparing them from many perils. It was very understandable why they were so grateful to God for His love and mercy during this very busy and eventful missionary trip.

OBITUARIES

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

JOSEPH ZAMPAGLIONI

Brother Joe Zampaglioni crossed over the line into eternity on July 4, 1992 in Palm Springs, California. A fitting day indeed to join heaven's throngs—truly independent of this natural life which inhibits our spirits. He was born on January 29, 1937 in Detroit, Michigan, into the family of our late Bro. Peter and Sis. Nicolina Zampaglioni.

Bro. Lou Vitto conducted a beautiful memorial service for our late brother on July 14, 1992 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Our brother is survived by a sister, Sis. Phyllis Miller of the Sterling Heights Branch; a brother, Peter, of California; and several nieces and nephews.

Bro. Joe inspired us with his determination to follow Christ in baptism even though gravely ill. God rewarded him with restored good health nearly two years, during which he daily rejoiced in the goodness and greatness of our Lord. May God comfort his family in our prayer.

WILSON HELLER

Brother Wilson Roy Heller died Sunday morning, December 13, 1992. Our brother suffered a heart attack and was quickly called home to the paradise of God. Bro. Heller was born July 10, 1913 in Barberton, Ohio. He was baptized by immersion, fulfilling a desire he had in his heart for many years, on October 19, 1980 in Ohio's Grand River by Bro. Elmer Santilli and was confirmed by Bro. Frank Giovannone. He was a member of the Perry, Ohio Branch.

After he was baptized, he journeyed west with his wife, Eileen, for 13 years. He believed in living a simple life, and loved the simple Gospel which he had embraced.

Because of a deep love for the Seed of Joseph, he traveled among the different tribes in North America. Both he and his wife visited the Apache tribe and attended the mission on the San Carlos Reservation in Arizona. They also had an opportunity to visit the branches and missions in Tse Bonito, Whiteriver, and Tijuana.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Mario Milano. Our brother has left to mourn his wife, four daughters, and thirteen grandchildren. The brothers and sisters of Perry will miss his cheerful greetings, as well as the reports of his trips out west among God's people.

* WEDDINGS *

URBANO—MONARES

Sabino Urbano and Reyna Monares were united in marriage on August 29, 1992 at the Brooklyn, New York Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. Reyna was given away by her mother, from Santa Ana, CA.

Bro. Joseph Perri performed the wedding in Spanish, assisted by Bro. Isidro Dominguez. Musical selections were sung by a brother from Santa Ana, accompanied by Sis. Mary Perri on the piano.

The newlyweds will make their home in Brooklyn, and it is our prayer that God will bless and provide their every need in life.

LaROSA—PICARSIC

On Saturday, November 21, 1992, William Joseph LaRosa and Susan Ellen Picarsic were united in holy matrimony at the Carolina Mission in Gastonia, North Carolina. Susan is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Picarsic of New York, and William is the son of Bro. Bill and Sis. Flo LaRosa of Gastonia.

The newlyweds will reside in Gastonia. May God's richest blessings abide with them and bless their years together.

MONAGHAN—URSO

Kevin M. Monaghan and Denise M. Urso were joined in marriage on December 5, 1992 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brothers Paul and Ralph Ciotti officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were presented by Sis. Nina DeCenzo.

The newlyweds are residing in Venetia, PA. We pray for God's blessings to be with them in their life together.

Notice

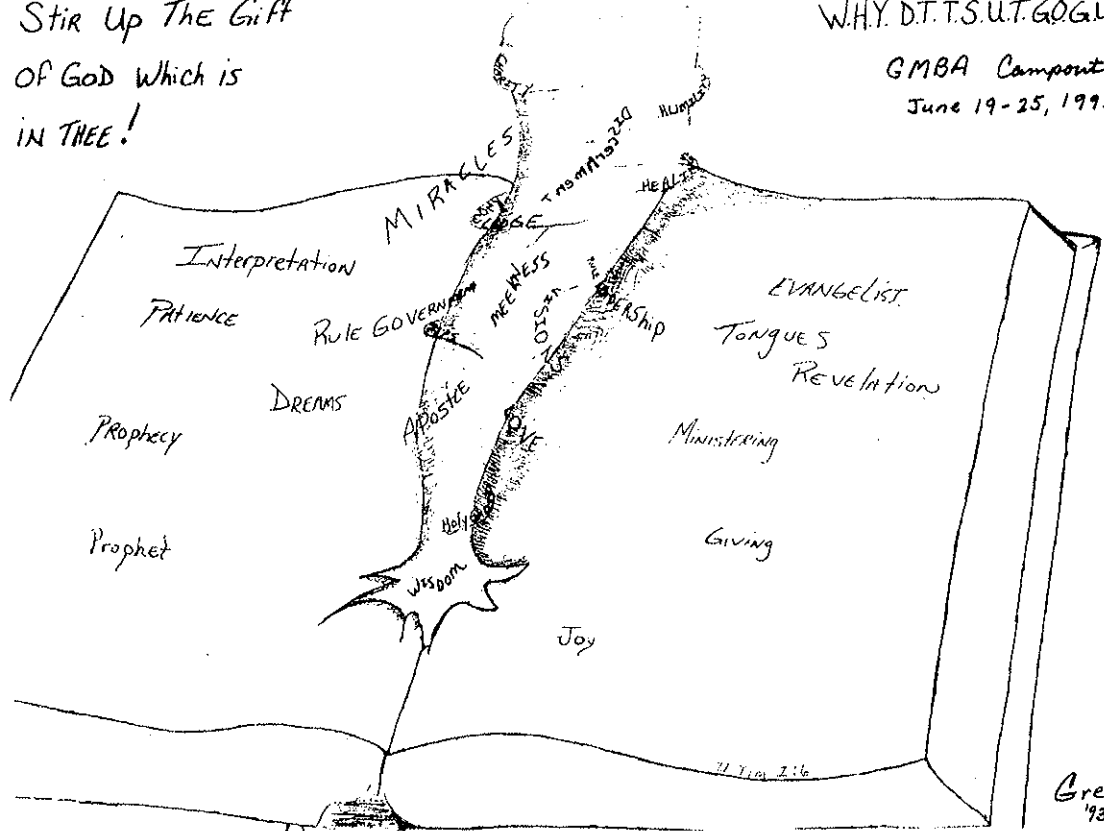
The Church has a new Post Office Box! This should be used for all finances being mailed to the Church, including the Missionary Foundation:

The Church of Jesus Christ
Post Office Box 15667
Pittsburgh, PA 15244

Stir Up The Gift
OF GOD Which is
IN THEE!

W.H.Y. D.T.T.S.U.T.G.O.G.W.Y.

GMBA Campout
June 19-25, 1993



Children Blessed

Kathryn Marie Mellor was blessed on November 8, 1992 by Bro. Paul Gehly in the Greensburg, PA Branch. Her parents are Bro. Brad and Sis. Lisa Mellor, and grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Patti Mellor, all of Greensburg.

On November 15, 1992, Bro. Isidro Dominguez blessed Melissa Marie Gonzales at the Riverside, CA Mission.

Brother Mark Randy blessed his great grandson, Paul Michael Vinsick Jr., son of Paul and Christina Vinsick, on November 22, 1992 at the Modesto, CA Branch.

On December 13, 1992, Zachary Ryan Fedele was blessed at the Perry, Ohio Mission by Bro. Elmer Santilli. Zachary is the grandson of Sister Donna Kline.

Joseph Frances Alexander, son of Owen and June Michaels, was blessed on December 13, 1992 by Bro. Bill Colangelo in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania.

On December 27, 1992, Joseph Christopher Lewis Shaffer was blessed in the Church in Modesto, California by Bro. Joseph Ciarolla.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Baptisms

Brother Charles Dulisse was baptized on November 1, 1992 by his grandfather, Joseph Bologna in Modesto, CA. He was confirmed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

On December 27, 1992 Mindy McCann was baptized in Modesto, CA by her grandfather, Bro. Joseph Ciarolla. Her confirmation was performed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo.

The Gospel News

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

March, 1993

Volume 49, No. 3

Ordinations at Branch #3, Michigan

By Brenda Capone

August 23, 1992 was to be a very special day for four of our sisters at Branch #3. Sisters Angeline Trovarelli, Dorothy Pastorelli, Ruth Coppa, and Judy Coppa were ordained into the office of deaconess. The meeting started with some anointings, and the Lord was in our midst. As a brother was being anointed for a wrist surgery, another brother had a vision. He saw this brother sitting at a table as he was being anointed. A light began to glow in the brother's hand up to the elbow. Then he banged his hand on the table three times, and held his hand up above his head, as if in victory. Praise God for His goodness.

Brother Gary Coppa then opened our meeting. He spoke of the many dreams and experiences that were had in the calling of these sisters. He also spoke of what a deaconess is. He said these sisters were deaconesses *before* they were called. They had the gift of visiting with the sick, hospitality, organizational skills, and they are dependable for many things in many situations. As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we *all* have an important office. We must be good and faithful workers. As with any office in the Church, you must

remember that we do not "climb the ladder" to that office, you must rather "descend" a rung on the ladder. These sisters must now be *more* humble, *more* patient, *more* understanding. They must smooth the ruffled feathers of someone who comes to them and is upset with someone or something. These sisters will be deaconesses through us, and we must be patient and kind, giving them a chance to let God help them fulfill this office.

Brother Silverio Coppa spoke from Luke 10 about the Good Samaritan. He spoke of the innkeeper who took the injured man in. This man was a stranger; he was hurt and was going to require much attention. And even though the Samaritan paid her, she still did not have to take this man in. It was not this person's "responsibility," but because of the love of God, she did. "Laws make us, but Love moves us." That is what will make these sisters deaconesses.

Bro. Lyle Criscuolo said, "We build a reputation by what we do, and not by what we *plan* to do." Responsibility demands action. In the case of the Good Samaritan, the man was hurt; people saw him. They possibly said, "Someone ought to help that man." They didn't do

anything. But the Samaritan saw him, and helped him. He did it, he didn't just think about it. That's what has caused that story to be told for years and it will continue to be told for many more years. He made a reputation for himself, because he did something good.

Sacrament was then passed, and then all of the deaconesses were called forward. They formed a circle around the women to be ordained, so that they could all be a part of this ordination and be united. Many people were touched by this gathering. To see how many sisters have been called over the years, to serve the people, was beautiful.

We then sang, *Speak, My Lord*. The sisters were very prayerful as their feet were to be washed by someone moved by the hand of God. Sister Loraine DeMercurio washed Sister Angie's feet. They are sisters-in-law. Sister Sally Romano washed Sister Dorothy's feet. They are mother and daughter. Sister Sally expressed how that many years ago, her mother washed her feet as she was ordained a deaconess, and how pleased she was to now do the same for her daughter. Sister Mary Coppa washed Sister Ruth's feet. They are cousins. Sister Ilene Coppa washed Sister Judy's feet; they are mother and daughter-in-law. Sister Ilene

(Continued on Page 9)

A thank-you, experience, testimony and a dream

By Brother Bob Venuto

First, I would like to thank God for preserving my life so that I could write this article and tell my testimony. Also, a special thank-you to all the brothers and sisters and Sunday School children from all around the world for their prayers and thoughtfulness and for the many cards and phone calls that I received. Without their prayers, I don't believe I would have made it through the terrible times of my experience.

A special thanks to all the brothers and sisters who visited me at my bedside. I was anointed many times, which comforted me, making the pain a little less severe.

Another special thanks for the opportunity to have Brother Dominic Thomas, President of the Church, stop at my bedside while I was in the Pittsburgh Hospital.

MY EXPERIENCE AND TESTIMONY

June 3, 1992, started out for me as a normal work day. While traveling to work that morning, I was a little early, so I told myself that I would take my time and not rush. Traveling north on U.S. Route #1 about 2:30 a.m., I had turned my head for a second to get a cigarette out of my jacket. When my eyes focused back on the road, I saw a large tire that had broken loose from a tractor trailer and had come to rest on the highway. There was nothing I could do but hit the tire. As I did so, the only thing that came to mind was to say a prayer. I closed my eyes on impact and said, "Please God, don't let it hurt too much." I know that the Lord was with me because on impact, I hit the median strip with the tire wedged between it and my front tire. My car became airborne, flipping end over end until I landed upside down in the opposite lane, hanging over a culvert.

I was awake the whole time. As I lay there upside down, I started calling for help. A man stopped and came over to my car. He started talking to me, trying to comfort

me. He went to call for help and came back to me in a few minutes. He stayed with me and kept talking to me for twenty minutes until the rescue squad came and took over, then he left. The police took his address and phone number. We tried calling to thank this man, but to this day, no one ever answers the phone. Who was he?

Altogether, there were ten rescue units at the accident site. They kept talking to me, trying to find out what was wrong with me, and they were trying to decide on how to get me out. Meanwhile, my gas tank had ruptured and raw gasoline was running down my back. I was saturated with gasoline, and a pool of gas surrounded me. The rescue workers kept asking me if I was hurting anywhere. I told them that I felt fine and I didn't hurt anywhere. They couldn't believe that I was not hurting, so they asked me if I could see anything, because they couldn't see me in the car the way I was pinned in. I told them I saw that my left leg was lying to my left and I could move it with no pain. In front of my face, I could see the part of the seat that you sit on, and above that (which would be under the seat) was my right foot. With my right hand, I shook my foot, but I couldn't feel anything. I couldn't move it because it was wedged under the seat.

They started cutting me out by cutting the passenger door away. They also had to cut the seat from the frame. While all the cutting was going on, the only thing I could think of was the sparks starting a fire and my fear of burning up in the car. I was very nervous and frightened. It took them two hours to finally get me free. They dragged me out on my back over broken glass, being careful not to cut me. As soon as they pulled me away from the seat, my right leg fell to the ground. One of the rescue workers became ill when that happened, and had to be attended to. They knew that I was broken up very badly inside. They cut my clothes off my body because they were soaked with gasoline. They put me in a neck brace, but I told them that my neck was fine. They didn't know the extent

of my injuries because, visually, I had no cuts or abrasions. They couldn't believe it. Then, they took my vital signs, which were almost normal. I answered all of their questions about where I lived, my phone number, etc. I asked them to call my wife and tell her what happened.

I felt fine and had no pain. They brought in a helicopter and flew me to the Brandywine Trauma Center, where they fully examined me, took tests, and stabilized me. They couldn't believe that my vital signs were so good and that I had no surface cuts or abrasions. They tested me for internal injuries surgically. They found that I had no internal damage to my vital organs. They later decided to send me to Pittsburgh for surgery because there was a specialist there that would be able to put my pelvis back together.

My right leg was broken in three places from my knee to my hip; my pelvis was fractured in a few places, the front part of my pelvis was split open, and a joint on my backbone broke. I was informed by the doctor that this joint rarely ever breaks—the backbone usually breaks. If the backbone had broken rather than this joint, I would have become a paraplegic. I also had bruises that showed up all over my body, a slight red mark across my right cheek (which disappeared in a few days), and I lost one tooth.

The operation took 11 hours. Right after the surgery, the pain started. At times it was unbearable. My body swelled up to almost twice my size. I was retaining fluid, which made my recovery touch-and-go for the first two weeks. Finally, I was on the road to recovery.

An extra special thank-you to my wife, Judy, who stayed with me night and day, my children, Jessica, Lisa and Bobby, my grandchildren, and my mom, Sister Theresa Venuto, for all their prayers and love through my horrible, near-death experience.

I thank the Lord that I am here and able to tell my story. The Lord spared my life for a reason. I made a promise to Him, that if he pulled me through this, I would get baptized and serve Him for the rest of my life.

We've been having Church meetings at my house whenever brothers and sisters could come, and I appreciate that very much.

I was blessed and brought up in the Church. When I was older, I had many callings from the Lord, but I let them pass by.

I did not let this calling pass me by. On November 8, 1992, I was baptized in Freehold, New Jersey. The weather was very cold, but the

sun was shining. Walking into the water was very cold. My body was submerged under the water and when I came out, it took my breath away. On our return to land, it was not cold at all. I was warm inside and warm for the rest of the day. It was a beautiful day—the first day I was able to receive communion.

On the evening that I was baptized, when I went to sleep, I had a pleasant and comforting dream:

When I was coming out of the water (after being baptized) it was time to get changed. I was going past a house on the right side of the road which had a little porch in front and a lot of beautiful, blooming flowers and shrubs all around. On the front lawn, I saw a lady sitting on a chair. She had a young child sitting on her lap facing her. As I got closer, I noticed that the lady was my Aunt, Sister Stella Ar-

(Continued on Page 9)

1992 Financial Results as of 12/31/92

Dear Readers:

Congratulations are in order! That's right. Look at the numbers for 1992. We, the Church, have increased our donations by a little over 7%. All of you who have given of your mites created this increase. That just shows that WE CAN DO IT!

Although a new year has begun, we must review the past year, 1992, so we can see where improvements can be made for this year. The figures below are there for all to see. We can look at them and see that we've improved over 1991. That's a positive step and of course indicates we are moving in the right direction. When we look a little closer though, we see that we have not met the Spending Plan. That's a negative. Now the question remains as we look at our past results, what will we do for this year? Only you and I can answer the question since the choice is ours. We alone decide what we will or will not give to the financial efforts of the Church. This then determines the direction of the Church for 1993. We as individual members decide **how** or **if** the Church will progress this year based on that decision. After all, we have Free Will Percentage giving. That means we can give or, in some cases, decide not to give, and thereby impede the progress of the Church. While this may be a strong statement, let us look at the final figures for 1992 which are given below.

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1991</u>
ATLANTIC COAST	\$ 63,720	\$ 61,459
MICHIGAN/ONTARIO	124,709	102,653
OHIO	48,543	46,042
PACIFIC COAST	60,025	48,597
PENNSYLVANIA	119,044	118,717
SOUTHEAST	36,834	39,239
SOUTHWEST	<u>19,736</u>	<u>23,728</u>
TOTALS	\$472,610	\$440,435

The Plan for 1992 was \$545,595.00 which means we were \$72,985.00 short of the goal.

As we set our course for this year of 1993 let us "do with our might what our hands find to do." We know and have demonstrated that we can do it. What is not known is if we will do it again this year and improve over and above 1992.

Thank you and God bless each of you for your support in 1992. We pray that when the Spending Plan for 1993 is reviewed, there will be significant improvement and the Gospel will continue to move on its course throughout the world.

General Church Finance Committee

Note of Thanks

The family of Bro. Nick and Sis. Lena Liberto extend a loving and heartfelt thank you to all who have expressed their love and sympathy to the family. Losing our Mom and Dad together was a difficult thing to face, but all of the many wonderful cards, letters, telephone calls, and prayers, made it a little easier to bear. It was easy to see that Mom and Dad were very much loved by all of you. We thank you for loving them, and for loving us. We thank God that through it all we were able to sing in our hearts these beautiful words from the *Songs of Zion*: "He has sent my spirit peace, He's been good to me!" May God bless you all.

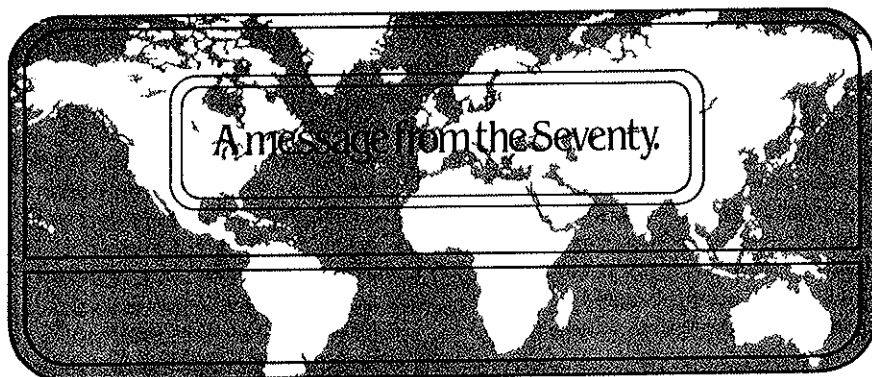
The Liberto Family

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I deeply appreciate the many cards, letters, phone calls and especially the love that everyone has shown toward me and my family since the loss of my husband.

I wish Brother Bill could have been here to see the love and sentiments expressed by all of you. I am thankful for The Church of Jesus Christ that has given me the hope that I can prove faithful to the end, so that I will see Brother Bill again.

All our love,
Sis. Grace LaCommare and Family



Quorum of 70 Development Committee

Bro. Elmer Santilli, Chairman

In the September, 1992 issue of *The Gospel News*, I mentioned that one of the goals of the Development Committee was to help strengthen the branch/missions of The Church of Jesus Christ. The article went on to say that we would like to become a Resource Center whereby a branch/mission could tap into the materials, ideas, etc. which we had on hand. This in turn could be used to stimulate interest and increase our understanding of how God will bring about His eternal purposes.

Our first President, George Washington, had a vision in which he was shown the destiny of the United States. Another wonderful experience is the legend of Deganawida which foretells the destiny of America.

These two experiences could be used for study purposes in one of a branch/mission's meetings. There are many similarities between the legend of George Washington's vision, the legend of Deganawida, and III Nephi 21:9-29. A handout is available which spells out some of these common points.

Following is the vision of George Washington:

WASHINGTON'S STRANGE VISION

The last time I saw Anthony Sherman was on the Fourth of July, 1859, in Independence Square. He was then ninety-nine years old and becoming feeble, but though so old, his dimmed eyes rekindled as he gazed on Independence Hall, which he had come back to look

upon once more before he was called home.

"Let us go into the Hall," he said, "I want to tell you an incident of Washington's life, one of which no one alive knows but myself, and if you live, you will before long see verified.

"From the opening of the Revolution we experienced all phases of fortune. Now good, now ill, one time victorious and another conquered. The darkest period we had, I think, was when Washington, after several reverses, retreated to Valley Forge, where he resolved to pass the winter of 1777. I have often seen tears coursing down our dear commander's careworn cheeks as he would be conversing with some confidential officers about the condition of his poor soldiers. You have doubtless heard the story of Washington going to the thicket to pray. Well, it was not only true, but he used to often pray in secret for aid and comfort from God, the interposition of whose Divine providence brought us safely through the darkest days of tribulation.

"One day, I remember it well, the chilly wind whistled through leafless trees. Though the sky was cloudless and the sun shone brightly, I noticed his face seemed a shade paler than usual and that there seemed something on his mind of more than ordinary importance.

"After a preliminary conversation of about half an hour, Washington, gazing upon his companion with that strange look of

dignity which he alone could command, said to the latter, 'I do not know whether it is owing to the anxiety of my mind or what, but this afternoon as I was sitting at this very table engaged in preparing a dispatch, something in the department seemed to disturb me. Looking up, I beheld standing opposite me a singular beautiful female. So astonished was I, for I had given strict orders not to be disturbed, that it was some moments before I found language to inquire the cause of her presence. A second, a third and even a fourth time did I repeat my question, but received no answer from my mysterious visitor except a slight raising of the eyes. By this time, I felt strange sensations spreading through me. I would have risen, but the riveted gaze of the being before me rendered volition impossible. I assayed once more to address her, but my tongue had become powerless. Even though my body itself became paralyzed, a new influence, mysterious, potent, irresistible, took possession of me. All I could do was to gaze steadily, vacantly, at my unknown visitant. Gradually the surrounding atmosphere—seeming as though filled with sensations—grew luminous. Everything about me seemed to rarefy; the mysterious visitor herself becoming more airy and yet more distinct to my sight than before. I now began to feel as one dying, or rather to experience the sensations which I sometimes imagined accompany dissolution. I did not think; I did not move. All were alike impossible. I was only conscious of gazing fixedly, vacantly at my companion.

"Presently, I heard a voice saying: 'Son of the Republic, look and learn;' while at the same time my visitor extended her arm eastwardly. I now beheld a heavy white vapor at some distance, rising fold upon fold. This gradually dissipated and I looked upon a strange scene. Before me lay spread out in one vast plain the countries of the world; Europe, Asia, Africa and America. I saw rolling and tossing between Europe and America the billows of the

(Continued on Page 9)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leonard A. Lovaivo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Kenneth Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Alliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO

Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

PACIFIC COAST

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST

James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST

Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Drive
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5090. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As we study the word of God and contemplate His plan of salvation, we encounter an apparent contradiction: God's children are admonished and exhorted throughout His word to keep His commandments and live a life that manifests His very heart and mind within us. "Be ye, therefore, perfect, even as your Father, who is in heaven, is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). At the same time, love, mercy, and forgiveness beyond compare are extended by God toward mankind in his fallen state, to save him from being separated forever from God's presence (John 3:16, et al.).

Many of the people in Christ's day had missed the whole purpose behind the Law of Moses. In their pride and spiritual blindness, they believed that by carefully adhering to the outward observances of the Law, they could achieve the perfection that it demanded of them. They severely judged and penalized anyone whose "perfection" did not match their own. They had shortcomings, like everyone else, but to admit it would expose them as hypocrites. Instead, they worked ever harder to *appear* perfect, denying their own humanity in the process. In so doing, they denied the need for God's grace in their lives, and ultimately, denied themselves of the joy of salvation, all because they would not *allow* themselves to be human. Their "perfection" was seriously flawed: they had no concept of righteousness, and made no allowance for the Lord to work in their lives. All of this combined to make them a miserable and joyless people.

Today we recognize that the human race is imperfect in the sight of God. If we humble ourselves before His throne and open our spiritual eyes, we see how the Law of Moses serves to point out how utterly incapable we are, by ourselves, of attaining righteousness. It heightens our awareness of our fallen state, and forces us to realize that we need to rely on something more than our own merit in order to be justified in God's sight. Once we acknowledge our natural selves to be the vulnerable, depraved, and weak creatures that we are, the Lord can begin to shape us in His own image. It is *in our weakness*, once we recognize and confess it, that the Lord's strength is made perfect (II Corinthians 12:9).

Only after we fully understand this basic truth can we begin to grasp the concept that, through Jesus Christ, we are indeed perfect. As we recognize how He accepted (and accepts) us in our imperfection, we become more tolerant of others. As we grow to realize the depth of His love for us, we begin to love all of mankind in the same manner. Finally, once we begin to understand the value of Christ's salvation in our lives, we will undertake with all the energy of our souls to keep His commandments and do His will. As we strive, by faith, toward genuine righteousness, we allow a greater portion of God's Spirit to dwell within us.

The scriptures attest to the fact that there is no limit to what we can experience as we draw close to the Lord. Before we can be perfect, however, we must be fully human. We must each come to terms with this duality: to deny either aspect of it is to rob ourselves of the joy of the saints in this life, and possibly in the life to come.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Dear Boys and Girls,

There are many, many words of wisdom in the Bible and Book of Mormon that help us to live our lives today. We love to think and talk about the good feelings we have, like peace, joy, and happiness. But in order to have these feelings in us, we sometimes have to work to get rid of the bad feelings.

Coveting is one of these bad feelings. To covet is to want something that someone else has, and to feel angry and upset with them because they have something that you don't have. It is an old, old sin from the earliest days of the Bible. Like all sins, it makes us forget that God sees everyone and everything, and He knows what we have, and what we need.

One of the first stories in the Bible tells us about two brothers, Cain and Abel. These boys had the same parents, Adam and Eve, but they were very different in the things they liked to do.

Abel, the younger of the two, was a keeper of sheep. God blessed him in his work. To show the Lord how much he loved Him, Abel killed the best of his lambs and placed it upon an altar to sacrifice to the Lord. God recognized what Abel had done for Him, and He was very pleased.

Cain was a farmer of crops, and God blessed his work also. But when it was time to place his sacrifice on the altar to burn, Cain was greedy. He did not offer the right sacrifice to God. He put something else on the altar to burn.

God knew what Cain was doing, and He did not accept Cain's gift of thanks. But God *was* pleased with

Abel, who had obeyed and given his best from his heart. So Cain became very angry that his brother had won God's favor, while he did not.

I imagine some part of him was ashamed, too. And maybe he coveted his brother's faith and obedience. His brother, Abel, knew that offering his very best lamb to God was right, and that God would bless Him.

God gave Cain a chance to make the right sacrifice, but Cain coveted Abel so much, he turned away from right and did wrong. Cain killed his brother, and of course, God saw it. God asked him where Abel was. Cain tried to avoid answering, and asked God, "Am I my brother's keeper?" As punishment, God did not kill Cain. Instead, God sent Cain to wander the earth. He also put a mysterious mark on Cain's face to set him apart from others and also to protect him from others who might try to kill him or hurt him. We don't know just what it was that God marked him with.

We *do* know that God was watching these two brothers. He saw what they did and he also could read their hearts and minds. For us, we need to remember just how much God loves each one of us. We need to remember how He has promised to forgive us and give us mercy, and how He sent us His only begotten Son to teach us how to love and do right.

"Thou shalt not covet . . ." is one of the clearest of the Ten Commandments. God told Moses to write and warn His people not covet *anything* someone else had. We were told not to covet their

family, their husband or wife, their servants, their possessions. We are supposed to be grateful and trusting for everything God gives *us*. And we are supposed to share with those who have less than we do.

Then God will bless us with more. So, the next time you feel that old bitter covetousness sneaking up, tell it to go away! Start telling the Lord that you're sorry and ask Him to help you. Tell Jesus that you don't *want* to be like that. Then pray for the person who has something you covet. Pray to God to bless them even more! And then God will bless you, too.

You'll see. That old burning bad feeling will go away and you will feel free and clear and joyful.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

THOU	FOUND
SHALT	IN
NOT	BIBLE
COVET	KING
IS	JAMES
ONE	VERSION
OF	CALL
MANKINDS	ON
OLDEST	JESUS
SINS	HE
AND	WILL
TEN	HELP
COMMANDMENT	

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

Branch and Mission News

Baptism at Freehold, NJ Branch

By Chris Perri

On Sunday, November 8, 1992, the saints of the Freehold, NJ Branch rejoiced to see another soul surrender to Jesus. Robert Christopher Venuto, the son of Sis. Theresa Venuto of the Edison Branch, was baptized on this day by Bro. Joseph Perri, assisted by Bro. James Crudup. Although the weather on this autumn day was cold, our hearts were all warmed by witnessing our new brother make his covenant to the Lord. Our church building was filled with many visitors from the Edison, Metuchen, Hopelawn and Levittown Branches.

Bro. Arthur Searcy from Edison opened the preaching service by reading scripture found in Enos—about a man who was going about his normal routine, but by remembering the teachings of his father, a righteous man, he found himself with a great desire to petition the Lord on his own behalf. In a way, this portion of scripture relates to our new brother Bob, who knew the Church all his life, but never came forward to make his commitment to the Lord until now.

After Bro. Bob was confirmed by Bro. Tony Vadasz, he gave his testimony. He thanked God for bringing him to this day, since less than six months earlier, he was involved in a very serious auto accident in which his car flipped over many times. The instant before impact, he asked the Lord only one thing—that he wouldn't feel any pain. Our merciful Father heard him—for the whole time he was trapped in his car, and for one whole week after, he felt no pain. He promised God that if he made it through, he would ask for his baptism. We all thank God that he was given a second chance at life, and thank God even more that now it's a new life in Christ!

At the water's edge

By Jim Watt

The morning of October 18, 1992 dawned cool, cloudy, and rainy. But the angels in heaven were rejoicing, because today two more souls were about to join the Army of the Lord.

The saints at Perry, Ohio arrived expecting one baptism. The previous Sunday (October 11) Mary Ann Granaas, mother of Roy Boerner Jr., asked for her baptism. Mary Ann has been attending church on a regular basis for about a year. During this time she has had several experiences. In one of the experiences she relates how God touched her hand and told her it was time for her to get baptized.

Bro. Bill Hufnagle, who was on the visitation schedule, opened the morning service. He related how when he arrived he saw brothers and sisters bringing food into the church. He wondered what the occasion was, not realizing it could be a baptism. But God had given him scripture relating to baptism. After Bro. Bill finished, Bro. Elmer Santilli followed the theme and related how God had called him into the Gospel almost 36 years ago.

After the service, the congregation went to the Grand River to witness Mary's baptism. After Mary was baptized Bro. Elmer stopped at the water's edge. He looked at the congregation and asked if there was anyone else wanting their baptism. To everyone's surprise, Buck Wilson stepped forward and asked for his baptism. No one expected this, including Buck's wife, Pansy, who has been a member of the Church for many years. Like Sis. Mary, Buck also has been attending church for about a year. During that time Buck has had several experiences, the most recent occurring about a week after his baptism. Buck relates how God came to his rescue one day after work:

He punched out and something happened to his eye, making it

almost impossible for him to see. After resting for a few minutes, the condition eased and he started for home. While driving home the condition came upon him again, only this time he became confused and didn't know how to get home. Buck said a prayer and the Lord answered it, leading him safely home. Buck related that he didn't know how he got home. But thank God, he was led by the Master's hand.

After the baptisms, everyone gathered in the church dining room for refreshments. After eating, everyone went upstairs and the two new members came forward to have hands laid on them for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Sister Mary was confirmed by Bro. Bill and Bro. Buck was confirmed by Bro. Elmer.

Kinsman, OH

By Rose Corrado

IN RETROSPECT

It is with much "Thanksgiving" that we bring 1992 to a close. Scanning over the events and blessings God has brought to our branch, we would like to share them with our *Gospel News* audience.

In January of 1992, Bro. Harold Burge (of Erie, PA) along with his wife and sister-in-law visited, as well as Sis. Dorothy Curry (Mon City) and son Richard. Sis. Mary (Jackson) Else of Fresno, CA was here visiting with her family.

February brought Bro. Ron Genaro (of Niles) and his family to share the day. Bro. Ron used for his text James 4:7, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Surrender was his theme. Christ was the epitome of surrender. He came to DO and FULFILL the WILL of His Father. When we fully surrender our lives, we will receive that closeness with God. In Helaman 3:35, the people fasted and prayed often, becoming stronger in humility and firmer in the faith of Christ, causing their

(Continued on Page 8)

KINSMAN continued . . .

souls to fill with joy and consolation, even the sanctification of their hearts, and all this because of their YIELDING their hearts unto God.

A group of us went to Kent State University in Kent, Ohio in March to listen to a lecture on the Dead Sea Scrolls. It was very enlightening and interesting.

May gave us the visit of Bro. and Sis. Jesse Carr and some of their family. Bro. Jesse's theme was taken from Genesis—the creation of the first woman, made as a helpmate to man, but also his equal. Bro. Jesse also performed one of the most precious ordinances of our Church. He blessed Christopher Ryan Tingler, our latest addition to the Branch, and what a beautiful child!

Also in May, we welcomed two more surprises—Brothers Tony and Joe Ross of Aliquippa. What enthusiasm exuded from these two brothers! Each told about their background, their calling into the Church, and God's continuing blessing in their lives. Bro. Joe then explained to us the missionary work in Africa. We were still basking in the love of these two brothers' visit when, the very next Sunday, we had two more—Brother Joe Genaro of Niles and Bro. Ralph Berardino of Youngstown. Their message centered on the parable of the sower.

In June, we shared a special activity with Branch #3 of Detroit. We met at Kirtland, Ohio, and toured the temple, the visitors center, and the Whitney Store—all historical sites of the Restoration Groups. On Sunday, Bro. Paul Whitton introduced our service, first giving us his personal testimony and then expounding on the words of Enos, "The words which I often heard my father speak concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints sunk deep into my heart." Then, in keeping with the theme of the weekend, he gave a very interesting talk on the Restoration of the Gospel and how Joseph Smith was used by God for that purpose. It was a beautiful weekend of fellowshiping with one another, sharing experiences and His great love.

When we think God has blessed us abundantly and ask, is there more? He never fails to surprise us—and that's exactly what happened! Sunday evening, August 23rd, Bro. Jack & Sister Esther Ford received a phone call from their son Joel who resides in Kent, Ohio telling them that he (Joel); his fiancée, Linda Franze; and John Ford's wife, Sue, had all three asked for their baptisms in the Kent, Ohio Mission that morning! Due to their work, they have been attending the Kent Mission, but could they come home to be baptized? OF COURSE!

Needless to say, Bro. Jack and Sis. Esther were overjoyed and went to all the brothers and sisters in Kinsman to spread the good news. The next Sunday would be the "Special Day" of the year. All things were made ready, and on August 30, we shared this special day with visitors from Niles, Youngstown, Kent, Perry, and Bro. Paul Ford of San Diego. The singing at the baptismal site was beautiful—Bro. Alton Kuhn (from Perry), his wife and sister, along with his guitar did the leading. Several hymns were sung that were special to the candidates. Bro. Jack Ford baptized all three. Confirmation service followed; Bro. Adam Costerella confirming Sis. Sue Ford; Bro. Mario Milano confirming Sis. Linda Franze; and Bro. Bob Batson confirming Bro. Joel Ford. Several testimonies were given and the candidates also expressed themselves.

Also during the service, all the school age children were called forward and a special blessing was asked on them as they went into another school year. At the conclusion of the service, we all met at Bro. Fred Mott's home for dinner and more fellowship. Thank you Lord, for three more souls!

In September, we hosted the Ohio District Circle Conference and invited Sis. Darlene Large to be our guest speaker. She very inspiringly gave us the testimony of her life and how she was directed of the Lord from the time she was a small child. Sis. Darlene then spoke of her work in India (HOINA), accompanied by a slide presentation. A weekend well spent in sharing with

various sisters.

October brought us Bro. Paul and Sis. Orletta Liberto of San Diego. They each related their experiences of coming into the Church. Then Bro. Paul gave a very inspiring and uplifting talk, especially for the young people, concluding his talk with a brief discussion on the work in Mexico. Bro. Joel Calabrese and family also shared a Sunday service with us. Bro. Joel dwelt on the variety of gifts given to God's people.

In December, our Bro. Philip Jackson, along with Bro. Brian Martorana, left for their missionary trip to India. We thank God for their safety and being able, with the help of our Lord, to accomplish the work they set out to do.

How can we ever sufficiently praise Him for a beautiful ending of 1992! We had visitors from Youngstown, New Jersey, Detroit, and North Carolina. Bro. Gary Ciccati introduced our service, drawing an analogy between the Christmas Season of "Asking" and the scriptures: "Ask, and it shall be given you; Seek, and ye shall find; Knock, and it shall be opened unto you"—"But Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Also, Wisdom is the most important request we can make. Bro. John Genaro followed using for his theme "setting your goal on the Rock, which is Christ, and never losing sight of it." Bro. Don Pandone also expressed himself on what both brothers brought forth. Very inspiring words. Many testimonies were given and hymns were sung to the glory of God!

There were many other visitors and activities in the branch throughout the year and we are very thankful for all of them.

We still extend a hearty invitation for visitors; and with all of you, our hope and goal for 1993 is to keep our eyes focused on that "Rock" and never waver. God Bless you!

"The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished" (II Peter 2:9).

ORDINATIONS continued . . .

said that when Judy married Gary, they were married in a different church. She said that on that day, she had shed many sorrowful tears. But today, she cries the tears of a very happy woman.

Brother Paul Whitton then spoke to the sisters about their new walk with God and in serving the people. He told them that they must always be prayerful, in every situation. The sisters were then prayed upon by the elders and ordained into their new office. A sister then told of a vision that she had during the meeting. She saw a rose on the sacrament table, and a petal was passed to each of the deaconesses. Our new deaconesses testified of their own experiences of being called. Sister Angie had also had a dream about Sister Dorothy being called, confirming both their callings. It was a beautiful meeting and a day to remember. God is so good.

THANK-YOU continued . . .

curi (who had passed away). She had a real big smile on her face, and nodded her head up and down. As I passed by, she waved to me. I smiled and waved back.

My mom, Sis. Theresa Venuto, had been staying at my house. As soon as I saw her the next morning, I told her about my dream. She said it had a special meaning for me. Sis. Stella symbolized the Church. Her nodding meant that the Church was pleased with my baptism. The child on her lap represented a birth—my being born a new creature in Christ. It was a very happy, pleasant and beautiful dream. I thank the Lord, once again, for His blessing extended to me, giving me another opportunity to serve Him.

Thank You for everything, Lord,
Brother Bob Venuto

MESSAGE continued . . .

Atlantic, and between Asia and America lay the Pacific.

“ ‘Son of the Republic,’ said the mysterious voice as before, ‘look and learn.’ At that moment I beheld a dark, shadowy being like an angel, standing or rather floating in mid-air between Europe and America. Dipping water out of the ocean in the hollow of each hand he sprinkled some on America with his right hand, while with his left he cast some on Europe. Immediately a dark cloud arose from these countries and joined in mid-ocean. For awhile it stayed stationary, and then moved slowly westward until it enveloped America and its murky folds. Sharp flashes of lightning gleamed through it at intervals and I heard the smothered groans and griefs of the American people. A second time the angel dipped out water of the ocean and sprinkled it out as before. The dark cloud was then drawn back to the ocean, in whose heaving billows it sank from view. A third time I heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ I cast my eyes upon America and beheld villages and towns and cities springing up one after the other until the whole land, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, was dotted with them. Again I heard the mysterious voice say, ‘Son of the Republic, the end of the century cometh, look and learn.’ At this, the dark shadowy angel turned his face southward from Africa. I saw an illuminated specter approach our land. It flittered slowly over every town and city of the latter. The inhabitants presently set themselves in battle against each other. As I continued looking I saw a bright angel, on whose brow rested a crown of light on which was the word ‘Union’ bearing the American flag, which she placed between the divided nations and said, ‘Remember, we are brethren.’ Instantly the inhabitants, casting from them their weapons, became friends once more and united around the standard.

“ ‘And I heard the mysterious voice say, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ At this, the

shadowy angel placed a trumpet to his mouth and blew three distinct blasts and taking water from the ocean, he sprinkled it upon Europe, Asia, and Africa. Then my eyes beheld a fearful scene; from each of these countries rose thick black clouds that were soon joined into one. Throughout the mass there gleamed a dark red light, by which I saw hordes of white men, who moving with the clouds, marched by land and sailed by sea to America, which country was enveloped in the volume of the cloud. I dimly saw the vast armies devastate the whole country and burn the villages, towns, and cities that I beheld spring up.

“ ‘As my ear listened to the thundering of the cannon and clashing of the swords and shouts and cries of missions in mortal combat, I again heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ When the voice had ceased, the dark shadowy angel placed his trumpet to his mouth and blew a long and fearful blast. Instantly a light, as of a thousand suns, shone from above me and pierced and broke into fragments the cloud that enveloped America. At the same moment the angel, upon whose crown still shone the word ‘Union,’ and who bore our national flag in one hand a sword in the other, descended from Heaven, attended by legions of white spirits. These immediately joined the inhabitants of America, who I perceived were well nigh overcome, but who immediately taking courage again closed up the broken ranks and renewed the battle.

“ ‘Again, amid the noise of the fearful conflict, I heard the mysterious voice saying, ‘Son of the Republic, look and learn.’ As the voice ceased, the shadowy angel for the last time dipped water from the ocean and sprinkled it upon America. Instantly the dark cloud rolled back, together with the armies it had brought, leaving the inhabitants of America victorious. Then once more I beheld the villages, towns, and cities springing up where I had seen them before,

(Continued on Page 10)

MESSAGE continued . . .

while the bright angel planted the azure standard he had brought in the midst of them, and cried with a loud voice, "While the stars remain and the heavens send down dew upon the earth, so long shall the Union last," and taking from his crown on which blazed the word "Union," he placed it upon the standard while the people, kneeling down, said "Amen."

"The last scene instantly began to fade and dissolve and I

saw nothing but the rising, curling vapor I had first beheld. This also disappearing, I found myself once more gazing upon the mysterious visitor, who, in the same voice as I heard before, said, "Son of the Republic, what you have seen is thus interpreted. The most fearful is the third. Let every child of the Republic learn to live for his God, his land, and Union."

"With these words the vision vanished and I started from my seat and felt that I had seen a vision wherein had been shown to me

the birth, progress and destiny of the United States.'

"Such, my friend," continued the narrator, "were the words I heard from Washington's lips."

From *Youth Comrade*, 1919.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Ciaravino, Gorie & Antoinette
17429 Indian
Redford, MI 48240
Tel. (313) 533-6662

New Arrivals

Zachary Matthew to Matthew David and Andrea Renee Hibbs. Zachary is the great grandson of Sister Elva Keller of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch. His grandparents are Sister Regina and Raymond Keller of Smock, PA; and Philip and Marsha Hibbs of Point Marion, PA.

On January 10, 1993, Liam Grant Turley, son of Brenda and Robert Turley, was blessed by Bro. Larry Henderson at the Windsor Branch.

Erin Renee Humphreys was blessed by Bro. Ralph Ciotti at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch on January 24, 1993.

Baptisms

Bro. Louis Rebeal Nagy Jr. and Sister Victoria Valerie Welsh were baptized on December 21, 1991 by Bro. James Sgro. Bro. Louis was confirmed by Bro. Frank Mazzeo, and Sis. Victoria was confirmed by Bro. James Sgro in the New Brunswick, NJ Branch.

Children Blessed

Michelle Diane Coppa was blessed on March 22, 1992 by Bro. Frank Mazzeo in the New Brunswick, NJ Branch.

Bro. Bill Hufnagle blessed his twin grandsons, Frank William Jr. and Ryan Mitchell Hufnagle on April 19, 1992, at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On October 11, 1992, Alexander David Gentile was blessed by his great uncle, Bro. Alex Gentile, at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Amber Marie Nichols was blessed at Branch #1 on the same day by Bro. Lou Pietrangelo, and Bro. Anthony Scolaro blessed Crystal Jean Nichols.

Brian Russell Jenkinson was blessed at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan by Brother Paul Whitton.

On December 6, 1992, Kyle Girard, son of Kirk and Lynne Girard, was blessed by Bro. Frank G. Vitto at the Windsor, Ontario Branch.

OBITUARIES

ALBERT NAGY

Brother Albert Nagy of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch passed away on March 19, 1992. He was born August 5, 1921, in Keasbey, New Jersey. He was a member of the Church for many years.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Josephine, three sons, a daughter, and a granddaughter, as well as many brothers and sisters in Christ. We pray that God will bless and comfort his family.

ROSE IMPASTATO

Sister Rose Impastato of Detroit Branch #1 passed on to her eternal reward on November 7, 1992. Our sister was born in Italy on January 6, 1904 and received Christ as her Lord and Savior on February 4, 1933. She was baptized by Bro. Joseph Johnson and confirmed by Bro. Anthony Ruzzi.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Louis Vitto and Gary Coppa. Her grandson, Brother Wayne Conti, sang the hymn *This World Is Not My Home*. Our sister is survived by three sons, Bro. John, Bro. Sam, and Ned; a daughter, Sis. Virginia Conti; two brothers; thirteen grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

Sister Rose served as a deaconess for many years at Detroit Branch #3, and to many brothers and sisters she projected the image of a comforting mother. Her kindness, strength, and great faith will be remembered by all.

(Continued on Page 11)

MARY OBER

Sister Mary Margaret Ober of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch passed away after a long illness on November 24, 1992. She was baptized on January 4, 1948.

Brothers Robert Nicklow Sr. conducted the service as many friends and relatives gathered to say good-bye to our beloved sister.

Sister "Margarette," as she was known to many, spent her last few months in pain and suffering. Even though she was afflicted with cancer, she did not complain at all, even to the very end. We who had the pleasure of knowing her will remember her testimonies, how she would rise upon her feet and praise God in the Spirit. Sister Ober will be sadly missed by her relatives and friends, as well as her brothers and sisters in Christ.

NICK AND LENA LIBERTO

Bro. Nicholas Liberto was called home to his eternal resting place on November 22, 1992. Two days later, his wife, Sis. Lena, also passed from this life and entered into paradise to join her beloved husband. They were eulogized in a joint service on November 25, 1992, and were buried side by side on November 27, 1992.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Lena were pillars in the Church, and it was sad to see them go. However, there was a great blessing in their passing, as neither one of them had to mourn for each other. They lived together 59 years as husband and wife, and then went home together.

The funeral service, conducted by their son-in-law, Bro. Edmond Buccellato, was very touching. Bro. Ed related the story of their courtship and marriage and how their lives touched their family, friends and brothers and sisters in Christ. There were both tears and laughter as everyone reminisced together. It truly seemed that it was the end of a wonderful love story. Bro. Ed was assisted by Bro. Louis Ciccatti in the funeral service and the brothers presented a wonderful tribute to Bro. Nick and Sis. Lena.

Bro. Nick was born in Calabria, Italy, on April 15, 1913. He was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on May 29, 1933, at McKees Rocks, PA. He was an ordained teacher in the Church. He came to the United States with his family when he was 1 month and 20 days of age. He grew up in Pittsburgh, PA, where he met Sis. Lena at age 19. Bro. Nick was always very active in Church activities, holding offices in the Sunday School and MBA. He organized the first MBA in California at San Diego in 1945. He was active with church building construction and maintenance in Pennsylvania and California. Bro. Nick was everyone's handyman and worked more for others than for himself.

Sis. Lena was born in Loganstown, Pennsylvania, on December 9, 1914. She was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on April 3, 1932, at Youngstown, OH. She was an ordained deaconess in

the Church. She grew up in Glassport, PA with her mother, father, one sister and two brothers. Her father died when she was 15. She attended business school and went to work to help support the family. She was always active in the Church as Sunday School teacher, Ladies' Circle officer and MBA member. She met Bro. Nick when she was 17.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Lena were married on June 11, 1933 in Glassport, PA. They moved to San Diego, CA, in 1945, and remained there until they passed away. They were active members of the San Diego Branch for over 47 years.

Bro. Nick is survived by his sister, Carmella Mariotti, and Sis. Lena is survived by her sister, Ann Smith. They are also survived by their sons Thomas (wife Marcia) and Paul (wife Orletta), their daughter Leana Buccellato (husband Edmond), 9 grandchildren, Debra Jackson (husband Mike), Lynn Womack (husband Bob), Nancy Hemmings (husband Kim), Karen Liberto, Tom Liberto, Lisa Alessio (husband Brian), Michael Buccellato, Amy Buccellato, and Matthew Buccellato, and 7 great-grandchildren, Charlie Jackson, Todd Jackson, Jared Womack, Jacob Womack, Jamie Hemmings, Joshua Womack and Daniel Hemmings.

Although they are missed very much by their natural and spiritual families, and by their many friends, there is comfort in knowing we will see them again!

JOSEPHINE DELL

On December 4, 1992, Sister Josephine Dell of the Levittown, PA Branch passed on to her eternal reward. Born January 18, 1917, Sister Jo, as she was affectionately known, was a baptized member of the Church for over 59 years. Our sister was ordained a deaconess in 1948 and supported her husband, Evangelist Sam Dell, in many missionary endeavors.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Benyola and Jerry Valenti.

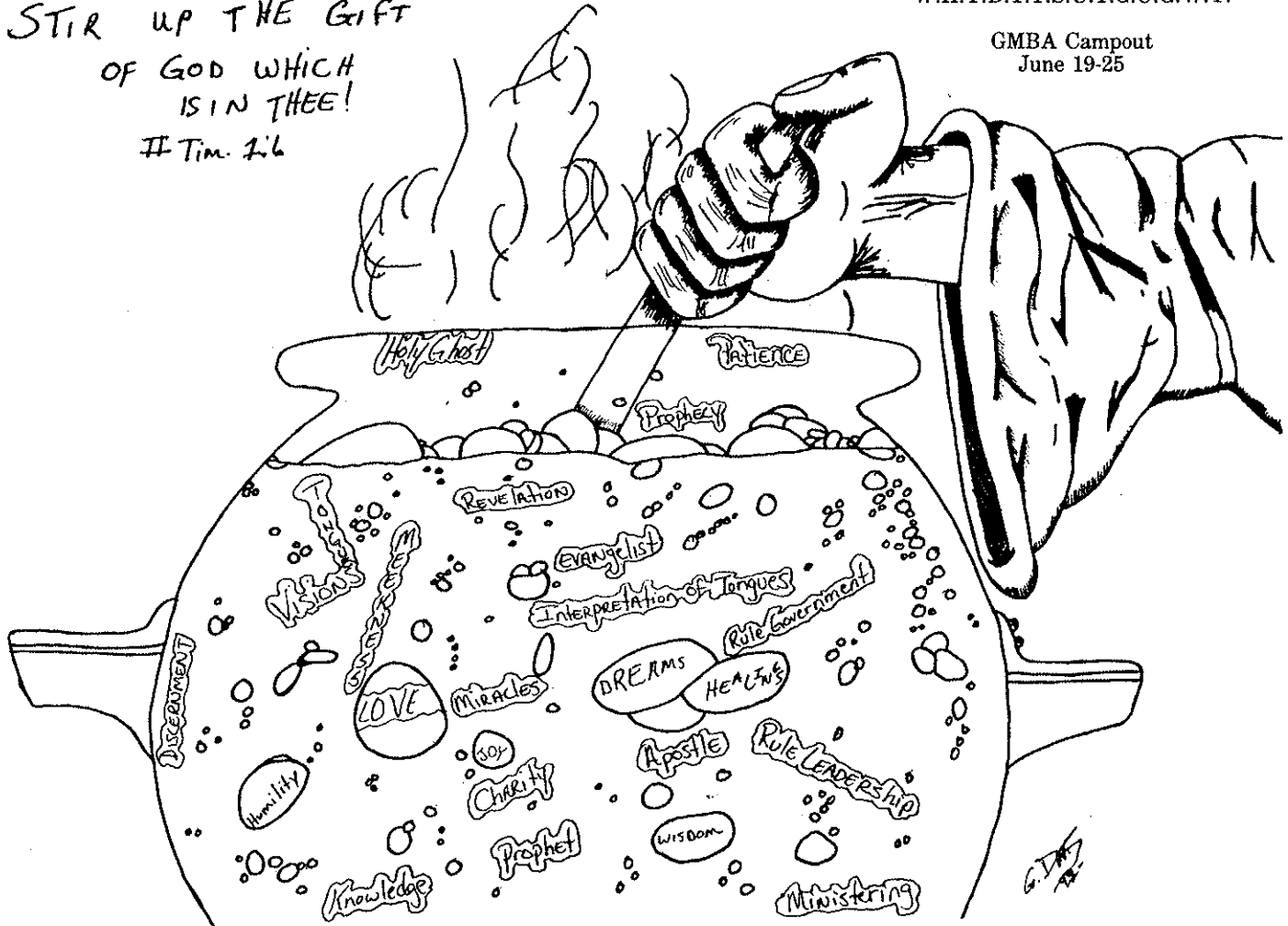
Sister Jo is survived by her husband of 53 years, Bro. Sam Dell; a son, Bro. Brent Dell; a daughter, Flora Rinehold; one sister and one brother; three grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. Our sister will be sadly missed by all who knew her. She exemplified a saint of God in her every action. She possessed a love for all people, and a concern for the welfare of their souls. Along with her husband, Sister Jo worked to establish the Levittown Branch, which today is one of the largest branches in the Atlantic Coast District. Every aspect of our sister's life was dedicated to God and His Church. Sister Jo personified the words of Christ spoken in His sermon on the mount, "But seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

During the latter years of her life, our sister suffered through much affliction. Yet, her love for God, and her joy in serving Him and loving His people never wavered. Today, Sister Jo has earned her reward and she will be remembered as a sterling example of a saint of the Most High God.

STIR UP THE GIFT
OF GOD WHICH
IS IN THEE!
Tim. 4:6

W.H.Y.D.T.T.S.U.T.G.O.G.W.Y.

GMBA Campout
June 19-25



* WEDDINGS *

HUFNAGLE—COOL

Bro. Frank William Hufnagle and Shannon Cool were united in holy matrimony on June 29, 1991 at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The groom's brother, Bro. Jim Hufnagle, performed the wedding ceremony.

GIBSON—HYATT

Ryan Gibson and Karen Hyatt were united in marriage on January 23, 1993, at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

Brother James King performed the wedding ceremony. Sister Nina DiCenzo furnished the songs and the music. Eight-year-old Stephanie Wilson, a niece of the bride, played a selection on the piano.

Ryan is the son of Sister Angeline Gibson. The couple are residing at RD Smock, Pennsylvania. May God bless them in their life together.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

April, 1993

Volume 49, No. 4

A Miracle

*God's love is unbounded
He proves it o'er and o'er
For this, I owe everything!
My heart doth soar!*

We truly don't know from day to day what the Lord has in store. We have to be ready, spiritually sound, when He comes knocking at our door. Miracles do exist today. The Lord performed a miracle in our life and our son's life.

Our son, Anthony, who is 11 years old, took very ill in the summer of 1991. He had all the symptoms of the flu. After five days of him being ill, we began to become very worried. He wasn't eating, his coloring was bad, and he kept experiencing excruciating pain in his stomach. That following Sunday we had him anointed.

At that time, Brother George Timms was visiting with us. He anointed Anthony. After he was anointed, Sister Kathy Onorato got up and related a dream she had prior to this. She saw an elder whom she had never met, in her dream, holding a child up to the heavens. She had never met Brother Goerge, and we felt that this dream pertained to Anthony being anointed. Also, as Sister Kathy was relating this experience, I saw a vision of Anthony Onorato's name written down in an open

book. We felt relieved after he was anointed and these experiences were had, for we knew that the Lord would be with him.

After the meeting, Sister Marie Perrello approached me and said, "I feel strongly that you should take him to a doctor. The next day I did. The doctor said, 'The flu is known to last this long; give it a few more days.'" He felt the stomach pain was just muscle strain from vomiting. The next day, Anthony's condition grew worse. The thought struck me very hard that my son was in grave danger. We prayed continually that the Lord would be with him. The doctor called me and asked how he was. I said that he was much worse. "He is running a fever, his stomach is in severe pain, and he has lost eight pounds." The doctor said, "bring him in."

They took a blood count. While waiting for the results, a specialist was brought in. They were still insisting it was the flu. I prayed silently within myself that the Lord would make it known what was causing these problems. When the results of the blood work came back, Anthony's white blood count was double what it should have been. He was loaded with infection.

They admitted him to the hospital immediately. They took an ultrasound and found out that his appendix had burst six days prior to this, and had leaked into a pocket behind his bladder. This is why his

stomach had hurt so bad.

They performed surgery and successfully removed his appendix and a cyst, the size of an egg, from behind his bladder. He recovered fully.

We praise the Lord with all that we have. As we look back, we can see clearly how the Lord worked. He had prepared us for this. It had happened two weeks after the dedication of our Church

(Continued on Page 3)

Dedication in Sardinia, Italy

The dedication of the newly built Church of Jesus Christ on the island of Sardinia, Italy is scheduled to take place the weekend of June 19 and 20, 1993. All who are able to make the journey are most welcome to take part in this blessed occasion.

Anyone interested in attending this momentous event should contact one of these two brothers for details:

Bro. V. James Lovalvo
(209) 431-2960

Bro. John DiBattista
(714) 859-6022

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

"TEACHINGS WE NEED LIVE BY"

If you bring your gift to the altar and remember that your brother has aught against you, leave there your gift before the altar and go your way; first be reconciled to your brother and then come and offer your gift.

"PRESIDENT GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MORAL STRENGTH"

One day Washington had an argument with a friend: it soon deepened into a quarrel. At last George made use of language so violent and so provoking that his friend knocked him down. Among gentlemen it was held, two hundred years ago, that insults like this could be avenged only by bloodshed.

The companions of the two young antagonists were greatly excited and desired nothing but a duel as the outcome of this unfortunate encounter, which would surely result in the death of one and possibly both.

George Washington went home and thought the whole matter over. He tried to put himself in his opponent's place, and from this point of view, to pass judgment upon himself. He was compelled to acknowledge that he had used words that were bitter and provoking. No doubt fault lay on both sides, but George reasoned that he was responsible for his portion of it. Hard as it was, he decided that he would not carry this responsibility any longer.

The next day he searched for

the man who had knocked him down. He found him—not alone, but standing in a group of companions. When they saw Washington approaching, they felt sure the quarrel was to be renewed or else a challenge was coming. To their astonishment, George Washington walked up to the man and held out his hand.

"I was in the wrong yesterday," he said. "I am sorry, and ask your pardon." This friendly and straightforward appeal met with instant response. The two young men grasped hands and became lifelong friends from then on. "That young chap will make a man—a great man—some day," commented those present.

We all have our ordinary trials as well as extraordinary ones. He is tested in the fires of everyday troubles and abuses and mistakes. No man is truly great, whatever his victories over other men may be, if he had not won the victory over himself.

"My son, neglect not the duty of secret prayer." That was the admonition of the pious mother of George Washington to her noble son, then twenty-one years of age, as he left home to carry a dispatch from the Governor of Virginia to a French commander stationed in Western Pennsylvania.

Both the father and mother of George Washington were devoutly religious; the Bible was read daily.

George Washington went on to become a symbol of a country under God.

Finally "greatness is shown in the ability to say 'I was wrong and I ask for your pardon'."

Let us rise and shine.
Mark Randy

Beautiful Garden of Prayer

One morning last week during my reading scripture and listening to hymn music, I heard the song *The Beautiful Garden of Prayer*. As I was meditating on this song, God inspired me with a thought: "Where is the garden of prayer?"

Mine is in my living room, very early in the morning. Your garden of prayer does not have to be a literal garden; it can be anywhere in your home, at any time of day. Any quiet place where we can spend time with our Lord Jesus who listens to us through our hearts faster than any communications. Isn't it wonderful, with all the people praying, that God hears each one. The verse of the song goes like this:

There's a garden where Jesus
is waiting,
And He bids you to come meet
Him there;
Just to bow and receive a new
blessing,
In the beautiful garden of prayer.

Friends, where is your garden of prayer?

Phyllis Kovacic
Erie, PA

The Gospel According to You

The most beautiful story given to man
Was written long ago
By Matthew, Mark, Luke and John,
Of Christ and His mission below.

And you write a gospel,
a chapter a day,
By your deeds,
whether faithless or true;
When others read it,
what will they think
Of the gospel according to you?

It's a wonderful story,
the Gospel of love,
As it shines with Christ's life divine.
Oh, that its truth might be told again
In the story of your life and mine.

You are writing each day
a letter to men;
Take care that the writing is true.
It's the only gospel
some people may read,
That gospel according to you.

By Wallace E. Norwood
Submitted by Sis. Patti Saragosa
Branch #1, Roseville, Michigan

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the prayers and support that were offered for my wife, my family, and myself during the illness and death of my wife, Sister Josephine. We can surely say that your support came from true friends in The Church of Jesus Christ.

My wife made sure that I save all of your cards, because she wanted to re-read them from time to time.

Our hope and faith is that some day we shall be reunited to part no more. May God bless all my brothers and sisters for their love and concern.

Yours in Christ,
Bro. Samuel Dell and Family

Words for Thought

You are rich if you have your self-respect, your skill, your experience, and have saved your faith in yourself. You are rich if you have a friend who believes in you, a work that is worth doing, and a God who is willing to be patient with you. You are rich if you have the power to appreciate beauty, a little time to think about high and noble things, and a loved one to inspire you to attempt something better than you have yet achieved. You are rich if you can remember the past without humiliation, discharge today's duties with faithfulness and strict accuracy, and face the future without fear. "A man's life does not consist in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Life is never a dog's life for any but dogs. Of course there is drudgery in it, but to surrender to that drudgery is to increase it. There is monotonous toil in it, but to see only the monotony is to be blind. The dog leads a dog's life because it has never dreamed of being anything more than a dog, but for a man born in the image of God there is the promise of better days and a higher life. Man was created

to walk upon two feet in order that his eyes might rest upon the stars, and his mind might be occupied with vast thoughts of God and eternity. Give your spirit a rest by thinking for a time on God's greatness.

If the world in which you live is a disagreeable place, try changing yourself. If the people around you are unfriendly, try changing yourself. Try putting on a smile in the presence of those who are storming; try speaking a word of thankfulness in the conversation that is filled with complaints; try laughing a bit for the benefit of those who are downhearted. You will be surprised how quickly the world about you changes when you change your approach to it. Look for the evil in other people and you will be sure to find it; look for the good in them and it will soon come to the surface. "Keep the heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

Every man *knows* better than he *does*. Most of us *think* better than we *act*. We are well aware of the evil of our action but we are not able to compel our will to work with our judgment. We lack spiritual coordination. You probably know of something at this moment which you ought to do, but you are not able to summon yourself to begin. It was a great moment in the life of the prodigal when he said, "I will arise." Up to that time he may have been waiting for someone to start him off toward home. With those words he started himself. Some of us will never get anywhere until we start ourselves. We never arrive until after we start.

To have striven, to have made an effort, to have been true to certain ideals—this alone is worth the struggle.

In practical life we find that man is not holiest who is remotest from surroundings of evil.

Never fear the length of the path of duty.

The right way through this life is the best way in this life.

Remorse is an enemy to repose.

He who can have joy in the eternal hereafter has joy in every passing day.

To God's children everywhere the best is always ahead. Those who yield to the drawings of God's love, and seek to be conformed to His image and to the likeness of His Son in true godliness, can be sure that much as they have had of enjoyment and profit in the past, or now have in the present, they are to have more in the future—the best is still to come. It is so in the life that now is, and it is so in the life which is to come.

There is nothing more to be esteemed than a manly firmness and decision of character. I like a person who knows his own mind and sticks to it; who sees at once what, in given circumstances, is to be done, and does it.

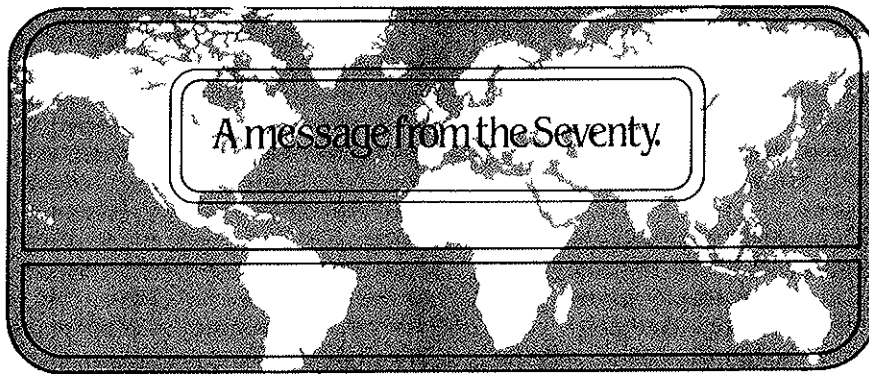
Sis. Elaine Sechez
Erie Branch

MIRACLE continued . . .

building. We had planned a two-week vacation for relaxation, but the Lord had planned differently. He was truly there, carrying us through this. It was perfect timing when Brother George came. He helped us tremendously, spiritually and naturally, by watching our other two children while we were running back and forth to the hospital. What a blessing he was!

The Lord protected Anthony's body from being poisoned by his appendix, by letting the poison stay within a pocket behind his bladder. I am still in awe over the miracle that was performed! How can we ever sufficiently praise him for his wonderful, caring LOVE! We want to also take this opportunity to thank all my brothers and sisters and family for their support, prayers and love. You will never know how deeply you touched us. God bless all of you.

Bro. Richard and Sis. Cynthia Onorato
Maine



Pacific Coast District Mission Operating Committee Report

By Paul Liberto, PCDMOC Chairman

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to experience first hand the work of the Church in Mexico?

I shall never forget my first trip to the interior of Mexico and the excitement I felt as I walked the streets of a new and different part of the Americas. My mind traveled back to our ancient Nephite and Lamanite brethren as I tried to imagine what their lives must have been like. My spirit was lifted as I listened to the powerful singing and testimonies of our Mexican brothers and sisters. I was overwhelmed by the great love and respect they demonstrated to me. I learned that they are very honored to have the Church from the United States visit them in their homes, and that they give you the best that they have.

Try as I might, however, it is impossible for me to relate what **being** there really means, with the laughing children, the beautiful countryside, the exotic fruits and the humble dwellings. Other memorable sights were the market places, the shops, the farm yard animals, the buses and donkey carts, and the sugar cane fields. But the most outstanding of all were the love and the joy that can only be understood by being there.

If this sounds good to you and you would like to experience the work in Mexico, then plan now to attend the Pacific Coast District Mission Operating Committee's first sponsored trip to Mexico. This trip will be to the place I just described,

the beautiful state of Sinaloa, Mexico, located approximately 700 miles south of San Diego, California, on the west coast of Mexico. Dates, costs and other details will be forthcoming, but the event will be in 1994, departing by air from Tijuana, Mexico (San Diego's next door neighbor) on a direct flight to Los Mochis, Sinaloa. All accommodations (air travel, ground travel, food, lodging, etc.) will be lovingly and carefully coordinated by the PCDMOC. The trip will offer flexibility for scheduling and individual tastes and offer an opportunity to enjoy Mexico, relax, and mingle with the Seed of Joseph in a very special way. When you return home, you will take with you memories that will last a lifetime!

REASONS CHOSEN

Sinaloa was chosen as the site of our first missionary excursion because it is very accessible, reasonably priced, and currently the fastest growing work in the district. There are two main villages, close to Los Mochis, where most of the membership live. The Church was established in Ahome some 20 years ago. The congregation numbers about 70 and has a good-sized building for services. Another nearby village, San Isidro, has a congregation of about 80 and construction of a new church building will soon be underway. By the time we arrive there, the new church building will be completed and ready for our visit!

A revival has taken place in these communities over the past year as evidenced by the fact that there has been a combined total of 86 people baptized in both missions. The revival is primarily because of the efforts of a young elder named Hector Carlon. God has inspired Bro. Hector to conduct nine services weekly, both in homes and at the Church. He is the presiding elder at the Ahome Mission and he is assisted in his efforts by Elder Ventura Armenta, as well as his teachers and deacons.

Bro. Hector works very closely with the San Isidro Mission. He assists Presiding Elder Juan Benitez and Elder Ramon Lopez with the work. The saints meet five times a week there. The Church in Sinaloa has been mightily blessed with experiences and healings.

The work in Sinaloa is under the direction of PCDMOC member Bro. Sam Randy, assisted by Bro. Jesse Guerrero. These brothers have been very diligent in working closely with the missions both spiritually and temporally. As with most missionary endeavors of the Church, however, their efforts are hampered by a lack of funds and personnel. Nevertheless, the brothers are very excited about the prospects for the work there.

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In addition to Brothers Randy and Guerrero, the following brothers are also members of the PCDMOC: Frank Ciotti, Tom Liberto, Anthony Cardinali, David Ciccatti, John Vela, Matthew Picciuto, Luis Pacheco, Vicente Arce, Walt Jankowski and Bob Womack.

The committee is also very much involved with missionary efforts in other parts of Mexico: Tijuana, Baja California; Mexicali, Baja California; Cuautemoc, Chihuahua; Pedernales, Michoacan; and Mexico City, Mexico. Additionally, the committee is involved with an outreach to urban Indians in the United States, a domestic mission outreach program, a missionary training school for the work in Mexico, and a civil association for ownership of property in Mex-

(Continued on Page 6)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovaivo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Patrick Monaghan
RD -2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

PACIFIC COAST
Kenneth R. Jones
24288 Robie Ct.
Moreno Valley, CA 92388

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST
Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"And they were astonished at his doctrine; for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes" (Mark 1:22).

A very strong contrast is drawn in the above scripture (and again in Matthew 7:28 & 29) between the impact of Christ's teaching and the influence of the scribes. Both passages refer to the bearing of authority which the Lord carried with Him and conveyed to those whom He taught. They contrast Christ's ministry with that of the scribes, whose teachings, according to this text, were lacking in potency and effect.

Just what was it about Jesus that gave Him this demeanor of authority? Did He speak louder than everyone else, or talk faster than the scribes? Was it the clothes He wore, or a document in His pocket? No, it was the Spirit of God with which He was anointed. Jesus Christ was the ultimate role model. He *taught* the Truth, He *lived* the Truth, and He consequently *persuaded* others to follow after the Truth. The life that Jesus led gave Him the liberty to tell others—convincingly—to follow Him and do as He did.

As Christ's ambassadors here on earth, the saints of God are all called to be role models. It is a ponderous task; perhaps it's something we would sometimes rather not think about. However, if we wish to succeed in drawing others to Christ—another thing we are called to do—we must truly model the things that we teach. Those who are called to positions of leadership have an even greater responsibility, not only to model the Truth of the Gospel to the world, but also to demonstrate it to the saints of God, their flock. It is something that we cannot do alone; we must rely upon the power of God to accomplish it.

There is no viable alternative to leaning on the power of God in order to draw others to Him. If we rely on our own might to carry out this commission, we are no longer operating in the will of God. We become dictatorial, and resort to the use of force and intimidation. We find it necessary to remind people of our authority in order for them to recognize it. While these methods may have been used by the scribes, they are not how God draws mankind to Him. In fact, this kind of behavior usually incites rebellion of one form or another. The power and authority that we might try to exercise under these conditions is tentative and precarious.

On the other hand, the man of God's approach to authority is motivated by love, supported by the scriptures, and confirmed by the Holy Spirit. Vastly different from political power, it wins the genuine respect, affection, and support of others, and gives all honor and glory to God. This is *real* power. With it, we can draw men and women to forsake their sinful ways, come to Christ, accept His salvation, and live righteously before Him all the days of their lives. As we minister to one another and to a world of sin, may we be like Christ Himself, teaching as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Dear Girls and Boys,

You know, a lot of times when people read the scriptures, they think, "Oh, it was easier to serve God in those days! It's harder now. And there are so many more ways to get confused and tempted to do the wrong things."

In the Americas, most homes have at least one television. Many times God's people watch violent or evil things on television. It takes wisdom to realize that a program is bad, too sensual, or too rude, with people laughing at sacred things. Even today, there are many, many programs and cartoons about magic and witchcraft and false creatures with mysterious power.

There is only *one* true God. Jesus is His only begotten Son. He is our Lord and will teach us the ways of power and faith if we just let Him.

Our job is to turn off the TV; don't bring home sinful videos to watch, and never watch anything having to do with giving power to sin and witchcraft.

That will be hard to do. Even the movie "Ghostbusters" is about an evil, false God coming to life. The cartoons we often watch are full of bad messages. We forget to be careful.

We can pray to the Lord and ask Him to clearly show us what to watch. We will get a little feeling deep inside of us that will tell us whether it is right or not to put ourselves in contact with that particular program, or video, or book.

You may discover that little by little, many bad programs have crept into your life. You may realize that even though you knew something was wrong, you allowed

yourself to become attracted to it.

That's the way sin works. The old devil knows that if he starts sneaking bad things in a little bit at a time, he has a better chance of tricking people. Today, people are watching programs that would have worried and shocked them a few years ago.

The Apostle Paul tells us how to teach our minds to make the right choices. In the Bible, in Philipians 4:8-9 he writes, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, . . . whatsoever things are pure, . . . whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which you have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

It may be hard to change, and to even think about what you'd like to change. Talk it over with the Lord, in your prayers. Then talk it over with your family. Finally, remember also the Apostle Paul encourages us by verse 13: "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Chapter	I
Four	Can
Verse	Do
Eight	Things
Whatsoever	Through
Things	Christ
Are	Which

Honest
Pure
Of
Good
Report
Virtue
Think
On
These
Things

Strengtheneth
Me
Believe
Our
Lord
Jesus
He
Does
Care

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

MESSAGE continued . . .

ico. Each of the aforementioned subjects is worthy of detailed reporting and will be covered in future articles from the PCDMOC.

We solicit your support. We need your prayers, words of encouragement, physical help and financial assistance. The words of our Savior are as true today as when He spoke them nearly two thousand years ago: "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

May God bless the Church as we continue to take the Gospel to all nations! I pray that many of us will have the opportunity to visit with the Saints in Sinaloa, Mexico, in 1994!

Our Women Today

Michigan-Ontario Area Circle Activities

By Brenda Capone

In June 1992, the Area Ladies' Circle planned a casual visit to the Inner City Branch in Detroit, MI. We thought that as a group of women supporting The Church of Jesus Christ, it would be nice to visit some of the sisters and brothers. It was an enjoyable visit and we truly felt the Spirit of God. Our prayers are that God will continue the work with our sisters everywhere.

In July 1992, the Area Circle attended the Mexicotown Mission. It was a beautiful day and all who attended were blessed. The sisters from the mission prepared a wonderful Mexican meal for us, and we enjoyed their smiles and words of encouragement and support to the Circle.

In September we held our spiritual meeting at the Sterling Heights Branch. The sisters in charge presented the history of the Area—where it began, who was involved at the time, and all the past officers. It was really interesting and encouraging to see where we've come in the past thirty years as an Area Circle. The sisters spent the next two hours bearing their testimonies. They told of their experiences in the Circle and what the Circle means to them. Afterwards we joined hands and made a huge circle for our closing prayer.

We then had lunch and a wonderful thirty-year anniversary cake was served.

There were posters of many pictures from past circle events on the walls. How good the Lord has been to this Circle of sisters, who love and support God's word! We hope that in 1993, we can do many things for The Church of Jesus Christ and His people.

Branch and Mission News

Blessings in Modesto, CA

By Valerie Dulisse

December 20, 1992 was a very historic as well as a joyous day in the Modesto, CA Branch of the Church. This was the first time since the establishment of our branch that three generations of children from one family had been blessed by our ministry. And to add to the excitement, there were three infants from this family, the Camarda family, blessed on the same day! The first generation was represented by Nancy Catalano, who had been blessed in 1951, the first blessing ever performed in Modesto. Brother Mark Randy had performed the blessing.

Then in 1957, Brother Jim and Sister Nancy Catalano Camarda's wedding was the first to take place at Modesto Branch. Their son, Samuel Camarda, was blessed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo in 1960. Their daughter, Annette Camarda, was blessed in 1964, again by Bro. Mark Randy.

On this special day, December 20, 1992, Annette Camarda Jurado and her husband Dean Jurado brought their firstborn daughter, Athena Catherine Jurado, to be blessed, again by Brother Mark. Also, Brother Samuel and Sister Tamara (Brown) Camarda, proud parents of twin infants themselves, dedicated their children, Vincent Kenneth and Allyssa Denise Camarda, to God. Brother Anthony Cardinali performed the blessing of Vincent, and Brother Matthew Picciuto prayed that the Lord would seal His blessings upon Allyssa.

What a wonderful circle of love there was around the Camarda family on this day, as they stood together on the platform, asking God to hear and accept these prayers for the innocent angels He has placed in our midst. The day will be long remembered as the realization of a beautiful legacy which will also live forever in the hearts of the generations which follow.

McKees Rocks, PA

By Carol Monaghan

"But without faith it is impossible to please him, for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Diligently seek him; that is what Ron Brown did. He told us he first visited The Church of Jesus Christ in Warren, Ohio in 1977 while living in Akron, Ohio. He also attended April Conference that same year, trying to familiarize himself with churches that believed in the Book of Mormon. Then in 1979, still living in Ohio, Ron came to visit a friend in Pittsburgh and decided to attend services at the McKees Rocks Branch. Still searching, Brother Ron said he asked the same question Joseph Smith asked the Lord, which church should he join? Last December of 1992 he began praying, asking God what church he should attend. He made a New Year's resolution to start attending church. He said the only church that came to his mind was "The Church of Jesus Christ in McKees Rocks, PA."

On January 6, 1993, a Wednesday night, he took a bus to our old building in Pittock, PA, only to find it was now a cabinet shop. This did not stop Brother Ron. He returned home and looked up the new address. He came that Sunday morning, January 10, 1993. Visiting that day was Bro. Larry Watson of the Southwest district. His theme was "There is Purpose—we're here not by chance but by design" which, looking back, was very fitting for Brother Ron's first visit. Also visiting was Bro. Frank Ciotti of Anaheim, CA who said he gave Ron credit for not giving up, that he didn't come all that way to see a cabinet shop; he came to meet the Cabinet Maker.

Sunday, January 24, 1993, Ron had hands laid on him for direction from God. As the ministry prayed

(Continued on Page 8)

McKEES ROCKS continued . . .

for him, Ron saw a vision of an altar in front of him. It stood between him and the Lord. He saw his heart on the altar and the Lord said to him, "If you will give me your heart, I'll fill it with My will." Ron felt his heart was his offering to God.

On January 31, 1993, Ron Brown gave his heart to the Lord. He testified that he had been baptized before, but no other church has the authority to change your soul. What a glorious testimony, and a New Year's resolution fulfilled.

San Diego celebrates major milestones

1992 was a year filled with celebration in the San Diego, California Branch as several very important milestones were reached over the last half of the year.

In June, we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the dedication of the San Diego Branch. At a special evening service, a slide show was presented which recounted the history of the branch, from its beginnings in 1952 to the present day. The membership enjoyed hearing stories about the many miracles that took place during the construction of the branch, as well as seeing the faces and recounting the testimonies of brothers and sisters who helped establish the church in San Diego and who have since gone

home to dwell with Christ.

In addition to commemorating the branch's anniversary last year, we honored five brothers and sisters who celebrated a combined total of 310 years in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Last summer, Sister Rose and Brother Bill DiFranco marked the 60th anniversary of their baptisms. On July 26, 1932, Sister Rose was baptized in Cleveland, Ohio, and was followed by her husband Brother Bill several weeks later on August 9. Four years later, the couple celebrated their wedding. Brother Bill and Sister Rose attended the San Diego Branch from 1947 to 1951, and then from 1961 to the present. Brother Bill served as a minister in the Church, and Sister Rose as a Sunday School teacher, for nearly 30 years.

Brother Alfred and Sister Josephine Dominico also celebrated their 60th year in the Gospel. Brother Alfred was baptized on November 20, 1932, in Lorain, Ohio, and Sister Josephine on December 29. Four years later, Brother Alfred and Sister Josephine were wed. They have been members of the San Diego Branch since 1974. Brother Alfred serves as a minister and Sister Josephine a deaconess.

Also celebrating her spiritual birthday was Sister Jeanette Velardi, who enjoyed her 70th year in the Church. She was baptized on December 13, 1922 in Lorain, Ohio. Sister Jeanette, a deaconess in the Church, moved to San Diego in 1979.

The events were joyfully acknowledged during the church services and each saint was honored with a special cake to commemorate the occasion.

Riverside, CA

Sunday, November 22, was another beautiful and unusual service at the Riverside, CA Mission. The Spirit of God was very strong from Sunday School on throughout the day. Our shepherd, Bro. Ken Jones, was very much afflicted with the flu and his voice could hardly be

heard. Even though he was sick he was there to anoint others who were also sick. Bro. Randy Lee felt inspired by God to ask Bro. Ken to sit in the chair and asked all the brothers and sisters to form a circle on their knees around him. Bro. Randy felt that Bro. Ken needed to be anointed, but since Bro. Ken was the only elder present, it could not be done. Many prayers were offered for Bro. Ken as great love was shown for him. Bro. Ken said that while lying in bed that night, he noticed that his pain was gone. We praise God's name for His blessings.

The next Sunday, we witnessed God's power once again. Sis. Vivian Gonzales' son was acting very strange and uncontrollable. She asked to have him prayed for, as many could feel the evil power trying to destroy him. At the end of the prayer, when Bro. Ken said, "in Jesus' name," Sis. Carol Kirkpatrick had a vision and saw something black fly out of the window. The little boy fell asleep and has been in a state of calmness ever since. Praise His name forever.

Blessings in Hopelawn, NJ

On Wednesday evening, November 18, our Presiding Elder Tom Banyacski was inspired to turn the meeting over to testimony. He asked those of us in attendance to recount the events which led us to request our baptism. We felt a blessing in hearing each one as they unfolded their testimonies to us.

Then Sister Rose Mercurio testified of an experience she had on the prior Sunday. Sister Rose was helping in the kitchen during lunch, and as she was pouring hot coffee from an insulated decanter, the lid came off and the whole thing emptied all over her hand. The burn caused her hand to become very red and swollen. The elders were quickly called to anoint her, and the redness in her hand disappeared immediately. Three days later there was no sign of the injury. As our sister related this experience, a personage was seen behind her.

Later in our meeting, Steve



Sister Jeanette Velardi

Nagy, during his testimony, requested his baptism. He was raised in the Church from his childhood, and had been attending faithfully for a number of months. We were so blessed by this request, and we knew that the Lord was present in our meeting. The angels rejoiced with us as a new name was written down in glory!

On Sunday, December 20, the Sunday School presented a Christmas program. The theme of the program was the Gifts of God. After the program, Brother Len Benyola asked each member of the congregation to state what gift he/she would give to God in the coming year.

We really felt a blessing in this theme, and we are thankful for the many gifts that God bestows upon us.

Branch #3, Sterling Heights, Michigan

By Brenda Capone

November 1, 1992 was a pretty cold day outside, but inside all of our hearts, here at Branch #3, we were warm and happy. My natural sister, Connie Jenkinson, was baptized by Brother Peter Capone. Connie had asked for her baptism at a previous meeting, but chose to wait until her family could be with her. We had our regular Sunday School meeting and then we all gathered together down at the water. The lake was quite choppy, and I was a little concerned for my sister, because she is afraid of the water. But she was not afraid this day, because she knew that this is what she wanted more than anything else in the world. One of our new deaconesses, Sister Ruth Coppa, met Sister Connie as she came out of the water, with some nice warm blankets. But Sister Connie was glowing radiantly with a warmth from Jesus Christ. We went back to the church and one of the songs we sang, *Amazing Grace*, was for my grandmother who

passed away in May.

Brother Louis Vitto, who had met Sister Connie before, came to visit that day. He spoke to us about priorities. He said as he looked out in the congregation, he saw people with hope. But as he looks at the people in the world, he sees confusion and mixed priorities. The world just keeps on going, as if it's going to last forever, but we know that Jesus is coming. Sister Connie has taken this step, to make her commitment and walk with God. Just as a marriage with someone is a covenant, so will this baptism be. God made things so simple for us, He thought of everything. When Nicodemus asked, "What must I do?" Jesus said, "Ye must be born again." Now Sister Connie has done as Jesus said. She wants to take a chance with God, rather than the world. Lottery tickets are a chance; only one or a few can win; but with God *everybody* wins!

Fort Pierce, FL

By Florence Catena

On December 20, 1992, we looked forward to witnessing the ordination of Brother Ken Hatch to the office of a deacon.

Our service commenced with singing *Once in a Lowly Manger*. No doubt, a feeling of humility was experienced as we reflected on Jesus' birth. Brother Norman Campitelle then spoke on what the Bible means, and how it received its name. We surely did gain more knowledge of the Bible. Our presiding elder, Brother Frank Rogolino, continued on the same theme. The morning service ended with singing *Pass Me Not*.

After lunch, Brother Frank Rogolino opened the afternoon service with prayer and then commented on Brother Ken's calling. Our deacon, Brother David Checchi, then washed Brother Ken's feet. God's blessings were indeed felt by all. The elder brothers offered prayer and Brother Sam Costarella ordained Brother Ken. We followed with the hymn *O, for a Heart*.

Brother Frank then spoke on the duties of a deacon. Brother

Nick Pietrangelo followed with a few comments. The ordained officers have responsibilities and it is an honor to be called. He added that Stephen, a man full of faith, and of the Holy Ghost, was chosen to be a deacon (Acts 6:5).

We are grateful to God for Brother Ken's calling—he is a dedicated and sincere brother. The Lord's Spirit prevailed throughout the day. A wonderful day ended with singing, *Ye Who Are Called To Labor*.

Baptisms in Detroit, Branch #1

By Patti Saragosa

On November 1, 1992, our morning service began with Brother Lou Pietrangelo speaking to us from the tenth chapter of John; Jesus clearly states, "... I am the door of the sheep ... if any man enter in, he shall be saved." As the message was heard, two souls that day decided they wanted to enter in and be saved by Jesus Christ.

Beverly Thomas asked for her baptism as we were singing the hymn *When the Roll Is Called up Yonder*. Sister Beverly later said while listening to the words of that song, she felt she might never be at the glorious roll-call if she didn't stand up and ask for her baptism that moment. When she sat down, Paul Nichols stood up and declared, "I would like to be baptized, also!"

There were two confirmations that followed; one for each candidate. Sister Ruth Edel testified that she knew Paul was going to get up after Beverly, and Sister Lorraine Thomas testified that her daughter, Sister Cindy Thomas, had dreamed that Beverly would ask for her baptism while the family was visiting Muncie. This did indeed come to pass because Brother Richard Thomas, along with his daughter and two sons, were in Muncie that Sunday!

The brothers and sisters all met at our baptismal site where Beverly

(Continued on Page 10)

BRANCH #1 continued . . .

was baptized by Brother Jerry Benyola and Paul was baptized by Brother Tom Everett.

We began our afternoon service with Brother John Impastato opening in prayer and Bro. Lou Pietrangelo speaking to us on the miracle of a changed heart. Bro. Lou also read from John 14:16, where the Lord says He will send us the Comforter, "Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not . . ." The gift of the Holy Ghost was then bestowed upon Sister Beverly by Bro. Lou Pietrangelo and upon Bro. Paul by Bro. Anthony Scolaro.

Brother Gene McGregor had the following experience in October 1992: "In a dream I saw Beverly Thomas asking for her baptism, then it seemed she was suddenly all in white and was being led into the water. As she was being baptized I felt that she was being surrounded by the Spirit of God."

Sister Beverly told me an experience she had had that morning; "While Bro. Lou was saying his opening prayer, I began to pray to myself at the same time; as we both prayed, I realized that we were saying the same words and phrases." She felt so blessed being in the same spiritual frame of mind as Bro. Lou.

Our new brother, Paul Nichols, came to know of the Gospel nine years ago as he attended one of our conferences in Greensburg, PA with Brother Gary Champine. Bro. Paul said, "When I first met Christ I was inspired to read the whole Bible, and I prayed to the Lord, 'Lord, I know that there is a true Church somewhere out there, take me to it!' Bro. Paul had been attending our branch for a couple of months before asking to be baptized; surely the Lord heard his heart's desire and led him home to the truth.

Our family's experience

The year of 1992 was a very hard year, but a very blessed year for us. For years, my husband and

I had struggled with the problem of infertility. Yes, God had blessed us with a beautiful child, but our desire was to have more children.

After seven years of struggling and petitioning the Lord, we decided that the Lord wanted us to step out on faith. So, in January of 1992, we made an appointment with a specialist at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. I was very scared, and couldn't believe that it had to go this far.

In the meantime, besides close friends and family praying for us, we now asked our Church family, the Lorain, Ohio Branch, to pray for us. The specialist told me that I had waited too long, but he would accept us and he wanted to see results within a year. That started many trips to and from Columbus.

During this time, our Ohio District Conference was held. The Lord had blessed a family that we had prayed for at our last District Conference. The brother and sister got up at conference and told how the Lord answered their prayer, and that she was going to have a baby. As they were giving their experience, my husband, Brother Joel Calabrese, felt an overwhelming desire for us to be prayed for. He asked the ministry to pray for us at that meeting.

After eight months on medication, the doctor called us in for a consultation. He said that I could only stay on this medication for a little while longer, as he had tripled my dosage over eight months. One more month passed with no results. This time the doctor said our only hope was artificial insemination.

The procedure was done in August of 1992, and in September, I found out I was expecting. I went in for tests, and the doctor saw a nice, strong heartbeat. The baby is due in May of 1993.

Through all this, I've come to understand that you might think you're the only one going through something. Then you come to see that you affect everyone around you in one way or another. Your family is affected, as well as your friends and the brothers and sisters. I also got to meet many brothers and sisters with similar problems. I didn't know there were so many that are dealing with the

same struggles. I had always thought I would have a family some day, until it came time and then I found out it might not be possible. However, God has shown me that *through Him all things are possible.*

I'd like to say thank you to my family, friends, and the brothers and sisters for helping us through this.

Love,
Sister Edna Calabrese

Baptism in Riverside, CA

January 10, 1993, was the day Steve Kerby made his decision to join the family of God in Baptism. It had been raining for several days and many of the saints in Riverside were concerned about the mud and the raging river, but these same brothers and sisters testified that they prayed on the way to the river that God would stop the storm during the baptism.

God did just that, and even brought out the sun during this blessed event. Bro. Ken Jones took Steve into the waters. As we gathered once again at the church with singing praises to God, the service was opened with Hymn #346, *Blessed Assurance*, and prayer was offered by Bro. Rudy Carrillo.

We were blessed by having the Zioners with us and they sang a few selections. Bro. Steve's mother, Sis. Patty, sang, *He Held His Arms and I Ran In*.

Our presiding elder, Bro. Ken Jones, had a few opening remarks about how the most important decision we make in our lives is to ask for our baptism into The Church of Jesus Christ and to keep His commandments every day of our life. Bro. Ken then sang, *My Tribute*. Bro. Steve was then confirmed by Bro. Harry Marshall. Bro. Clarence and Sis. Carol Kirkpatrick sang, *There's a New Name Written down in Glory*. Bro. Harry Marshall spoke about the good things of God and how He works in our lives. Bro. Randy Lee mentioned how the angels rejoice when someone is baptized and how we are able to overcome the temptations with the help

of God. Bro. Rudy Carrillo told us the great blessing he received as they made preparations at the river. There were some beautiful visions experienced during the day that confirmed God's approval.

Songfest 1992

By Jim Watt

On Sunday October 25 the Perry Branch hosted a Songfest. Approximately 125 people were present.

At 5:15 Bro. Elmer Santilli called those assembled to prayer. Community singing began at 5:30 and went until 6:00. At 6:00 Bro. Elmer welcomed everyone to the Songfest.

The meeting was then turned over to Bro. Alton Kuhn, who is the music director. The children of Perry started the singing by singing several songs, followed by the Perry Choir and the Niles Choir. Afterward Bro. Alton, his son Jim, Bro. Bobby Smith, and Sis. Madia Kline performed with their musical instruments, and sang.

We then heard from Bro. and Sis. Mott's son on the trombone, accompanied by Sis. Barb Nuzzi on the piano, the Cleveland Choir, and two duets. The Perry Choir came up again to sing the closing hymns.

The Spirit of the Lord was surely felt by all this evening, because a vote was taken to have another Songfest soon.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Capone, John & Pam
1580 E. Nicklaus Rd.
Sandy, UT 84092
Tel. (801) 571-8933
Fax (801) 571-8988

Scalise, Vincent & Mary
7720 Crescent Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90602
Tel. (714) 827-2776

Taylor, Rosemary & Channing
14922 Cranbrook
Hawthorne, CA 90250
Tel. (310) 978-0258

* WEDDINGS *

VADASZ-BRUNNER

Mr. John Michael Vadasz and Miss Judith Brunner were united in marriage on May 16, 1992, at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Anthony Vadasz, Sr, the groom's father, and Brother Philip Arcuri, the groom's uncle, officiated at the ceremony.

Musical selections were presented by Brother Ken Lombardo, accompanied by Sister Florence Lombardo.

The newlyweds are residing in Richmond, Virginia. May God bless them in their new life together.

DINO-SCHMITT

On December 19, 1992, Sister Doreen Marie Schmitt and Mr. Ross Dino were united in holy matrimony at the Metuchen Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Anthony Vadasz, Sr, the bride's uncle, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Brother Ken Lombardo, Sister Iva Fedorka, and Sister JoAnn Catalano, accompanied by Sister Florence Lombardo.

The newlyweds will be residing in Englewood, Colorado. May God bless them in their new life together.

Children Blessed

On January 31, 1993, Matthew Thomas Dunn was blessed by Brother Al Mayher at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

New Arrivals

Zachary Matthew Hibbs to Matthew David and Andrea Renee Hibbs. He is the great-grandson of Sis. Elvira Keller of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch. His grandparents are Sister Regina and Raymond Keller of Smock, PA, and Philip and Marion Hibbs of Point Marion, PA.

OBITUARIES

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

CONCETTO ALESSANDRO

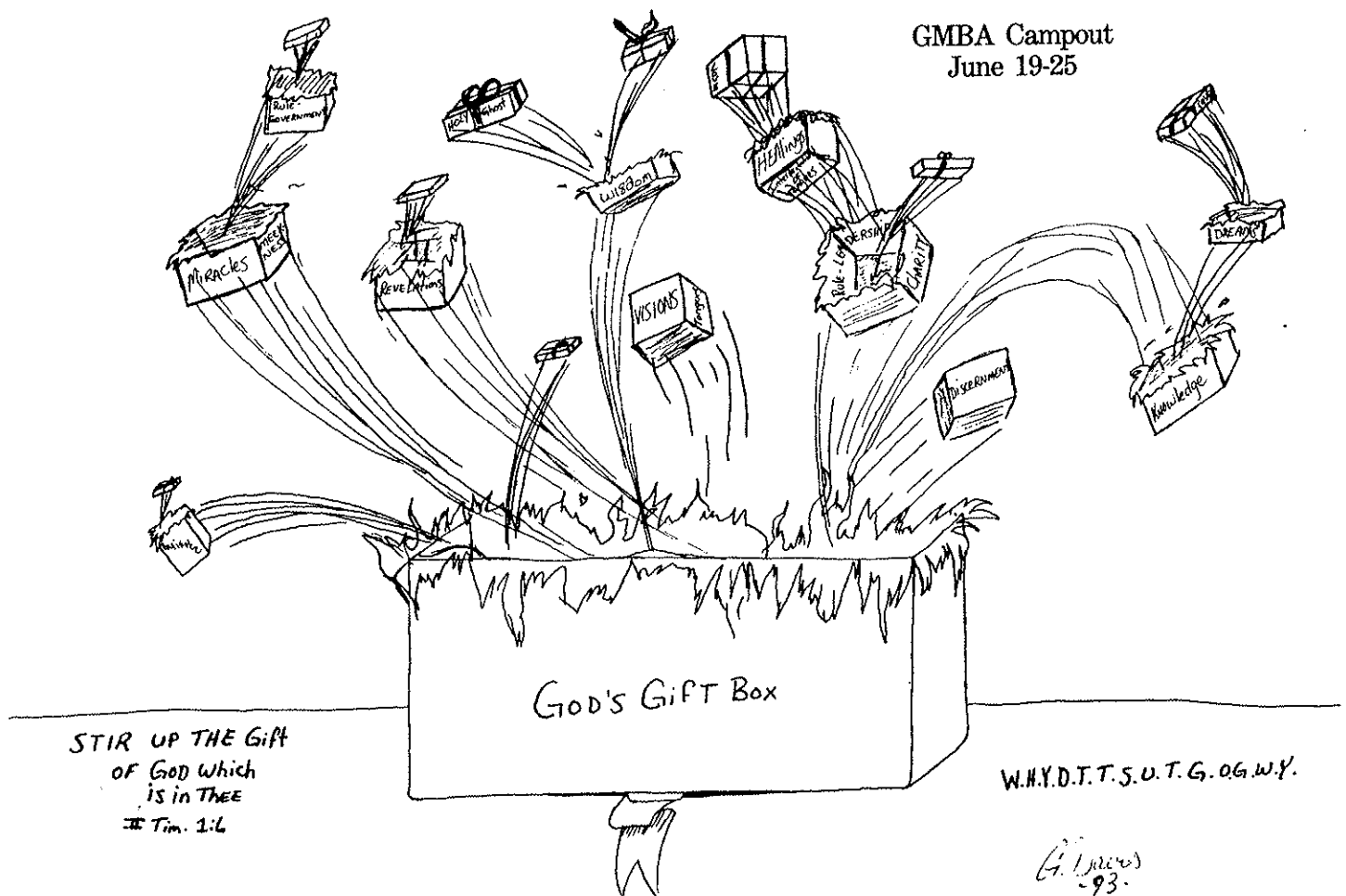
Brother Concetto J. Alessandro of Branch #1 in Roseville, Michigan passed on to his reward on January 2, 1993. Lovingly known as "Brother Coon," he was born on June 12, 1911 in Lentini, Sicily, Italy. He was baptized on September 18, 1932 by Bro. Carmen Campitelle, and confirmed by Bro. Matthew T. Miller. He was ordained a teacher in the Church on July 12, 1936; an elder on July 28, 1940; and an evangelist on July 16, 1944.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Anthony Scolaro and Louis Pietrangelo.

Our brother is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Marianna Cappel, and Mrs. Diana Stigleman; three sisters; two brothers; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Over the years Bro. Concetto was involved in missionary work in many places, including Mount Brydges,

(Continued on Page 12)



OBITUARIES continued . . .

Cedar Springs, Grand River (Six Nations Indian Reservation), Sarnia Indian Reservation, and Muncey Indian Reservation, Ontario, Canada; Port Huron, Michigan; as well as Detroit, Michigan and the surrounding areas. He will be remembered for his dedication to the work of the Lord and His Church. He was a faithful member for over 60 years and was truly a compassionate, charitable, and generous brother. May the Lord bless and comfort the loved ones he has left behind.

Address Change

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

SHELDON LOWDEN

Sheldon C. Lowden, infant son of Thomas and Tammy Lowden, passed away suddenly on February 18, 1993. He was born on November 6, 1992.

Survivors include his parents, two brothers, Emelio and Marty Redmond; maternal grandmother Helen Redmond; and paternal grandparents, William and Zelda Lowden.

Brother Lawrence King conducted the funeral service. May God bless and comfort Sheldon's family and their friends.

The Gospel News

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

May, 1993

Volume 49, No. 5

Singles' Retreat/Marriage Enrichment Weekend

On March 5-7, 1993, many participated in this year's Singles' Retreat/Marriage Enrichment Weekend, which was held at the Salt Fork Conference Center in Cambridge, Ohio. There was a nice representation from all the districts throughout the Church, which gave everyone a chance to meet new people. Persons attending the Singles' Retreat totaled 41, and there were 21 couples that attended the Marriage Enrichment Weekend.

SINGLES' RETREAT

The theme for the Singles' Weekend was "Now Is The Time." All the singles were divided into three different seminar groups. Bros. David DeLuca and Fred D'Antonio were seminar leaders for the first group between the ages of 15-18. This group discussed the importance of self love and self acceptance. Also, a number of today's social issues were addressed including drug use among teenagers, and sexual pressures. Sis. Kim Alaburda was the seminar leader for the ages of 19-25. Sis. Kim provided an *abundance* of handouts, including a survival kit with the ten essentials for ensuring

the most exciting, most successful, most fulfilling, most fun life with Christ. Other topics discussed were the ability to look ahead in life instead of backwards at the past, the different responsibilities and pressures between singles and married couples, and how their activities are scrutinized by the world and their friends. The 26 and over class was headed by Sis. Kathy Pastorelli. They discussed three aspects of personal relationships; getting in touch with me, getting in touch with others, and getting in touch with God. The group examined their own personalities, attitudes, forgiveness of one's self, motivation, and avoiding isolation. Getting in touch with God was their final area of conversation, in which they talked about trying to set aside time for prayer, reading scripture, and the importance of planning one's schedule around Church activities instead of the Church around one's schedule.

Saturday afternoon the group as a whole got together to play some fun games such as The Dating Game, and a contest in which groups

(Continued on Page 2)

Gospel News goes "desktop"

You may notice that this month's issue of *The Gospel News* looks a little different. From now on, the General Church Print House will be producing the paper via a personal computer equipped with desktop publishing software and a laser printer.

While desktop publishing technology has been available for about ten years, it was until recently an expense which we as a Church could not justify in light of our financial woes. The old typesetting equipment, however, had become so expensive to repair that it finally became more cost-effective for us to acquire a new desktop system than to renew the old machine's maintenance contract.

The term "desktop publishing" comes from the fact that a newsletter can be written, edited, laid out, and then printed as complete pages, all at the same desk. Prior to this, producing a paper like *The Gospel News* involved keying the text—which

(Continued on Page 6)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction. Maturity is patience. It is the willingness to pass up immediate pleasure in favor of long-term gain. Maturity is perseverance, the ability to sweat out a project or a situation in heavy opposition and discouraging setbacks. Maturity is the capacity to face unpleasantness and frustration, discomfort and defeat, without complaint or collapse. Maturity is humility. It is being big enough to say, "I was wrong." And, when right, the mature person needs not experience the satisfaction of saying, "I told you so." Maturity is the ability to make a decision and follow through. The immature spend their lives exploring endless possibilities and then do nothing. Maturity means dependability, keeping one's word and coming through in a crisis. The immature are masters of alibis. They are conflicted and disorganized. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business and good intentions that never materialize. Maturity is the art of living in peace with what we cannot change, the courage to change what we know should be changed, and the wisdom to know the difference.

As parents our deep conviction is to motivate our children, hoping to see them grow into maturity, nurturing them with words and by our example. Maturity is a slow process, but consistent, worthy of

every effort, as our children are our future and our treasure. As The Church of Jesus Christ, we are equally interested in helping them grow into a spiritual maturity. We can see something of how God accomplished this internal motivation in a verse of scripture written by Paul of Tarsus. Romans 12:1 " . . . by the mercies of God . . . " What mercies? The mercies he had just spent the first eleven chapters of Romans leading us to; the basis of God's mercies, telling us of what God has done for us. Paul says, "*I beseech . . . that ye present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.*" What a challenge!

In the same book to the Romans, Ch. 16:3-4, "*Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: who have for my life laid down their necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.*"

Paul writes, "*For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love towards us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us*" (Romans 5:7-8).

The word "mature" is a Latin word, which means "complete, perfect." Jesus Christ commands us to be perfect. "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect" (Matthew 5:48).

We have much to overcome before we reach maturity. Shall we meet this challenge? How about you, reader?

Maturity is the ability to control anger and settle differences without violence or destruction. "Lord help us to excel to maturity."

Let us endeavor to win. By the grace of God, we must win.

WEEKEND continued . . .

competed against one another to locate certain items within a purse before the others could. In the evening, they all gathered together

again to view a video titled "The Cinderella Syndrome." The film addressed the issue of happily making your own way in life without waiting for a so-called prince or princess to come into your life and sweep you off your feet. After the video, Bros. Brian Martorana (GMBA President) and Chuck Maddox (GMBA Vice President) led a discussion which entailed the role of singles in today's world. After the discussion, everyone got together to eat pizza and socialize.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

As was mentioned before, 21 couples attended this weekend, 11 of which were elders and their wives. This is a good example that most all married couples have a desire of getting a better understanding of their mate. Bro. Lyle Criscuolo and Sis. Arline Whitton were the seminar leaders for this group of lovebirds. During their seminar the couples were broken into teams which then talked about "Courtship After Marriage." Topics covered involved the characteristics which attracted them to their spouses, how priorities changed after marriage, the importance of communication and attitude, and what constitutes courtship. The afternoon activities consisted of games including a Courtship Quiz and The Newlywed Game. A candlelight dinner began the evening activities as Bro. Rey Rangel serenaded the couples while playing love songs on his guitar. After dinner, Bro. Lyle gave a motivational speech on positive thinking and how attitudes affect a marriage. He had the couples make a pact to commit to their marriage and an attitude of total acceptance and understanding was felt.

SUNDAY SERVICE

On Sunday morning both the Singles and the Couples ate breakfast together, then they gathered for the Sunday morning meeting. Bro. Brian Martorana opened the service, after

(Continued on Page 9)

GMBA Campout '93"

We at the McKees Rocks Branch recently had the privilege of having Bro. Joel Calabrese and his family visit with us in a day of worship and praise. While talking to Bro. Joel, who is this year's Camp Director, it was evident that he was already anticipating many blessings that no doubt await us at this year's Campout. If everyone comes to camp this year with this much excitement and desire, we can expect God's blessings to fill us to overflowing.

The theme for Camp, if you haven't already heard, is "*STIR UP THE GIFT OF GOD WHICH IS IN THEE.*" The seminars, which will be governed by Bro. John Buffa, will focus their attention towards the Gifts of God. Possibly you do not know at present what your spiritual gift(s) is. If this is the case, then you will greatly benefit from these seminars. Hopefully all who participate will gain a better understanding of what God has given us. This will enable the saints of God to use their gifts to battle the enemy of our soul, and to glorify Our Lord Jesus Christ.

By now, each branch should have long received GMBA Campout pamphlets. Please have your registration forms sent in along with full payment by the deadline. Make an effort to attend Campout and you will not go away empty-handed!

GMBA Editor,
Bro. Pat Monaghan

Note of Thanks

We want to thank each one of you for your love, support, and words of comfort, and most of all for your prayers for our dear daughter, Sister Rose Ann Skupny, during her illness and passing away. Your phone calls and cards eased the burden and the pain. I would like to share with you two experiences; two weeks before Rose Ann passed away, Brother Lyle Criscuolo phoned me and told me that he felt

prompted by the spirit to visit Rose Ann and to give her sacrament. After giving Rose Ann sacrament Bro. Lyle laid his hands on Rose Ann and anointed her. As he began to pour the oil he saw a drop of blood fall from the bottle onto her head. After he anointed her he looked at his hands and they were clean, there was no blood on them. She was truly anointed by the blood of Jesus.

Three weeks after Rose Ann's passing, her young son Michael, who is six years old, had the following dream: He dreamed he saw his mother laying in the casket, which was fully opened, and he began to cry. Then he saw her lift her arm up and she got out and gave him a big hug. Michael said his mother looked so beautiful and he knew that his mother wasn't sick anymore.

Please continue to pray for us and for Rose Ann's children, who miss her so; we need God's love and comfort. We are so thankful that she belonged to the family of God. God bless you all.

Love in Christ,
Bro. John & Sis. Bessie Impastato
Branch 1, Roseville, Michigan

It's been over 6 months since Hurricane Andrew swept through Miami, Florida. As we look around, we still see the devastation. There is much work yet to be done.

For the first week following the hurricane, most of the Miami Branch members were without water, electricity or any energy source, and communication was all but non-existent. Thanks to friends in the Church and naturally, many needs were supplied, though some still went without certain things. The loss of communication and electricity were the worst to endure. With no electricity you couldn't keep important things cold, like medicine. The presiding elder had no phone, therefore could not hear of the needs of all his members. Most made do with what they had.

But thank the Lord and the

Lord only, we all did survive and are continuing to rebuild. The members of the Miami Branch wish to also thank those who took the time and energy to make this survival a little easier.

Editor for the Miami Branch
Sister Jill Kovacic

An Experience to Remember

By Sharon Church

On July 19, 1992, I was privileged to attend the Conference of the Americas in Tijuana, Mexico. It was an incredible meeting and many blessings were felt by everyone.

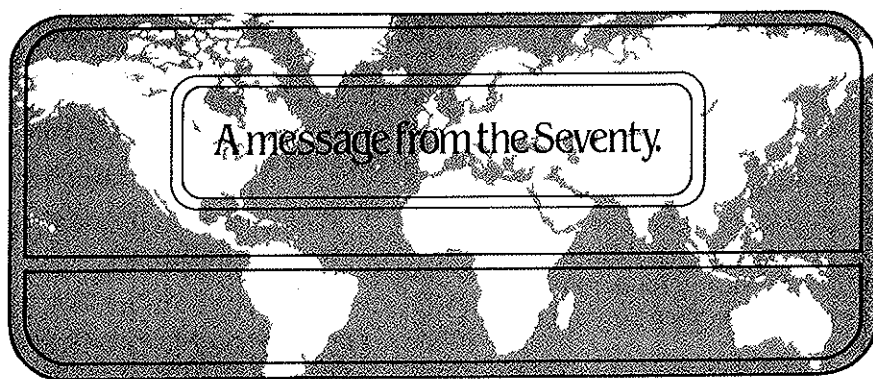
I had experienced a desire to attend the conference ever since I had heard about the blessings that were felt at the conference of the previous year.

In the weeks preceding the conference, my grandfather, Ishmael D'Amico, was on my mind quite a bit. I began rereading his testimony and was very affected once again by his experiences.

My prayers began to contain a desire to experience a meeting similar to one that he experienced. I continued to read *My Testimony* and then it occurred to me that his book should be published in Spanish. One of our ministers in Tijuana, Bro. Luis Pacheco, also came to mind. I then went to the Lord in prayer and asked Him if it was His will that I should try to get this book published and ask Bro. Luis to help me. If it was His will, I asked Him to allow me a few minutes to speak to Bro. Luis in private. I get very nervous sometimes when speaking to people.

Finally, the weekend of the conference arrived. I took the train from Simi Valley to San Diego and was met by Sis. Norma Kennedy. She took me to her home, where several elders who had come in for the conference were staying.

(Continued on Page 9)



Workshop Conducted at Evangelist Conference

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

A very interesting and informative workshop was conducted at the end of the Semiannual General Quorum of Seventy Evangelists Conference on April 15 at the World Conference Center (General Church Auditorium) in Greensburg, PA.

The focus was on branch and mission development, and Brothers Larry Watson and Philip Jackson presented a comprehensive analysis of what is involved in holding evangelistic services. Some statistical findings were also disclosed.

Establishment of clear-cut responsibilities, assignment of duties, and the need to consolidate everything to fulfill the primary goal of bringing people into the Gospel of Christ were elaborated upon. It was pointed out that following the guidelines offers the best chance for success.

WORK GROUPS

Work groups were then formed and each one discussed the different segments involved. They covered personal preparation, planning and communication implementation, alternate approaches, and follow-up and evaluation.

Personal preparation refers to prayer, spiritual meditation and study, and awareness of the immediate intent of the services. Constant spiritual readiness, guidance, and seeking of high ideals are essential in this process.

Planning and communication

among evangelists involved, the branch or mission's ministry, and, of course, the presiding elder are required. Also, selection of the musical leader or leaders and musicians and singers, location where services are to be held, identification of the people trying to be reached, the publicity (media, personal invitations, and canvassing the community) to be used, and enlisting the help of the local branch, mission, or district were mentioned. The need for fasting and prayer was stressed as being fundamentally necessary.

In implementation, the guidance of the Holy Spirit is first. Then factors in team effort, personal qualities, the format of the services, the expected content of the message, the sensitivity to local needs and the composition of the congregation, the suggested length of the meetings, and the fellowship periods were outlined.

Alternate approaches suggested were singspirations and musical presentations, testimonies, social fellowship times preceded by spiritual activity, seminar or Bible/Book of Mormon study, special speakers on specific topics, mission trips, visits to hospitals or penal institutions, and training programs for outreach.

Follow-up and evaluation include continued contact with those who worked on the project and with visitors; a survey of the results; and a review of the event by the leaders.

After the small groups' period was completed, the work units then reassembled into the total group, and

a summary was presented by each one. The discussions were very significant and brought the entire day's activities to a fitting conclusion.

OTHER MATTERS

Earlier in the day, Brother Thomas Liberto, Chairman of the Missionary Operating Committee, reported on the total missionary activities of the Church. These covered work being performed in every part of the world.

The overall progress and status represent a composite of the information supplied by the Foreign Missions Operating Committee, The Americas Missions Operating Committee, The General Church Development Committee, the Media Committee, and the General Church Correspondent.

Brother Liberto highlighted the work being done in the specific fields, and he also announced future trips and their importance. More information will be presented as events unfold. The primary functions of the travelers are to act as liaisons with mission fields and to encourage and help in growth. The Lord's direction and help are needed in these endeavors, as in all things we do.

Among other matters presented were two items from the General Development Committee. The first was a regionalization proposal which has been under study for some time. The other was the completion of an ordained Teacher's Booklet. Both were forwarded to the next day's General Church Conference, which accepted and approved them for implementation.

The new regionalization concept explained by Brother Vince Gibson allows for the servicing of missions by the nearest district to them. This will reduce travel, as it will shorten the distances between districts and missions. The reapportioning will be accomplished over a period of two years hopefully. Of course, each mission's current and future districts will coordinate efforts so the membership will continue to be serviced.

(Continued on Page 10)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO

Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

PACIFIC COAST

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST

James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST

Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

God's Truth welcomes scrutiny. The Lord never intended for knowledge and understanding to be withheld from those who sought after them. In seeking our answers, however, we must be careful that the attitude with which we ask our questions does not reflect the worldly distrust, the preconceived suspicion, or the jaundiced intolerance toward leadership and authority that flourishes in the absence of God's Holy Spirit. Society's attitude toward authority, like so many other things, has departed drastically from what God's word teaches. As the saints of God, we must conform to His word, and not to the world.

The scriptures consistently point out how godly men who became great leaders were at one time exemplary followers. In the book of Alma (Ch. 59-62), the righteous General Moroni was at first puzzled, then became downright angry at Chief Pahoran's apparent lack of support and cooperation. In his frustration, he wrote a scathing letter to the chief judge, criticizing him for his indifference and threatening to take the government by force, if need be, to preserve the cause of Christ.

While Moroni's censure of Pahoran in Alma 60 might take the prize for being the longest, boldest, and most candid reprimand of an individual in all of scripture, he never stepped outside the bounds of the Spirit in his letter. Moroni was angry, yet he sinned not: His boldness was courage; his candor, honesty. He demonstrated love, power, and a sound mind—stating the facts that he knew, while confessing that he didn't know it *all*. Charity, humility, and submissiveness are woven through his message. Moreover, the unselfishness of Moroni's motives is manifested both in word and in deed.

Pahoran, a righteous man himself, was quick to recognize the Spirit in Moroni's epistle. Without the Spirit of God, a man's ego would be wounded by such admonishment; Pahoran was instead encouraged and uplifted by Moroni's zeal. The missing information was supplied, the misunderstanding was quickly cleared, and the friendship that existed between the two men was enhanced by their common goal. Leaders and followers alike would do well to follow their examples.

A more difficult example set before us is David's deference toward the fallen Saul (I Samuel 18-31). From the time he slew Goliath until Saul's life met its shameful end, David was forced to flee for his life from a king who no longer possessed the Spirit of God. Yet throughout his persecution, David—who had already been consecrated the next King of Israel—treated the unworthy Saul with the respect and reverence that was due him as the Lord's anointed. David could only have done this by the grace of God. His followers must have wondered why He spared Saul's life when he could have taken it, but could David have later commanded any respect or loyalty from these men if they had seen him turn traitor to his own king?

We all become impatient and frustrated at times, perhaps more in our youth than after we've mellowed with age. Submitting ourselves hurts our pride if we haven't yet stripped ourselves of it (Alma 5:28). As the people of God, blessed with the Truth of the Restoration and the potential to do great things in His sight, let us work to keep ourselves under the subjection of the Spirit, lest we slip from the integrity and credibility that are true stepping stones to spiritual leadership.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that when a person decides to follow Jesus and be baptized that they are given many gifts? They are also given a wonderful helper, the Holy Ghost, to lead, guide, and direct them.

At first, it might seem strange to a new follower of Jesus to feel so different, so clean inside, and hopeful. But as each person learns how to pray and turn their problems over to Jesus, they also learn how to change.

We can change things that break our hearts by forgiving others. We can change things we are afraid of or dreading by practicing faith and hope. We can call on Jesus in our hearts and have more patience than we ever dreamed of.

We can be *willing* to change. Sometimes it is really hard to give up old hates or old fears. But Jesus will teach us how, if we are willing to try His way.

That is one of the gifts we are promised if we accept Jesus and ask for the "fruits," or rewards. Read in your Bible in Galatians 5:22, which was written by the Apostle Paul. It says, "the fruits of the spirit (the Holy Spirit) are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. . . ."

Meekness means "willing to be taught," or "willing to learn new ways" and give up our own pride and determination to do things "our way." In the Bible it says that "Moses was very meek, above all the men" (Numbers 12:30).

Moses was a man who lived many kinds of lives. He was raised in the palace and taught to value the

highest education, and every beautiful thing. He was raised by the most worldly, wealthy, sophisticated people in that part of the world (Acts 7:22).

Then, at the age of 40, he had to flee Egypt because he killed a man who was beating an Israelite. He lived in the desert for 40 more years, tending sheep and loving a woman whose father was a priest of God.

Then, at age 80, the Lord sent an angel in a flame of fire in a bush to tell Moses he had to return to Egypt and save his people.

Then came the hardest task of all. Moses, the most meek of all men, had to be willing to let God show him how to establish *His* religion, and His way of living.

Moses learned to pray for manna, for quails, for deliverance from the armies of Pharaoh. He had to let God's Spirit direct him in building a tabernacle, or movable temple, to worship in. When it was time to conquer nations of unbelievers, Moses called upon God. Again and again, he was meekly willing to be guided and taught new ways.

Thanks to Moses, the foundation for Christianity was established. The Ten Commandments were given to the world. All because Moses was willing to accept the gifts of God's Holy Spirit—especially the gift of meekness.

So, the next time you find yourself angry, or anxious, or thinking bad thoughts, stop. Stretch out your heart. Tell the devil to leave you alone in the name of Jesus. Then ask Jesus to make you willing to change down deep in your heart.



Then act as if it had already started, and it will. These are your free fruits. Reach up, pick one, take it with you and become teachable.

WORD SEARCH

CHAPTER	LONG
FIVE	SUFFERING
TWENTY	GENTLENESS
TWO	MEEKNESS
FRUIT	TEMPERANCE
OF	YOU
THE	CHANGE
SPIRIT	HELP
IS	FROM
LOVE	JESUS
JOY	GIFTS
PEACE	

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

"DESKTOP" continued . . .

had previously been typewritten and marked up—into a typesetting machine, which created a very long, single column of type. This then had to be literally cut and pasted together by hand to "build" the twelve pages that constitute every issue of the paper—a time-consuming and often frustrating process which many times involved starting from scratch more than once before everything fit just right.

After the paper is proofread and final corrections are made, *The Gospel News* is offset printed—that is, on a printing press—and then collated, folded, stapled, labeled, pre-sorted, and mailed each month. It's still a big job, but the new desktop system will make it just a little bit easier.

Our Women Today

Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Circle Retreat

By Mary Tamburrino

The 1993 Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Circle Retreat was held March 20 at the Ramada Inn. There were forty-six ladies in attendance. Sister Linda Ottavian, the chairperson, welcomed everyone by thanking God that we are in the service of the King. The Monongahela Circle took care of the devotion by reading the 32nd Chapter of Alma in The Book of Mormon. They sang hymns and talked about *The Seed* and compared it to the word of God.

The minutes of the last meeting, held November 7, 1992 at the Imperial Branch, were read. The reports from Aliquippa, Fredonia, Glassport, Greensburg, Imperial, McKees Rocks, Monongahela, Roscoe, and Vanderbilt were given. The treasurer and the auditor gave their report and a communication was read from the Michigan Area concerning the General Conference that would be held there on April 24. A bus was chartered for this event. There were 147 calendars sold. The new project is to sell flower notecards. Carol Monaghan, the card sender, sent out ten cards. Donations were made to the Pennsylvania District Mission and to a needy sister. The next Pennsylvania Area meeting will be held at the Aliquippa Branch on September 25.

After lunch there was a Seminar on QUALITY CONTROL, headed by Jan Cornell. She was able to convey to the sisters all about Quality: the level of excellence of something.

In the evening some wrote *A Love Letter to God* and they were read, some sang hymns and some gave their testimony.

Brothers James Moore and Jim

(Continued on Page 9)

Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Simi Valley, CA

By Linda Reynolds

Sunday, February 7, 1993, was a beautiful day for us in the Simi Valley, CA Branch. Carol Dulisse, originally from the Modesto, CA Branch, was baptized by her cousin, Bro. David Jordan, from the Phoenix Branch.

Some visitors for the day were Sis. Carol's parents from Modesto, Bro. Jim Dulisse and his wife, Sis. Lydia, and uncle, Bro. Sam Randy and Matt Randy, and Sis. Mindy McMann. Bro. Dwayne and Sis. Elaine Jordan were visiting from Tse Bonito, New Mexico, and from the Phoenix Branch were Bro. Cameron Calabrese, Micah Smith, and Austin Landry. From the Lindsay, CA Branch was Andrea DeCaro.

Our baptismal site is about a 45-minute drive at the beach of Oxnard. There is a section there that is the breakwaters, and the water is calm. It was a rainy day, but during the baptism there was no rain. Our presiding elder, Bro. Emmett Hood, led us in a few songs. Bro. Sam Randy said a few words and Bro. Dwayne Jordan offered a beautiful prayer.

Back in our branch we heard a duet by Sisters Sharon Church and Sue Wasko entitled, *He Planted Me Deep*. Sis. Elaine Jordan sang *Take Some Time To Pray*.

Bro. Emmett Hood asked if anyone had any experiences regarding Sis. Carol's baptism to stand up and share them. Several of the young people stood up and related some experiences and gave their testimonies. Sis. Carol was confirmed by her uncle, Bro. Sam Randy.

We had three speakers for the service. Bro. David Jordan spoke first, followed by his father, Bro. Dwayne Jordan. Before Bro. Dwayne could begin his talk, he was asked to go into the back of the church, where he was told that Micah Smith from

Phoenix also wanted to be baptized. There was such a blessing to think that two this day had turned their lives over to the Lord.

Bro. Sam Randy also spoke and the meeting was turned over to more testimonies. We ended the day with a lasagna dinner and said good-bye to our visitors.

Cleveland, OH

By Debbie Kall

January 24, 1993 was an exceptional Sunday in the Cleveland Branch, a day full of surprises and the wonder of the power of God.

Our first pleasant surprise was the visit of Sister Philomena Bartuccio from the Florida District. She along with members of her family had been in attendance the previous Sunday to witness the blessing of her great-grandson, Vetto Rosarios Bartuccio. This week her granddaughter, Gina Bartuccio, who was so moved by the spirit of the meeting from the previous week, asked to be blessed. We knew that this was going to be a special day.

After opening remarks by our presiding elder, Bro. Al Mayher, Bro. Jim Hufnagle was our first speaker. He used Romans 11:34 and Matthew 18:1-6 as his text. His theme was that we do not understand why God does what he does with the limited mental capacity that we have. He used the example of Jesus likening little children to the kingdom of heaven. That we try to put a human explanation on the actions of God, which is an impossible task.

Many beautiful testimonies bore witness to the goodness and mercy of God in the lives of the saints. It was after testimony and during the time that we anoint and pray for the needs of one another that we saw the wonder of the power of God.

(Continued on Page 8)

CLEVELAND continued . . .

Sister Peggy Mance felt the spirit of repentance and very humbly asked for her baptism. We gathered at the shores of Lake Erie where the temperature was 25 degrees and wind was 20 mph. With a feeling of joy, our sister was led into the waters of life by her uncle, Bro. Vince Gibson. No amount of cold or snow could reduce the love that we all felt that day, the day that Peggy Mance was born again.

Back at church our new sister was confirmed by Bro. Bill Hufnagle. We then passed sacrament to our sister and the rest of the brothers and sisters. We dismissed church at 4:30. A long day for the children, who never made a fuss and were so patient while we enjoyed the blessing of a wonderful and merciful God.

Palm Harbor, FL

Over the past year the Palm Harbor Branch has experienced many blessings, with the hopes and desires of our members and friends being realized.

During 1992, we have had a baptism, a child blessed, an ordination and many visitors, some coming from the motel next door, with one from England.

In September, we celebrated our first year as a branch in a new part of the vineyard; the growth break from the Tampa Branch is proving itself with progress.

In August of 1990, the Tampa Branch had met to discuss its future by taking one of four possible actions. One was a growth break; this was approved by a 95% majority vote.

Almost a year passed before we were able to obtain and meet in our new facility, thus the Palm Harbor Branch was born.

This year we were further blessed by hosting the Missionary Foundation Committee of the General Church in January and having several brothers remain over for our Sunday service. It was at this service, when our

visiting brothers spoke on obedience to our Lord, that Brother Angelo DiMasso was touched and later that evening, asked for his baptism. The following Sunday, he was baptized.

All of our members have that missionary spirit, and have shown this through sharing the Gospel with friends and neighbors. We have been shown God's approval by dreams, tongues and interpretation of tongues and we continue to look forward to the blessings and gifts presented for the edification of the gospel.

May God bless all the branches and missions in our district and throughout the world with the gifts of the Spirit, to be used to His honor and glory.

The Palm Harbor Priesthood**Visitors at Perry, OH**

A large group assembled at the Perry, Ohio Branch on March 7, 1993. Brother Tony Picciuto of Lindsay, California had accompanied his mother, Sis. Florence, on the flight from Lindsay since she was to have surgery for a pacemaker. Thank God, she is doing fine and on the road to recovery.

Visiting from Youngstown was Bro. Don Pandone, who was taking his turn on the visitation schedule. Bro. Nick Manes, his wife Lillian, and their daughter, Sister Janet and her husband were in attendance as well, with their two children.

Visiting from the Niles Branch were Brother Lou and Sister Libby Pandone.

Bro. Tony Picciuto opened the service, stating that he thanked God for being here, as it brought back many fond memories of his pastoral work in this area. He related how he had gone swimming in the Atlantic Ocean while on leave from the Army, and nearly drowned. It was only the mercy of God that saved him from drowning, and that experience led him into the Gospel.

Bro. Don Pandone followed our Brother's talk, relating what happened when he traveled to a GMBA conference in 1956 with Brothers

Picciuto and Santilli. Before the day was over, Brothers Pandone and Santilli had asked to be baptized.

Bro. Mario Milano spoke next, relating how he helped the brothers who were building the Perry Mission. He cooked up a lot of spaghetti and served it to the workers, which they appreciated. He said that he remembered Brothers Picciuto and Santilli when they were very small, and now they are men of God because they were reared by God-fearing parents.

The meeting was turned over to testimony, and many wonderful words of praise were related. Bro. Elmer Santilli thanked God for the opportunity to be back at the service. This was the first time he had been in church since his recent surgery.

The meeting came to a close with a feeling that it was good to be together in the house of God and to fellowship together.

Sunday in Miami

By Jill Kovacic

The Miami, Florida Branch opened their first service after Christmas in the most beautiful manner, with the blessing of a newborn child. The grandparents came in from Cleveland, Ohio for this special occasion. Bro. Bill Hufnagle blessed his grandson this morning, with the blessing, "that God would know this child's name for eternity." This brought much joy to the congregation, seeing this child, Kristopher Kyle, dedicated unto God!

Brother Bill then opened the Sunday meeting by reading from II Nephi, "that man . . . might have joy." He spoke about life's gives and takes, its ups and downs. When you face life's greatest obstacles or challenges, you can always rely on God!

In I Peter 5, he read and explained how temptations try to discourage us and bring us down. God has told us that we are garrisoned, kept by Him! We must look for the joy in life, small or great. We have the choice to look to temptation

or to joy. With God, the joys are great and moving and long-lasting. Choosing a life without god is living just for the moment—the choice is yours to make!

Brother George Kovacic followed, saying that no life is easy; we must try harder, pray more often, and seek more diligently. Our added strength comes from our heavenly Father and our spiritual family. I Peter 1:5 refers to the second chance we have when we come unto God—our chance to start over with all this added support. The end to all this is eternal salvation, living forever with God. "The trial of your faith is like gold—the purer it is, the richer."

The differences between the natural and the spiritual was compared to eating. We overeat and we feel miserable, uncomfortable. When we're fed spiritually, we only feel more joy, more love! "Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy." God gives us joy that we might feel love and give back to God.

The words spoken this day were reflected in the testimonies that followed. God truly works in a marvelous way, refreshing us when the need arises and filling us up when our cups appear to be emptying. What more beautiful way than by the blessing of a child or friends and visitors from far away! We thank God for all that He provides.

WEEKEND continued . . .

which Sis. Karen Progar sang, *My Jesus, I Love Thee*. Bro. Paul Pezzenti offered the opening prayer and Bro. Rey Rangel sang *Good Morning God*.

Bro. Phil Jackson used Psalm 34:18 as a base for the opening sermon, "*The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.*" He went on to use David as an example of a person who, while flawed, had the ability to break his heart before God. Christ told us that we must have this broken heart and

contrite spirit or He cannot work with us. Using various Biblical examples, our Brother illustrated how we should behave, and the benefits or consequences of our behavior, cautioning us not to allow our hearts to be hardened. He also emphasized the need to be forgiving of the faults of others.

Following Bro. Phil, Bro. Chuck Maddox spoke to the congregation stating that the Lord doesn't see us the same way the world does, He sees us completely. He then shared his testimony regarding his recent move from Florida to Ohio, and concluded by telling us that Jesus classifies us only by our hearts.

We then enjoyed the testimonies of some of our brothers and sisters as they expressed how good it was to attend the weekend, and also praised God for His goodness. After testimonies, Bro. Paul Ciotti expressed how wonderful it was to participate in this activity. He reminded us that our baptisms are like marriage covenants. He also compared our spiritual lives to the many different types of knots that can be made, whether they be strong knots or weak knots. Bro. Paul stated that we should be a strong knot, having a firm relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Singles then sang, *If Jesus Goes With Me* and Bro. Gary Ciccati offered a special prayer for the group. Bro. Brian Martorana expressed how fortunate we are that the Lord softened His heart toward us once we turned to Him. Brothers Nick Francione and Fred D'Antonio, and Sisters Joyce and Rhoda Jumper were acknowledged for their efforts as the Retreat Committee who made the weekend a pleasant one. We all sang *Revive Us Again* to close the meeting. All who attended can truly say they were revived by the weekend's activities.

Thanks to Sis. Karen Progar for helping me write this article.

Bro. Patrick Monaghan
GMBA Editor

WOMEN continued . . .

Abbott took care of the Sunday morning meeting. They talked about the Ten Commandments—to observe them and to teach them, especially to our children. Sacrament was also served. All that attended felt it was good to be there.

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

On Sunday we all drove to the conference together. After the meeting Sunday, all of the brothers staying at Sis. Norma's came up to me one by one and remarked that the meeting had been reminiscent of my grandfather's day.

We then drove back to the house, and I was sitting at Sis. Norma's kitchen table when Bro. Luis walked in. I went to my room to see if I had any more copies of my grandfather's testimony as I had been giving them to some of the sisters at the meeting. I had one book left, which I handed to Bro. Luis. Before I could say anything, he said, "Do you want me to translate this for you?"

All too soon it was time to take the train back to Simi Valley. Before I left, Bro. Alex Robinson mentioned that Bro. Rick Calabro had video-taped the conference.

When I arrived home, I tried repeatedly to reach Bro. Rick but I never could get through. There was an upcoming conference in Anaheim, California. I went to the Lord again and told Him I just didn't know what else I could do. I asked Him to let things come together for me at the conference.

Conference weekend, my son, Joshua, and I took the train to Anaheim. Bro. John DiBattista was going to pick me up at the station but the Lord had other plans. When the train stopped at Anaheim, the stop was not announced and we didn't get off. We got off at the next stop, Santa Ana. I called the church and Sis. Lydia

(Continued on Page 10)

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

Knowles told me that Bro. Victor Dominguez was on his way. Soon he arrived and we were on our way to church. On the way we started talking and discovered that we were both at the Conference of the Americas in July. We had a wonderful time sharing experiences and I told him that I had been trying to get a copy of Bro. Rick's video as I had told my branch about the conference and several brothers and sisters wanted a copy. Bro. Victor told me that he had a copy of the video and he was also able to make copies!

I am constantly amazed at the goodness of the Lord. I told these experiences to my branch but now the Lord has put it on my heart to share them with all my brothers and sisters. May God bless you all.

MESSAGE continued . . .

This does not mean that current workers will necessarily withdraw immediately, but, by working in harmony, the long-term desired results will be achieved.

The Teacher's Booklet contains the responsibilities of that office, including inherent requirements and duties to be performed. It also presents other areas of significant knowledge and needs. In discussing the booklet, Brother Elmer Santilli, Development Chairman, stated that assistance from all branches and missions had been asked, and that some of them had contributed many good and detailed ideas, for which the committee gratefully acknowledged them.

A letter was received from Evangelist James Campbell of Monongahela, PA who resigned from the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists because of ill health. He cited how he would be unable to pursue his evangelistic duties. He nevertheless will continue to be in the Ministry of the Church and will do whatever the Lord will allow. Brother Campbell has been an elder for 49 years and an evangelist for 39 years. He has also served in many other Church capacities throughout the years.

The evangelists reluctantly accepted Brother Campbell's letter of resignation from the Quorum and forwarded it to the General Conference, which granted his request.

A Living Sacrifice

On January 2, 1993, Bro. Concetto Alessandro departed from this world to receive his heavenly reward.

The Lord had blessed this brother with an abundance of both natural and spiritual charity. He used his gift well.

This brother always placed the needs of others before his own. At one point, he waited 17 years to purchase a new suit. Each time he began saving money, one of his brothers or sisters in Christ would stand in need. During the Great Depression of the 1930's, his suit money supplied a surprising amount of coal and food.

Bro. Alessandro's spiritual charity surfaced in his enduring commitment to the Church and her people. If one wanted to spend time with him, they would have to be

ready to travel with him. If he wasn't at church meetings, he was somewhere comforting the sick, widowed, or lonely.

Still, his heart quickened most rapidly with the mention of missionary work. First as a teacher, and then as an evangelist in the Church, this was the portion of God's service he loved best. Throughout his missionary life, he paid all his own expenses and used his own vehicles. During one period of time, he journeyed on hazardous roads and through blizzards in a car which logged well over one hundred thousand miles.

Always, though, children had a special place in his heart. He would never leave for church without filling his pockets with candy for the little ones. And he gave it to them filled with pure love.

Bro. Concetto Alessandro was a compassionate man whose life echoed a voice of love and selflessness. We will miss him.

At his funeral, his daughter, Diana Stigleman, read a poem that she had written in his remembrance:

Memories of love and joy
Are gathered up as days go by.
Collected in a quiet place,
They will wait there to be embraced.
Many years pass along,
Then suddenly one we love is gone.
Sadness fills our hearts, until
Our hidden thoughts come flowing
through.
God heals us in His own special
way . . .
Loving memories become God's gift
to us,
To ease the pain away.

New Arrivals

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

Thomas James to Edward A. and Rebecca Sue (Stroko) Stephens of Vanderbilt, PA.

Children Blessed

On Sunday, January 31, 1993, Matthew Thomas Dunn was blessed by Brother Al Mayher at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

Bro. Richard Onorato Jr. blessed Monique Elizabeth Israel of Brooklyn, New York on February 14, 1993.

Bethany Rose Onorato was blessed on February 28, 1993 by her father, Bro. Richard Onorato Jr. of the Maine Mission.

On March 21, Bro. Bill Colangelo blessed Lyndsey Marcella Wasik, daughter of Walter and Sherri Wasik, at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch.

Ashley Christina Lonkert, daughter of Mickey and Melissa Lonkert, was blessed on March 28, 1993 by Bro. Paul Ciotti at the McKees Rocks, PA Branch.

Holly Marie, daughter of Richard W. and Vicki Lynn Coyle Lowther, was blessed on April 4, 1993 at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch by her grandfather, Bro. Richard Lowther.

On April 11, 1993, Jenna Cody Leigh Glover was blessed by Bro. Lawrence King at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch. Jenna is the great-granddaughter of the late Bro. Elmer Larew. Her parents are Timothy and Melissa Glover of Grindstone, PA.

Zachery Matthew Hibbs was blessed on April 11, 1993 by Bro. Lawrence King at the Vanderbilt, PA

The funeral service was conducted by Bro. Paul D'Amico and Bro. Harold Burge.

Our sister is survived by three daughters, Carmella D'Angelo, Louise Muskopf, and Anna Guillory; two sisters; 14 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

Our sister will be sadly missed by the brothers and sisters, her family, and all who knew her. May God bless and comfort her family.

ROSE ANN SKUPNY

"Then it shall come to pass, that the spirits of those who are righteous are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise. . . ." Our dear Sister Rose Ann Skupny entered paradise on January 28, 1993. Sister Rose Ann was born on November 16, 1951 and was baptized into the Church on October 20, 1991 by Brother Lou Vitto of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch. She was confirmed by Bro. Peter Scolaro of Branch 1, where she was a member.

At the funeral, Bro. Vitto spoke on how our sister, who was a schoolteacher for nineteen years, loved to make others smile. After Rose Ann's passing, her cousin Claudette (Conti) Malboeuf dreamed that she was sitting in her living room and she saw Rose Ann coming out from the bedroom. Rose Ann spoke and said, "I must have had a bad dream, because I wasn't feeling well, but I'm all right now." Claudette remembered from the dream that her cousin looked radiant.

Our sister is survived by her husband, Larry; their two children, Karen and Michael; her parents, Brother John and sister Bessie Impastato; her brother Sal; and two sisters, Patricia Lynn and Angela Jean.

We ask the Lord to comfort and bless both Rose Ann's natural and spiritual families, and for the saints' continual prayers on their behalf.

ANGELO DiMASSO

Brother Angelo DiMasso of Morrilton, FL passed from this life on February 13, 1993. He was born February 17, 1932. He grew up under the sound of the Gospel in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch. Bro. Angelo moved to Florida in 1960, but was not in close proximity to the Church for many years, although his family in Pennsylvania and brothers and sisters from various parts kept in contact with him.

Over the past few years he had dealt with much affliction and heartache within his own family, as well as other problems. He was encouraged by many to attend church, first at the Tampa Branch, and recently at the Palm Harbor Branch, where Angelo was baptized on February 2, 1992.

Brothers Joe Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio and James G. Speck of the Palm Harbor Branch officiated at the

(Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES

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

ALBINA KUKAL

Born October 22, 1932, our Sister Albina Kukal went to her reward on July 20, 1992 after serving the Lord for 34 years. She moved twelve years ago from Cleveland, Ohio, where she was baptized in 1958, to Cape Coral, Florida.

She is survived by her husband, William Paul Kukal; two sons, William Scott and Jeffrey Brian; a daughter, Sister Dorene; her mother, Sister Phyllis Bartuccio; five brothers; and four sisters, three of whom are members of the Church: Sisters Irene Perry, Theresa Palermo, and Geri Gawronski. Sis. Albina is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Brothers Milford Eutsey Sr. and Jr. officiated at the service. Some of our late sister's favorites were sung by Carole Snyder, with Sister Leda Sheffler accompanying on the piano.

Sister Albina is greatly missed by all who loved her. May God comfort her family.

MARY DiGIOVANNI

Sister Mary DiGiovanni of Lockport, New York passed on to her eternal reward on November 21, 1992. She was born December 26, 1904 and was baptized March 24, 1946.

Stir up the Gift
of God which is
in thee
II.Tim. 1:6

W.H.Y.D.T.T.S.U.T.G.O.G.W.Y.

GMBA Campout
June 19-25



funeral. Brother Angelo is survived by one sister, Anna DiAntonio of the McKees Rocks Branch.

Our brother had many friends, neighbors, and brothers and sisters in Christ who were very kind and of great help to him in his time of

need. We praise the Lord that he surrendered his life to God, his Maker.

CARMELA VENTURA

Sister Carmela Ventura was called home to rest on Saturday, March 20, 1993. She was born on May 21, 1895 in Rionero Sannitico, Campobasso, Italy. She came to America in 1928 and not long afterward, she met the Gospel and was baptized in May of that year.

The funeral was held at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch. Bro. Mario Milano performed the service, with Brothers Vince Gibson and Elmer Santilli assisting.

Bro. Alton Kuhn and Sisters Madia Kline and Betty Santilli provided musical selections.

Missing

New London Fog man's overcoat, navy blue, from Greensburg Conference Center on April 17, 1993.

If found, please contact Bro. Jim Moore at (412) 899-3476.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

June, 1993

Volume 49, No. 6

A Testimony

By Roger Williams

I have been afflicted, but find much joy in our dear *Gospel News* and have thought, "Why don't I contribute to the blessings it brings to the readers?" I felt a duty to do something about it. The following is a testimony of how I met The Church of Jesus Christ.

I am originally from Illinois. I wasn't taught anything about the Gospel, but I was the only church-goer of a family of fifteen children.

I started to become interested in going to church in the seventh grade, as I had always talked to the Lord as my Friend. When my mother remarried during my senior year in high school, all of us children seemed to split in different directions, with me receiving an invitation from my natural brother to come down to his home in Lake Worth, Florida. After graduation I packed for Florida.

I was soon on my own and working as a roofer. As things settled down in my life I went to God one night in the most heartfelt prayer I had ever offered up to that time. I had never shed tears while praying before.

I really desired to know something from the Lord. Before I had moved, I had gone to one church that

provided some explanation to one piece of scripture, but when I asked about another, they gave me a different understanding altogether. In my prayer I now said, "Lord, there *has* to be a right way. Lord, I'm here in Florida now, and this is where I'm going to live. Now I need a church to go to. Lord, I believe You can lead me to a church where You would have me go. One where I will learn and absorb into my mind the things that are correct; teachings that are right. Lord, there *has* to be a right way."

About three days later, a co-worker missed his ride home and asked me if I could take him. It was right on my way, so I said yes. After dropping him off, I drove down 10th Avenue. Still being new to the area, I usually kept my eyes on traffic, but this day a building caught my eye and I saw the name, "The Church of Jesus Christ."

I never thought it would become a testimony, but I saw the lettering on the building as if it were magnified. What struck my mind was the name itself. The last church I had gone to was called The Church of Christ, and the first thought that hit me now was, "This church isn't even shy the first name!" I decided I would start attending.

(Continued on Page 10)

Foreign Missionary Help Needed!

The Foreign Mission Operating Committee is in the process of compiling a computerized data base for all names and addresses of members, friends, and relatives of The Church of Jesus Christ **located in outlying areas away from established missions and branches of the Church.** The desire and intent behind this effort is to enable the F.M.O.C. to secure the locations of those persons associated with and interested in receiving the Gospel. This will, in turn, aid the F.M.O.C. in servicing their needs, as well as give a better understanding of the direction for future expansion of the Gospel throughout the world.

You can play a major role in this missionary endeavor by providing the F.M.O.C. with any information you have available related to this labor.

We are specifically interested in names of people outside of the United States and Canada, and **not** in close proximity to the established works of the Church in Mexico, Guatemala, Italy, India, Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya.

Thank you for your help and may God bless you!

Bro. John DiBattista, F.M.O.C. Secretary

(See back cover for form)

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

It may be true that leaders are trained and not born, but it is also true that leaders generally have an inborn quality that helps them to train easier and grow into full-blown leadership.

The fact that Jesus called fishermen and mixed them with learned ones such as Matthew, Luke, and later Paul, Mark, and others does not mean that the fishermen were less valiant leaders. As a matter of fact, Peter remained the chief of the Apostles, whom Paul called James, Cephas, and John, the three pillars (Galatians 2:9).

Training makes great leaders better. A good leader instills purpose, encourages participation, broadens the sharing of his leadership by delegating responsibility, draws from every sector of life, allows others to lead and encourage, and shares the burden with the young and the old, allowing growth to the highest potential. He discovers and rediscovers their God-given talents.

Helping his subjects to exercise their faithfulness in Christ, a leader allows full freedom, leaving them free to explore their dreams to greatness. This permits new leaders to rise, remembering that in the multitude of counselors there is safety (Proverbs 24:6).

CHIPPEWA TRIBE OF CANADA

Chief George Nicholas was a humble man of quiet dignity, but a strong leader when it came to

defending the rights of his people. During the early beginning of World War II in the 40's, the Canadian government tried to force the young Indians to join the armed services. Chief Nicholas and Frank Miller of the Six Nations Reservation appealed in defense of the young Indians.

The appeal was presented in the capital of Ottawa, Ontario. The military used some high-level attorneys. The attorneys used many abusive descriptions, such as the Indians are uncivilized and have no marriage ties as the white race. Both Chief Nicholas and Miller answered with the facts of life, "Have you ever seen an Indian girl throw her illegitimately born baby into a trash can as some of the so-called civilized white women do, or abort their unborn children?"

The news media told the Canadian attorneys, "You better quit while you are still ahead." The news was carried both in Canada and in the U.S.

While some leaders may not get into pages of histories, they leave their marks in the heart of many.

Not many can speak and explain the 29th Chapter of Isaiah as George Nicholas. Verse 4: "... thou shall be brought down, and shall speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that has a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and your speech shall whisper out of the dust."

Elder Nicholas could speak with authority. "We have been brought down to the dust under the feet of men, but by the mercies of God we shall rise by the same power that permitted us to be brought down. Jesus Christ will be our defender, the grace of God will awaken our people." I would watch Brother Nicholas as he uttered these words.

Truly only one of the children of Israel can say this with conviction as they are still suffering.

Yes, it is true that leaders are trained, but it is also true that

leaders have an inborn quality in them.

The Spirit of God does make it possible. To the Indian and to Israel I say, "By the grace of God you will rise to greater heights than your forefathers."

God bless the readers,
Mark Randy

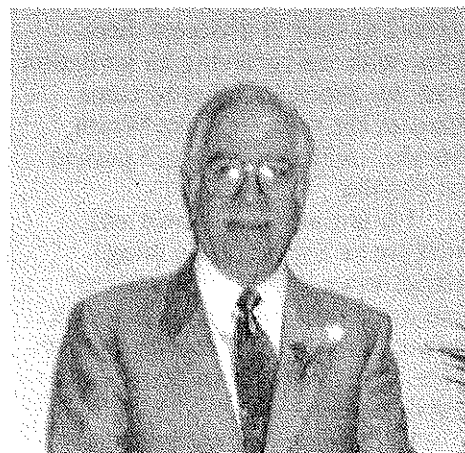
50th Anniversaries

BRO. SAM MOLISANI

By Patti Saragosa

On March 7, 1993 all of us at Branch #1 in Roseville, Michigan celebrated Brother Sam Molisani's 50th spiritual birthday. There for this special occasion was Bro. Sam's daughter, Sister Alyse Genaro, from Palm Harbor, Florida, who had the honor of pinning a boutonniere onto her father's jacket.

Brother Sam was baptized on March 14, 1943 by Brother Carmen Campitelle. He testified that he, like Nephi of old, was born of goodly parents who taught him the ways of the Lord. Brother Sam proclaimed, "The day I became baptized was the day I put my foot on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ and began to walk on that narrow pathway that leads to eternal life." Brother Sam feels the spirit that led him onto that pathway is the same spirit that's kept him through the years. We all felt



Bro. Sam Molisani

the sincerity of our brother as he continued to thank the Lord for blessing him with many good years.

Also visiting our branch that day were Brother Gary Martin from the Fredonia, PA Branch and Brother Sam Risola from the Palm Harbor, FL Branch. Bro. Gary opened the morning service by speaking from Ecclesiastes, Chapters one and two. Our brother spoke on how we can get caught up in the routine of daily life and forget what our real purpose is. We can learn from Ecclesiastes that all we labor for in this life, and the wisdom the world has to offer, is in vain unless we keep the hope of Christ alive within our hearts. Brother Gary stated, "The reward of our natural life is very different from the reward of our spiritual life." We must remember, our main purpose is to serve God and to keep His commandments. What a blessing and assurance to know that if we can endure, a glorious reward awaits each and every one of us!

Brother Larry and Sister Rosanne Champine sang a beautiful song and after they finished, Presiding Elder Peter Scolaro made a few closing remarks: "We all share in the opportunity to live in the Spirit of God. Fifty years can seem like a day when you are *living in and enjoying* the Spirit of God."

After Sister Marilyn Scolaro sang the hymn *Higher Ground*, the Lord's supper was passed and our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Sam Risola.

SIS. EVA CAIN

Sister Eva Cain of Branch #4 in Redford, Michigan was born on January 8, 1928, on the eve of the Great Depression. The following is Sis. Eva's own testimony:

I remember growing up in that bleak and gloomy time, and seeing the great hardships placed before my parents. I felt so helpless, and in my childish desperate dreams, I wished I could be rich, so that I

could make life easier for them and our family of nine (Dad, Bro. Michele Coppa; Mother, Sis. Filomena Coppa; Grandmother, Sis. Libera Coppa; and six children: Sis. Mary Saczko and myself, and Brothers Silverio, Adam, Elio, and Alma Coppa).

My father worked like a mule, planting a garden to put food on the table, not only our yard, but two other city lots in Detroit as well. Mother's health deteriorated after she had her last four children in the space of three years (the last two were twins). I remember as a little girl sitting by my mother's bed when she was very ill and crying, "When I grow up I'm going to be rich."

I never did reach a point in my life where I was rich as to the material things of this world, but I did achieve a spiritual wealth. The week before I was baptized, I had this dream. When I would walk to school, I always took a shortcut through a field. In my dream I was walking along this shortcut. When I looked up, I saw all manner of beautiful sparkling jewels floating down from the sky. I remembered what I had said to myself as a child. "Now, at last, I am rich." I reached for the jewels and I filled my pockets. As I was doing this, one unusually large jewel floated right toward me with a name tag on it, which read, "To my angel Eva." Then I awoke from my dream.

I realized later that the jewel with my name on it was The Gospel

Restored, which God was offering to me.

All the riches of this world could never compare to the riches of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I thank God for all His wonderful blessings which have sustained me all my life.

I was just fifteen years old when I was baptized on February 21, 1943. I was baptized by Bro. Anthony Ruzzi and confirmed by Bro. Concetto Alessandro. I was married to my husband, Albert George Cain, on November 16, 1946. Through this wonderful marriage we had two daughters, Linda and Judy, and one son, Albert Brian. We now have two sons-in-law, a daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.

My God has always been there for me with Love, Strength, Compassion, and Hope. I pray for continual help, that I may do my best until God takes me from this life. I also pray that this beautiful Gift that God has given me, the Restored Gospel, He will also give to my children and grandchildren, and to all the world. May God bless all of you is my prayer.

My Experience

By Sal Azzinaro

A mysterious series of events have transpired in my life over the past several months, wherein the Lord has allowed me to rededicate my spiritual life to Him.

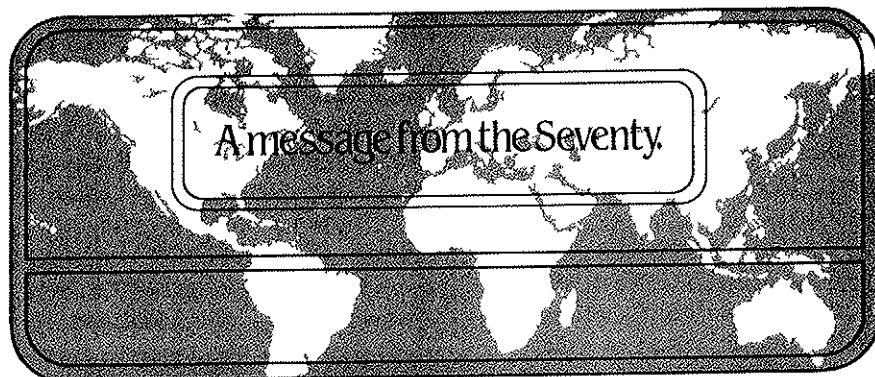
As a short biographical recap, I was born and raised in The Church of Jesus Christ, in Lockport, New York, May 18, 1947, to Salvatore and Marie Azzinaro.

I was a very spiritually privileged youngster in that my formative years were greatly influenced by many gifted ministers of our Church. Among these were Bro. Paul D'Amico (apostle and uncle) and Bro. Perry Simone (grandfather). My father was a teacher and



Sis. Eva Cain

(Continued on Page 7)



Report Discloses Many Missionaries

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The Missionary Operating Committee reported through the Quorum of 70 Evangelists to the General Conference in April on the total missionary program of the Church, the same as it usually does semi-annually. There are many locations worldwide, so the accounting covered a wide range of undertakings in both domestic and foreign fields.

The progress and status combine the different areas of activity through the information supplied by the Foreign Missions Operating Committee, the Americas Missions Operating Committee, the General Church Development Committee, and the Media Committee. The consolidation allows everyone to be more fully aware of what is transpiring.

While it is important to view the entire organization, it is noteworthy to remember that the work is being done by individuals and that there are many brothers and sisters in Christ who so labor diligently and continuously. They perform their duties in a very meaningful way. It would be surprising, perhaps, to tabulate just how many hours are being expended and how many personal resources are being given.

On many occasions, Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, has expressed his own gratitude and that of the entire body to, and for, the willing workers and for their generosity as they perform

their tasks, sometimes for many years. This applies to people of all ages and to all parts of the world. Younger and middle-aged people are usually the ones expected to be more active, but at times older individuals will launch out on faith and do their best.

GOOD EXAMPLE

A good example of determination to serve the Lord was the move made by Evangelist Charles (Chuck) Smith, accompanied by his wife, Sister Ilene, to Oak Grove (Independence area), Missouri almost five years ago. As reported in this column in the June, 1988 issue of the *Gospel News*, he was then 75 years old. The couple left the Ft. Pierce, Florida vicinity to live in a new place.

In 1988, he said, "At my age, I never thought we would be doing anything like this. When I retired because of disability and we moved to Florida 18 years ago, I thought that was where we'd spend the rest of our lives. Now I feel very strongly that the Independence, MO area is where God wants us to be.

"When the Church began to explore the possibilities of going to Independence, I did not think that I would be the one moving there on a kind of permanent basis. My thought was to help the Branch Development Committee start to hold meetings there. Shortly thereafter, it became obvious through our desires, and through the direction of God, that my

wife and I would go there. . . . "

Brother Smith also stated that he considered himself very fortunate to be used by God.

The couple, married in 1945 in Glassport, Pennsylvania, received several dreams which directed them on this move. Brother Smith, amazingly, has been healed of many afflictions. He has had over ten major surgeries. He also has a chronic arthritic condition which had made it impossible for him to walk at times. Now, he seems to be so much improved that he does not require a cane or crutch to get around.

The MOC reported now that "With the addition of some members; Brother Chuck Smith has been holding meetings more regularly, although these new members live as far as three hours away from Independence." This is most encouraging, as the hopes are that a solid base can be established.

MANY OTHERS

There are many other examples which could be cited to illustrate how individuals and families have moved or travel extensively in serving the Lord. Also, many more are involved in their own areas in branch and home missionary work and their continuous efforts have enabled the Church to grow.

It is essential to look at overall progress periodically and the Conference reporting times present a good opportunity to do this. Affordable future plans are also projected, including necessary travel. The spending plan accumulated by the General Church Finance Committee also generally highlights many factors, the most striking of which is that the major portion of the budget is allocated for missionary endeavors.

Maintaining existing work is the first priority, and the needs in the fields must be met. Only after fulfilling these requirements can new work be reasonably started.

A census of all workers would reflect individuals in various age groups. Regardless of age, however,

(Continued on Page 10)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO

Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

PACIFIC COAST

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST

James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST

Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors" (Matthew 6:12). A familiar phrase in the prayer taught by Jesus to His followers, this verse is a plea for forgiveness of our sins by God, contingent upon our own willingness to forgive others.

Those of us who have committed our lives to Christ are certainly aware of our constant need for God's forgiveness. The closer we grow to the Lord, through ever-increasing faith and obedience, the more we see His Greatness contrasted with our nothingness. A spiritually mature individual sees the shortcomings of others as being very similar to his or her own, and is quick to forgive. It is when we're not as close to the Lord as we should be that we feel justified in not forgiving others of their trespasses against us.

An important reason for our forgiveness of others is the good it does to our own soul. Our refusal to forgive someone rarely does them any harm at all. More likely, we ourselves suffer the anger, hatred, bitterness and hurt—sometimes for years—when we don't forgive another. In many cases the one who has trespassed against us does not know that they have hurt us; perhaps they do not even possess the capacity to understand how they possibly could have hurt us by what was said or done.

Unlike the forgiveness we receive from God, which comes as a result of our repentance, our forgiveness of another takes place completely within us, without the offending party necessarily knowing about it. Whether or not our debtor asks for forgiveness, we can and must, by the grace of God, let go of the hurt and resentment that poison our life alone. Communication is essential in resolving conflicts (Matthew 5:23-26), but our forgiveness of another can be completely non-confrontational, a matter between only ourselves and God. In addition to being an absolute prerequisite for obtaining God's forgiveness, frankly pardoning our debtors can be one of the most liberating, exhilarating, spiritually and emotionally rewarding experiences of our lives.

What is important to our souls is that we forgive, not that others repent. Among Jesus' last words as a man were, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." He didn't say, "make them sorry," or "make them suffer." He said, "forgive them." Lest we think that only God Himself could possess such grace, Stephen uttered similar words (Acts 7:60) while unbelievers hurled stones at him.

Why do we need to be so forgiving? First of all, any lack of forgiveness on our part constitutes hypocrisy. If we are unwilling to forgive, how can we ask God for forgiveness! More importantly, there is literally a world of lost sinners out there who may very well need to see a loving, forgiving attitude on our part in order to be drawn from darkness to the full Light of Christ. Regardless of their vices, we need to look upon their souls with the same forgiving attitude that Jesus displayed to even the vilest of sinners. For our own good, and for the sake of others, let us work at possessing and displaying the grace of God in our lives.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Faith and Hope Win

Dear Friends,

When we read the Bible and the Book of Mormon, we are lucky. We can read the beginning of one person's life and follow them through trials and troubles, and quickly see how God was with them all the time. But think how they felt as days and weeks and even years passed by and they were unhappy.

Joseph was innocent when his boss's wife accused him of attacking her. He went to prison because this woman lied about him. He was in prison for eight long years.

Do you think Joseph was happy? As a young boy, he had had dreams that his brothers and his father and mother were all bowing down to him. Then his brothers sold him as a slave and he was brought to Egypt. And now he was sentenced to prison. Think how many long and terrible nights he must have prayed to God and asked what he'd ever done to deserve this. Think how many times he must have been afraid. He was without family or loved ones, alone and locked in with dangerous criminals.

But God did not forsake Joseph. God touched the heart of the man who ran the prison. This man noticed Joseph and gave him a special job. Joseph was smart and willing to learn. He learned how to run a prison. He learned how to organize large groups of people and how to spot danger or weakness in others. He probably learned more about the Egyptian way of life from all the people in prison, from the lowest criminal to the people who had once been lucky enough to work for the Pharaoh but now had also been thrown into prison.



And Joseph kept on serving our God. He kept on hoping. Finally, two servants of the Pharaoh were sent to prison. Joseph met them and God helped him understand the meaning of the dreams they had. One man was put to death, and the other man returned to work for Pharaoh.

Many months later, when the Pharaoh had a dream warning him of a famine that was coming, no one could understand it. His servant remembered that Joseph could interpret dreams. Pharaoh sent for Joseph and told him the dream.

Joseph prayed. God told him that the dreams meant that in seven years, a terrible famine would come. The weather would change and the crops would die. There wouldn't even be enough grass or grains to feed flocks of sheep or cattle. Everyone would starve.

Pharaoh believed. He put Joseph in charge of building huge buildings, called granaries, to hold corn and all sorts of grains. For seven years, things grew well. Joseph's men gathered the grains.

Can you imagine how jealous people were of Joseph's friendship with Pharaoh? Do you think that during those seven years when year after year a beautiful crop grew that maybe Joseph wondered if the famine ever would come? We don't know how Joseph felt during those seven years. We don't know how much others watched too, and hoped he would fail. But Joseph just kept on growing and gathering grains.

In the eighth year, the weather changed. Everything did poorly. In the ninth year, it was worse, and so on through the fourteenth year.

During those seven years of bad crops, Joseph passed out grains to thousands and thousands of people. Can you imagine the power he had then?

Pharaoh became rich, because the farmers sold him their lands so they could eat. Then the Pharaoh owned the land and rented it to the farmers.

Everything Joseph learned in his eight years of prison life prepared him for the big job he had to do. It taught him to understand people, and it taught him that sometimes good people go through really terrible times. Sometimes good people may hurt for many years. But we must keep on growing and learning, and remember that God truly is watching over us, even when we suffer, and that *He* loves us and was with us, "even in the prison-house." Don't give up. He cares for you.

WORD SEARCH

JOSEPH	GATHERED
IN	GRAIN
THE	FOOD
PRISON	SEVEN
HOUSE	YEARS
GOD	OF
GAVE	FAMINE
HIM	SAVED
POWER	FAITH
AND	HOPE
FAVOR	WIN
HE	

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

Our Women Today

General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Mary Tamburrino

The General Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference was held April 24, 1993 at Branch #2 in Allen Park, Michigan. After singing a few hymns the Scripture was read from II Corinthians 4:6-7. Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, welcomed everyone by saying she was very excited to see so many sisters attend the meeting from all across the nation. She is so thankful that she got to know so many sisters through the Circle of the Church.

The morning continued with the roll call of officers; reading of the minutes of the last conference held at Greensburg, PA; and the area reports: Atlantic Coast, Southwest, Michigan-Ontario, Southeast, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Each area is doing different activities, but the aim is all the same. Money was distributed to the General Circle Indian Mission Fund, Africa, Italy, India, Missionary Foundation and to the Media Committee Funds. Money raised for the San Carlos mission this past six months was \$2400.00. The next project is to raise money for Kenya, Africa.

Contributions were made to the Memorial Fund in memory of: John Bickerton; Rocco Biscotti; Josephine Breglia; Tony Capone; Theodore Carrabia; Dan Casasanta; Victor Ciarolla; Anne Ciccati; Lucy Costarella; Minnie DiPiero; Salvatore Feola; Rose Impastato; Martin Klein, Sr.; Gary Knowles; Lena Liberto; Nick Liberto; Girolama Maisano; Suzie Maselli; Betty Monfield; George Neill; Yolanda Pietrangelo; Brigida Ross; Jared Ross; Gemma Santilli; and Gerard Valenti.

After lunch, Brother Dominic Thomas spoke to the sisters, saying he is very impressed with the sisters'

accomplishments. He reiterated the projects that were completed to date.

The Michigan-Ontario Area Circle had a program on "The Fruit of the Spirit" found in Galatians 25:22-23. The group was put through a test of naming all nine gifts. Verses were read and the group had to guess which gift each referred to.

The remainder of the conference was spent in singing and testimonies. A vote of thanks was given to the area for their hospitality.

The next General Conference will be held at Greensburg, PA on October 9, 1993.

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

deacon in the Church. My uncle, Bro. John Azzinaro, was a minister living on the west coast. I sat through many sermons admiring blessed brothers such as Bro. Will Cadman, Bro. Dominic Thomas, Bro. Rocco Biscotti, Bro. Joe Calabrese and many, many others.

I entered the Marine Corps right out of high school and found myself stationed in San Diego, California. That year, 1967, I was greatly influenced by the wonderful brothers and sisters from the San Diego Branch. Bro. Tom Liberto and his wife spiritually adopted me and no one could have asked for finer parents. I also was able to spend a great deal of time with my aunt and uncle in Chatsworth, California and the brothers and sisters in the Valley Branch.

I was baptized that year in San Diego. I promised to serve the Lord till the end of my days on this earth. I broke that promise. My hand shakes now as I write that sentence. I never lost my love for the Lord. Although I did not fall into an extremely sinful life, I became unfaithful to my God by not placing Him above all earthly things.

In spite of my unfaithfulness, the Lord chose to continue to watch over me. I have been most fortunate to find a loving and dedicated wife, Annette, who has faithfully stood by my side and supported me. I have had

a successful business career. In my need, God has answered my prayers and I have been allowed to help those around me. My definition of earthly success has always been to be strong enough to give to others in their need.

Approximately two years ago I began earnestly to pray for the opportunity to return to Church. Annette and I had visited several other churches, but had not found them a comfortable place of worship.

I prayed that somehow a branch or mission would form near our Ontario, California home to make it easier to attend church.

Occasionally we would visit Uncle John and Aunt Betty in Simi Valley. It would always break my heart to observe Communion, but not be able to participate.

The dedication of the Simi Valley Branch provided the answer to my prayers. While attending this event, I was pleasantly surprised to see Bro. Tom Liberto and his family. Joy filled my heart and I ached more than ever to recapture the Spirit of God which I had experienced years earlier in San Diego.

During a conversation with Bro. Paul Liberto, I related my desire that a branch of the Church would locate closer to my home. Bro. Paul asked if we were close to Riverside. I told him that we were 20 to 25 miles from Riverside. He let me know that the Church had a mission there and that he would give my name and phone number to Bro. Ken Jones.

I was not aware of it at the time, but this would turn out to be the answer to my prayer. As it turns out, the Riverside Mission is only 10 miles from our home in Ontario and Bro. Ken Jones turned out to be the most tenacious saint I had ever met.

Bro. Ken involved me in a Church singing group, which gave me the opportunity to build a spiritual relationship with some of the nicest people I have ever met. I have a natural love of music and this was a perfect way for me to express my love of God. He surely moves in mysterious ways!

(Continued on Page 10)

Branch and Mission News

Ordination in Edison Branch

By Carmela Madison

September 13, 1992 was a blessed day in the Edison, NJ Branch. Sis. Sherry Olexa took on the office of a deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ. Looking over the congregation, I beheld a full church with nine elders on the rostrum. Bro. Jonathan Olexa gave an opening welcome, after which we sang *To the Work*. Bro. Jonathan read the duties of a deaconess and read dreams by Sis. Mary Thickstun and Sis. Virginia Pizzaia which confirmed the calling of our sister. Prayer was given by Bro. Len Benyola.

I took a moment to reflect how this event was to mark the opening of a new chapter in the Olexas' lives. A husband and wife, a presiding elder and a deaconess, united today to become a team working for the benefit of the Church.

Sis. Sherry is blessed with two beautiful children, Aaron and Joshua, a husband, Bro. Jonathan Olexa and mother, Sis. Betty D'Orazio, who love and adore her and an extended family full of support as evidenced by their attendance. All that have had the pleasure of hearing Sherry play the piano know that God has blessed her with a gift of music. She has hands filled with the spirit and energy of giving harmony and melody to the gospel songs. She is able to inspire and affect anyone in sight to sing and shout His praises as she plays the piano. What a blessing! Such a beautiful picture; to be able to reach and uplift someone who is bedridden with song and music while soothing the soul and comforting the heart. I am sure many thoughts passed through everyone's mind as we watched Sis. Sherry approach the pulpit while the deaconesses came up to witness her ordination.

Such a quiet humbling whisper

passed through the air. A mother's moving prayer brought tears to the eyes of many who witnessed Sis. Betty D'Orazio wash the feet of her daughter, Sis. Sherry Olexa, preparing her to receive the office of a deaconess.

As Bro. Paul Benyola offered the initial prayer, Bro. Jim Sgro was inspired to offer the prayer ordaining Sis. Sherry a deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sis. Sherry was blessed to have her father-in-law, Bro. Fred Olexa from Ohio, open the meeting. His message was "How does one become set aside to do the work of God; How does the calling of authority come about?" He referred to I Samuel 9:24, "And Saul did eat with Samuel that day. God worked in his life. We can be called if we exercise ourselves in a simple act of faith. When you are called to do God's work, you stand out not in stature, but, in the spirit that you carry. Go and see what you can do to help those in the world. Do the very best that you can under the circumstances. Shouldn't we go before God with something to offer him? Anything that we have or do, is by the power of God working in our lives.

"Our sincerity before God is what God looks down upon and sees. God has called us to labor, and if we would find our work, God will bless us in our labor. God wants to give you the best that He has in His son Jesus Christ. As Saul did eat with Samuel, you can eat with Jesus Christ. All you need is a godly heart like Saul, and a desire to walk uprightly, and God can make you stand out above other men. Cherish it in your heart and God will bless you for many years. Continue to eat at the table of the Lord and continue to receive the best that He has."

Bro. Paul Benyola followed with the message "Be participants and not spectators in the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Bro. Len Benyola continued with "Some are called because of their work and some are called for work yet to come." It is a very special calling to be called to be of service to the Church—Give of your best to the Master today. Be a giant in the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Bro. Jim Sgro asked the question "How many people have you affected and how many people have affected you?" He told of the effect Bro. August D'Orazio (Sherry's dad) had on him during his participation in the Thursday Nighters. Along with Sherry there are many of the original Thursday Nighters who hold offices in the Church today. That was certainly a gift Bro. Augie had. To affect and influence people while making them feel welcomed, accepted and happy. Many have felt his far-reaching effect.

There was much food for our soul as these brothers left us with many thoughts to ponder over. As we sang *Here at Thy Table Lord We Meet*, Sis. Sherry and Sis. Betty set the table. A silent hush encircled as everyone saw a child of a saint follow in the footsteps of the parent. There was a season of testimony and songs adding to the excitement of a joyful morning. We were all moved by Sis. Sherry's humbling testimony in which she recollected her cry to the Lord as she was on a plane coming home from a gathering. She sought help as to the direction she should take in her life. She was troubled with decisions to make affecting her future. That moment the Lord allowed her to see her future in a vision. She reflected how she was shown this day in her vision. At a moment's glance I observed tears fall from Sis. Sherry's eyes met by tears from Bro. Jonathan's eyes. It was a very moving moment; to hear the experience and to witness God's plan in action.

Later we met downstairs for a season of refreshment with family and friends of Sis. Sherry and Bro. Jonathan. It was good to smile and renew acquaintances.

May the Lord give unto our sister a new song as she continues to

praise Him for the gift of harmony. May she affect and influence others through melodious sounds. May she continue to "eat at the table of the Lord" and continue to receive the best that He has.

Ordinations in Saline, MI

By Tonia Davis

On August 9, 1992, two more workers were ordained into God's vineyard. Brother Jerry Morle and Brother Andre Francione were ordained deacons in the Church at the Saline, Michigan Branch.

A visiting elder, Bro. Dominic Thomas, spoke on Matthew 4:18-20. He told us that our job is to follow God. How we do it is up to us. And it is important that we do so with "blindness" on our eyes, so as not to be concerned with how someone else is serving God.

It is also important to work for the Church, Bro. Dominic said, because in doing so, we are working for the Lord. Bro. Dominic also reminded us that we all get rewarded. For those who do not hold offices, the "membership award" is the best reward. For those called to hold offices, the reward is the spiritual well-being and happiness of the membership. Our brother wrapped up his message by emphasizing, "It's important to be ordained, but we must *all* follow God."

Brother John P. Buffa then read the duties of a deacon, and stressed the importance of this job. He also told Jerry's and Andre's wives that they play an important role in their husband's duties.

Brother Jerry's feet were washed by his natural brother, Bro. Ron Morle, and Bro. Reno Bologna ordained him. Bro. Nick Francione, Andre's uncle, washed his feet, and Bro. Jim Cotellesse, another uncle, ordained him.

These brothers have now been in office for several months, and both of them have shown great dedication to the Lord and their new office. Our prayer is that the Lord will continue to bless them in all their endeavors.

Promises

By Barbara Nuzzi

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38-39).

Romeo and Antonette were two people born in Italy, far off from the Promised Land, far from the birthplace of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. As their lives progressed, they found one another and married, and at some point traveled to the United States of America. A great treasure awaited them there, not of silver and gold, but of blessings untold. They heard the message of faith, repentance and baptism, and obeyed the call and became Brother Romeo and Sister Antonette Salerno, members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many years have passed since these events transpired; their lives were blessed, and their testimonies of praise to Almighty God still rings in the ears of the saints who knew them. They have passed on to their heavenly reward, but the blessings have not ceased!

These past few months have brought two new members to the Niles, Ohio Branch: Sister Mary DeSimone, granddaughter to Bro. and Sis. Salerno, made her covenant to the Lord on November 1, 1992; and Sis. Julie Salerno, their daughter-in-law, renewed her covenant on April 11, 1993.

We praised God for His promises and His word, which will stand to the end of time. Does the story end there? We pray and trust it does not, for Sister Mary's son, Anthony, and her daughter, Angela, attended their mother's baptism.

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Our Loss Is Heaven's Gain

Brothers and sisters, our loss was truly heaven's gain, when on March 25, 1993, our Lord called home our Sister Donna Rossi of the Spartanburg, SC Mission. Sis. Donna had been in the hospital for almost two weeks suffering from an aneurysm. Many felt that the Lord would raise her up, but it was not His will, and certainly God's way is the best way. The passing of our sister was a surprise and definitely heartbreaking, but again God's way is the best way.

Sister Donna's smiling face will be missed every Sunday at the piano bench. She always had kind words, a warm hug and an abiding love for everyone. Sis. Donna truly fulfilled the Proverb of a virtuous woman (Chapter 31). Sis. Donna had desired to finish some work around her house, she wanted to visit with a saint that had left the church, and she wanted to see Bro. Paul Palmieri. The Lord allowed her to accomplish all those things before her passing. Our sister's desires were also to die before her companion and before our presiding elder, because she wanted him to conduct her funeral. The Lord also granted these desires unto our sister.

God gave many experiences leading up to Sis. Donna's passing. One experience was given to Sis. Gerri Littlejohn about a week prior to our sister's illness. In a dream Sis. Gerri said that she saw a woman on her way to be married, but the woman was already married. The woman's face could not be seen, but her gown was the most beautiful and whitest she had ever seen. The gown was not cut like the gowns are today, but it was flowing and beautiful. Surely this woman was our Sister Donna preparing to meet the Bridegroom.

Another sister of the mission, Sis. Gloria Keenon, was given a dream the day of our sister's passing. Around 3 a.m. Sis. Gloria saw Sis. Donna in a dream. She was walking up a long narrow road, and she was

(Continued on Page 10)

HEAVEN'S GAIN continued . . .

smiling as she walked. She looked very happy. Sis. Donna was wearing a pair of extremely long white king's shoes. At the end of the shoes were white bows with gold trim around them. The last time Sis. Donna was seen in the dream she was still smiling, walking up the road. Sis. Donna passed later that same morning. Naturally speaking, Sis. Donna was not a big person, but spiritually she did fill some big shoes.

One other dream was given to our sister's companion, Bro. Darrell Rossi. Some time before her passing, Sis. Donna spoke to Darrell and said "I have read your mother's book." At the time our brother thought that she was speaking of his natural mother, who has endured many illnesses. Now we can see that she was speaking of his mother the Church.

Sister Donna's chapter in this life has now come to a close, but a new one is beginning for her in the Paradise of God. Please pray for our sister's companion of 14 years, Bro. Darrell Rossi, and also their children: Melissa, 11, and Leslie, 7.

We must learn from our sister's untimely passing that we must live each day as if it were our last. For no man knoweth the hour when the Lord will call. May we all endure that we may someday join our sister and the Lord. May God keep us all.

As for our beautiful Sister Donna, *"The Rose Is Transported to Heaven."* God bless you, brothers and sisters.

Much Love in Christ,
Sis. Regina Alverson

God gave them wisdom and strength beyond their years. On the other hand, many have labored effectively later in life and even up to the end of their lives. It is no different today!

TESTIMONY continued . . .

On Sundays I would always sit in the last row, but our Sunday School Superintendent, Bro. Rocco Benyola, always made me feel welcome. I always heard a hymn or a chorus that would make me feel happy the rest of the day.

The Lord has now called *me* to be a Sunday School Superintendent, and it has been seven wonderful years since I began my walk with the Father in His Church.

May God bless you all with this testimony.

MESSAGE continued . . .

it is known that God can use all people in His due time.

Many laborers in both the Bible and Book of Mormon were extremely young according to our standards, but

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

During a men's retreat in the latter part of 1992, I was called by God to repent my sins and return to Church. While we prayed on our knees I sang out "Speak, My Lord," and the Lord made His wishes known to me. I was reinstated at that time. While Communion was passed that Sunday, I wept uncontrollably, knowing that by the mercy and grace of our God I had been reborn again. Many do not have one opportunity to answer God's call. I was granted a second chance, and I will never forsake my God again.

In the months from that day until now, I have felt spiritually stronger each day of my life. My wife and daughter attend church with me and they feel comfortable in the house of God

I am experiencing a closeness to God that I have not felt since I was a child.

Please pray for me and my family, that we may serve the Lord and His designs. May God bless you.

WEDDINGS

GOGOLA - MORACO

Mr. William P. Gogola and Miss Sharon A. Moraco were united in holy matrimony on Saturday, July 4, 1992 in Birmingham, Michigan.

The ceremony was officiated by the bride's brother, Bro. Dennis Moraco of Hollywood, Florida. He was assisted by Bro. Dominic Thomas of Branch #2. Sharon's brother, Larry, escorted her down the aisle in the absence of her father, the late Brother Dominic Moraco.

We pray that God will bless this couple and guide them in their new life together for many happy years. They are now residing in Plymouth, Michigan.

LA ROSA - WHITWORTH

Raymond Anthony LaRosa and Lisa Ann Whitworth were united in marriage on April 10, 1993 at The Church of Jesus Christ, Carolina Mission in Gastonia, NC.

Bro. John Genaro performed the ceremony. Musical selections were played by the bride's mother, Mrs. Darrel Davenport of Flippin, Arkansas.

The newlyweds will make their home at Lake Wylie, SC. Our prayers are that God will bless them and provide their needs.

OBITUARIES

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

MICHAEL FEHER

Brother Michael A. Feher was born April 26, 1918, and passed away on October 5, 1992. In 1948 he was ordained a teacher in the Church. He and his wife, Sister Mary, were members of the Hopelawn, NJ Branch until they moved to Phoenix, Arizona in 1976.

Brother Walter Cihomsky officiated at the funeral, assisted by Brother Joseph Griffith.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Mary; his daughter, Sis. Joyce Ramsey and her husband, Bro. Robert; two grandchildren, three sisters, and four brothers. Plagued by ill health during the last years of his life, Brother Mike nonetheless served the Lord with loyalty and dedication.

ANGELINA COTELLESSE

Sister Angelina "Julie" Cotellesse of the Saline, Michigan Branch passed away on December 15, 1992. She was born July 7, 1909 and was baptized in 1934 by Bro. Salvatore Valenti. She was ordained a deaconess in 1945 at Muncey, Ontario.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Querino Bologna and Anthony Gerace.

Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Bro. Dominic Cotellesse. She is survived by her daughter, Sis. Lydia Francione; four sons, Brothers Daniel, James, Matthew, and Joseph; one brother, Bro. Gorie Ciaravino; and six grandchildren. Sister Julie, as she was known, loved the Seed of Joseph and spent many years in the Muncey Mission with her family. She always supported her husband in his desire to spread the Gospel. In her later years, after spending many years as a member of Detroit Branch #2, she felt directed to work in the Detroit Inner City Branch. She transferred to the Saline Branch early in 1992. Our sister had a beautiful voice and enjoyed singing praises to God as a soloist. Only two weeks before she became ill, she sang *I'll Walk with God* at her branch, imparting a blessing to all who heard. Her happy, smiling face will be missed by all.

JOHN ROSEMIER

Brother John Rosemier passed on to his eternal reward on January 27, 1993 at the age of 61 years. Brother Jack, as he was known to us, was baptized into

The Church of Jesus Christ on December 28, 1958 and was ordained a teacher on March 16, 1973. He became a member of the Aliquippa, PA Branch in 1980.

Brothers Tony Ross and Pete Giannetti Sr. conducted the funeral. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, Sister Elizabeth, one daughter, Jessica Dawson, one son, Scott, their spouses and three granddaughters. His endearing sense of humor will be missed by all who knew him.

DONNA ROSSI

On March 25, 1993, Sister Donna Rossi of the Spartanburg, SC Mission passed on after a sudden, unexpected illness, to receive her crown in Glory. She was born on June 25, 1953 and was baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ on November 11, 1983 by Bro. Paul Palmieri.

Brother Harold Littlejohn officiated at the funeral, assisted by Bro. Wilbert McNeil of New Brunswick, NJ.

Sister Donna is survived by her husband, Bro. Darrell Rossi, and children, Melissa and Leslie Rossi, and her parents. Throughout her illness our sister constantly stated that her faith was in the Lord. The support shown to our sister's husband and her family has been a great testimony. Our sister's parents have been touched by all the love shown to them by the saints. Sister Donna had a desire for her family to hear the Gospel. Through her death, her family has experienced the light of the Gospel. May Jesus bless Bro. Darrell, filling the void that our sister left in his life. Sister Donna will be deeply missed and always remembered.

ANN KIRKPATRICK

April 11, 1993 became the day that we of the Yucaipa, California Mission had our last chance to say good-bye to our beloved Sister Ann Kirkpatrick. She was born Anna Belle Carson on July 5, 1914 in Dawson, Pennsylvania. At a very young age she fell in love with Clarence Kirkpatrick and on December 23, 1930 they were married. She was baptized in the Church on March 24, 1935 by Bro. Clyde Gibson and confirmed by Bro. Alex Federer. She was ordained a deaconess in 1937.

Her funeral service being on Easter Sunday, we were filled with bittersweet feelings of our loss and the Lord's gain. She had often spoken of her favorite scripture, where the Lord said there were many mansions in His Father's House. Her husband, Bro. Clarence, stated, "We were blessed with 62 and a half years of a loving marriage."

Left to mourn her loss are her loving husband, eight children, 40 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren. Also countless brothers, sisters, and friends in Christ. She will always be remembered for her beautiful smile and her warm, gentle and loving spirit.

F.M.O.C. Data Base

Please indicate your name and telephone number, and include as much information about the individual/s as possible.
Thank you!

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

City/Country: _____

Phone: _____

Information: _____

Your Name: _____ Your Telephone: _____

PLEASE DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE OF THIS NATURE TO:

Sis. Ruth Gehly
3229 South Hill Road
McKean, PA 16426

New Arrival

Tara Renee Van Kanegan to Sister Sharon and Terry
VanKanegan of Kinsman, Ohio.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children Blessed

On September 6, 1992, Joshua Cadman Landrey, son of Bro. Arthur Jr. and Kendra Landrey, was blessed by his great-grandfather, Brother Herbert Hemmings in the Phoenix, AZ Branch. Joshua is the great-great grandson of the late Bro. William Cadman.

Amanda Lee Heaton, daughter of Stacie and Charles Heaton, was blessed by Bro. Peter Genaro on September 6, 1992 at Phoenix, AZ.

David Whitmore Parry, son of Bro. David and Sis. Yvonne (Champine) Parry, was blessed on October 11, 1992 by Bro. Frank (Flip) Palacios at the Detroit Inner City Branch.

Alexandra Nicole Wasko, daughter of Paul and Sue Wasko, was blessed by Bro. Tony DeCaro at the Simi Valley, CA Branch.

Brother Paul Liberto blessed Zacchaeus Ethelbah on March 21, 1993 at the San Diego, CA Branch.

On March 28, 1993, Brother Lou Cicatti blessed his two newborn grandchildren, Austin Cicatti and Holly Hemmings, in San Diego, CA.

Brother Walter Cihomsky blessed his grandneice, Oriana DiFede, on April 11, 1993 in San Deigo, CA.

The Gospel News

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

July, 1993

Volume 49, No. 7

Visit to Central America

By Ken Staley

On Saturday, March 27, 1993, several brothers, sisters, and friends traveled from the United States to visit the Church's mission in Guatemala City, Guatemala. Those visiting were, from the Ohio District, Brother Elmer and Sister Annabelle Santilli; from the Pacific Coast District, Joe Nicosia, Sister Tina Sechrist, Brother Bob and Sister Sandy Sullivan, and Brother Frank and Sister Shari Ciotti; and from the Southeast District, Brother Ken and Sister Sharon Staley. In addition to visiting our resident missionaries, Brother Luis and Sister Darlene Marroquin, as well as Sister Marianne Nicosia, we had scheduled our visit to coincide with the dedication of the IMA Girl's School.

Upon our arrival, we congregated at Sister Marianne's apartment in the heart of Guatemala City. This gathering afforded each of us the opportunity to get to know the others a bit better, prior to embarking on our week-long stay in Central America. In retrospect, the commonality of those present, despite our various points of origin, was clearly the desire to help spread the Restored Gospel among the Seed of Joseph.

On Sunday we gathered with 30

or so brothers, sisters and friends at the rented church building in downtown Guatemala City (Zone 1). This reunion was special to me, as I had drawn quite close to several of those whom I had met during my visit to Guatemala in August of 1992. In fact, some of those with whom we had visited with during that visit had since been baptized into the Church, making our reunion especially joyous!

After several musical selections by both the American and Guatemalan brothers, sisters and friends, we were blessed to witness the setting of the Sacrament table by two of the visiting sisters, namely Sister Annabelle and Sister Sharon. Also visiting with us were Gustavo and Gladys Medina, their family, and their friend, Yolanda. The Medinas are both medical doctors who have undoubtedly been divinely directed to The Church of Jesus Christ. Gladys' clinic is next door to one of our sisters' homes, Sister Ilsa. Recently, when a few brothers and sisters were visiting Sister Ilsa, and began singing hymns, the music penetrated the walls and deeply touched Gladys. After Gladys summoned her husband, they jointly investigated the source of the music,

and now testify that it was the spirit they felt when listening to those hymns that drew them to the Gospel. Praise God!

Brother Frank Ciotti opened the meeting in Spanish, speaking from Hebrews, emphasizing the necessity of unconditional belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as a prerequisite for serving God. Although Brother Frank spoke in Spanish, without a translation into English, the Spirit of God witnessed to this writer (who does not speak Spanish) the message which God had given Brother Frank to deliver. During the service, while one of the visiting elders was speaking, a vision was had where a rainbow was seen extending from one end of the pulpit to the other. The interpretation was given that as a rainbow symbolizes a promise, God's promise that the Gospel would return to the Seed of Joseph was being fulfilled this very day through the preaching of our brothers to those in attendance.

During the next five days, our group was busy often times from early in the morning, and until late at night, going from zone to zone within the city limits, visiting those who were either members or acquaintances of The Church of Jesus Christ. During our Monday evening meal Sister Tina Sechrist requested that we each give a short testimony of our most memo-

(Continued on Page 2)

VISIT continued . . .

rable experience since surrendering our lives to Christ. Many tears were shed as we reminisced of God's blessings in our respective lives. One sister in particular shared with us how, although she had rendered obedience to the Gospel at an early age, only recently had she been granted a deeper understanding and appreciation for the love of God, such a love that would cause God to allow His Son to die for "her" sins.

Tuesday we journeyed to Antiqua, about one hour from Guatemala City. There we visited a hospital where we literally anointed people in the hallways and corridors. One man we prayed for had lost both legs and the sight in both eyes from untreated sugar diabetes. I shall not forget his face, nor the tears he shed, as we honored his request to sing *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*. Due to the lack of finances to care for their loved ones, many families are forced to abandon their children who are born with deformities or retardation, leaving them at these hospitals to live out their lives. One room we entered into at the hospital housed a couple dozen such infants lying in cribs. Our hearts were truly broken to God as we passed by each crib and uttered prayers on their behalf.

Tuesday evening we met at the church building with the brothers of the mission. Brother Frank Ciotti conducted a lesson on being "helps" to one another and the Church. Our brothers in Guatemala are very serious-minded about their respective roles in spreading the Restored Gospel. Some experiences have been given that the Lord will open doors for various other works to be established in Guatemala and other South and Central American countries. Although some of the brothers are young in the Gospel, their earnest prayers are that God will prepare them for the work of the Church.

On Wednesday, as we visited house to house, we returned to the home of a sister we had visited and

anointed last August. At that time this sister was seven months pregnant and was experiencing similar pains as she had had in previous pregnancy, which resulted in the loss of her baby during her seventh month. We were overwhelmed to see that God had healed her of that pain, and that now she was caring for her healthy five-month-old baby girl. Truly, GOD ANSWERS PRAYER! During our Wednesday evening service the group from the United States sang this and other verses to the hymn *God Is So Good*. An outpouring of the Spirit of God fell upon us as we sang the verse "He died for me," so much so, that almost spontaneously the singing ceased as we all attempted to compose our emotions from having been overcome by the Spirit of God.

Thursday, April 1, was set aside for the dedication of the IMA Girl's School in Guatemala City. IMA rents two rooms, a classroom and a dining room, at a private school in the city. Each morning the IMA van goes to Zone 10, one of the poorest sections of the city, and picks up 24 little girls, ranging in age from four to six years old. If it were not for IMA, these girls would not be educated, and would most likely end up earning a living on the streets at age 10. Each morning before class, the girls are individually showered and dressed by a volunteer named Melody at the IMA School. From Texas, Melody is currently attending a language arts school in Antiqua. Her testimony is that she prayed that God would direct her to a part-time job where she could work during school. Instead, she was directed to the newspaper ad for a volunteer at the IMA School. Now she volunteers full-time (without any pay) and attends school part-time.

One highlight of the IMA dedication was the fact that various members of the Church, namely Brother Luis Marroquin, Brother Frank and Sister Shari Ciotti, and Sisters Tina Sechrist and Marianne Nicosia, were afforded the opportunity to represent the Church to

numerous government officials, including our beliefs pertaining to the Restoration of the house of Israel. (For more details on the IMA dedication and to request a copy of the IMA Newsletter, please contact

(Continued on Page 3)

A Special Mother's Day

By Peggy Stroko

Mother's Day, May 9, 1993, was a very blessed day in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch. Apostle Joseph Bittinger had the honor of asking God's blessing on his great-great-grandson, Thomas James Stephens. Thomas James is the fifth generation of this family. Twenty-three days old in the picture, he is being held by his mother, Rebecca Stephens. Sitting next to her is Brother Thomas Stroko, the baby's grandfather. Standing behind him is great-grandmother Sister Hulda Stroko, and next to her is Brother Joseph Bittinger, the great-great-grandfather.

All five generations attend the Vanderbilt Branch. Brother Bittinger has been an apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ for 35 years. We are so thankful for the dedication and love for Jesus that this family has, and how they display this by their faithful attendance and support to the Church.



Five generations of Bro. Joseph Bittinger's family.

Our Women Today

70th Anniversary

By Joyceann Jumper

The Aliquippa Ladies' Uplift Circle celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a luncheon riverboat cruise aboard the Gateway Clipper Majestic on Saturday, May 22, 1993.

The Circle members presented a program for the Aliquippa Branch on Wednesday evening, May 26, 1993. The program included scripture readings from Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 and I Kings 17:10-16. The history of the past five years, along with a seventy-year recap, was read. Musical selections included *This Is the Time I Must Sing*, *Praise Be to Jesus*, and *I Could Never Outlove the Lord*. A memorial service was conducted in memory of two Circle sisters who passed away during the past five years, namely, Carmella Palmieri and Diana Gula.

After the conclusion of the program, refreshments were served.

VISIT continued . . .

Sister Tina Sechrist, 1609 Antiqua Way, New Port Beach, CA 92660 714/650-2919.)

Please pray for the work of the Church in Guatemala. We are planning to visit there every six months, with our next visit scheduled for Labor Day weekend. Soon we hope to dedicate a newly-rented church facility (real estate in Guatemala City is much too expensive to own). The new facility is located in Zone 10, closer to more of our members.

Also, please remember our missionaries in your prayers, that God will continue to grant them success in their efforts.

Branch and Mission News

Promises

By Barbara Nuzzi

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:38-39).

Romeo and Antonette were two people born in Italy, far off from the Promised Land, far from the birthplace of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. As their lives progressed, they found one another and married, and at some point traveled to the United States of America. A great treasure awaited them there, not of silver and gold, but of blessings untold. They heard the message of faith, repentance and baptism, and obeyed the call and became Brother Romeo and Sister Antonette Salerno, members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many years have passed since these events transpired; their lives were blessed, and their testimonies of praise to Almighty God still ring in the ears of the saints who knew them. They have passed on to their heavenly reward, but the blessings have not ceased!

These past few months have brought two new members to the Niles, Ohio Branch: Sister Mary DeSimone, granddaughter to Bro. and Sis. Salerno, made her covenant to the Lord on November 1, 1992; and Sis. Julie Salerno, their daughter-in-law, renewed her covenant on April 11, 1993.

We praised God for His promises and His word, which will stand to the end of time. Does the story end there? We pray and trust it does not, for Sister Mary's son, Anthony, and her daughter, Angela, attended

their mother's baptism.

"Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations" (Deuteronomy 7:9).

Trials and Tribulations

Two young sisters at Detroit's Inner City Branch have been having their fair share of trials and tribulations since their recent baptisms. Nevertheless, God has proven once again that He is a God of love and mercy.

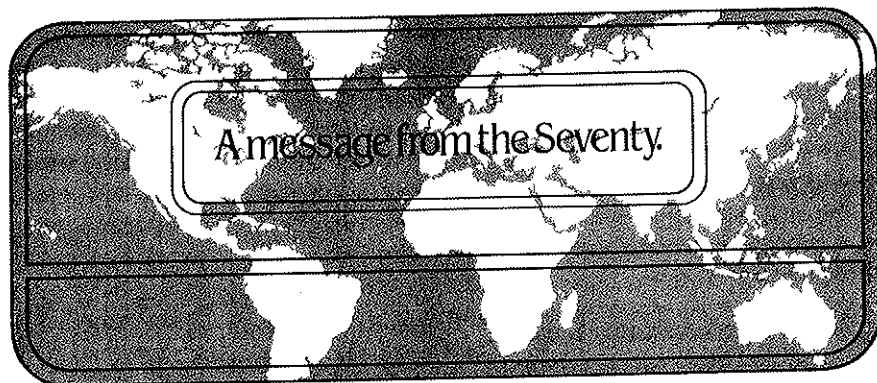
Sister Tammy Wingle's son Erik was born with spina bifida. Our sister knows all too well what it is like to sit in a hospital waiting room while surgeons try to make her son's body work just a little better than it did the day before.

Recently, Tammy had to rush little Erik to the emergency room. Her fear for Erik's well-being was so strong, and the loneliness she felt so great, that she just had to cry and pray to the Lord. After a while, she began to feel Someone near her. Soon after, she felt her burdens lifted from her and she stopped crying. She knew the presence was the Lord, and she was comforted in knowing that He would take care of her son. Today Erik is doing well.

The other young sister is myself, Erika Adams. I began nursing school on January 25 of this year, and just a week before that, my mother, Sister Amelia Adams, was admitted to the hospital for pneumonia. We thought she was having a heart attack. Although she was very sick, we are thankful that God spared her life.

On the day my mother was

(Continued on Page 7)



Many Books of Mormon Available for Giving

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The General Missionary Benevolent Association has reported that there are many new Books of Mormon available for free distribution to either introduce people to The Church of Jesus Christ and the Nephite Records or to allow them to become more knowledgeable about the Gospel if they already are aware of our identity. The printing and distribution were undertaken as a special project in the past so the volumes could be given as a help to our overall missionary program.

The books may be obtained by writing to the GMBA Librarian, Brother Andre Francione, 135 West Michigan, Saline, MI 48176, who will send them to the individuals directly or to branches desirous of passing them out. Special arrangements can also be made if multiple copies are needed.

Getting the Book of Mormon into the hands of interested parties is very important. There are many individuals who may have neither read The Book of Mormon nor been told correctly about its contents. Sometimes, people may not even know of its existence. Obviously, visitors should be given copies at some point after they have started to attend our services.

EXCELLENT INTRODUCTORY SECTION

Members of the Church will recall there is an excellent introduc-

tory section included before the beginning of the Book of Mormon. A brief account of Joseph Smith's experiences and the rise of The Church of Jesus Christ, an introduction to the Book of Mormon, and the testimonies of the witnesses properly prepare the reader for the following scriptural pages.

In the brief account, the steps in the bringing forth of the plates which were translated by the power of God, the early baptisms into the Church, and the Restoration and the period thereafter are presented. The true succession of authority to William Bickerton is traced to the organization of The Church of Jesus Christ at Greenock, PA in 1862. The last sentence states that our "... faith is based on the Bible and the Book of Mormon; it is built upon the Revelation of God, and is the true succession of the Gospel as restored ..."

The introduction to the Book of Mormon begins by answering some basic questions about it, its origin, and its purpose. A Biblical scriptural analysis explains the blessings pronounced, the history of the people, the plates and their coming forth, and the identification of the inhabitants in North, South, and Central America. Appropriately, it also points out briefly the location and travels of these early people, while mentioning that their buildings and curious workmanship have withstood the ages.

The testimonies of the eleven witnesses (the three and the eight) verify the authenticity of the plates. The three stated, in part, "That we, through the grace of God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, have seen the plates which contain this record of the people of Nephi, and also of the Lamanites, their brethren, and also of the people of Jared, who came from the tower of which hath been spoken."

An excerpt from the statements of the eight witnesses also affirms that they had been shown the plates with the appearance of gold and that they had handled "... with our own hands; and we also saw the engravings thereon, all of which has the appearance of ancient work, and of curious workmanship."

The complete proclamations of the witnesses about the Book of Mormon, which was presented to the world in 1829-30, are extremely edifying and informative. The angel of God and His role were included in their certification of the records.

OTHER LITERATURE

The GMBA has also published a Welcome Packet, which can be given to visitors. It explains the beliefs of the Church, the offices, and the ordinances. It was prepared from the perspective of visitors and the questions they may ask. The packets are available to branches at minimal cost.

There is other written material which can be distributed. It has been published through the General Church. For example, the Faith and Doctrine Card, which enumerates and documents our Articles of Faith, is a concise presentation of our beliefs and can be given to everyone. The picture, address, and schedule of services of the branch or mission are usually printed on the front. *The Gospel News* is also an exceptional missionary vehicle.

Available literature is displayed in many of our buildings, and the branch or mission librarian can be asked about a list of all publications.

(Continued on Page 10)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovaivo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

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

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST
Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets: she crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words . . ." (Proverbs 1:20 & 21). The wisdom of God blesses our lives, and the lives of those around us, as we seek it out and apply it. As illustrated in the above scripture, divine wisdom is not only freely available to us, it is practically begging us to incorporate it into our lives. The verses that follow, however, describe mankind as reluctant to hear the voice of wisdom. Likewise, the end that comes to those who refuse to listen is described all too clearly.

What makes us so resistant to seeking out wisdom? Is it the fact that doing so requires us to change—dramatically—from the state into which we were born? In seeking wisdom, we are forced to recognize and acknowledge our human foolishness. We must come to terms with our utter lack of wisdom in order to receive it from God. This step, while painful for us all, is the necessary initiation to the process of maturing spiritually. We must seek wisdom from the Lord above if we hope to ever become anything more than the spiritual infants that emerged from the waters of baptism.

As our carnal nature resists the genuine pursuit of wisdom, we may be tempted to simply "borrow" someone else's. Certainly there is much to be learned from someone who is spiritually more mature than we are. Indeed, much of the spiritual wisdom we acquire comes from observing and listening to our spiritual leaders. But to constantly go to someone else for advice, and then follow their instructions or mimic their actions without any intention of understanding why, is like the child who asks his parents to complete his homework assignments. When the time comes for all of us to have "oil" in our lamps, there will be no opportunity for us to borrow wisdom from the next person. The mark of a mature saint of God is the wisdom which he or she possesses. As we increase in faith, hope, and charity, we will likewise increase in wisdom.

According to Solomon, who is considered an expert on such matters, *"Wisdom is the principal thing"* (Proverbs 4:7). If we consider for a moment the alternative to pursuing wisdom—a life of ignorance, spiritual blindness, and dwindling, we recognize that we would do well to heed the advice of the wisest man that ever lived.

What is wisdom? Try as we might to comprehend it, we as human beings do not have the capacity for it without the Lord in our lives. Wisdom does not abide in the heart—our feelings and emotions often lead us astray. Nor does it come from the mind—our intelligence and ability to reason are not sufficient to bring us through life's problems. *"But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy"* (James 3:17). Wisdom is spiritual in nature; it abides in us as much or as little as we allow the Holy Spirit to dwell within us. As we strive to draw closer to God, let us seek the benefit of His wisdom manifesting itself in our lives each and every day.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The People of Jared

Dear Girls and Boys,

When the Lord confounded the languages at the Tower of Babel, the confused people began to flee the city and scatter themselves all around the earth.

But the mighty man of God, the brother of Jared, cried unto the Lord, and God agreed not to mix up the language of his family and friends. The Lord said that He would send them all to the best land in the whole earth, a land that would always be protected from enemies as long as the people there followed the teachings of Jesus Christ.

The friends of Jared and his brother believed the Lord. About twenty-two of them began gathering seeds and animals, bees, and fish for their long trip to a new land. They walked into a part of the world where no one had ever been before. There were no paths or trails or roads ready for them. When they didn't know which way to go, the Lord talked with them, standing in a cloud to give them directions.

He taught them how to build barges and boats to cross the rivers and a sea. They wanted to stay back when they came to the sea, but the Lord wanted them to travel on. Years passed. Finally the Lord brought them to the shore of a great ocean. They pitched their tents there and named the place Moriancumer.

You can imagine how glad they were to stop walking. They had traveled far and seen sights that no other people had ever seen. They

had climbed rough land and been through scary waters. Now they could finally rest. They stayed there by the beach, those twenty-odd people, resting with their flocks and pets. Somewhere during this vacation, these people began to forget how important it was to call upon the name of the Lord.

After four years, the Lord came to the brother of Jared again and stood in a cloud and talked with him for three hours. The brother of Jared begged the Lord to forgive him and his brethren for forgetting to call upon the name of the Lord.

The Lord did forgive him, and He sent the brother of Jared to start building the boats they would use to cross the great ocean on their way to the land of promise.

Now these boats, or barges, as there were called, were very interesting. They were small and totally closed in. They were not like other boats that traveled only on top of the water. They were designed to be tossed upon the waves of the sea ahead of a great wind that the Lord would send, and to be buried from time to time in the depths of the sea. They left a hole in the top and a hole in the bottom that could be unstopped for air. These barges were as long as a tree, peaked on the ends, and tight as a dish.

Yet there was one problem: they couldn't have windows, for they would be broken by the powerful waves. And they couldn't bring fire with them, either.

The brother of Jared cried unto

the Lord to help them so his people wouldn't have to cross the ocean in darkness. He went to Mount Shelem and heated the rock there to melt out sixteen small, clear stones. He carried these stones, which were as transparent as glass, to the top of the mountain and there he cried unto the Lord, "Oh Lord, I know that you have all power and can do whatever you will to help man. Touch these stones with your finger, and prepare them so they will shine for us in the darkness so they may be lights for us in the barges."

The brother of Jared earnestly believed that the Lord could do this. Because of his faith, the brother of Jared was able to see the finger of the Lord Jesus Christ. No other man up to that time had ever believed in Jesus as this man did. Although the brother of Jared fell on his face in fear, the Lord comforted him and showed him many wonderful things. He even showed him all the people of the world that ever had been or ever would be. That means he even saw you and me.

The rest of the world was not to know all the things about Jesus until the future, when Jesus would be on earth, born of Mary. The brother of Jared wrote the things he saw in a language that the world could not read. He was given two stones by the Lord which could be used to interpret his writings. Everything was to be sealed up until the day the Lord decided to bring it forth.

This faithful follower of Jesus Christ took his sixteen stones and placed two in each barge. At last the people and their property were ready to finish the last leg of their journey to the promised land, the land saved for those who would serve God.

As we travel through the problems of life using the teachings of Jesus as our light, these people traveled through the dark ocean using these stones for a light.

With care,
Sister Jan

TRIBULATIONS continued . . .

released from the hospital, my son, Josiah, was running a fever. Bro. Flip Palacios prayed for him, and the fever lifted. But the next day, which was Sunday, I had to take him to the hospital. The brothers anointed a handkerchief for my son and brought it to him, and I knew things were going to be better.

A few days afterward, my daughter, Rachel, was rushed to the hospital emergency room. The doctors said she needed to have surgery on an abscessed tooth. This time I felt things were not going my way. I had plenty of questions to ask God. On the day she was to have surgery, I had a dream.

At the start of this dream I began to feel a dread come over me, but I then heard a man's voice tell me, "If you want to be certified, you have to take and pass this test." I looked and saw a bridge, and all of a sudden there were two other girls with me. I began to climb the bridge. Strong winds blew, and the bridge began to shake. The climb kept getting tougher and tougher. I wanted to give up.

Then I heard the man's voice again. He said to me, "You can make it; your Father is waiting for you." His words gave me courage, and I began to climb again. I finally made it to the top. While I was up there, I looked around and saw how beautiful everything looked. There was a crystal clear river that really caught my attention. I wanted to walk to the other side, and that's when I heard the man's voice again. This time, He told me, "It's not your time to see the other side; you can't see what is to come. You'd best go back down the bridge and just wait."

As I headed down the same side of the bridge, I heard the strong, still voice say, "Whatever you want or need, just ask your Father and He'll give it to you." This dream really put my mind to rest. Thank God once again for His mercies.

To the many brothers and sisters all around, we, the young people, need your prayers and understanding

for the things we have to do on a daily basis, because we can't do it alone. May God bless all the brothers and sisters, young and old.

Sister Erika Adams

Saline, MI

By Kim Christoffersen

It was a beautiful summer evening; members of The Church of Jesus Christ, friends and family gathered together to share an evening of dinner, volleyball and singing the *Songs of Zion* around the campfire. Sound like a GMBA Campout?

On August 21, 1992 the Saline Branch held a Summer Happening. Along with Saline were the Inner City Branch and the Mexicotown Mission. Several elders, deacons and members played guitar and led the singing. What a blessing we all shared that night out under God's beautiful starlit sky!

Earlier that day the Saline Branch held a bible school for their own children. Brothers Harold Batalucco and John Buffa and Deanna Batalucco silk-screened T-shirts for everyone who came that evening to take home with them. It was a uniting experience for all of us, and we thank God for a perfect day and evening.

Phoenix Branch Update

By Frances J. Capone

ORDINATIONS

Brother Barry Mazzeo was ordained an elder fifteen years ago. On May 16, 1992, he was ordained an evangelist. Brother Richard Christman washed his feet, and Brother Frank Ciotti performed the ordination prayer.

Brother Barry then told about a recent dream where Brother Peter Capone (evangelist, now deceased) embraced him. He felt a great blessing in this experience.

Brother David Jordan was ordained an elder on September 6, 1992. His grandfather, Apostle Robert Watson, performed the ordination and his father, Brother Dwayne Jordan, washed his feet. Brother David is doing an excellent work with our young people.

BAPTISMS

On May 3, 1992, Joanna Saffron was baptized on her 18th birthday. Brother Billy Duvall was the baptizing elder—his first baptism since his ordination on March, 1992. Brother Larry Watson confirmed her.

On November 29, 1992, Austin H. Landrey was baptized by his grandfather, Brother Herbert Hemmings. He was confirmed by Brother Barry Mazzeo. Brother Austin is the great-grandson of the late Brother William H. Cadman.

Katharine Melnikov was baptized on January 31, 1993, by Brother Barry Mazzeo and confirmed by Brother Richard Christman.

Micah Smith was baptized on February 14, 1993, by his father, Brother Harry Smith and confirmed by Brother Billy Duvall.

Youngstown, Ohio

By Betty Gennaro

Recently the saints of Youngstown have been especially blessed with the love of God and the unity of His Spirit. On Sunday, April 25, 1993, following the opening announcements of the meeting, Brother Mike Italiano was given a vision of the saints holding hands in a circle. Feeling God's presence and following His Spirit, the congregation arose and formed a circle, holding hands for the opening prayer by Brother Ralph Berardino. A strong bond of love and unity prevailed.

Brother Mike then spoke to us on "spirituality." Our soul receives strength by following God's laws.

(Continued on Page 8)

YOUNGSTOWN continued . . .

We can build upon one another in fasting and prayer, studying, partaking of the Holy Communion and the ordinance of feet washing. He read from Isaiah 17:10, "Because thou has forgotten the God of thy salvation." The conditions of our society today are worse than that of Sodom and Gomorrah. We must continually pray and reach out to regain our strength. One day we will face the judgment of God, hopefully to hear, "Welcome, My good and faithful servant."

The afternoon service brought forth humble testimonies of thanks to God. His blessing continued during the ordinance of feet washing and singing *When Jesus Christ Was Here Below*. A sister arose to tell us that she saw a glowing light on the right side of Brother Mike Italiano just before he had the vision.

On Sunday, May 2, 1993, the service was opened by singing *Take My Life and Let It Be*. Brother Don Pandone spoke from II Corinthians 5. This body is our temporary house, but we have a building of God, eternal in the heavens. That should be our goal. The human spirit is frail and inadequate. We must strive and endure whatever comes our way for that eternal home. Sister Donna Keener came forth to have hands laid on her for reinstatement. We sang *I Surrender All*, and Brother Ralph Berardino offered a beautiful prayer, renewing her membership into The Church of Jesus Christ. A spirit of love and unity prevailed throughout the service. We enjoyed two selections from *The Songs of Zion* by David Pandone on the guitar, *He Held His Arms and I Ran In* and *My Lord Can*, thus ending a beautiful day with the Lord.

Edison, NJ Branch

By Carmela Madison

The year was 1989. Dottie Mae Belfiore sat in a wheelchair, half paralyzed. There was a bright aura

about her, and a light in her eyes. An elder asked her, "Do you have any questions?" She replied, "Yes. What are tribulations?"

Sometime during 1980, Dottie Mae Belfiore had a cerebral hemorrhage. She lapsed into a coma and was on life support for 11 weeks. The doctors gave up on her and requested to open up her skull, but her mother wouldn't allow it. While just about everything in her body was failing, her mother had hope and insisted that she was going to live. She stayed with her daughter 24 hours a day throughout her recovery.

It was during that time that Brother Angelo Zaino of the Edison, NJ Branch, Dottie Mae's cousin, visited and had prayed with her. He also asked that the Church pray for her continually. Bro. Angelo recollected that the Church had been praying for her for a very long period of time with no results, but they continued to do so. Eventually, Dottie came out of the coma.

Eight years later, Dottie asked Bro. Angelo to take her to the church that had prayed for her. When she walked into the Church, she started shaking everyone's hand and crying. Dottie said she had felt such a beautiful spirit that day, that when she left, she said she wanted to be baptized.

That day the brothers came to talk to her more about the Church. She had to return to her home several hours away in Danville, Pennsylvania the same day. Dottie's second visit to the Church was at a campout. During a Labor Day picnic, she observed the saints and their families and friends interacting with one

another, and expressed how great the love was between the people. It was two weeks after the campout that she would be baptized.

The Lord blessed Dottie with much knowledge, even though she could not attend church meetings. Bro. Arthur Searcy was trying to explain the Church to Dottie, and she replied, "You've got a lot of work to do in a short time, because I am going to be baptized before I leave here. There is nothing you can say that will stop me from being baptized. Whatever it is, I am going to repent because I love my Lord and my Jesus. So whatever it is, here I am."

Bro. Arthur asked Dottie, "Do you have any questions?" Dottie replied, "Yes, what are tribulations?"

As Bro. Art put it later, "You can't determine the person's heart. Whatever she knew then would be sufficient, because she was ready to be obedient."

And so a great blessing was shared by everyone as Dottie was carried down to the water's edge for her baptism. The Lord allowed her to walk into the water, and she emerged as Sister Dottie.

On March 27, 1993 a group of saints from Edison, New Jersey took a four-hour trip to Danville, PA to visit with Sis. Dottie Belfiore. Our desire was to be an uplift to our sister, as we knew the desire of her heart was to be able to attend services with us.

It was a blessing to have 22 people in attendance, a number of whom were visitors. Sis. Dottie's grandmother, 91 years old, was also there. Dottie calls her her guardian angel, as she has been a spiritual inspiration to Dottie and six generations of her family.

The gathering began with singing *Revive Us Again*, followed by opening prayer and a prayer for the sick. Then we sang *Amazing Grace*.

Bro. Arthur Searcy opened by telling part of his testimony. He mentioned that he had asked God about His Church for a year and a half, and then he got the answer. One night an angel stood by his bed



Sis. Dottie Mae Belfiore with her grandmother

and sang *Amazing Grace*. That was the answer he needed.

Bro. Arthur continued by referring to Ephesians 6th Chapter and reading several passages. He mentioned for us to do good deeds, as they will always go rewarded, and that there is no respect of persons with God. Bro. Arthur stated, "In this day that we are living in, we have to stand against the evil one. There is father against son, mother against daughter, and who is the evil one? Look at the effect the evil one has had on us. God cannot exist in an unclean temple. Nothing unclean can enter into heaven. Yet God is a merciful God, a God of peace and understanding. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, and is telling all of us, to put on the armor of God that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. If we deny the power of the Holy Ghost after it has been made manifest unto us, there is no place up there for us." He continued to tell us that we have to do something to receive the reward that God has for us. "God is moving this country because the paradise of God has to be built here. Zion will be built here, and whoever lives here must serve God or he will be wiped off. It is up to us to serve God with all our heart, mind, and soul, that we may reach that reward to enter into the paradise of God."

Bro. Arthur continued to exhort us to take upon us the whole armor of God that we may be able to stand, and when we use up all our might, willpower and everything else, use prayer to ask God to do the rest. He quoted, "And having your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace, the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."

Our brother expressed how he admired the faith that Sister Dottie had. We continued with testimony, and Sis. Dottie testified how she was alone in her mind, but not in her heart. Her grandmother was her guardian angel because they could sit and talk about God. She said, "He

made me walk, made me talk, and gave me my arm again. I love my dear Jesus with all my heart, and I love everybody." Everyone in attendance was moved to give their testimony as we felt the Spirit of God in our midst.

Communion was administered, and Sis. Carol Racz was moved to ask if she could wash Sis. Dottie's feet. Sunday would be our day to wash feet in the branch, so Sis. Dottie had an opportunity to experience it as well. It was a very moving moment.

At the end of the meeting, Sis. Rose Pittman was moved to say, "Bro. Art, I feel the Lord is pleased with us today. I feel He is very happy with us." So it confirmed all of our feelings.

Our trip was to bring a blessing to our sister, but we left with a greater blessing of being spiritually uplifted ourselves. Several years ago, Sis. Dottie had asked the question, "What are tribulations?" At that time she was partially paralyzed and in a wheelchair. Her statement then was, "God is so good. Look, He afflicted me, but He allowed me to have my writing hand so I could write to my brothers and sisters." Surely our sister has set an example for us to follow. Despite her tribulations, she has kept the faith, opened her mouth boldly to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, and taken on the helmet of Salvation as she makes known to all, "I'm so happy I found my Jesus." We all thank our sister for uplifting and inspiring us to realize we need to thank God that we have not experienced tribulations.

Please uplift our sister through letters sent to her at 306 Beaver Place, Danville, PA 17821.

Baptisms in Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

On Sunday, April 11, 1993 we were privileged once again to gather together to witness two more souls give themselves to Jesus Christ.

Larry and his wife Mary Miller were baptized by Bro. Joe Perri. It was also beautiful to have several visitors there who had never seen a baptism before. A family of seven from Venezuela smiled and looked on along with visitors from Metuchen, NJ. Brother Larry was confirmed by Bro. Jim Crudup and Sis. Mary was confirmed by Bro. Joe Perri.

It was a beautiful day as our new members testified that, having left their prior church because of dissatisfaction, and entering into God's little band, their lives have changed completely. They told us never to take for granted this precious Church that bears the gifts and power of God. The preaching, testimonies of beautiful experiences, and singing in English and Spanish were seasoned with the Holy Spirit.

The week prior to the baptisms, Bro. Willy Brown preached a sermon that came straight from the throne of God. God's message was for us to repent of our sins, for the unbaptized to give themselves to the Lord, and for all of God's children to endure. A sister had a vision of a heavenly light surrounding our brother and the other elders. When Bro. Willy sat down, a voice said to him, "Now I'm going to get you." That week, everything went wrong for our brother, but praise God, at the end of the week, his words were not wasted as Larry and Mary asked to be baptized.

During the first several weeks of Larry and Mary's visits to the Church, Mary had several visions of lights, and even saw a light split into three personages. Not understanding what was happening, she spoke to the elders privately, and they told her she had been given a gift, and that she and her husband were not here by chance. It was only a month later that they committed themselves to God.

Recently in a meeting, as we opened in prayer, a sister saw a golden light with two white hands coming out toward the congregation. God was giving us the pure blessings

(Continued on Page 10)

FREEHOLD continued . . .

and power from His throne. This power was made evident as we anointed Sis. Lucy Murillo's natural sister, Maria, who had made the long journey from Mexico City to the United States, and was extremely ill. She was not even able to speak. As we all knelt, the power of God touched everyone there. A sister saw a hand reach out of heaven, remove her hat, (which she had to wear because of the cold), and touch her head. The following Sunday, Maria came to church without her hat. She was smiling, and many people didn't recognize her at first because of the miraculous way in which God had healed her.

We can't thank God enough for the blessings we've witnessed recently. Look to Him, He won't turn you away.

Following are the words to a song given to our Sister Mary (who also received the melody) upon asking for her baptism. She sang it for us, not leaving a dry eye in the building. Here it is:

I went to the river, I went to the lake
I went there because my soul was at stake
God outstretched His hands and gave me a nod
It was on that fine day I drew closer to God.

He showed me great wonders,
He showed me great sights
He drew me in closer to the light
I'm no longer worried, no longer afraid
Because this was the day my soul was saved
I no longer feel I walk alone
I wait for the day He calls me home
The battle is over, the battle is won
I'm now with Him, the Spirit and Son

I went to the river, I went to the lake
I went there because my soul was at stake
God outstretched His hands and gave me a nod
It was on that fine day I drew closer to God.

Muncey, Ontario

By Samuel French

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow. We of the Muncey Mission would at this time say it is good to be in The Church of Jesus Christ, and in the Gospel Restored, which is a way of life for all who have yielded to the voice of Jesus and who have been obedient to His calling.

We thank God for the many blessings that He has bestowed upon us as a Church here in Muncey. We thank Him for His guidance and direction by His Holy Spirit, and His power to save souls.

The Lord has been with us in our meetings. Experiences and visions are had by the saints of God here in this part of the vineyard.

On April 11, 1993, Bro. George Grosbeck, who has a wonderful gift of visions, stood on his feet and said that Jesus Christ was standing above the first two rows of seats at the front of the building.

At this time, Dwayne French, who was visiting with us, stood and in his testimony said that he had seen the same vision as Bro. George. Bro. Dwayne then asked the priesthood to pray upon him for strength and direction in his life. Dwayne is the son of Sis. Marilyn French.

Praise God, the Lord still works among the children of men.

We were grateful this year to be able to attend the April General Conference. It was a wonderful blessing to be among the saints of God, to feel His wonderful Spirit and power, which was the theme of the conference. Many testimonies were given to the glory of God and His power to heal.

There is a joy and a peace in serving the Wonderful Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, in the days in which we are living. We at Muncey would ask that all of the saints of God, throughout the whole Church, would remember us in prayer, as well as those who travel here to assist in this work of spreading the Gospel throughout the whole world.

May God richly bless you and your families is my prayer in Jesus name.

New Publication

Brother V. James Lovalvo's latest book, *Book of Mormon Reflections: Truth in Perspective*, is now available at the Print House.

The cost is \$19.50 each plus postage. Forty-five percent (45%) of the purchase price is to be donated to General Church Mission Funds.

To order, write or call:

The Church of Jesus Christ
Print House
8282 Boettner Rd.
P.O. Box 30
Bridgewater, MI 48115
(313) 429-5080

MESSAGE continued . . .

If information is required, it can be obtained through the Print House. It is noteworthy that the Ladies' Circle has been very helpful in financially helping the General Church in the printing of materials.

As indicated in this column in the past, special events are additional ways to introduce the Gospel to people. These include General Church, District, GMBA, and Ladies' Circle Conferences; GMBA and Area Campouts; Ladies' Circle, MBA, and Mens' Retreats; and branch, mission, and auxiliary functions. Of course, bringing or inviting people to regular services, MBA, Sunday School, and Ladies' Circle are the most immediate openings for invitation. Attending any of the meetings or functions suggested will permit individuals to feel the Spirit and the love of God within the

sphere of the Church.

In assessing the potential for missionary work and the avenues available to reach people about the Gospel, it becomes a matter of selection. If each person chooses a method (or methods) to employ and

follow through, there will be a real movement forward.

Whether we offer and give a Book of Mormon or use any other means, the effort will be very beneficial and can help to bring others into the fold.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Dulisse, Chuck and Valerie
5120 Danforth Circle
Salida, CA 95368

New Arrival

Kristina Marie to Joel and Edna Calabrese of Lorain, Ohio. She was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. Joe Calabrese. Her parents were eight years in waiting for this child.

Baptism

Bro. John Manes of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch baptized Brenda Humphreys on May 23, 1993. She was confirmed by Bro. Paul Ciotti.

Children Blessed

Joseph Mark Randy Jr., son of Joseph Mark and Sondra Randy, was blessed in the Modesto, CA Branch by his great-grandfather, Brother Mark Randy, on February 14, 1993.

Julio Cesar Rivera was blessed on February 28, 1993 by Bro. Joseph Perri in Freehold, NJ.

Taylor Richard Lubienski, son of Daniel and Becky (Whitton) Lubienski, was blessed by his grandfather, Bro. Paul Whitton, on May 9, 1993 at Branch #1 in Roseville, Michigan.

Thomas James Stephens was blessed on May 9, 1993 at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch by his great-great-grandfather, Bro. Joseph Bittinger.

On May 16, 1993, Zarella Mosqueda, daughter of Alfredo and Rosa Mosqueda, was blessed by Brother Joe Lovalvo in the Modesto, CA Branch.

Ryan Anthony Bittinger was blessed by Bro. Joseph Bittinger, his great-great-grandfather.

* WEDDING *

FORD - FRANZE

On May 15, 1993, Bro. Joel Ford and Sis. Linda Franze were united in holy matrimony in Kent, Ohio.

Bro. Jack Ford (the groom's father) officiated at the ceremony with Bro. Mario Milano offering the opening prayer.

Musical selections—organ, piano, and flute—were performed by musicians from Kent State University. Sister Sandra Ford of San Diego, California, sister-in-law of the groom, was the soloist.

Joel and Linda will be residing in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. May God bless their new life together.

OBITUARIES

MARIA DiCHIERA

Sister Maria Pezzaniti DiChiera died on Wednesday, March 24, 1993, in Lindsay, California, from complications of cancer and pneumonia. She was born in the village of Caulonia, Calabria, Italy, on November 22, 1900. She married Cosimo DiChiera on May 1, 1920. Soon after, the couple emigrated to the United States and settled in Pittsburgh, PA. Sis. Maria was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in 1927. In 1945, Sis. Maria and her family moved to California.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Thomas Liberto and Anthony Picciuto. During the service, our sister's son, David DiChiera, performed a classical piano selection in memory of his mother.

Sis. Maria and the late Bro. Cosimo had five children, Ilario, Albert, Violet, Ellen, and David. Ilario and Violet preceded her in death. In addition to her three surviving children, she is survived by six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

For many years, Sis. Maria had wanted to help establish a home for the elderly, where all of the brothers and sisters could live and worship together. For that reason, the family is asking that donations be sent to The Home for the Elderly of The Church of Jesus Christ, 574 North Elmwood Avenue, Lindsay, CA 93247.

LOUIS CALABRESE

Louis Calabrese, Sr. passed from this life on April 9, 1993. He was born July 15, 1904 in Calabria, Italy. He came to the United States in 1908 and moved to Lorain, Ohio in 1920, where he remained for the rest of his life.

(Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES continued . . .

The funeral service was officiated by Bro. Joe Calabrese and Bro. Mark Naro.

Louis was preceded in death by his wife, Sis. Lucy Calabrese, in 1982. He is survived by one brother, two sisters, one daughter, one son, four grandchildren, and seven great grandchildren. Our prayers are with those he left behind.

JOHN SANTARCANGELO

Brother John Santarcangelo of Modesto, California, formerly of Detroit Branch #2, then Detroit Branch #1, passed away on May 13, 1993. He was 100 years old, having been born at Pisticci, Italy on March 16, 1893. After emigrating to the U.S., he lived in Rochester, New York for seven years, then moved to Detroit, Michigan in 1929.

His baptism in Detroit Branch #2 was performed by Brother Joseph Bologna on January 2, 1934, and the following year Bro. John was ordained a deacon. He became presiding deacon of Detroit Branch #1 after transferring there. While in that office, Bro. John showed consistent devotion and dedication to all of his duties. He was a very special person; he displayed great wisdom and perseverance in keeping the team of deacons and the Branch functioning at a high level, both naturally and spiritually. In his service to God as well as his service to others, Bro. John never neglected his responsibilities. He was always quick to give of his substance to those who were in need, and it was his idea to provide the anonymous delivery of food baskets to needy brothers and sisters who were out of work, as well as sending donations of money to Italy and Mexico for missionary work there.

Many times Brother John shoveled coal into the furnace and snow from the sidewalk at 4:00 p.m., then returned to open the doors of the church at 7:00 p.m. for

Wednesday night services, as well as making two trips every Sunday morning.

Bro. John and his wife, Sister Carmella, lived in Detroit until 1977, when they moved to Modesto, California to be near their daughter, Grace, and son-in-law, Leonard Lovalvo. Bro. John served as a deacon in Modesto until he became too ill to continue. He is survived by his wife, Sister Carmella Santarcangelo and two daughters, Sister Grace Lovalvo of Modesto, and Sister Pauline Rinaldi of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He is also survived by five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

KENNETH WRIGHT

The Windsor, Ontario Branch suffered a tremendous loss in the passing away of our presiding elder. Brother Kenneth Wright died suddenly on May 17, 1993 and was welcomed home into the arms of Jesus. Bro. Ken was born August 11, 1931 in Windsor, Ontario. He was baptized on June 16, 1968 by Brother Frank Vitto, was ordained a teacher on February 22, 1970, and an elder on November 5, 1972.

Funeral services were conducted by Brother Donald Collison. Brother Frank Vitto offered prayer and related Bro. Ken's life chronicle. Comments were offered by Brothers Dick Lobzun and Bob Stanek. At the graveside, Bro. Larry Henderson expressed sympathetic condolences and offered prayer.

Brother Ken is survived by his wife, Anne; his son, Kenneth II; and three daughters, Sandra, Lori Gosselin, and Patti Saliga; six grandchildren; and two sisters.

Bro. Ken was a very special person and touched many lives in many ways. He was also involved in missionary work. We will have numerous precious memories of him, memories that will last for years to come. To those of us who knew him, our lives have been made richer for it. His kindness, his humor, a warm handshake and, uppermost, his spiritual outlook, have made a lasting impression on all our lives. We sincerely pray the Lord will comfort and sustain his family.

TINA TASSONE

Sister Tina Tassone of the Glassport, PA Branch passed away on May 26, 1993. She was born January 8, 1926, the daughter of our late Brother Louis and Sister Conchetta Tassone. Sister Tina was baptized on May 12, 1991.

Our sister is survived by many natural brothers and sisters, among whom is Sister Stella Heslop of the Glassport Branch.

We only had our sister with us a short while, but we will always remember her beautiful smile and the faith, courage, and love she had for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

August, 1993

Volume 49, No. 8

God, the Great Giver

By Carey Beth Naro

"... And whosoever shall believe in my name, doubting nothing, unto him will I confirm all my words, even unto the ends of the earth" (Mormon 9:25).

On May 3, 1993, Brother Mark Naro was released from his place of work. When we heard the news that evening, we were very discouraged, but we knew as a family where our faith had to be. As we read in Ether 12:6, *"... I would show unto the world that faith are things which are hoped for and not seen; wherefore dispute not because you see not, for you receive no witness until after the trial of your faith."*

Throughout our trial, the Lord never left us alone. No matter how big or small our needs were for each passing day, the Lord provided for us in many different ways, and we were never without.

We had our good days and our bad days. On May 13, I felt very concerned for our family, so I decided to take our two daughters for a walk that morning. As we walked, I quietly asked the Lord to place peace in my heart so I would know that everything was going to be taken care of. A lady who was picking flowers in her flower garden called

out to me and asked me if I would like to have some flowers. I replied, "I'd love to." She walked across the street and handed me the flowers and wished me a happy Mother's Day.

I began to cry, and as I wiped my tears from my eyes, my older daughter, Bethany, began to go off the road with her bike. I turned to catch her and within seconds turned back to thank the lady once again, and *she was gone!* The flowers which she had given me had such a beautiful fragrance. Later that evening we learned that the flowers were Lilies of the Valley. We knew that the Lord was going to be with us. This reminded me of one of my favorite passages of scripture, Matthew 6:25-34, *"... take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. . . ."*

As the weeks passed, Bro. Mark had many interviews, but in each instance, something was missing from the job opportunity. No one company was offering a complete package that would provide for our family. To confirm what was happening, Sis. Rose Palacios from Lorain had a dream where she saw Bro. Mark walk down a hallway and she saw many, many doors but

New Church Building Dedicated in Italy

By Thomas Liberto, Chairman,
Missions Operating Committee

This past June 20, 60 people were present in the city of Cala Gonone on the island of Sardegna (Sardinia), Italy to witness and participate in a dream come true. After years of planning and actual construction, The Church of Jesus Christ dedicated a new building to the Lord amid a wonderful spirit which prevailed throughout the day.

The services were conducted by Apostle V. James Lovalvo. In attendance were 39 adults and 7 children from the local area, Brother Rosario and Sister Rosanna Scravaglieri from Milan; and Brother V. James and Sister Mary Lovalvo, Brother George and Sister Stella Benyola, Brother Alma and Sister Mary Nolfi, Brother Joseph and Sister Mary Perri, Sister Rose Mercurio, and Brothers Joseph Ross, Michele LaSala, and Thomas Liberto from the United States. Brothers Ross and Perri were on their last leg of an almost two-month missionary trip which included visits in the Netherlands and parts of Africa (story on Page 4).

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued on Page 9)

GIVER continued . . .

none of them were open. Then, in the distance, she saw another door which was open. She saw Mark walk inside the door, and written across the top was the word, "Employer."

We continued to fast and pray and ask the Lord for His direction. A few weeks later, on the morning of June 27, I dreamed that the phone rang and I picked it up and said, "Hello." A soft-spoken man's voice replied, "Hello, Carey." I said, "Who is this?" He then said, "You know who this is." I then asked him in the dream if he was coming this week and he said, "Yes," and I awoke.

I prayed that week that if it was the Lord who was speaking He would confirm it. On that Tuesday, Bro. Mark was called for an interview. He then was called back for a second interview, followed by a third. We are very thankful that the Lord has provided for our family. We are also very grateful to our family, our brothers and sisters and friends for all the prayers and support that they gave us.

To paraphrase Jeremiah 29:11, " 'For I know the plans I have for you,' says the Lord. 'They are plans for good and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.' "

When all around you seems in turmoil,
When all of your best-laid plans seem to fall apart,
When just as you think you are about to see the light of day,
The dark clouds come rushing in to hide the sun once again,
Leaving you to stumble in the dark,
Be still and know that He is God.

When your faults and frailties come flashing before your eyes
Like a tape playing on fast forward,
When you think of how weak and helpless you really are,
When all the anger and frustration of past mistakes
Begin to flash sum totals in your mind,

Reminding you of all that you could have today
Had you been wiser yesterday,
Be still and know that He is God.

When you wish you could take back those things said in haste and anger,
When you wish you could withdraw all the remarks made in frustration,
When you think of what you should have said, but didn't,
Be still and know that He is God.

When it seems that the whole world has turned its fury upon you,
When you feel abandoned by those you love most,
When you feel isolated and out of touch,
And the anxiety of disorientation sets in,
Be still and know that He is God.

When you can't seem to figure out how you've gotten to where you are,
And you can't quite figure out what you've done wrong,
When your mind is such a blur,
And the pain and sorrow muddle your thoughts,
Be still and know that He is God.

For God gave us weakness that we might be strong.
God gave us weakness that we might be humble.
God gave us weakness that we might learn
That we are totally dependent upon His Grace and Mercy.
God gave us trials that we might see our weakness,
And call upon Him for His overcoming Grace.
God gave us trials that we might be hardened, seasoned, and experienced,
And strong, so that we might develop an understanding heart,
So that others might look to us in their time of need.

God gave us weakness and trials that we might draw closer to Him,
That we might bend our knees, and break our hearts before Him,
And cause Him to speak to us in ways that only He can.
In those moments you can almost

hear Him say,
"Don't fear, for I have promised to be with you always."

God gave us weakness and trials,
that after we have overcome,
We shall be lifted up and exalted,
and dwell with him for eternity
In his glorious kingdom on high.

—By Brother Mark Naro

Psalm 46:10; Ether 12:27; Matthew 28:19-20; Isaiah 43:1-7; Isaiah 40:26-31; III Nephi 9:20; Job 23:10

God's Word to the Rescue

By Nell (Honey) Kohler

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In January, Jim (my husband) and I had returned from New Jersey after visiting with my niece. Jim hadn't been feeling very well. He had a bad cough, but we thought nothing of it until a few days later. I, too, felt sick. We took aspirin and some cough medicine, thinking it was just a cold and wasn't anything to worry about.

As the days went by, both of us felt very ill. I insisted we call our doctor because I was worried. Jim has a heart condition, and the cough was a strain on his heart. When I called the doctor, he advised me to have Jim admitted to the hospital immediately. I called my neighbor to take Jim to the hospital. I was too sick to go along.

The suffering I was experiencing was so severe that death would have been a welcome relief. I knelt on the floor in my living room and begged God to please help me. I tried to get up, but I was so weak that I had to hold on to the table nearby to brace myself. As I did that, I eased myself onto the chair and my hand touched a little box that holds Bible verse cards. As God

(Continued on Page 9)

MBA Highlights

Gaining Strength for Spiritual Survival

By Shannon Lambert

The Michigan-Ontario area MBA held its annual campout from April 30-May 2, 1993. As we arrived on camp Friday night, the Love of God surrounded us. Fellowship continued long into the night as new friendships were made and old ones were strengthened.

The theme for Saturday's seminars centered around strengthening our spiritual bodies in order to live a long, healthy, and prosperous spiritual life. Each seminar group had a different approach, but all conclusions were the same: *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Philippians 4:13). We must always wear the armor of God, and *utilize* it. It is of no benefit if we don't use it.

Sunday morning we felt a beautiful spirit as we gathered. Brother Larry Henderson opened the service with a comparison of the Spirit of God and the spirit of man. He told us that the nature of God within us brings forth the gifts of the Spirit. He urged us not to be idle in our service. If we're not sure what to do in certain situations of life, we must stop and heed that small, still voice within us to better become the people of God. to be successful, all we need to do is seek God first. Bro. Larry left us with the question, "What are you doing to protect your spirit?"

Bro. Flip Palacios then followed with the statement, "Attitude determines altitude." He then quoted a speech that Winston Churchill once made, "Never, never, never give up!" It's a fight and a struggle to keep the right attitude, so never lose sight of the vision of your course, and you'll find it difficult to lose a good spiritual attitude. God will only take us as high as we let

Him. Bro. Flip then challenged us to exercise our spiritual muscles!

The overwhelming message of the day was to be proud as the People of God. But there's only one requirement: to win, you must first join the team. It's not the spectators that win, it's the ones who participate. Victory can be ours, but not without the will and determination to give it *more* than our very best. Exercise your spiritual muscles daily, so that you may gain strength for spiritual survival.

Married Couples' Retreat

By Valerie Dulisse

The 1993 Pacific Coast Area Married Couples' Retreat was held May 15-16 in beautiful Palm Springs, California at the Riviera Resort. The surroundings of desert, palm trees, and mountains below an azure sky were conducive to a very relaxing, romantic weekend with our spouses.

Brother Bob and Sister Diane McDonnell had a very well-prepared and informative seminar planned, as well as having worked diligently to provide such wonderful accommodations for us.

The theme of the seminar was to be, "Commitment is the Key." We learned several fundamental concepts for building and preserving a good, spirit-filled marriage, such as communication and maintenance, and discussed the pitfalls of a 50%-50% arrangement, in which each partner is expected to give equally at all times. Brother Bob instead introduced the concept of a 100%-100% commitment, in which both husband and wife must give more at the times when their spouse is unable to do so. This arrangement gives a couple security, in that it guarantees that at least one partner will always be giving 100%, so the marriage will survive. This is very important advice to us in the perilous times in which we live. Satan

seeks to devour our marriages and thereby destroy our souls individually.

Commitment to a marriage is seeing a "project" through whether it is going well or not. Bro. Bob Sullivan observed that commitment to a marriage is commitment to God.

Commitment may be impossible, especially in a troubled marriage, without a more basic commitment. This basic commitment, Bro. McDonnell explained, is to the Lordship of Christ in your personal life, and the belief that God has your best interests at heart. As your commitment to God grows, your commitment to each other will grow as well! Most of us are able to look inside our marriages and admit that this is true.

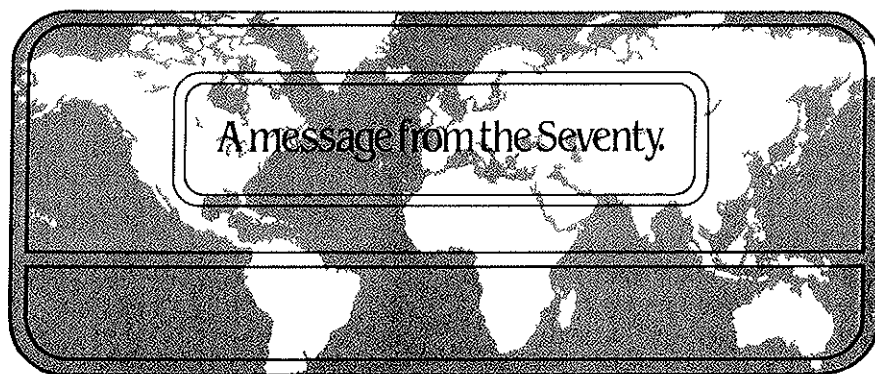
Sister Sandy Sullivan related an experience to our group. She had a dream that she was praying for her marriage, totally consumed by the Spirit of God. Then the Lord told her to pray for the following four attributes for marriage: understanding, mercy, compassion, and love. If we are to remain truly committed to our spouses, these ingredients must be present in our lives.

That evening, the couples met again for a cake and coffee "anniversary" reception and fellowship. We formed some new friendships and reunited with those we had known previously. A feeling of closeness and unity in God's Spirit was present in the room on that night.

On Sunday, Brother Paul Gray gave a talk on marriage, based on scriptural references. Afterward, we had a very inspiring and unique testimony service, as the ministry asked each couple to stand together and relate the things they love about one another. It was very touching to hear husbands and wives describing all their spouses' wonderful traits, thanking God for their partner and describing the way in which God had brought them together.

This weekend was so momentous for all of us who attended the

(Continued on Page 7)



Lenthy Missionary Trip Completed by Two Brothers

Evangelists Joseph Ross and Joseph Perri completed an almost two-month missionary trip in May and June during which they performed the first baptisms of The Church of Jesus Christ in the Netherlands and Kenya, Africa; they also visited church locations in Nigeria and Ghana, Africa; and were present for the dedication of the new church building in Sardegna, Italy. The eventful journey, accomplished with the Lord's direction and protection, was detailed in a report which is condensed as follows.—Evangelist Editor

In the Netherlands, the brothers' first stop, the Church was established in Enschede (about 115 miles from Amsterdam) on Tuesday, May 11, after the entire Schut family expressed a desire to be baptized. Brother Perri baptized Jan Schut first and then Brother Schut's wife, Enna. Brother Ross immersed Alexander, Mark, and Wesley Schut. The group returned to the Schut home where the new members were confirmed, Communion was served, and three children were blessed. Many blessings were felt, and following the services, Henny, a neighbor woman who had recently moved into the area told the following dream, as described in the report:

"A few years ago she dreamed she was standing on a lake shore, observing the baptisms of some people. In the same dream, she found

herself in a home during confirmations, which she had never seen before. Then she awoke and forgot the dream until this day. She related how the lake shore and the living room were exactly as she had dreamed, and the events likewise. While relating the dream, Henny cried and we all glorified God for the confirmation of the establishing of the Church in the Netherlands."

NIGERIA

The brothers then went to Lagos, Nigeria, Africa where they met with the Lagos saints, visiting homes and worshipping together whenever possible, and they attended a Sunday Mini-Conference with all six locations. Three teachers were ordained, a wonderful preaching service was conducted, and some touching testimonies and healings were related.

The Lagos District Superintendent is Adrian Etim. The needs were expressed for a P.A. System to conduct outside evangelical meetings in neighboring villages, and the erection of a Mission Home on the church grounds in Ikotun to accommodate visiting missionaries and to house an elder and his family to care for the grounds.

On Monday, May 17, Brothers Perri and Ross journeyed to Abak. They first went to see Brother E. A. U. Arthur, the Nigerian head, who is now 111 years old. The Lord has

also blessed him abundantly as an evangelist of the Church and as a Paramount Ruler of many people.

Brothers Ross and Perri planned a lengthy itinerary with Evangelist Edem Ebong and National Coordinator George F. Arthur, which allowed them to visit the other seven districts. These locations and their Superintendents are:

Abak — Jonah Idiong
Afaha Obong — Udo Umoeneo
Eket, Nsit, & Onna — David Udoh
Ibo, Abia State — Gabriel Iheanachor
Imo — Michael Ebere
Itu/Ikono — Jackson Udofia
Otoro — George Ekpo

The total membership of the Nigerian Church is 4,400 with two evangelists and 77 elders servicing 56 branches and missions.

Authorization was given to Evangelist Ebong to conduct Faith and Doctrine, Law and Order, and Church belief refresher classes for all ordained officers.

The need for the printing of materials is very pressing. A hymn book with 175 songs in the English and Efik languages (the majority of Nigerian members speak Efik) is being pursued. Plans are to translate the same hymnal in the Ibo and Yoruba languages to satisfy all of the members' languages. Because of GMBA donations in the past, which are very appreciated, this project will finally be completed.

Reprinting of the Sunday School books on the Bible by Sister Sadie B. Cadman is also being pursued. The brothers said, "We are trying to satisfy the many requests for Sunday School lessons material. In the past, the Sunday School Lesson Books on the Book of Mormon, compiled by Brothers John and Tom Ross, have been sent."

At The Church of Jesus Christ Comprehensive Secondary School, the brothers were treated to an assembly of all students and faculty members. They also viewed the repairs to two classrooms which had greatly deteriorated. Because of the generosity of U.S. members who funded the repairs through the

(Continued on Page 9)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Lisa Champine
47825 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO

Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

PACIFIC COAST

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST

James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST

Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Our consumer-oriented society has led many Christians to believe that comfort—a secure, ample income, a spacious home, a beautiful family, and an untroubled retirement—represents life's ultimate attainment. While we would not be incorrect in recognizing "creature comforts" as blessings from God, it would be wrong for us to set these natural things before us as spiritual goals.

People have a tendency to define—and thereby limit—their relationship with God by what their natural, mortal selves feel comfortable with. Though the scriptures teach us of the great things the Lord has in store for those who draw close to Him, most of us reach a point in our spiritual growth where we feel we're doing well enough, and we stop there. Very likely, once we've "set up camp," it will take a great deal for us to pack up and move on.

When our needs are being met and our lives are going relatively well, we get comfortable and complacent, and sometimes confuse our priorities. The account of the Jaredites, who pitched their tents near the seashore and lived comfortably for four years without calling upon God, teaches us a valuable lesson. Though the promised land lay on the opposite shore of the ocean (and at the end of a very *uncomfortable* boat ride) the Jaredites were willing to settle where God had brought them thus far.

Spiritually, we tend to do the same thing. While untold power and blessings lie just beyond our reach, we prefer to stay planted firmly where we are, where it's comfortable, rather than get into the boat. We know that what God has in store for us is worth the ride, but we just can't seem to tear ourselves from the shore. We know from the scriptures that His heavenly kingdom will one day inhabit the world while mankind is still in the flesh. And we know that an abundantly righteous, holy people will be privileged to witness and enjoy this state of heaven on earth. Yet at times we behave as if we could not possibly attain the spiritual level necessary to see that day. As we look at the world around us, do we feel that we're doing well enough?

The athlete who trains diligently (not a comfortable thing to do) will eventually reach a point where a certain exercise becomes easy; it is no longer a physical strain on his or her body. When that happens, the person can either keep performing the same exercise, or move on to a higher level of difficulty—one that would have been impossible to even attempt at the first training session.

We must likewise do the uncomfortable thing and exert ourselves spiritually—not to aim for unrealistic goals, but to build slowly and gradually to a state where we are thinking, doing, and saying things—under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit—that we were not capable of when we initially emerged from the waters of baptism. God's spiritual nature soars above all that is earthly, beckoning those of us who have taken upon ourselves His name to follow. Let us obey His call, and climb higher.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been someplace or done something that makes you feel sorry and ashamed later? Did you know that shame can be a good thing if it makes us stop doing something harmful? And did you know that shame can be a bad thing if it makes us unwilling to keep on trying to do good?

Because that is what serving God is all about—keeping on trying. None of us is perfect, but Jesus loves us anyway. None of us lives such a perfect life that we never make mistakes; yet Jesus loves us.

One time, I invited a friend with problems to come to church. She told me that she wasn't "good enough" to come to church. I laughed and told her that that is why we all come together to worship God. We come because we are not perfect.

I told her that if we were perfect, then we could stay at home and show off our perfect little selves to each other. We wouldn't need God's peace, God's hope, or the joy that knowing Christ brings to our lives.

The Brother of Jared, in the Book of Mormon, was a godly man. He was chosen to lead a group of God's followers to a promised land. They traveled through a vast, wild land. Over mountains, across wild rivers and hot deserts, they prayed and walked. Months turned into years.

Finally they reached the edge of a beautiful ocean, and there they relaxed. They were so relieved to be through with carrying tents, and tools, and seeds, and beehives. They set up shelters at the seashore and forgot about calling upon God.



For four years the brother of Jared, a man who loved God, joined his people in forgetting God. But God had a plan to use these people and bring them to the Americas. He spoke with His minister, the Brother of Jared, from a cloud.

Can you imagine how shocked and ashamed the Brother of Jared was of his behavior? God had answered so many of his prayers. After the Lord brought the people through terrible dangers and difficulties, they had relaxed and forgotten to call upon Him.

The Lord talked with the Brother of Jared for three hours from a cloud and chastened (scolded and warned) him. The Brother of Jared was so sorry. He repented of the evil he had done, and begged God to forgive the others, too. And God did.

These people went on to journey across the wild waters of the ocean to come to the Americas.

The Brother of Jared did the right thing with his shame. He felt it, recognized it, and asked God to forgive him. And God did. God removed it and the Brother of Jared kept on trying.

In fact, after this terrible time, the Brother of Jared loved the Lord so deeply and faithfully that he saw Jesus' finger, then Jesus showed Himself to this man in the Spirit, many years before he was born on earth. The Brother of Jared was *truly* forgiven.

We must do the very same thing when we have sinned and are sick with shame. We must hold our shame up to the Light of Jesus so we can be clean again. And then we've got to

keep on trying. By doing these things, we will learn about ourselves, our weak sides and our strong sides. And Jesus will keep on loving us.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

THE
BROTHER
OF
JARED
HIS
PEOPLE
THROUGH
A
WILDERNESS
AND
FORGOT
TO
CALL
ON
GOD
HIS
SHAME

WAS
FORGIVEN
AND
JESUS
SHOWED
HIMSELF
IN
THE
SPIRIT
ETHER
BOOK
OF
MORMON
JESUS
IS
LOVE

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

Our Women Today

General Ladies' Uplift Circle Upcoming Events!

GENERAL LADIES' UPLIFT CIRCLE CONFERENCE

DATE: OCTOBER 9, 1993

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: THE CHURCH OF JESUS
CHRIST GREENSBURG BRANCH

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Free daycare will be provided at this conference. A morning and afternoon session will be available for children 5 years old and younger. These sessions will coincide with the Circle Conference meetings. No daycare will be available during the lunch hour.

Interested mothers should bring the following:

1. Diaper changing items.
2. Familiar or favorite toys.
3. Car seat, travel bed, or something your child can rest or sleep in/on.
4. Bottles of juice or formula with written instructions.
5. Favorite snacks for the older child.

NOTE: Snacks will not be provided by the daycare staff. Medicines will not be administered by the daycare staff.

Please mark or label all items that belong to you/your child. This will ensure that all items are returned to the correct owners.

The daycare will provide some age appropriate safe toys as well as an Art Activity table and a story teller time in the AM and PM sessions. A quiet area will also be available for children requiring naps.

The daycare program has been a success in allowing more mothers to attend conference. For it to continue each of us must be willing to share in

the responsibility of the daycare so we may all enjoy the children and the blessings of Conference. All that is asked is that you give one hour of your day. Please call or write:

Sister Laurie DeSantis
19249 Melvin
Roseville, MI 48066
(313) 777-2375

Sister Harriet Francione
16020 Carlisle
Detroit, MI 48205
(313) 839-2693

We will provide good care for your children while you enjoy some quality time at the General Circle Conference.

Thoughts

How happy I am to be a homemaker and to have so much free time to think!

An excess of time to think can cause unhappiness, dissatisfaction, discouragement, and on and on. But, only if *we let it!* Each act of sin begins as a *thought!* And so does each spiritually-related act, e.g., prayer, fasting, studying the written Word, being very still and listening for that sweet, small voice of God way down ever so deep within the inward part of our spirits.

Praise God for the way His Holy Spirit literally floods my mind with *good* thoughts and ideas and new truths that He chooses to reveal unto me as I just simply turn my *mind* over to Him while I am doing my daily tasks. What a glorious privilege and opportunity a woman whose children are of school age and beyond has to fortify her soul, strengthen her spiritual life and to *grow* in Grace because of these hours of being alone with God!

If we *fairly* and *honestly* evaluate the priorities in our lives, those of us who have this privilege will admit we could be real *assets* to our branches, our husbands, and our children by consistently strengthening and deep-

ening our relationship with the Lord Jesus. We would glow with an inner strength and peace (supplied by Him) in such a magnificent way that *all* those around us could not help but be affected for the good! The time that we could devote to *prayer alone* is sufficient to move the arm of God for our branches, priesthood, brothers and sisters, and our families to bring about results in an unprecedented way!

Oh how I pray, Lord, that You will continue to help this frail, weak human being that I am, to endeavor to turn my mind over to you that you might have full sway in my life. For when we leave our thoughts open and *not* tuned in to You, the devil can fill the void with his conniving and deception, with discouraging and depressing thoughts, and thereby lay the groundwork for future acts of sin. Whoever can be credited with the age-old saying, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop" was surely inspired by the Wisdom of God to utter such devastatingly true, true words!

Take these "thoughts" as a challenge, sisters! Allow your minds to become captive to the Lord Christ. One individual life may be of priceless value to God's purposes, and yours may be that life.

--A Sister

RETREAT continued . . .

retreat, and we give honor and glory to God for His inspiration in the choice of its theme, "Commitment is the Key."

A Marriage Prayer

"Dear Lord, Help us to remember when we first met, and the strong love that grew between us; To work that love into practical things so that nothing can divide us.

"We ask for words both kind and loving, and hearts always ready to ask forgiveness, as well as to forgive.

"Father, we place our marriage into Your hands. Amen."

Branch and Mission News

Blessings in Roscoe, PA

By Norma Kendall

On Sunday, April 25, 1993, we had a very nice meeting at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. Visiting with us was Apostle Russell and Sister Ethel Cadman from Fredonia, PA; Evangelist Fred and Sister Charlotte Olexa from Coshocton, Ohio; Elder Jesse and Sister Ruth Carr, and Elder Joseph and Sister Erma Draskovich from Greensburg, PA.

We had a very good Sunday School lesson, which was taught by Brother James Dutchko. We enjoyed a lively discussion and at the close of our class, Brother John and Sister Bertha Bilsky sang a duet with the congregation joining in at the end.

Brothers Cadman and Olexa spoke to us in our Sunday Morning Service, stirring up all our hearts and bringing many things to our remembrance. Our minds were enlightened on many of the things of God.

That afternoon was the time we had anxiously been awaiting for, because this was the day our Sister Betty Dutchko was to be reinstated into the fellowship of the Church. After opening prayer by Bro. Joe Draskovich, Sister Betty came forward to the chair that was set out for her. As the ministry gathered around her, Brother Russell Cadman laid his hands upon her head and offered a prayer to the Lord, bringing her back into fellowship. We then sang *Ring the Bells of Heaven*, while all who were present came up and greeted our sister.

Both Brother and Sister Dutchko bore their testimonies. Then Brother Draskovich spoke to us on the mercies of God, a topic of which we all needed to be reminded. We had a wonderful time all day in the Lord's house. It was good to see and to fellowship with the brothers and

sisters who came to visit, and to hear their voices in preaching and testimony. Our joy was full in seeing our Sister Dutchko restored to fellowship. We went home rejoicing that day, and we thank Our Lord for all His blessings.

Levittown, PA Branch

By Walter Kowalsky

On February 28, 1993, Jennifer Kowalsky entered into the waters of baptism. As all the brothers and sisters that gathered to see this young lady (age 15) start a new life with our Lord, we sang *I Surrender All*. Brother Joe Benyola offered a word of prayer, Brother Jerry Valenti baptized Jennifer, and Brother Samuel Dell closed in prayer at the water. As Jennifer came out of the water, everyone saw her gasping for breath as a newborn baby gasps for its first breath of life. We also saw the enthusiasm that she showed as she was now preparing to begin her march to Zion.

On this special day we all knew that the Spirit of the Lord was among us. After returning to the Branch, as we were preparing to open the main service, we all sang a number of songs that pertained to "Marching to Zion." This seemed to be the theme of the day.

Brother Joe Benyola spoke from I Corinthians 12, saying that we all are called into the Church as Jennifer was. We are all important to The Church of Jesus Christ, as every member of one's body is important to make up a whole body. Christ is the mind, and we are the body, and it is Jesus Christ who controls us and directs us to do the work of our Lord. We all must have the unity of this mind, and through this unity, we all will enjoy the blessing of the Lord. God sent His best, and we

must give of *our* best.

As all the elders gathered around Jennifer, Brother Sam Dell laid hands on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

Visit to Southampton, Ontario

By Samuel French

On May 1, 1993, we of the Muncey Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ traveled to Southampton, Ontario to visit the saints of God in that part of the vineyard.

The Spirit of God was with us throughout our visit, and we were blessed by His presence in our midst.

On Saturday, we were able to visit and meet with the brothers and sisters from the Saugeen Indian Reservation. We also were invited to attend a get-together at Bro. Matt Collison's home. Later that evening we all sang some songs from the *Saints Hymnal* and the *Songs of Zion*. Once again, the Spirit of God was manifested in our midst. Praise the Lord.

On Sunday, May 2, Bertha Panchyshyn, who had asked for her baptism during the April General Conference, was taken into the waters of regeneration by Bro. Ken Wright. She was confirmed by Bro. Don Collison of the Windsor Branch. Brother Mike and Sister Bertha are the parents of Brother Ted, who attends church in Muncey. Brother Ted has been an inspiration to us; he has a wonderful testimony of how God called him out of the world of sin into the Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church.

Our prayers are for all of the Panchyshyn family, that the Lord would bless them and be with them, and that all who attended and witnessed this wonderful ordinance of baptism would remember it, that they too would make that commitment to serve the Lord in Spirit and in Truth.

We thank the Lord for the message of salvation in our lives today. May the Lord bless you and keep you is our prayer.

ITALY continued . . .

The morning meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Nolfi, preceded and followed by several hymns, both congregational and by groups. Sisters Mary Lovalvo and Immaculata Romano set the sacrament table. Brother Stefano Romano, the elder in charge at Cala Gonone, acknowledged the donated Communion items and offered a special prayer for their use. Following a hymn, Brother Romano was the first speaker, after which Brother LaSala offered a powerful dedicatory prayer. Both brothers spoke beautiful words relative to the Restoration of the Gospel and the dedication of the building to the Lord.

Subsequent to more singing, Brothers Perri and Ross administered the Lord's Supper. Brother Benyola anointed a handkerchief to be sent to someone who was ill and could not attend the service. Brother Lovalvo made some concluding remarks. A hymn was sung and the closing prayer was by Brother Liberto.

Everyone remained after the first service to go through the building and visit with each other. The structure is truly beautiful, and adds to the community. It was exciting to be in this new building and to visit with the brothers, sisters, and friends in Italy, as well as with those who had traveled many miles from America to be there for this memorable occasion.

An evening meeting was held to enjoy words from the ministry and testimonies from the congregation. Several requested and received anointings.

The Missions Operating Committee requests your continued prayers and donations for the work in Italy and other places around the world. Resources are limited, but there is so much to do. May God bless you with a desire to help in any way you can!

RESCUE continued . . .

directs, I take a card out each day and receive my message for the day.

I took out a card and received

this message taken from John 10:9: *"I am the Door. By Me if any man enter in he shall be saved and shall go in and out and find pasture."* I turned the card over, and read, "Lord, I thank you for canceling my sentence of death." Brothers and sisters, I praise God because that was the closest I have ever come to dying.

A few days later, I was having trouble with my eyes. Again I called upon my Lord and asked Him to please help me. The message He gave me was taken from John 14:19: *"Yet a little while and the world seeth me no more but ye see me; because I live ye shall live also."* On the reverse side of the card it read, "Father, I thank You for healing my eyes so I can see You and live." What a wonderful God we serve! We have a beautiful relationship. I can never praise my Savior enough.

When I talked to Jim on the phone, he told me he was doing fine. The doctor diagnosed us with a very severe case of intestinal infection. All Honor and Glory I give to God, my Great Physician, because He is the One who heals us. I always put my faith and trust in Him. Praise His holy name. May the Love of God surround all of my beloved brothers and sisters. God does answer our prayers if we only put all our faith and trust in Him.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Missionary Foundation Committee, enrollment has risen from 850 students to over 1,000, with another expected increase when the other classroom is completed. The institution built by our church in 1976 is known and widely respected in Nigeria. Incidentally, students have requested assistance for the purchase of athletic equipment so they can participate in intramural sports as well as competitive sports with other schools. The brothers stipulated, "We believe all understand the importance of young people expending energy in sports. . . ."

They also stated, "One request that is made every time we visit the school is the desire for used musical

instruments. This effort will require special thought and innovation." They noted additionally, "Many of the saints' children attend the school through the Church Scholarship Program."

The scholarship program, which "currently provides the means of an education for 70 children of the Nigerian saints" was reviewed. They pointed out, "In Nigeria, education is not compulsory; it is available only to those who can afford the costs. Thus we sponsor students by scholarships in all eight districts. For those students that cannot do the classroom work, we offer to teach them a trade in a local vocational school or with a tradesman. The Scholarship Program is supported by individuals, Sunday Schools, MBA's, branches and missions of the Church. This is not a Budget Item, but is sent directly to Joseph Ross. The costs are \$100.00 yearly for a Commuting Student and \$220.00 yearly for a Boarding Student. This is an established church project, and any desiring to sponsor student(s) may contact Joseph Ross, Nephi DeMercurio or Joseph Perri for details. Nigerian Church Coordinator George F. Arthur supervises this program among his other duties. Being a School Principal qualifies him for this task."

NIGERIAN CHURCH SERVICES

Among the many places they visited, the brothers went to newly-established missions and held worship services with them. Of note was a meeting place at Abak Usung Idium, where on a windy night the thatched roof, weakened by termites and white ants, collapsed. The members sat uncomplainingly in the rain while the brothers were under the part of the roof which was still standing.

They went to the IMA Clinic for a scheduled luncheon with the entire staff. The brothers observed, "They are doing the best they can under the circumstances. The need for an American doctor is an important and immediate need which the IMA

(Continued on Page 10)

MESSAGE continued . . .

founders are attempting to fill. As usual, the staff also made some requests to the IMA founders through us. But all in all, the clinic is still highly respected and benefits many in that area. Though inflation and rising costs have escalated in Nigeria, the clinic still manages to provide a necessary service to countless sick and afflicted."

The brothers also met with the Sunday School Teachers Association at the Church Centre. This group, consisting of all the Sunday School teachers, meets regularly to schedule and appoint teachers for all branches and missions, discusses lessons, plans events, issues awards to outstanding students, and drafts Sunday School policies. "They requested the Parent Church to sponsor a Sunday School Picnic again, which will cost \$350.00. This was first initiated by Paul and Thressa Carr in 1989. The first picnic was attended by 1,500 children, with more expected this year."

The Church established Orphans' Care Program, in which 55 orphans were being fed one meal a day at an estimated cost of 25 cents a meal, was reviewed and it was determined that the meals must be reduced to four times a week because of the rising cost of food. The report disclosed, "This project is also supported by individuals and church organizations, and is not a Budget Item but is sent directly to Joseph Ross. These orphans are from the Abak, Afaha Obong and Otoro Districts. And, of course, we receive requests from the other districts for orphans' assistance also. But we kindly turn them aside due to the great number of orphans in Nigeria and the lack of funding. This project was founded by Sister Thressa Carr years ago when her maternal instincts surfaced due to the need. They still refer to her as 'Mama Carr'."

Each district was encouraged to obtain a feasibility study for a project which can be funded through a loan from the M.F.C. and which requires that our church members be em-

ployed. One project has been approved, one is pending approval, and others are being studied for submission to the M.F.C. through the F.M.O.C.

Their last day in Nigeria, the brothers attended the National Conference Sunday Services at the Church Centre at Atai Otoro, where they were spiritually uplifted by the many choral groups from some branches and districts. A total of 942 were in attendance, and a special prayer was offered for them and their safety in traveling. Many greeted them after the meetings, and the brothers said, "We truly enjoyed ourselves." Before their departure, they stopped to sadly say "Goodbye" to Brother E.A.U. Arthur.

In concluding the Nigerian part of their report, the Brothers stressed that inflation has besieged the standard of living and that there was a compulsion to offer relief aid to our members. They said, "Case in point: a laborer may earn 180 to 200 Naira (Nigerian equivalent to our dollar) monthly, and the cost to purchase ONE CHICKEN is 180 Naira." They also cited the great need for Bibles, which, if it were to be met, would require the entire budget to pay for them. They emphasized, "This is factual, not fabricated! But the Church in Nigeria is alive and well. God works with the Church there as He does here with dreams, experiences, healings, etc. Perhaps at a later date, we can write some of these experiences and healings for our readers to enjoy. God is everywhere!"

GHANA

It was next on to Ghana. On June 4, Brothers Ross, Perri, and Ford Boadu, Ghana district Superintendent (Ghana is organized as a seven-branch district), met for three hours with nine officers of a group called, "The Church of Jesus Christ" from Accra, which had expressed a desire to become affiliated with us. Brother Boadu learned about them when he registered our Church and contacted them. The organization has

a congregation of 300 people from four branches. The brothers explained about our Faith and Doctrine, Ordinances, and beliefs, and they reflected, "They were impressed with our words, including 'feet-washing' and 'greeting one another with the holy kiss' . . . We invited them to investigate us thoroughly, ask any and all questions, and to go to God in prayer regarding our Church. We parted in prayer. "A general meeting with the entire group was scheduled for later in the trip, which unfortunately did not materialize."

From Accra, the brothers proceeded to Kumasi where they met about 75 of our people who welcomed them warmly at the Church Centre for an evening service.

Brothers Ross and Perri met with five of the branches, including two joint meetings with the others. The report stated, "During the past three months, they have added 33 new converts to the Church. Our brothers make sure new converts know the teachings and beliefs of the Church before they are accepted by baptism."

The Ghanaian elders still sponsor a monthly crusade by visiting some neighboring village to preach the Restored Gospel. The crusade efforts are spearheaded by an advance group which goes to the selected village several times with notices and posters of the upcoming crusade and consults with local authorities for permission and selection of a suitable, centrally-located site. The procedure was described as follows:

"The evening of the crusade, a P.A. system is set up with speakers, all powered by a small generator which provides for lights, a VCR, and a monitor TV. They start about 6:30 P.M., with singing by groups, trios, solos, etc. to attract the people. This usually attracts an interested crowd. (Some have never seen a movie or video)."

When it is dark, about 7:30 P.M., a religious video is played on the VCR for about 45 minutes to an hour. It is then turned off and the elders preach about the Gospel for

about another 45 minutes to an hour, referring to the video and what the crowd has been observing. The video is turned on again for a short time, after which it is then turned off again and the crowd is asked whether they would be interested in viewing the video again the next night. The brothers reported, "Naturally, they all shout their approval. They are invited to return next evening for the ending when the procedure will be repeated again. This has proven a successful means to introduce the Gospel in nearby villages to new converts."

Elders also hold quarterly weekend seminars for all ordained officers, reviewing the Faith and Doctrine, Law and Order, beliefs and Church literature, as well as keeping everyone informed on parent church policies. Lodging and food are provided at the Centre.

Other matters were related by the brothers. "We are printing a Hymn Book for Ghana in English with 145 hymns, including Holiday Carols and Songs, Hymns for Ordinances, etc. We do not have an ethnic problem in Ghana as we have in Nigeria. We were informed the hymnal is near completion."

"At the Odoamasi Branch they have started a Nursery School with 39 children enrolled, taught by qualified, trained teachers. It has proven a great benefit for the Church in that area, as many parents attend services.

"They too request the purchase of Bibles. We informed them they would be purchased on an installment basis due to lack of funds for a one-time purchase."

"We visited the Church Clinic stationed in a school for handicapped, meeting with the physician that services the clinic, Dr. Caroline. The clinic has proven to be a boon for that area, both naturally and spiritually. This is in keeping with the Ghanaian laws requiring all churches to provide humanitarian services for the people as well as spiritual. The clinic has serviced thousands in the Edwinase Area, to the credit of the Church."

There were 100 in attendance at the Sunday Service. Following the preaching, many testimonies were given. One sister was anointed for severe stomach pains. Ten minutes later, she testified and glorified God that all her pain had left. Others told of healings and grace extended to them.

Scheduled services in Ghana are Bible Study, Monday; Worship Services at some locations on Tuesday, at others on Wednesday, and at all places on Friday; Fast-and-Prayer in the evening, Saturday; and Worship Services at four locations on Sunday morning and for all at the Church Centre on Sunday evening.

KENYA

The last African country on the itinerary was Kenya, where the Church of Jesus Christ has been officially registered after eight, prayer-filled years. The brothers, in viewing the original registration document, were most gratified and thankful to God, as is the entire Church, for the ability to further spread the Gospel.

Kenya was described as being " . . . a lush, green, rich land with much arable land, lots of stock animals and rich in fruits, vegetables, tea, and coffee. Many trees are visible on their terrain, comparable to Western Pennsylvania with high hills and mountains. Beautiful country!"

Brothers Ross and Perri visited the Kenyan Government just before their departure from that nation to personally thank the officials for their efforts on behalf of the Church. They were hosted most graciously and happily by Mrs. Olga Ngugi of the Registrar's Office, and they asked her assistance to obtain a "Customs Free" license for goods, medicines, and supplies sent there.

The Church of Jesus Christ was established in Kenya on Tuesday, June 16, when Brother Ross baptized Stephen Osaka, after which he took two other new brothers into the waters and Brother Perri baptized three new sisters and one brother. Their ages ranged from 18 to 32. The

confirmation service in a nearby school was attended by 50 persons. Others were baptized later.

Attendance at three locations reportedly had been 30 to 40 people on the clinic grounds in Openda; 25 to 35 people in a rented building at Sangera; and 20 to 30 people in a rented building at Nyakeyo.

They traveled over "impassable roads to visit the Nyakeyo Technical School. We sang hymns with the students, had prayer, and toured the small school where tailoring, carpentry, masonry, and electricity is taught to the 35 students. This is one of those schools we were required to establish to satisfy the Kenyan Government's requests for humanitarian projects. Then we traveled to the Sangera School and met with students also, singing hymns and having prayer with them. The staff at both schools pleaded with us to request assistance from the Parent Church for a generator and other small equipment. The plea is the same everywhere we go among our people, 'We need aid'." A generator for the clinic to supply electricity for services is also needed.

ITALY

Brothers Ross and Perri next went to Italy to attend the dedication at Sardegna, which is reported on Page 1 by Evangelist Thomas Liberto.

The entire body is edified by the success of the far-reaching and significant events which transpired on this trip, for which and during which many prayers were offered on their behalf, as well as for those in the nations they visited.

New Arrival

Thomas Tyler King, born on Father's Day to Thomas Gerald and Jacqui Sue King. He is the grandson of Lawrence Matty of Charleroi, PA and Brother Lawrence E. Sr. and Sister Susanna R. King of Smock, PA, members of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch.

*** WEDDING ***

KENDALL - MARTIN

Donald Edward Kendall and Jamie Beth Martin were joined in holy matrimony on June 5, 1993 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother John Kendall officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sister Bertha Bilsky.

The newlyweds are making their residence in Stockdale, PA. May the Lord richly bless them in their new life together.

Children Blessed

On May 30, 1993, Kevin Yanes was blessed by Bro. Jim Huttenberger in Freehold, New Jersey.

Coral Martinez was blessed on May 30, 1993 in Freehold, New Jersey by Bro. Jim Huttenberger.

Jeffrey Shawn, son of Bill and Sister Shelly Snodgrass and great-grandson of Sister Mary Gavaghan, was blessed by Brother Richard Scaglione in Monongahela, PA on June 6, 1993.

Brother Joe Draskovich blessed Joseph Alan Urana at the Greensburg, PA Branch on June 13, 1993. Joey's grandparents are Bro. Ken and Sis. Patty Mellor.

Richard Nicholas Mistovich II was blessed on June 20, 1993 by his great-grandfather, Brother Ralph Berardino, at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch.

Ashton Nicole, daughter of Bill and Naomi Sambol and granddaughter of Sister Jane Whittaker, was blessed on June 20, 1993 in Monongahela, PA by Brother Alexander Cherry.

On July 11, 1993, Joshua Roberts Rodewich, son of Bob and Lisa Fallavollitti Rodewich, was blessed by Bro. Joe Draskovich in the Greensburg, PA Branch.

OBITUARIES

JANICE BROWN

Sister Janice Louise Brown passed away on February 20, 1993 after an extended illness. She was born on January 18, 1944 in Pennsylvania. After 14 years in Florida, she returned to the Greensburg Branch in August of 1991.

Brothers Charles Maddox and Douglas Obradovich officiated at the funeral.

Left to mourn her passing are her children, Linda and Steven, her parents, Jesse and Ruth Carr, a sister, Wilma Osterwise, two brothers, Paul and Timothy Carr, and several nieces and nephews.

Troubled by ill health during the last years of her life, Sister Janice nonetheless served the Lord with loyalty and dedication. She will be deeply missed and always remembered.

JOHN SCOTT

John Elmer Scott of Roscoe, Pennsylvania passed from this life on June 27, 1993. He was born on January 20, 1922.

Brothers John Kendall and James Abbott officiated at the funeral service.

John is survived by his wife, Sister Janet Deloris (Hannen) Scott; a son, Kenny; a daughter, Robin Hanak, and eight grandchildren. May the Lord bless and comfort all those who knew and loved him.

KENNETH MARTIN

Brother Kenneth Martin of the Monongahela, PA Branch passed away on July 6, 1993 at the age of 32. The service was conducted by Brothers Richard Scaglione and Brian Smith.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Kim; parents, James and Carolyn Rouse Martin; brothers, Steve and Doug; and his grandparents, Brother Idris and Sister Ellen Martin and Sister Alma Tucker Rouse.

We pray that the Lord will comfort the family.

IDRIS A. MARTIN

On July 19, 1993, Brother Idris A. Martin of the Monongahela, PA Branch passed on to his eternal reward. Brother Idris was an evangelist and assistant historian of the Church for many years. He was an example of love to everyone he came in contact with, especially the children.

Survivors include his wife, Sister Ellen; a son, I. James Martin; a daughter, Virginia Martin; one sister, Virginia Davis; and two grandsons, Steve and Doug Martin.

Brother Idris will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

September, 1993

Volume 49, No. 9

Seven Called in Palm Harbor, FL

On Sunday, June 27, 1993, the Lord surely did visit our branch gathering. We had just celebrated together the marriage of Scott and Meruchy Griffith the day before, and had felt God's Spirit in the ceremony.

A number of visitors were gathered with us this particular Sunday. Michigan, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Arizona, and Ohio were all represented. Our presiding elder, Brother John Griffith, along with Brother James G. Speck, called all the priesthood together prior to the start of the meeting. It was there that our brothers related to the visiting ministry that, possibly because we are a new and growing branch, we view each person who walks through the door as being very special and needed in our branch, as we desire to spread the word and prosper as a new Church work. The meeting was to be left open to an elder who felt to bring forth the basic doctrine of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The brothers formed a circle, and a special prayer was offered by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

As the meeting was just beginning, Brother David Majoros entered the sanctuary, just having made the trip from Clearwater. Brother David

was asked to sing an opening selection; God's Spirit was already being felt.

Brother Majoros felt to take the lead this morning, not having been privy to the ministry's previous discussion. Brother David spoke concerning—what else?—the promise and coming of Jesus Christ, and what He was and should be to each one of us.

Our brother used many different scriptures to support his teachings. Truly the basic doctrine of Christ was delivered. Toward the end of the sermon, the gift of tongues was spoken. An interpretation followed, and was read by Brother Jim Speck as follows: **"Thus saith the Lord, I gave My all to you; what have you to give me? Thus saith the Lord."** These words were confirmed by another brother in the congregation.

As the Lord's Supper was being prepared (earlier than usual), Brother John Griffith asked if anyone had anything they would like to say. An 18-year-old French-Canadian girl, Nancy Bordeleau, who had been studying in this country for two years and visiting the Palm Harbor Branch for the past

(Continued on Page 6)

Love Overflows for Hurricane Victims

Water. A simple thing that we so often take for granted. But water sustains life. After Hurricane Andrew, the saints in South Florida realized how precious water really is. As precious as the outpouring of love and support from the saints throughout the Church after the trauma and tribulation of the hurricane.

How much love and support? Truckloads of food, clothing, and water, as well as mattresses, shoes, toiletries, toys, and more. All of it was distributed to the saints, their families and friends, and to the friends of the Church in Miami and Homestead, including the hispanic migrant workers.

How much love and support? Over \$22,000. Of this, over \$18,000 was given to the saints in Miami and Homestead to help with emergency repairs and to rebuild their lives. Of particular interest was the little envelope. Amid the great containers of food and clothing was this small, white envelope. A young girl's name and age were neatly printed on the

(Continued on Page 10)

Homosexuality: Right or Wrong?

By John Griffith

Many people today say that any sex act is acceptable as long as no one gets hurt. There are those who attempt to legitimize homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle. Even some "christians" say that people have the right to choose their sexual preference. In a permissive society, it is easy for christians to overlook or tolerate some immoral behaviors, while remaining outraged at others. We must not condone or participate in sin in any way if we are true "christians," or saints of the Most High God.

THE BIBLE CONDEMNS HOMOSEXUAL BEHAVIOR

"For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet" (Romans 1:26-27).

This was that terrible guilt of sin that was found upon the Gentile. It is no wonder they were classified in the days of old as nonbelievers. The wrath of God was and is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness.

God's plan for natural sexual relationships is His ideal for His creation. Sex is not wrong; it's how His creation uses it that is in question. There is no sound reasoning which precludes that "if no one gets hurt, it's OK." Sin hurts. It hurts individuals, families, and even society at large. To distort God's plan is sin.

Premarital sex is also sin. It is a distortion of God's plan. It is no better or worse than homosexuality. The book of Leviticus gives laws

pertaining to sexual sin in the 18th chapter. Verse 22 reads:

"Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination."

Although homosexuality is considered an acceptable practice in our world today, and astonishingly even by some churches, we must remember that society does not set the standard of God's law; God does. There is nothing normal about homosexuality. According to scriptures, it is abnormal in the eyes of God.

This writer does not hate the sinner; he hates the sin. We all have come short of God's glory. We all have sinned. We all need God's atoning Grace.

Temptation, which leads us to sin, can be overcome. By God's Grace we can resist temptation. We must avoid places or activities that will kindle temptation. One cannot underestimate the power of Satan. God can and will forgive sexual sin, as He does other sins. If you are involved in sinful sexual activities or other fornications, seek help from trustworthy pastoral counselors, prayer, Bible study, and strong Church support. These things should help each one of us from yielding to temptation. Use the helps available.

"Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God" (1 Corinthians 6:9&10).

The Church of Jesus Christ is a haven of forgiveness and healing for the repentant. No matter what sin we bear, Jesus Christ can remove it from us. Serve God and inherit His Kingdom. Praise God for Jesus Christ.

"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (1 Corinthians 6:11).

Greetings from the Bowery, New York

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just a few lines to let you know how we are doing in the Bowery in New York City. We had a very good year as far as people listening to the word of God. On the average we have been having 20 to 25 men per meeting.

This afternoon, I was approached by the staff at the detox center, asking if our Church is still collecting pajamas for the men. I told them that I would once again inquire around the Church for clean PJs, underwear, and socks, any size from small to extra large.

Brothers and sisters, you have no idea what these items will mean. Many men ask Brother Matthew and myself, as well as our children and brothers and sisters who come to visit with us, some very important questions about the word of God and their souls. We pray that our light shines for the Gospel.

If you care to help with the above items, please send them to me or bring them to October Conference. Thank you once again. God bless each one of you.

Love,
Sister Joan Rogolino

Thank You

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

We wish to thank each of you for the many prayers, calls, and cards we received during Herbert's recent bypass surgery. The many thoughts sent to us from East to West were very uplifting.

We are very thankful to be a part of the Family of God. May God bless all of you!

Brother Herbert and
Sister Shirley Hemmings
Lakeside, Arizona

A Sterling Example

By Sharon Lovalvo

Last spring I attended the one-hundredth birthday of Brother John Santarcangelo in Modesto, California. As I sat there watching him, I reminisced of yesteryear and my first coming to know Brother John. Being born in Detroit, Michigan and growing up in the Devine Street Branch (Branch #1), as far back as I can remember, Brother John, as the deacon of the Church, was there.

Brother John had a sense of pride in his office by maintaining God's building and seeing to the needs of the people who attended church. He was the first person to arrive in the morning, and he was the last person to go home in the evening. No task was ever too big or too small; he even made sure the children were quiet and not spending too much time in the restrooms.

I can still see him, dressed immaculately, greeting the people as they entered the church, and leading them to their seats, making sure they had a hymnal. His service to God and his ordained office were of utmost importance to him. He was always there to give you a word of encouragement, to give his testimony to anyone that he came in contact with, and to help anyone in need.

As I watched his wife, Sister Carmela, the years having taken her sight from her, stroke her husband's arm, I thought of her graciousness through the years to give this man the support and freedom he needed to fulfill his calling.

At the end of the birthday party, the people sang a hymn for him in the Italian language, *Showers of Blessings*, and had prayer with Brother John. Wouldn't it be wonderful for him, I thought, if Brother John just closed his eyes now and went to be with the Lord forever. That wasn't to happen just yet, though.

(Continued on Page 11)

MBA Highlights

Southeast Area MBA

By Doug Obradovich

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

For approximately 42 hours, the Southeast Area MBA was allowed an opportunity to live this wonderful theme. The household of God, meeting together as The Church of Jesus Christ, spent the weekend of February 5-7 at Lake Byrd Lodge for their annual Area Campout. And for those who attended, they did indeed serve the Lord.

Friday evening's service was opened up for discussion and the topic, while centering on the family, covered increasing both the quantity and the quality of the family of God. Commitments were verbalized by the majority of those in attendance to tell someone else about the Church and invite them to a meeting (Quantity). It was then decided that the weekend would be utilized for strengthening and sanctifying (Quality).

Saturday was scheduled from early morning to late evening with family gatherings. The day was filled with an early meeting, eats, chapel, seminars, eats, recreation (both indoor and outdoor), arts and crafts (with eats supplied), area conference, eats, evening meeting and more eats. Saturday was both filling and fulfilling.

The Saturday evening meeting was a tremendous ending to such an active day. The family of God joined together in preaching (Brother Dennis Moraco), singing, testifying (25-40 year-olds), anointing, laughing, crying, and talking (area officers). It was a family sitdown, its purpose to get together and share, and sharing was certainly done.

Sunday morning brought the excitement of an ordination, as well as the enthusiasm that every family event brings.

CALLED TO SERVE

Sister Sandra Lowe Smith, from the Tampa Branch, was ordained into the office of deaconess. Her feet were washed by Sister Betty Ann Lowe, and she was ordained by Brother Duane Lowe. This portion of the meeting was presided over by the Tampa ministry.

Following the ordination, Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Nick Pietrangelo, visiting apostles, addressed the campout. Brother John D'Orazio, district president, presided over the administering of Communion.

The weekend, as declared in the Friday evening speakout, was set apart as a time of strengthening within. The family made the assertion that the precious time together would be spent in "serving the Lord" and preparing to tell others. With this accomplished, those in attendance left the campsite thrilled with the feel of getting together with God's wonderful people. And now the attendees are keeping the other end of the commitment—they're out telling others of Jesus Christ. And that's why they call it the Missionary Benevolent Association!

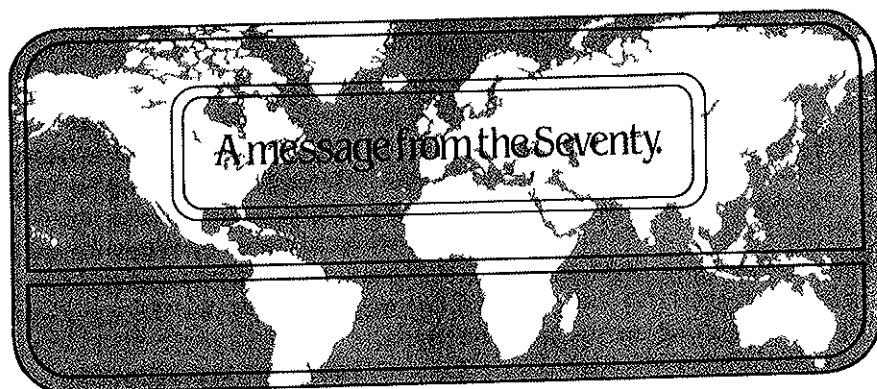
Atlantic Coast Area Retreat

By Terri Bravo

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA hosted their annual weekend retreat from April 30 to May 2, 1993 at Fairview Lake YMCA Camp in Stillwater, New Jersey. Our Camp Director was Brother Jim L. Speck, who was assisted by Brother Gary Camden. Both are from the Levittown, PA Branch.

The campout experience is a time to suspend our daily responsibilities and activities, and get in touch with ourselves, with one

(Continued on Page 11)



Review Shows Need

By Richard Lawson, General Church Finance Committee Representative

(Many articles have been written for this column about the missionary activities of The Church of Jesus Christ, pertaining to the different locations, the members, the missionaries in the fields, and projects undertaken. In so doing, it has not been intended, nor is it intended, to use this space to report repeatedly about the funding required to permit the activities to continue; but there is a definite need to now express how much money is being devoted to missionary work and the importance of its being received. Branches and missions are essentially responsible for keeping their members updated on these matters.

(In reviewing the process involved, it is important to remember that The General Church Finance Committee is responsible for administering the funds. Money is sent from the branches and missions through the districts to the Finance Committee, which then disburses the funds as mandated by the General Church Conference each October, when it approves the overall Spending Plan for the next year. The Spending Plan is the accumulation of the needs presented by each board, committee, and quorum of the General Church.

(The following information has been written by Evangelist Richard Lawson, Finance Committee Representative, and it reflects the current condition and the urgent requirements. —Editor's Note)

We can look at the financial situation of The Church of Jesus Christ in a variety of ways, depending on our particular perspective. As we review the first six months of the current year, we find that our receipts are \$12,162 ahead of where the Church was at the same time last year. That is good news; or so we might think, if we just look at the surface and do not probe any deeper.

As we begin to review the receipts, however, we can see that all is not good news. For example, while our receipts are more for the first half of this year, we quickly find that we are \$42,146 behind the Spending Plan projection that we established in the October, 1992 Conference. Now, as a Church, we must begin to realize what this means, and to deal with the consequences that will result if we continue along this path.

Since this column is concerned with the missionary work of the Church, let us look at the Spending Plan for the various works previously established.

The Americas Missions Operating Committee's Spending Plan for 1993 is \$176,518, while the Foreign Missions Operating Committee's is \$144,936. The total for the two combined committees and other missionary activities is \$336,453, which represents slightly over 59% of the total Spending Plan of \$566,853 for the current year.

The AMOC and the FMOC are primarily responsible for the missionary activities of the Church throughout the entire world. Please keep in mind that these figures do not include any new undertaking, but only allow

for existing missionary efforts. As you can readily see from the above figures, the emphasis for the Church is on missionary work.

CHRIST'S COMMISSION

The commission given by our Savior to The Church of Jesus Christ is quite clear, as stated in Matthew 28:19 & 20:

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Amen.

It becomes evident that unless there are sufficient funds, the Church cannot fulfill the above commission to the extent necessary. In practice, what actually happens is when there are continuing shortfalls in funds received, the two committees must review their respective plans and begin to scale down or eliminate items or existing missions from the Spending Plan. This means that a visit, or assistance of some form, will not be provided for a time. Of course, as the situation continues to prevail (as the Church has been experiencing for several years), there is a noticeable effect on those missions. In other words, there is little or no growth. The commission is not being fulfilled.

In 1992, the receipts were \$72,985 short of the Spending Plan. If the trend continues at the current pace, the shortage will be over \$80,000 for 1993. This means that, as a Church, we are not able to meet the plan outlined by Jesus.

It is our deep concern that we will be willing and able to do His will and support financially to accomplish the challenge outlined by Christ for His Church. May God bless each home and family with His abiding love and care, and with desire to do our part!

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings" (Malachi 3:8).

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS

Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER

Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR

Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR

Mary Tamburrino
100 Oak Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001

DISTRICT EDITORS

ATLANTIC COAST

Kenneth Lombardo
10 Rockview Terrace
North Plainfield, NJ 07060

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO

Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO

Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

PACIFIC COAST

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST

James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST

Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Bodtner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

In his article on Page 2 of this issue, Brother John Griffith states, "The Church of Jesus Christ is a haven of forgiveness and healing for the repentant." Truly when we study the life of Christ, it is easy to envision a forgiving, merciful Jesus, reaching out lovingly to all who came to Him. No one was too wayward, nor their life too sordid, for the healing touch of Jesus' hand.

You and I, too, were among those contrite souls. God loved each one of us enough to deliver us from an empty, wasted, sin-laden life. A moment's meditation on this must surely fill each of us with thanksgiving for the safe haven we have found in Jesus, through His Church. We preach and teach that the Lord offers this same shelter to anyone who would desire to leave the old man behind and come in out of the stormy world of sin. But we do, as a Church and as individuals, truly demonstrate ourselves to be the "haven of forgiveness and healing" we claim to be?

While He hates the sin, Jesus loves the sinner, turning away no one who comes to Him with full purpose of heart. We, on the other hand, often have trouble making that distinction. At times we cannot see past people's sin to view their precious souls. We withhold from them the Living Water that we hold in our hands as they come to us spiritually thirsting. Do we think that we are somehow more worthy than they to partake of it? If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us (I John 1:8).

Often, in the name of keeping the Church "safe" and "pure," we close the doors of our hearts to the very people whose broken lives need Jesus' healing power the most. Conveniently, we seek to "protect" the Church only from the sins we ourselves do not commit, while overlooking our own sinful pride and self-righteousness that engender such behavior and impede Church growth. While we may say it again and again, we fail to put into practice the truth that Jesus Christ possesses the power not only to forgive sin but also to transform the lives of the men and women who follow after Him. Regardless of their past, once they are freed from sin's heavy shackles, the saints of God are able to grow unhindered into the image and stature of Christ, leading lives that glorify Him in every respect.

Brother Griffith writes, ". . . [S]eek help from trustworthy pastoral counselors, prayer, Bible study, and strong Church support. These things should help each one of us from yielding to temptation. Use the helps available." How available are these helps in the Church today? Are we sufficiently equipped to deal gently, lovingly, and non-judgmentally (as Christ would) with every soul who seeks Christ's cleansing power, regardless of their past and present struggles? The Lord—and the world—needs us, as a Church, to be that "haven of forgiveness and healing for the repentant." If we work at keeping our own hearts safe and pure, the Church will shine forth as a beacon light, and flourish in righteousness.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,



Did you know that you are made up of many different parts, each with its own needs? For example, your body needs food as fuel to give it energy to function. This is your physical side, or the flesh.

The Bible tells us many things about our physical, fleshly side. For example, as humans get older, become ill, or have serious accidents, our flesh dies. In I Peter 1:24 & 25, the apostle tells us that all flesh is like grass and all the important things a person does is like the flowers on grass. The grass dies and dries out, and the flowers fall away. But the word of the Lord lasts forever.

There are so many times when we are tempted to do something the wrong way, just because it's comfortable to our flesh. For example, the scriptures tell us to keep the Sabbath day holy. Our Church believes that people are not supposed to work on Sunday (the day we celebrate as the Sabbath). We aren't supposed to cause others to work on a Sabbath, either. That's why we avoid shopping, or going out to eat, or buying gasoline on a Sunday. We have six other days to get ready and do those things.

God tells us that "Obedience is better than sacrifice." That means He prefers that we do the right thing first, *not* sin and then be terribly sorry afterwards. He wants us to control our flesh and understand its needs so we can battle our weaknesses.

One person's weakness may be in blaming others instead of admitting their mistakes and asking God for His

wonderful help to change.

Another person's weakness may be in back-biting. This is a funny way of saying that they talk mean about someone when they're not around.

Happy people don't feel like saying mean, hateful things about each other. Happy people who carry God's Spirit of love and hope forgive others who aren't doing right.

When you hear your human, or flesh, side complaining or being afraid and miserable, be careful. This is a little warning to yourself that your spiritual side is needing help.

Pray. Talk to someone else that loves to pray. Ask the Lord to give you more of His Spirit and *you* start using it. The Lord tells us to "bless them that curse you," and also to pray for your enemies . . . big jobs for big hearts. And God will fill that heart with love and courage and forgiveness; He will make your weak flesh strong.

With care,
Sister Jan

THE
SPIRIT
IS
WILLING
BUT
FLESH
WEAK
GOD
CAN
STRENGTHEN
CHILDREN
WE

JESUS
PROMISED
LO
I
AM
WITH
YOU
ALWAY
EVEN
UNTIL
THE
END

CAN
OVERCOME
OUR
WEAKNESSES

OF
THE
EARTH

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

PALM HARBOR continued . . .

18 months, rose to her feet in testimony.

She stated how she was searching for a family of love, and that she had found it in Palm Harbor. This was the answer to the prayer she had offered many years ago in Quebec. Her visa had now expired, and it was necessary for her to return to Canada. Nancy moved the congregation as she expressed how she did not want to leave the people of God.

God's Spirit was upon Nancy as she spoke. As Nancy took her seat, Bryan Griffith quickly rose to his feet, requesting his baptism. Bryan stated later that he had felt his calling as he listened to the words of the opening solo.

One could feel the power of God's Spirit sweeping across the congregation. Justin Paxon of Atlanta rose to his feet and asked for his baptism. Christina Benyola stood and exclaimed that although she had

(Continued on Page 10)

Our Women Today

Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle

ENJOYING THE JOURNEY

"Enjoying the Journey" was the theme of the Ladies' Retreat held from April 30 through May 2, 1993 in Port St. Lucie, Florida. Sponsored by the Southeast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle, the weekend included a panel discussion, four keynote speakers, and two seminars.

The weekend focused on learning to appreciate our own individual segment of life's journey. Young, single, married, pursuing a career, raising children, being part of the "Baby Boom" generation, coping with mid-life and "empty nest" syndromes, aging, and loneliness—regardless of what the challenges and choices we may each face, we came to understand that we must have love and empathy for one another. Although the paths may differ, our common source of strength and guidance is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our weekend included plenty of time for fellowship, socializing and sharing meals in the Orange Blossom Room of the Radisson Inn where we all stayed. Early Saturday evening, we heard many beautiful musical selections interwoven with testimonies. We thank Brothers Dennis Moraco and Ike J. Smith for conducting our Sunday morning service and administering the Lord's Supper. We thank God for the wonderful weekend experience.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Lawson, Richard & Erme
1233 Stanford Ct.
Coraopolis, PA 15108
Tel. (412) 859-6584

Branch and Mission News

Blessings in Modesto, CA

By Valerie Dulisse

God's promise to His people is that if we remain faithful to Him, our Lord will provide the increase in all things. In the Modesto, California Branch we have recently seen the proof of that promise with five baptisms in as many months.

Brother Chuck Dulisse gave his life to Christ on November 1, 1992. Sister Mindy McCann followed in December, 1992 with a sincere desire to serve God with all her heart. On April 11, 1993, we were overwhelmed again by God's Spirit during a beautiful meeting in which both Pat Gully and Fay Richardson stood and requested their baptisms during our testimony service. Such a beautiful spirit prevailed during our meeting, and God must have been smiling upon us, because during the course of our meeting, Sister Donna Pepe was anointed for and healed of a bout with TMJ Syndrome, which had caused her terrible jaw and neck pain all morning.

The following Sunday, April 18, 1993, found us excitedly gathered at the shore of the Tuolumne River to witness the baptisms of our new sisters in Christ. Fay Richardson was baptized by her father, Bro. Joseph Lovalvo. She was confirmed by Bro. Mark Randy. Pat Gully was baptized by Bro. Joe Ciarolla and confirmed by Bro. Sam Randy.

Afterward, the radiance and serenity upon our sisters' faces were truly a manifestation of the peace only Christ can give. The sermon on this day centered on the Day of Pentecost. Upon the laying of hands upon our Sisters Pat and Fay to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, Sister Susan Coppa saw a vision of three spiritual figures near Sister Pat Gully.

Our testimony service was filled with praise for the glory of God, and the climax of it all was the moment in

which Nina Pimentel, who had been attending our branch for about a year, stood and expressed her desire to be a part of the family of God. In a very touching testimony of her determination to serve God, she expressed her gratitude for His goodness to her all of her life.

Our Sister Frances Grondahl was reinstated into the Church that day as well. This was to be the first communion and feet washing in which she participated in over 20 years! She expressed such joy in her fellowship with us; it was like a reunion for everyone there. The next Sunday, April 25, 1993, Sister Nina was baptized by Bro. Leonard Lovalvo and confirmed by Bro. Joseph Lovalvo.

On the same day, Brother Richard Deulus, Jr. was ordained a deacon in a very spirit-filled meeting. Brother Paul Vinsick, our head deacon, washed his feet and said a very moving prayer in which he asked that God would guide Bro. Richard in all things. Richard's uncle, Tony Picciuto, came from Lindsay, CA to witness this event. He felt moved upon to perform the ordination, asking in his prayer for God to anoint Richard from heaven and give him strength to serve God with all his heart.

Our spiritual family here in Modesto is growing, and we feel so happy and fulfilled to be part of the work God has ordained for His Church. May God likewise bless all of you is our sincere prayer.

Monongahela Branch News

Many events have touched our lives recently in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. The month of June brought three new members to our branch. While many of us were enjoying the blessings at GMBA

(Continued on Page 8)

MONONGAHELA continued . . .

Campout on June 20, Charles Tucker, 92 years old, was baptized in the Monongahela River by Brother Brian Smith. Our brother was confirmed by Brother James Campbell. After turning his life over to God, Brother Chuck suffered a great loss in the passing of his wife, Lyda, the following Friday, June 25. We pray that God will give comfort to our brother and his family.

The scriptures tell us that the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. A beautiful baby daughter, Ashton Nicole, was given from God to Bill and Naomi Sambol. The Monongahela Branch was able to witness her blessing on Sunday, June 20 by Brother Alexander Cherry. On June 27 we again gathered at the river for the baptism of Rich Nath. Brother Jonathan Olexa, from Edison, NJ, immersed Rich, who had requested baptism the previous week at the GMBA Campout.

After the baptism we reconvened at the Church for Sunday School and preaching service. Our new brother was confirmed by Brother Brian Smith. During the prayer, a sister beheld a vision of Christ kneeling as Brother Rich's name was inscribed into the Book of Life.

Brother John DiBattista, of Anaheim, California, opened the meeting by reading from III Nephi 19. The disciples whom Jesus had chosen prayed for that which they most desired, the Holy Ghost, just as we prayed this morning for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost upon our new convert. Nephi was then baptized, and proceeded to baptize all whom Jesus had chosen. Brother John stated that we were all chosen and blessed with the same baptism and confirmation as in the days when Christ walked on this land.

Brother Jon Olexa followed with scriptures from Alma 37, exhorting the congregation just as Alma exhorted his son, Helaman, to hate sin and iniquity. He also taught never to be weary of good works, be humble, learn wisdom in your youth, and counsel with the Lord in all things.

These words were good advice to Helaman many years ago, and they also stand today as a standard for us to follow.

During the morning service, Joe DiChiera asked to be baptized. After communion was served, we dismissed for lunch and then once again gathered at the river. Joe was baptized by Brother William Chepanoske. We met back at the Church and our new brother was confirmed by Brother Richard Scaglione. We then enjoyed a beautiful season of testimony, during which our two new brothers expressed themselves. We were dismissed reluctantly, but filled with the blessings of God.

Our prayers are that the Lord may lead and guide our three brothers. We praise Him for His continuous outpouring of blessings upon His saints.

Holiday Celebration at Vanderbilt Branch

There was indeed cause for celebration as the Lord manifested Himself at our branch on July 4, 1993. As a result of visiting, vacations, and various other reasons, there were very few of our branch members in attendance that Sunday. However, the Lord provided a congregation for the work He had planned for the day. Only eleven branch members were present, but twenty visitors were prompted to visit Vanderbilt.

We had Brother Paul and Sister Barbara DiNardo and their children from Hollywood, Florida; Brother Pete and Sister Linda Darr and their children from Cape Coral, Florida; Sister Denise Fleming from Monongahela; Sisters Karen and Ann Progar from Aliquippa; Brother Mark and Judy King and their daughter from Levittown, PA; and from the Roscoe Branch, Brother John and Sister Angie Bloom, and Brother Mark and Sister Kathy Molandero and their children. Ordinarily, we may not have this many visitors in the course of a year!

The day started out on a quiet note and built in intensity. The Sunday School lesson was taken from the latter part of Acts 5. Our worship service began with spirit-filled singing of a greater than usual number of hymns, an indication of the willingness of those gathered to praise and worship God.

Presiding Elder Lawrence King made opening remarks. The Communion table was then set, and Brother James King brought forth the sermon based on Joshua 7, in which is told the story of Achan's greed and its effect on the army of Israel in attacking the city of Ai. The message to us today is clear: None of us is independent of the rest of the body. Our actions—for good or, as in Achan's case, evil—have far-reaching effects. Achan's theft and concealment of the Babylonish garment, 200 shekels of silver, and a golden wedge, not only caused the defeat of Israel at Ai, but also resulted in judgment against himself, his sons and daughters, his animals, and all his goods. They were first stoned, then burned, completely destroyed. Any of our evil actions, while not resulting in stoning and burning, can bring a withdrawal of God's spiritual activity among us. We will not enjoy His Spirit in our meetings or in our lives.

A number of testimonies to the goodness of God were offered, and it neared time for the Lord's Supper to be served. It was made known to the ministry, by the Spirit of God, that Sister Newanna King would ask to be anointed. Two sisters came forward, but she was not one of them. After the anointings, Bro. Lawrence King asked if anyone else wanted to be prayed for or anointed, and Sister Newanna came forward. We anointed her and felt the same powerful Spirit of God we had felt all day.

God was not yet finished with Sister Newanna. She returned to her seat, sat down, and then immediately rose to her feet and told us she wanted to come back into the Church. She had been away for a long time. She went forward again and was reinstated to full membership in

the Church.

What a Spirit of rejoicing came down on us! The brothers and sisters came forward to welcome Sister Newanna with tears, hugs, and kisses. This was especially joyful to her mother, Sister Mary Fleming, who has been praying for this for a long time.

Sacrament was served and we continued with more testimonies. Sister Thelma Petrosky testified that her son Don, who had recently lost one lung to cancer, had a test that showed four spots on his liver. His wife had a dream in which she was told to call Brother Bob Nicklow Sr. The next test showed that three of the spots were gone and only one tiny spot remained. We believe God is truly working with and upon Sister Thelma's family, to manifest Himself and draw them to Him.

This article has run to some length, but even these words are not nearly enough to describe His goodness and mercy and his presence with us on the Fourth of July. We are looking forward with great anticipation to continued visits and displays of the Spirit and Power of God.

Baptism in Youngstown, Ohio

Early Sunday morning, July 18, 1993, we met at a beautiful lake to witness the baptism of David Pandone. He had expressed his desire to his father during the week, stating that he was now ready to make his commitment to the Lord.

God's Holy Spirit brought joy to our hearts as his father, Brother Don Pandone, took him to the water, immersed him, and raised him up as our new brother in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Our service that Sunday was opened by Brother Philip Jackson, Ohio District President. He spoke to Brother David and all assembled. "This is the greatest decision that you will ever make; what you do from here is up to you."

Reading from I Nephi 13:37,

"Blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost." If you seek God with all your heart, He will grant your desires. Be that humble person before the Lord, willing to take His directions, that plan He has for your life. Pray for that desire to be always active in the Church. You will have days of discouragement and doubt—but God will be there to walk with you. He will do everything that is proper in your life. You are a son of God, and the Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift. In God there is power; we become a vessel of His power. He will work with you, the ministry will be here for you. May God bless you is our prayer.

The gift of the Holy Ghost was then bestowed upon Brother David by Brother Joe Genaro of Niles, Ohio. A host of brothers and sisters traveled from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan and elsewhere in Ohio to witness this joyful day.

Baptisms in Lorain, Ohio

Two of our dear young people at the Lorain, Ohio Branch came to the Lord this past June. On June 24, 1993, Thomas Gregory "Greg" Davis was baptized by Brother Joel Calabrese and confirmed by Bro. Joseph Calabrese at the GMBA Campout in Ligonier, Pennsylvania.

The following Sunday, Dana Marie Nardozi was baptized by Brother Mark Naro and confirmed by Brother Frank Altomare. We thank God for bringing our young people in one by one!

News from Windsor, Ontario, Canada

On Sunday, April 4, 1993, we were pleased to have Brother Jerry and Sister Rose Benyola visiting with us from Detroit Branch #1. It was a wonderful day, and we would like to share it with our brothers and sisters

and friends.

Bro. Jerry opened our meeting by reading from II Nephi 9. His subject was mainly regarding the narrow path we must tread to go through the straight gate; the Keeper of the gate is the Holy One of Israel. Scriptures tell us there is no other way—we must go through that gate to meet our Lord.

Brother Jerry elaborated on how merciful the Lord is, to the extent that He gives every one of us the freedom to choose which way we want to go. It is up to each individual to choose the right way. There is only one Church, one God, one faith.

Brother Ken Wright followed, and related how wonderful the Lord's blessings are that He allows each and every one of us to have that "key" to eternal life. He told us how he remembered when Bro. Jerry visited him and requested to know, in every minute detail, the experience he had had regarding the state of the soul.

Brother Ken showed him the bedroom where he was lying down to go to sleep. He showed him where the angel had stood, and how the angel had beckoned him to get up, out of his body, and he walked through the bedroom wall. Brother Ken took Brother Jerry out onto the road and stood in the same spot, and showed him where the angel stood. Then Brother Ken pointed out the ditch that was in the road at that time. As he recalled every detail, he felt that same blessing all over again. Brother Ken reminded us that the motivation to serve God can only come from God. The world is looking for security, but the only security we have is through Jesus Christ.

Brother Frank Vitto made some remarks pertaining to the Spirit of God and how He touches our hearts when we least expect it. That's the time that we should answer His call. A beautiful spirit of testimony prevailed. Sophie Peltier requested her baptism. Sophie is married to Sister Mary Cuomo's grandson, Mark.

(Continued on Page 10)

WINDSOR continued . . .

Sister Sophie was baptized on April 11, 1993, by Bro. Dick Lobzun and confirmed by Brother Don Collison. A wonderful day was enjoyed by everyone present.

A few weeks later, on June 20, 1993, Brother Don Collison baptized his daughter, Cathy Soltes. She had hands laid on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Tom Everett.

Report from Muncey, Ontario

By Samuel French

On May 30, 1993, we had the opportunity to visit with the brothers and sisters of the Inner City Branch in Detroit, Michigan.

We were blessed and God's Spirit was manifested in our midst, as evidenced by the testimonies of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. On this day we witnessed the ordination of Brother Steve Champine into the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Our prayers are for our Brother Steve, that God will bless him in his ministry, and give him strength spiritually each and every day of his life. May God bless his wife and family as well.

As Brother Steve embraced each elder after his ordination, the gift of tongues was spoken, and the interpretation was given as, "I have called him, I have called him, I have called him."

During the meeting, Brother George Grosbeck, visiting from Muncey, saw a vision of a white bell turned upside down. As each brother of the priesthood spoke, the bell began to turn downward. As the last brother spoke, the bell hung in its rightful position. Our Brother George also said that he saw the Lord Jesus Christ standing above the bell. Praise be to God, the Lord is still calling today.

We were edified and blessed by our visit to the Inner City Branch.

Continue to pray for us in Muncey. May God bless you is our prayer in Jesus' Name.

News from Ft. Pierce, FL

Sunday, April 11, 1993, was a beautiful, sunny day, and little did we know what God had in store for us. After we sang *Count Your Blessings*, Brother Nick Pietrangelo stated to us, "We cannot ever count our blessings. The word of God never grows old."

This was Brother Nick's last Sunday with us for a while. However, we look forward to his return in October. Wonderful and inspiring testimonies were offered. What a great joy was felt by all, when Betty Nowels surrendered herself to God! She has a wonderful desire to serve our Lord.

The morning service ended, and we left to gather at the Lake. Brother Norman Campitelle performed the baptism, and upon our return to church, Brother Nick Pietrangelo confirmed our new sister. May God richly bless Sister Betty.

PALM HARBOR continued . . .

asked for her baptism at the GMBA Campout, she could wait no longer--she wanted to be baptized this day. The Holy Spirit continued to move. Jeffrey Paxon of Atlanta could resist God's calling no longer. Jeff asked for his baptism as well.

A special prayer was offered for Nancy Bordeleau, that God would accompany her back home in Canada. Nancy could not go without the Lord. She stated later that as she was testifying earlier, a light filled her being and she knew she was being called to baptism. After her prayer, Nancy asked for her baptism.

Next, in a very calm and collected voice, Julie Scolaro of Detroit Branch 1 stood up and said, "Me, too; I want to be baptized." And last, but not least, Nick Davella rose to his feet and asked for his baptism, exclaiming that since he was the oldest of the group that asked, he

wanted to go first, and this we did. Our service closed at 1:30 p.m.

All gathered at the shore of the Gulf of Mexico, where church members, their neighbors, and passers-by witnessed how the Lord taught we should be baptized. First-time visitors were crying at the scene.

Bryan Griffith was baptized by Brother John Griffith, and confirmed by Brother David Majoros. Justin Paxon was baptized by Brother Malcolm Paxon and confirmed by Brother Ken Staley. Christina Benyola was baptized by Brother Phil Benyola and confirmed by Brother John Griffith. Jeffrey Paxon was baptized by Brother Malcolm Paxon and confirmed by Brother Phil Benyola. Nancy Bordeleau was baptized by Brother John Griffith and confirmed by Brother Phil Benyola. Julie Scolaro was baptized by Brother Peter Scolaro and confirmed by Brother Jim Speck. And Nick Davella was baptized by Brother Jim Speck and confirmed by Brother Louis Pietrangelo.

We met at the church for the confirmations and the administering of Communion. Again, the Spirit of God was present. An experience was given by Brother Larry Heckerd. He saw the converts as children, encompassed about with a bright light within the circle of elders. An image came down in the midst of the circle, and a voice spoke, saying, "I for you, now you for Me." A dove flew from His outstretched hand.

The branch had already planned to have a singspiration this evening, but the workings of the Spirit changed all that. Many experiences were related, and many prayers were answered as the Lord truly anointed His Church this day. May God visit all of you.

VICTIMS continued . . .

cover and enclosed was a dollar bill for the hurricane victims.

How much love and support? Prayers, letters, cards, and phone calls of love and support, of concern

and charity for all of the people in South Florida.

In the midst of our devastating trials, we were overwhelmed by the Spirit of love and compassion of our brothers and sisters. This love was our inspiration in putting our lives back together. There are no words that can adequately express our appreciation for your efforts on our behalf.

At this time, hurricane season is again upon us, and although the rebuilding continues, we have the blessed assurance that God will watch over us. We ask God to bless you for your heroic efforts, which we will never forget.

"And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward."

The Brothers and Sisters of Miami Branch and Homestead Mission

EXAMPLE continued . . .

Brother John lived one more month and died Thursday, May 13, 1993. I know that his fervor and dedication are as strong today as they were when he was alive on this earth. He leaves a legacy to his family and all who knew him that money cannot buy. Fond memories of him will live in our hearts forever.

RETREAT continued . . .

another, and with God. The seminars and meetings are a time to be serious and to reflect upon one's life and goals. There is also a time to relax and have fun. Throughout the course of Saturday afternoon, there was a variety of activities from crafts to baseball, hiking, and boating. We thanked God for the beautiful weather and lovely surroundings that are so typical of Northern New Jersey.

On Saturday morning our hopes for a blessed time of fellowship with one another and God were raised as we began the day with a season of

prayer. Sister Carmella (Peterkin) Madison, a first-time attendee to an area campout, was blessed with an outpouring of the Spirit when she offered prayer. During and after offering prayer, Brother Jason Rogolino had a vision of white clouds. As brothers and sisters focused their minds and hearts on Jesus, a peace entered in.

At our morning chapel service, Brother Jim Sgro, our Area Chaplain, urged us to encourage and build up one another. We sang *A Higher Spiritual Mind*. Brother Jim Suska, our Area President, told us to strive to come away from camp with our spirits raised. We then proceeded with our seminars. The children's class was led by Sisters Kellie Speck and Theresa Camden, and Brothers Jeffrey Giannetti and Anthony J. Scolaro led a lively discussion in the adult class on the camp theme, "A Higher Spiritual Mind." Our minds were enlightened as we shared our thoughts, ideas, and aspirations with one another.

Our first "church service" of the weekend was held on Saturday evening. We wondered how the Lord would direct our meeting and what blessings would be experienced. We were happily surprised to see two former members of our district, Brother Randy and Sister Jill Ciccatti, visiting us with their new son, Austin.

The common threads woven into the fabric of our meeting was of abiding in the Vine, good works, love, and bearing fruit. The Lord elevated our spirits as we listened to His word, offered our testimonies and praised Him in song. As Bro. Jim Speck sang the hymn, *Taste the Grass on the Summit*, Sis. Carmella heard a woman's voice singing along with him! It was very fitting that our meeting came to a close with the hymn, *He Touched Me*.

To complete our day, we had a fund-raiser, a Surprise Auction. A number of books, plaques, coffee mugs, and other household items bearing scriptural and spiritual themes had been purchased from a Bible bookstore and then gift-

wrapped and brought to the camp. At the sale, the packages were brought out one by one and we all bid on them, sight unseen. (The gifts were numbered and a master list was kept by the camp director to start the bidding.) It was fun—and profitable—to compete with each other for the surprise packages. All told, every gift was a treasure, and we raised a few dollars for the Area.

We then enjoyed cooking hot dogs and toasting marshmallows at a campfire prepared by Brothers Tom and Jason Rogolino. Sister Kellie Speck played the autoharp while a group of us sang hymns. As our Saturday evening came to a close, we experienced a taste of Zion.

On Sunday morning, several of the saints of the district came up to the camp to attend the morning meeting. After a season of congregational singing, Bro. Matthew Rogolino opened the service by encouraging us to take what God has given us and use it to be a blessing to others. Brother Paul Benyola spoke about how we go through a pruning process in order to become useful servants of God. We can't do anything on our own, but with Jesus we can do all things. When we have trials, we need to dispel our doubts, exercise faith, and keep our eyes on Jesus. Through faith we can be strengthened and we can overcome our trials. Our brother used the story of Jesus stilling the tempest, found in Mark 4:35-38, to illustrate his point.

As the meeting continued, our brothers urged us to help one another, make more room for Jesus in our hearts, encourage one another, and counsel with the Lord. As Communion was passed, we knew that we had been with Jesus and that our spirits were on a higher plane. Lastly, we were entreated to pray, be still, and wait upon God. Once again, it was fitting that our meeting was closed with the hymn, *He Touched Me*. We felt the Lord had touched us with the blessing of His presence throughout the entire weekend. We regrettably had to part from one another, but truly left camp with a higher spiritual mind."

* WEDDINGS *

O'CONNOR - GENTILE

On March 27, 1993, Joseph "Jody" Michael O'Connor and Sister Carolyn Ann Gentile were united in holy matrimony amongst a large congregation of family and friends. The blessed event took place at Detroit Branch #2 on a perfect sunny day.

A beautiful message was delivered by the bride's uncle, Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo. The couple were married by Brother Reno Bologna, the bride's grandfather. Musical selections were given by Sisters Loretta Lovalvo, Marilyn Scolaro, and Carolyn Parravano.

May God bless this couple in their new life together.

PALACIOS - SEIWECKE

Brother Daniel Palacios and Lori Seiwecke were joined in marriage on July 3, 1993 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Frank (Flip) Palacios, the groom's brother, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino.

The couple will make their home in Lorain, Ohio. May God bless them throughout life's journey together.

Children Blessed

On March 28, 1993, Brother Frank Rogolino blessed his great-grandson, Jonathan Checchi, son of David and Lori Checchi, at the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch.

On Sunday, May 16, 1993, Ashley Irene Snake, granddaughter of Sister Irene Snake, was blessed by Brother Peter H. Capone at Muncey, Ontario, Canada.

Adrian Bryce Adams O'Neill and David Aubrey Adams O'Neill, children of Wayne and Cyndi O'Neill and grandchildren of William and Fanchon Pringle, were blessed on July 25, 1993 by Brother James King in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

OBITUARIES

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

ANNA CICCATTI

Sister Anna Ciccatti of the San Diego Branch passed away on December 1, 1992, just five weeks before her 89th birthday.

Sister Anna was born January 12, 1904, and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ in May, 1920. She remained faithful to that commitment for more than 72 years. She had many experiences during her life in the Gospel which kept her on a firm foundation, especially during the Depression and the many other difficult times she endured.

She married Elder Ermengildo Ciccatti on February 4, 1922, in East Riverside, Pennsylvania. Her husband passed away in 1957, after 37 years of marriage. Together they had 12 children, 25 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

We will miss this humble sister along with her jolly spirit and good desire to do all she could for the cause of Christ and family.

JOSEPH MASELLI

Brother Joseph Maselli passed on to his eternal reward on March 24, 1993. He was born September 16, 1895 and was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ on February 24, 1935. On October 29, 1939, he was ordained a deacon in the Church. Originally from Lorain, Ohio, he attended the San Fernando Valley (now Simi Valley) Branch in California for 27 years, and spent a total of 31 years as a member of the Lorain Branch.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Joseph Calabrese and Mark Naro.

Brother Joe was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years, Sister Assunta. He is survived by four sons and three daughters, among whom is Sister Katherine Cocco of Lorain; 18 grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Our brother will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He remained faithful and loved the Lord to the end, looking forward to his eternal home.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

October, 1993

Volume 49, No. 10

50 Years in the Church for President and Wife

By Carolynn Gentile O'Connor

On June 27, 1993, the brothers and sisters of Detroit Branch #2 gathered to honor two very special members of their branch, Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores Thomas. On this day, they celebrated their 50-year commitment to God. It is my privilege to tell you a little about their lives in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Dominic began attending church in Lorain, Ohio at the young age of seven. He attended regularly with his family throughout his childhood and teen years. He often thought of becoming a member of the Church, but admits he did not think about it seriously until he was in his late teens. When he was 18 years old (now living in Detroit), he was approached by Sister Rose Lovalvo and asked, "And you, why aren't you baptized yet?" This triggered something in Dominic, and he began fasting and praying for over three weeks.

The Sunday following his fasting, Dominic had to work and was unable to attend church. He was by himself in a laboratory, and began reflecting upon becoming a member of the Church. As he was thinking, a deeply contrite spirit

came over him. When he returned home from work that day, his sister, Anne Lovalvo, with whom he was living at the time, told him of the beautiful sermon that Brother Charles Ashton had given, and told him that if he had been there, he would have asked for his baptism.

While he regularly attended Branch #1, Dominic often made the trip across town to attend Branch #2 while courting Dolores Romano. It was no surprise, then, that he visited Branch #2 the following week. Brother Ashton was also visiting Branch #2 and again delivered a beautiful sermon. Dominic felt the Lord beckoning him. He rose on his feet and asked to be baptized. The

(Continued on Page 3)



Bro. Dominic and Sis. Dolores Thomas

A Higher Spiritual Mind

By Terri Bravo

This article is a compilation of the seminar and services held at the Atlantic Coast Area MBA Weekend Retreat, held April 30 to May 2, 1993. While reviewing the minutes of the retreat, I was impressed at the similarities of thought and message presented by various teachers and ministry of our District. The brothers were inspired to speak on the subject of a higher spiritual mind. They stressed the importance of drawing closer to the Lord, loving one another and being fruit-bearing saints. The message was so important, I was prompted to gather the thoughts and organize them into an article.

It's simple in explanation. A higher spiritual mind is a mind that thinks spiritual thoughts, forgets self and puts others first. As human beings we tend to complicate matters, thereby providing loopholes for our sin. A seeker of a higher spiritual mind, out of love for the Lord, desires a closer relationship with Him. As he adheres to the commandments and will of God, he is able to be used in drawing others to the Christ he serves.

How do we attain a higher spiritual mind? We attain this mind by focusing on the good and realizing that every negative thought takes us farther away from our goal. Having a higher spiritual mind is putting the Lord's will in our lives before our own will. There is a question we can ask ourselves if we are unsure of the will of God in our lives: "Lord, what should I do?" When we receive the answer, praise God, accept His will, and trust Him for the best outcome.

What are the necessary elements of a higher spiritual mind?

1. Desire and determination are basic. We need to have sincere motives to develop a higher spiritual mind. We abide in the vine of Jesus. Therefore, we can do all

things through Christ which strengthens us.

2. Love is the key. Love for God, others, and self. Love that puts God first in all our doings and the needs of others above our own (Matthew 22:37-40).

3. Faith is essential. Faith to believe in the power of Christ working in our lives (Mark 4:35-38).

4. Recognize and acknowledge our gifts and talents. Stir up and expand upon the gifts and talents the Lord gives us. Use them as directed by God. We need to be fruit-bearing saints (Galatians 5:22-23).

5. Support one another. Encourage, not discourage; build up, not tear down one another. We should be one another's best cheering section!

The inspired word of God, as taught and preached by our brothers, is nutrition for our souls if we act upon it. It is the grass on the summit that we all need to eat for optimum spiritual health. The Spirit that inspires our brothers is the same Spirit that dwells within our hearts. As we grow closer to the Lord, the possibilities for being a fruit-bearing saint are boundless. We rejoice in one another's talents and gifts because in them we see Jesus. We are motivated to encourage and not discourage, build up and not tear down. We are prompted to commit acts of unselfish love. And by this love the world will know that we are the true saints of the Most High God.

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The family of Regina and Nicholas Davella would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your constant prayers and encouraging phone calls, as well as cards and flowers on behalf of our parents. We can surely say that they were much appreciated, and most encouraging

to both of our parents during their illnesses.

It is such a tragic thing to lose two wonderful parents within two months. Although we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that they are both with the Lord Jesus Christ, it is still very difficult to go on without them. There is such a void and emptiness that fills our hearts each day. But with the comfort of the saints, thank God we are serving our Savior.

The Lord has given our entire family numerous dreams and experiences which have confirmed that our parents are in a much better place, with the Lord. You have prayed for our parents; now we ask the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ to pray for the loved ones who are left behind.

We also would like to thank God for such wonderful, godly parents who raised us in The Church of Jesus Christ. They were both perfect role models, and we could not have asked for anything more. They gave us a beautiful life, with much love and happiness, which we will treasure in our hearts forever.

We look forward to one day meeting with them once again along with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May God bless you.

The Family of Nicholas
and Regina Davella

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

Our hearts are full of gratitude and love for the expressions of concern in the recent loss of our son, Buddy. We want to thank you for the countless cards, thoughts and prayers in our behalf. Your concern has given us strength to get through each day. We are blessed to have this wonderful family of God.

We also appreciated the many cards Buddy received while he was ill. It was very uplifting to him.

Sincerely,
Brother Gene and Sister Flo Perri
Lake Worth, Florida

New Convert in Oak Grove, Missouri

By Letti Becker

The missionary work in Missouri continues! Our new convert came to us from South India, where she resides at the HOINA Hostel. On June 13, 1993, 18-year-old Lalitha Ganesan entered the waters to be baptized by Brother Sam Dell of the Levittown, PA Branch. We had surprise visitors arrive just in time to go to the water's edge. Brother Brent Smith of Monongahela, PA stopped by with his family.

Our friends from the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) gladly provided their pond as our site. Sister Lalitha's baptism was one more way we've seen the walls come down from between these friends in the Restoration movement.

Brother Charles (Chuck) Smith of Oak Grove confirmed our new sister at his home.

Sister Lalitha is in the United States for corrective spinal surgery. She desperately needs our prayers, as she has been in halo traction since August and is currently hospitalized for her surgery in October.

Our sister has been sharing her love of Jesus and her faith with all of the staff she meets at Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children in St. Louis, Missouri. To comfort her before surgery in September, God sent two angels which Lalitha saw at her bedside. She has her faith in the Lord. If only we who are "old" in

the faith could be as bold as this young sister!

Get well wishes can be sent and would cheer Lalitha considerably. She will be in a body cast for one year after her surgery. Her address is:

Lalitha Ganesan
c/o Darlene Large
P.O. Box 87
St. Charles, MO 63302

Please remember this sweet sister in your prayers as she recovers. She has a testimony to take across the ocean!

50 YEARS continued . . .

date was February 28, 1943, and they had to cross to the Canadian side of the Detroit River (Windsor) and cut through a foot of ice to baptize him. Brother Dominic was baptized by Brother Felix Buccellato and confirmed by Brother Gorie Ciaravino.

This was the beginning of 50 diligently served years in the church.

Brother Dominic soon headed off to serve his country in World War II. He says that it was very hard to be a new member and not be able to attend church with the brothers and sisters. His correspondence with them, the few visits he made home, the visits he was able to make with the few brothers and sisters in the area where he was stationed, and a lot of prayer kept him spiritually strong enough to pull through. He returned three years later to marry his sweetheart, Dolores.

To say that Brother Dominic has worked diligently and with great fervor for the Church is simply not enough. On January 7, 1947, Brother Dominic transferred his membership to Branch #2, where he has remained a member ever since. He was ordained into the ministry on October 22, 1950 by Brother Jim Lovalvo; he became an evangelist on May 5, 1957, being ordained by Brother Dominic Moraca; and was

ordained an apostle on April 19, 1964 by Brother Rocco Biscotti. During this time, he was involved in missionary work, especially at the Muncey, Ontario Mission. He was also GMBA President from 1948 to 1963. In June of 1971, Brother Dominic was appointed First Counselor of the General Church, and after serving three years, became President in April of 1974.

Brother Dominic has had many experiences throughout his 50 years in the Church, and I would like to share one with you that he recently related to us in a Sunday service. When he was a young member in the Church, his Sunday School teacher, Brother Reno Bologna, encouraged his class to pray for experiences to bring them closer to God. After much prayer, Dominic dreamed that He was present while Christ was being nailed to the cross. The sound of the pounding as the nails were driven into His hands and feet was so great that it terrified Dominic. He tried to cover his ears to block out the sound, but it was just too loud. Each pound was separate and distinct, as if in very slow motion. Brother Dominic awoke weeping, feeling much sorrow and pain, while still a little unsure of the dream's meaning.

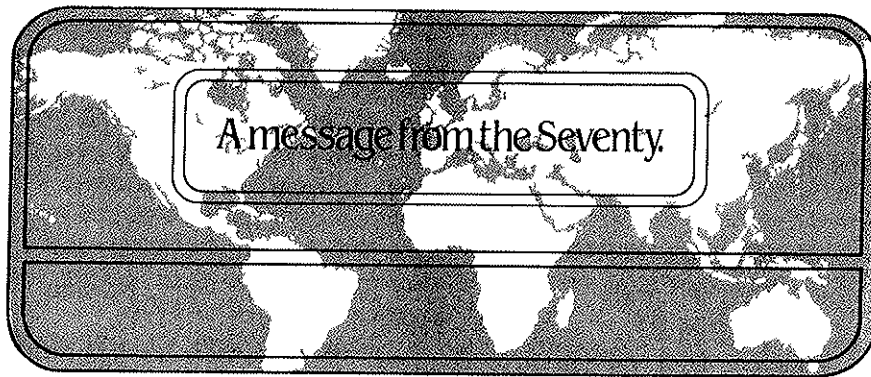
Very recently, after performing a funeral, Brother Dominic was enlightened as to the message of this dream, and he shared the message with us: Each time the nails were struck, and each time the sound rang out, represented Brother Dominic's sins and Christ's dying for each one of them.

Dolores Romano was born and raised in the Church. Her parents and grandparents were members and wonderful examples to her. She grew up knowing that someday she wanted to be a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. When Dolores was a teenager and dating Dominic, she began to think seriously about this commitment. The

(Continued on Page 10)



The saints in Missouri.



God Moves in a Mysterious Way

By Evangelist Paul Ciotti

The Church of Jesus Christ has been given a great commission to take the Restored Gospel throughout the world. We must remember God's promises to the House of Israel. There are many exciting events taking place in the vineyard of the Lord. One of the countries which has been affected by the Gospel of Jesus Christ is Guatemala. The Seed of Joseph has begun to hear of the promises made to them by God. Because of this, I had desired for some time to visit the Church in Guatemala City. The Lord made it possible for me to travel there this September 2. Brothers Ken Staley and Frank Ciotti were visiting at the same time.

As I traveled by air, I felt such excitement and could not wait to see the Work of the Lord among Joseph's children. Satan sought to put obstacles in front of us, to hinder our journey and take away our joy. Brother Ken's flight from Miami and my flight from Houston were delayed, and we were detained overnight before finally arriving in Guatemala on September 3. This did not discourage us, but rather encouraged us because we knew the enemy was not going to take away our blessings.

What joy we felt as we arrived to see Brothers Luis Marroquin and Nayo Ramirez, along with my sister, Rose Anderson, waiting to greet us. After a great lunch was served to us by Sister Darlene Marroquin, we

immediately went to see the church building which is being rented. A great deal of work is being done by the brothers to remodel the building. As Brother Ken sang a song for the few of us who were there, the Spirit of God was evident. We joined hands and offered a prayer of thanks to God. The gift of tongues was manifested and the understanding given as, "The Lord will bless all who will come into this building and bless the ministry to care for the sheep." Brother Nayo testified that he felt as if fire went through his body as the tongues were spoken. The blessing was so great that Brother Luis's young son, Jared, began to weep. He told his father, "I felt so good."

We spent the next several days in visiting the homes of the brothers, sisters, and friends. One of the visits was to the home of Evangelina Vega. She has been attending services for several months. After a nice discussion, in which many questions were answered for her, our dear friend asked for her baptism. The gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation given, "She will be a blessing in this neighborhood and her testimony will go to many people."

As we continued our visits, the Lord continued to manifest Himself. A woman had a vision of Christ as we anointed a man who had severed the tip of his finger while binding a book. This man came to church the next day and you could see the

Lord's Spirit working upon him. He did testify that it will not be too long before he is baptized.

On Saturday night, we made a visit to the home of Fausto Jaramillo. Fausto's youngest daughter attends school with Charisse Marroquin, daughter of Brother Luis and Sister Darlene. Fausto, his wife Miriam, and their two daughters moved to Guatemala City from Ecuador. He is the general sales manager of a pharmaceutical company, and his territory covers all of Central America. We had a wonderful time with this family. They stated that they had not joined a church since arriving in Guatemala, but met together in prayer at home, asking God for direction. We were able to present the Restored Gospel to this family. They agreed to attend the service the next day.

The church building was filled with many people when we gathered on Sunday. Many first-time visitors were present. We were so pleased to see Sister Maryann Nicosia in attendance. Music filled the air. Brother Gustavo Medina, recently baptized at the GMBA Campout, is in charge of the choir. They sang several songs for the congregation. The Spirit of God continued to flow as Brother Ken sang *The Most Important Thing*, written by Sister Rosanne Champine. We were also blessed in singing *Open My Eyes, Lord, I Want to See Jesus*. I was directed to open the service with the theme "God Moves in a Mysterious Way, His Wonders to Perform."

The Lord had used two young men, Luis Marroquin and Isidro Dominguez, who some years ago had traveled to the United States to make a living. While in Santa Ana, California, they met the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Lord used them to bring the Gospel back to their people. This was the beginning of a wonderful work. Praise the Lord! Several experiences were given during the service which included a vision of Jesus Christ with arms extended, saying to the congregation, "I love you."

(Continued on Page 10)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Dianna Gibson
24569 Scott Blvd.
Olmssted Falls, OH 44138

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST
Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32). We who are partakers of the Restored Gospel can testify of the freedom it has afforded us—freedom from the bonds of ignorance, sin, and death. Blessed with a greater portion of God's Truth than any other people on the face of the earth, we have the opportunity to lead joyous, Spirit-filled, righteous lives before God, drawing men and women to Him through the power of His divine love which dwells in us.

While Salvation is free, an effort is required on our part to reap the abundant life that is available through the Gospel. Once we've believed and are baptized, we must diligently press forward in order to grow spiritually and increase in God's wisdom and understanding. We need to "continue in God's word," and make necessary adjustments to our thinking, to eventually attain the stature of the fullness of Christ. To enjoy the liberty and peace Jesus gives, His words must be put into action in our lives. As we do these things, we grow to fully accept ourselves and others. The truth makes us free to exercise the same grace and forgiveness toward our fellow man as God showed toward us.

Being human, however, we tend to seek the path of least resistance, and don't always take full advantage of what the Lord offers us. If we have the mistaken impression that the mere act of being baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ magically transforms us into mature saints of the Most High God, we severely limit our spiritual development. If we think that by joining the Church, we have somehow arrived, and that there is no further to go, we will find God's richest blessings to be beyond our grasp. If we do not diligently seek to "continue in His word," the scriptures will remain only words, and never come alive to us or to those whose lives we touch.

We may have the True Gospel of Jesus Christ, but if we as individuals do not seek to labor for Him, we will live out our days on earth never fully comprehending the promises recorded in His word. If we do not grow to understand the power of God's grace, we will never be able to reconcile our own shortcomings, or the imperfections of others. Rather than experiencing the freedom righteousness affords, we will live in bondage to the law, and expend our energy in judgment and condemnation of others, while living in abject fear of having our own transgressions discovered by them. Not seeking the truth prevents us from being free.

Can both types of people be members of the same Church? The Lord is so patient, merciful, and longsuffering that He takes each one of us just as we are, and gives us an entire lifetime to become like Him. Even if we never quite get it right, He'll let us into His Paradise as long as we die trying. But the benefits gained from reaching for greater spiritual heights go far beyond the blessings we enjoy in this life. Truth empowers us with the freedom to bear fruit—and win souls—that we could not otherwise gain for Christ. Let us continue in God's word, and be His disciples indeed.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Friends,

You know, many times we read a Bible story quickly, and don't stop to really imagine what it must have been like in those days.

For example, Noah was more than just a boat-builder. He was faithful. He was old. He loved God like no other man in the whole world did during his times. He was the only man whose family God decided to keep alive.

Hundreds of thousands, maybe even millions, of others were not saved. The Bible tells us that after Adam and Eve started their family, their son Cain went to the land of Nod to find a wife. Nod is east of Eden, but we don't know exactly where this was, or who these people were, or how there was a wife there for Cain, but there was. And when Adam and Eve's third son, Seth, needed a wife, he was also provided with one.

They each had children, and more children, and more children, until the land was covered with people. If you need help to think of this, ask your parents who their grandparents were. Count how many children those grandparents had (including *your* grandparents). Then count how many aunts and uncles they each had. Then count how many people your parents brought into this world.

In just a few moments, you'll be able to see how quickly two people can populate the world in only 70 years.

Now imagine that people lived to be 700 instead of 70, and think about ten times as many descendants!



The Bible says many mysterious things about those early forgotten days of the earth. It tells us in Genesis 6:4, "There were giants in the earth in those days, and also after that when the sons of God came unto the children of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown [famous]."

But God saw that the hearts of the people were wicked, and their thoughts were evil continually. God was sorry he had ever made humans--except for Noah.

Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord and was chosen to survive the great flood and repopulate the world. God worked with Noah to teach him how to build the ark. He also told Noah to start gathering every animal.

Who knows how many years this took? We only know that Noah was 600 years old when he started building the ark, after which 120 years passed before the flood came, and the earth was covered with water for 150 days. Then Noah lived after the flood for 350 years. We only know that Noah was faithful and that he trusted our God. He built a huge ark.

We can imagine that people around Noah would come to gawk and stare at the huge boat that was being built. We can also imagine that Noah paid others to bring him every exotic, living, breathing creature on the face of the earth. Can you imagine? People probably thought he was crazy, building a huge boat and setting up a huge zoo-like gathering place.

Think of how many things

Noah, his wife, his sons and daughters-in-law had to invent. They needed things like special cages and pens, water troughs, feeding places, and tons of grasses and grains to feed elephants, giraffes, deer, llamas, cattle, and sheep.

Think what a wonderful mind this man must have been given, and think what an unusual life he and his wife lived before, during, and after the flood.

Because, after the flood, Noah sacrificed one of each clean animal (he had seven of each). A sweet odor of sacrifice reached the heavens to please God.

And then, once the animals were freed, Noah's sons began having children. Noah lived 350 more

(Continued on Page 10)

WORD SEARCH

NOAH
GATHERED
SEVEN
CLEAN
TWO
UNCLEAN
OFFERED
SACRIFICE
AFTER
FLOOD

EVERYONE
WAS
RELATED
LIVED
TO
AGE
NINE
HUNDRED
LONG
LIFE

S	G	C	L	E	A	N	T	A
H	A	O	N	N	D	W	N	F
D	T	C	E	E	O	D	O	T
W	H	V	R	N	O	D	N	E
A	E	G	A	I	L	E	A	R
S	R	D	A	N	F	V	E	D
H	E	N	E	I	H	I	L	E
Y	D	O	L	R	A	L	C	R
H	U	N	D	R	E	D	N	E
L	O	N	G	O	D	F	U	F
D	E	T	A	L	E	R	F	F
E	N	O	Y	R	E	V	E	O

Branch and Mission News

Branch 3, Sterling Heights, MI

By Brenda Capone

On June 6, 1993, our dear Brother Richard Loffredo accepted his calling to be a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ. The elders spoke to us on this day of the many ways in which God can use us. They went over a few verses from Jacob 1 & 2, concentrating on the word "magnify." They said that when you look up the word "magnify," you will see that it means "to make something small larger." So it should be in our spiritual lives.

Brother Gary Coppa said, "We should all make something bigger out of the part that we have in this life. Take your calling to a higher level than that to which you were called. Be all that you can be, and more! Whether you are an elder, a deacon, or a member, it doesn't matter. Just be your best!"

When the brothers were gathered together and asked to pray for the offices in the Church, Brother Adam Coppa went into a dedicated prayer. The Lord gave him a dream in which Brother Adam saw three faces appear. He did not recognize two of them, but as he inquired of the Lord, they faded, and Brother Richard's face, the one he had recognized, remained.

Another brother felt uneasy as he prayed for the offices in the church. On the way to work one day he prayed, "You know, Lord, it takes someone special to be a deacon. Who is there in the branch that could and would be willing to serve Your people in this office? He pondered upon it a great deal. Who had endured many things, yet had stood strong in the faith? Who could console others from what he himself had experienced? The Lord gave this brother to understand that Brother Richard Loffredo fit that description

exactly. The brother felt a real blessing in this experience; his heart was now at peace.

Brother Lyle Criscuolo also spoke to us. He told us to remember to be kind to our deacons. We should remind ourselves that these men are not just "janitors," but servants of the Lord and His people. They are in the service of the Lord and His people because they desire to be. Sure, they make certain that the snow is shoveled from the walks, that the air conditioning is turned up or down (and sometimes up *and* down!), that there is a glass of water on the rostrum and hymnals in the pews. But they do these things from their hearts, because they are men servicing the Lord.

Then Brother Richard was asked to come forward for the washing of feet. All the deacons present came and sat in the front pew. Brother Gary asked that they be prayerful and they let the Spirit of God, which was so evident today, guide them. Brother Victor Pastorelli was moved upon by the Lord to wash Brother Richard's feet.

The elders formed a circle around our brother and offered up a prayer that God would choose the elder who would ask for the Lord's anointing on our brother. Brother Nephi DeMercurio was chosen to ordain Brother Richard.

After the prayer, a sister testified how the Lord had revealed to her that Brother Nephi would offer the ordination prayer. During the prayer, she had a beautiful experience wherein she saw a suit of armor being placed on Brother Richard, with a heart-shaped hole cut out where his heart would be. As she saw this, it was given to her to understand that we must be kinder to our deacons. They are men with feelings, and with enough love for God's people to serve them and work for them. We should be careful to respect their feelings. These men are serving the same God we serve. They are here to

work *for* us, not *against* us.

After this experience was related by this sister, several others stood and testified how they too had experiences which revealed to them in advance that Brother Nephi would be chosen to ordain our brother. We all felt such a blessing in this. What a beautiful spirit of confirmation prevailed in our midst that day! May we all learn to appreciate our members in God's Church, no matter how they are called to serve.

Baptisms in Arizona

"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." The saints in Tucson, Arizona shared the angel's joy on February 7, 1993, when Julie Ann Majoros made her covenant with her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It was a beautiful, sunny day when we met to witness Julie's new birth.

Julie later had the gift of the Holy Spirit conferred upon her, as promised in God's Word to all those who would believe in Jesus Christ and obey His teachings. Our hearts rejoiced as Julie shared her love and thanks to Jesus, her parents, and others whom she loves.

All praise and honor to God for His precious plan and way of salvation. Thanks be to Jesus for another beautiful child redeemed by His precious blood. Please pray for Julie and the family of God who walk beside her, that she will be all Jesus Christ has created her to be for Him.

* * * * *

The Lakeside, Arizona Branch has recently witnessed souls rendering obedience to the Gospel. Our young people have felt the prompting of God's Spirit and felt to make a commitment. After a year of praying along with her mother, Joyce Hopkins Cheney, Prescilla Cheney was baptized with Whiteriver, AZ.

(Continued on Page 8)

ARIZONA continued . . .

She, along with her sister Presdena (baptized in Imperial, PA), make three generations in the Church. Sister Anita Hopkins, Joyce's mother, met the Church in San Carlos when Brother Dan Picciuto first presented the Gospel there.

At a district gathering in Lakeside on March 28, the blessings of God again prompted two more to request baptism. Eldon Stowell, husband of Sister Tammy (Smith) Stowell and son-in-law of Brother Ike and Sister Bonnie Smith, was baptized at Rainbow Lake in Lakeside. Tammy and Eldon are members of the Phoenix Branch. Along with Eldon, April Mead, daughter of Sister Dana and Pat Mead, was baptized. April is a great-granddaughter of Brother James Cowan.

Once again, on April 4, we gathered at the lake for the baptism of Leona Riley, another of our young women from Whiteriver. We thank God for all of His blessings to us, and ask that you continue to remember us in your prayers.

Baptism, blessings in Kinsman, Ohio

By Rose Corrado

Sunday, June 13 1993 was just a foretaste of the blessings that would follow at the GMBA Campout. We at the Kinsman Branch were blessed with the visit of several saints from Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Mark Naro introduced the service using as his text Psalm 103, "Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities."

With a very humble spirit, Bro. Mark eloquently spoke to us using the entire chapter. He explained how we should each list the subject matter of the prayers we've offered throughout our lives in two columns: one of the requests we make of the Lord, and the other of our thanksgiving and

praise to our Creator. When we pray, we must bring something to the Lord—ourselves, our obedience, our good works.

David, the psalmist, could write as he did because he recounted all the events of his life and how "his God" was a part of it. Brother Mark spoke of bringing something to the Lord, and the saints of Lorain surely did that for us during this visit. As each one of them bore their testimony, they filled our cups to overflowing. It was a beautiful day of sharing God's Spirit and love in fellowship with our visitors.

Still basking in the joy of that visit, several of us from the Kinsman Branch went to Antiochian Village for the GMBA Campout, where yet another special blessing awaited us. Our branch was blessed with another baptism. For three years in a row, we have returned from campout with a new member. This time it was Timothy Mott, the son of Sister Rosalie and Brother Fred Mott. Without a doubt, it was a time of rejoicing. Timothy was baptized by his grandfather, Brother Howard Jackson. Brother Howard has been an elder for nineteen years and is also an ordained deacon. We had seen him at baptisms many times performing the duties of a deacon, but this was his first baptism. What a blessing it is to be his grandson! Timothy was later confirmed by Brother Russ Martorana.

* * * * *

Special blessings came our way again on July 11, 1993. We had visitors from Monongahela, Greensburg, Detroit, and Kent, plus many extended family members and friends. The special occasion was the blessing of Tara Renee VanKaneagan, daughter of Sister Sharon and Terry VanKaneagan, by Alexander Cherry. He paid a beautiful tribute to Sister Sharon and spoke to Tara before blessing her. How precious in the sight of God is the blessing of little children!

Brother Cherry then spoke to us very informally about baptism. He said that as he was driving here this

morning, he was inspired concerning baptism. "Reconciliation through Baptism" was his message, and a very Spirit-led one it was! Brother Jesse Carr followed, using as his theme, "Choice—We All Have It!" Oh, that we would all make the right choices in our lives and in our service to our God!

Summer, 1993 in Tse Bonito

By Ron Brutz

The summer of 1993 brought the return of some annual events, an announced celebration, and some unexpected happenings to the Tse Bonito Branch. The summer will never be forgotten, and our church family experienced growth even though the final membership decreased.

The summer began with the annual Vacation Bible School (over a decade running) which brings out the best in the membership in volunteer service to our children and children of the community. Over 50 children in all attended the five days of activities centered on the timeless theme, "Jesus Loves You."

On July 12, many family members, friends and fellow workers joined together to witness and celebrate the exchanging of marriage vows by Dennis Calabrese and Ann Wilson. The ceremony was officiated by the father of the groom, Apostle Joseph Calabrese. Dennis and Ann will reside in Tse Bonito.

Sunday the 18th of July brought a wonderful message from Virgil Link and a most unusual experience for everyone attending. Brother Virgil was in the process of making plans to spend a period of time at San Carlos, Arizona, where he grew up. As an ordained teacher, he had prepared a message to deliver without the knowledge of the ministry, who had decided to invite Virgil to speak since this would be his final Sunday in Tse Bonito for some time.

Virgil was guided by the Holy Spirit to study the Book of Mormon from the perspective of specific

words which have a common and unique association to Native American Languages. He spoke of the "familiar spirit" which Native Americans would feel when aspects of the Book of Mormon are encountered through reading, preaching, or other means. A few of these specific words of his focus included: the Great Spirit (Alma 18); "eternal round" (I Nephi 10, etc.); and "mother earth" (II Nephi 9, etc.). Virgil portrayed how these and other terms are not included by chance in modern Native American languages. Virgil brought his message to a conclusion, focusing upon the results hoped for by recognizing this good, familiar spirit as stated in the preface to the Book of Mormon: *"Which is to show unto the remnant of the House of Israel what great things the Lord hath done for their fathers; and that they may know the covenants of the Lord, that they are not cast off forever—And also to the convincing of the Jew and Gentile that Jesus is the Christ, the Eternal God, manifesting himself unto all nations. . . ."*

Peter Genaro followed this message with a few comments highlighted by two important statements. First, Peter referred to III Nephi 21, where Jesus speaks to the people, *"And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel."* Peter then encouraged Brother Virgil that as a Navajo-Apache, he should share the message he had presented today wherever he could among non-Indians and Indians alike. Coming from an American Indian, this message had greater validity and impact.

All of a sudden, a wind engulfed the entire building, yet even though the windows were open, no disturbance occurred inside. The wind seemed to persist for an extended length of time. Everyone in attendance was aware of the wind, yet no one seemed alarmed. When calm

was restored, Peter observed that this must be the same as the "mighty rushing wind" experienced in the "upper room." Later he said that he was reminded of the "valley of dry bones" spoken of by the Prophet Ezekiel in Chapter 37, where life was brought back to the bones by a rushing wind. No one knows for certain the meaning of this experience that special Sunday in Tse Bonito, yet everyone felt that they were a part of a unique experience.

August still had more blessings in store for us. At the Southwest District Campout/Conference, the theme of COVENANT was alive throughout the seminars, singing, preaching, and testimonies. During a wonderful, Spirit-filled Saturday evening meeting, Kathy Watson (daughter of Larry and Vanessa) and Ann Wilson-Calabrese expressed their desire to make a covenant with the Lord. They witnessed this covenant by going down into the waters of baptism on a beautiful Sunday morning. Over thirteen individuals made covenants that Saturday evening. Many were baptized later at the baptismal sites of their home branches.

The blessings of summer were not over yet. The final weekend of August was to bring mixed emotions as the Albuquerque, New Mexico Mission was formally organized as a Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The mission has grown under the Tse Bonito Branch over the past two years. The sadness of separation (over 14 members plus children transferred out of the Tse Bonito Branch) was overcome by the joy of growth of the work of God in this new location. More will be shared about this event in future issues. Plans for that Sunday service were already in place as Jonah Mancini (son of John and Chris) and Tobie Kaiser (a young woman who began attending services, especially Ladies' Circle, during the past year) sealed their covenants with the Lord by following Christ's example of obedience to the Father and being baptized by water and by the Spirit. Our new Sister Tobie expressed later that she

felt heat going forth from Apostle Robert Watson's hands as he conferred the gift of the Holy Ghost upon her.

We praise God for these blessings from on high. Only the "hundredth part" can be told. God bless each of you and everyone you reach out to in the name of Jesus Christ.

Baptism in Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

Once again, we were blessed to gather at the shore of the lake about which, a few years ago, an experience was had in which the Lord said many would be baptized in these waters. Judy Venuto, wife of Brother Bob Venuto, decided to join her husband in becoming a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. God spared Brother Bob's life from a near-fatal accident recently, and he gave himself to the Lord. We're thankful that now Brother Bob's family is coming to the Lord as well.

It was a beautiful day in the Lord. Brother Bob and his family drive several hours each Sunday to be with us, and we have been so blessed to worship with them every Sunday. In a previous meeting, a sister had a

(Continued on Page 10)

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Else, Mary
P.O. Box 1922
Palmer, AK 99645
Tel. 907-746-6587

Ford, Joel and Linda
1431 Munroe Falls Ave.
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221
Tel. 216-920-1248

Grooms, Emma
109 Highland Ct.
Evergreen, AL 36401
Tel. 205-578-9128

Huttenberger, Carl and Suzette
58 Hickory Court
Jamesburg, NJ 08831

FREEHOLD continued . . .

vision of a gigantic wave overtaking the congregation. After things had settled, she saw a beautiful, glowing mountain remain. Thank God that being washed in His blood and forgiveness, we have an opportunity to some day view the promised land where there will be peace forever more. God bless you all.

50 YEARS continued . . .

week after Dominic's baptism, Dolores began to fast and pray for guidance, because she, too, had felt God's Spirit.

That week she had a dream. In this dream, she was in a market and everything was priced \$.07. She did not understand this dream until the following Sunday, March 7, 1943. That Sunday the gift of tongues was spoken by Sister Vincenzi Dulisse twice during the service, with the interpretation that someone in the congregation needed to be baptized.

Feeling a powerful spirit, but unsure that it was her calling, Dolores thought to herself that if Sis. Vincenzi would stand and speak in tongues again, the message was for her. This happened, and Dolores stood and asked for her baptism. She was baptized that same day by Brother James Cowan, and later confirmed by Brother John Gammichia.

Sister Dolores has also given her heart, soul, and energy to the work of the Church. She has been our branch secretary for 37 years, and was Ladies' Uplift Circle secretary for 25 years. She has a beautiful voice and has used it over the years to sing countless solos.

The true depth of her commitment was stated by Brother Alex Gentile while honoring her that Sunday. He stated that every time Brother Dominic was ordained, Sister Dolores was also "ordained" alongside him. She has worked hard for the Church with her husband, and according to Brother Dominic, has been the backbone of their spiritual strength.

At our meeting to honor them, Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores testified to God's love in their lives. Brother Dominic thanked God for giving him these 50 years to serve Him. Sister Dolores also thanked God and expressed how she enjoyed working for the Church.

Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores have been a great example of love and dedication to our branch. Though they have dealt with many trials in their lives, they continued to work diligently for the Lord. Their thoughts and concerns for each member of the Church and its welfare to excel and expand have been foremost in their worship.

Even though their lives remain busy, they always have time to call or visit the members who are ill or in need of prayers.

We at Branch #2, along with the rest of the Church, wish Brother Dominic and Sister Dolores God's love, health, and the desire to continue their good work.

MESSAGE continued . . .

At the close of the morning meeting, Maria Belen Jaramillo asked to be baptized. Since this was her first time in church, we felt it necessary to question her concerning her desire. She said that as she walked into church she was given to understand, "This is your church." She felt the Lord talking to her as brother Ken sang *The Most Important Thing*. The ministry all felt she was being called by God.

We traveled to the baptismal site—Laguna de los Pinos. What a special blessing I felt as we approached the lagoon! The place was so beautiful, and the surroundings overwhelmed me. This must have been a place where Book of Mormon history took place! Truly, the valleys are green, and the mountains are beautiful. As Brother Ken baptized Sister Evangelina, he uttered his first Spanish words: "*Habiendo recibio la autoridad de Jesucristo, yo te bautizo en el nombre del Padre, del Hijo y del Espiritu Santo. Amen.*" Sister

Evangelina declared that after she was immersed, she heard these words: "You are My daughter, you are My daughter."

As I baptized Sister Maria Belen, a sister saw the face of Christ upon her and a brother saw a personage standing next to us. Another brother saw three personages behind us, and they said, "She is a precious seed," referring to our new sister. The gift of tongues was spoken prior to her immersion.

The confirmation meeting was held Sunday evening. The Lord bore witness at this meeting as well. As Sister Maria Belen was being confirmed, tongues were again spoken with the interpretation given to several as: "Receive ye the Holy Ghost, receive ye the Holy Ghost." Sister Maryann Nicosia and several others stated that the sound of the tongues was in the ancient Mayan language.

A young girl, Auri Dominguez, came forward for prayer. After Brother Ken prayed for her, the chains were broken and she asked for her baptism. A confirmation of this calling was given by Sister Darlene Marroquin, who said that, as Maria Belen embraced Auri after her confirmation, Sister Darlene saw power, as electricity, going from Maria to Auri.

We were thrilled to hear the Jaramillo family request that we take this Gospel to their family and friends in Ecuador. The Lord will remember His covenant to the Seed of Joseph and the entire House of Israel. We wait upon the Lord for His direction.

God moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform.

CHILDREN'S continued . . .

years. Can you imagine? Every child he saw was a grandchild or great grandchild or great-great grandchild. Everyone was related.

There must have been safety and peace for many years. And Noah enjoyed them all.

With care,
Sister Jan

* WEDDINGS *

FICARRA - GIOIA

Richard Ficarra and Angela Marie Gioia were joined in marriage on July 23, 1993 at Branch #1 of The Church of Jesus Christ in Roseville, Michigan.

Brother Louis Vitto officiated at the ceremony. Soloists were Sister Tracey Francione and Brother Steve Champine, with Brother Eugene Amormino accompanying on piano and organ.

The newlyweds are residing in Clinton Township, Michigan. May God bless them in their new life together.

HAMRICK - LARIMER

Lee Roy Hamrick and Michelle Renee Larimer were united in holy matrimony by the bride's grandfather, Brother Russell Cadman. The ceremony took place in Lexington, North Carolina.

Michelle is the daughter of Glenn and Sister Ellen Larimer and Lee is the son of Roy and Vesta Hamrick, all of Lexington.

May God bless the newlyweds, who will reside in Lexington, NC.

KRUMPE - FARNUM

On September 4, 1993, Aaron James Krumpe and Elizabeth Kay Farnum were joined in holy matrimony at the Kinsman United Methodist Church.

Officiating ministers were the Reverened Allen Rose and Brother Howard Jackson of The Church of Jesus Christ. Musical selections were provided by John Franks, guitarist and soloist; and Diane Yazvac, pianist and organist.

The newlyweds are residing in Kinsman, Ohio. May the Lord bless their journey through life together.

Children Blessed

Brother Dominick Rose blessed his first great-granddaughter, Danielle Marie Lupo, on July 4, 1993 at the Brooklyn, New York Branch.

On August 1, 1993, Matthew Miah Willforth was blessed by his great-grandfather, Brother Frank Giovannone, in the Warren, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Elizabeth Rose, infant daughter of Brother John and Susan Genaro, was blessed by her great-uncle, Brother Jonathan Molinatto, at Gastonia, North Carolina. She was named for her great-grandmothers, Sisters Elizabeth Molinatto and Rose Dreer.

Jacob Thomas Van Broeck was blessed by his great-great uncle, Brother Alma Nolfi, on August 22, 1993. He was born May 10, 1993 to Tiffany Van Broeck in Clewiston, Florida.

David Daniel Verbanick, born June 30, 1993, great-grandson of Sister Helen DePiero, was blessed on August 29, 1993 by Brother David Nolfi in Glassport, PA.

Pamela Jayne Keener and Jamie Nicole Keener were blessed on September 19, 1993 at Youngstown, Ohio by Brothers Ralph Berardino and Don Pandone, respectively.

OBITUARIES

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

ALVERNA GREER

It pleased our Heavenly Father to call our Sister Alverna Grace Greer to her home in paradise on April 6, 1993.

She has fought a good fight and finished her course and kept the faith.

Henceforth there is laid up for her a crown of righteousness (II Timothy 4:7&8).

Even though our sister had a lingering illness, she drove many miles to fellowship with the saints and to be fed at the Lord's table. She is missed by her natural family, and especially by the saints whom she worshipped with in Meaford, Ontario, Canada.

GAIL KEENEY

Sister Gail A. Keeney of the Warren, Ohio Branch passed on to her reward on April 29, 1993. She was born on February 10, 1937.

Our sister is survived by a daughter, three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. We pray that the Lord will comfort the family. Sister Gail will be missed by all those who knew her.

Announcement

Book just off the press:
Jesus Christ the Messiah and Early Saints
By T. Dom Bucci
Order from the author, at
1143 W. 38th St.
Erie, PA 16509
Tel. 814-864-9309

GMBA Student Support Committee Enrollment Form

Name: _____ Age: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Apt. or Street Number

City

State

Zip

Home Branch: _____ Baptized: Yes: _____ No: _____

Baptized: Yes:

No:

Name of College, University, Trade School or High School: _____

Address at School (if different from home): _____

Apt. or Street Number

City

State

Zip.

Selected Major: _____ Enrollment Status: (Circle) Fr So Ju Sen

Enrollment Status:

(Circle)

Fr

So

Ju

Sen

Expected Graduation Date: _____

The information above will be used to send monthly letters to all students enrolled and to advise students of various GMBA and Area MBA sponsored activities. If you would like to enroll, please complete this form and mail to:

Jeffrey Giannetti
13 Winterset Lane
Marlton, NJ 08053
Tel. 609-985-3348

Committee offers support to students

Dear Students:

In what seems like overnight, another summer has passed and the new school year is upon us. With each new school year, familiar academic challenges are faced, new friendships are made, and old ones renewed. But, for some, the start of another college semester, or perhaps

the first, often brings a complex set of challenges never before encountered. Intense academic performance is now the rule, while many new temptations are placed upon students for the first time. The academic experience should be and can be a very rewarding and fulfilling one. Yet, it can also be a very difficult and frustrating period as well.

In an attempt to assist the Church's students during this experience, the GMBA has formed the Student Support Committee. The focus of this committee is to uplift and encourage the Church's students through a variety of activities such as monthly letters, seminars, literature, and more. So far, with the help of God, the response to the efforts of this committee has been very positive.

If you are interested in being a part of this program, or even if you are already enrolled, please complete and mail the accompanying form. The program is open to high school Juniors and Seniors and all college, trade school, and university students. Even if you already receive the monthly letters, please complete the form to enable the committee to compile an accurate database of students.

May God bless you in all of your endeavors. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Yours in Christ,
Brother Jeffrey Giannetti
SSC Chairman

The Gospel News

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

November, 1993

Volume 49, No. 11

GMBA Campout: The Start of an Exciting Summer

By Karen L. Progar

"Wherefore, I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee . . ." (II Timothy 1:6).

Brother Joel Calabrese, 1993 GMBA Camp Director, did just that. He brought to our remembrance the necessity to stir up the gift of God which is in each of us. Camp began on Saturday, June 19, 1993 at Antiochian Village in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Over 300 brothers, sisters, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ made their way to Southwestern Pennsylvania for the event. In each camper's registration packet was a note pad on which was imprinted, W.H.Y.D. T.T.S.U.T.G.O.G.W.Y. The campers' first job was to figure out that little word puzzle.

The balance of the week was spent in studying what was necessary to give a proper reply to the inquiry, "What have you done today to stir up the gift of God within you?"

This article is entitled "The Start of an Exciting Summer," because, since the 1993 GMBA Campout, the Spirit of God has moved upon many young people attending our Church. Ten souls

came to the Lord at the Camp, those being: Richard Nath (Monongahela, PA Branch), Timothy Mott (Kinsman, Ohio Branch), Jennifer Paxon (Atlanta, GA Mission), Christina Benyola (Tampa, FL Branch), Gustavo Medina (Guatemala), Marco Ramirez (Hollywood, FL Branch), Tina Buffa (Detroit, MI Branch #2), Greg Davis (Lorain, OH Branch), Larry Quinn (Perry, OH Branch) and Dana Nardoizzi (Lorain, OH Branch).

While not all of these brothers and sisters were baptized at Camp, those who were not made their desires known there, and then went back to their branches and missions and stirred up the Spirit there. (As you recall, seven baptisms took place at the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch the following Sunday. As a matter of fact, there have been numerous reports of multiple baptisms throughout the Church this summer.)

Every camper received a number of gifts in their rooms, from prayer rocks to a gift box of candy from the Campout committee. Valet service was provided by some able volunteers who were anxious to make the campers comfortable.

Sunday morning began with the brothers of the priesthood meeting for a fasting and prayer meeting. Our service was begun by having our visitors from Guatemala sing *He Touched Me* in Spanish. Brother Brian Martorana, GMBA President, opened the service using I Corinthians 14:1. We were reminded to "Follow after charity and desire the spiritual gifts." He asked if we were prepared to receive these gifts. He admonished us that if we are all gathered at this camp with the same love, God will not withhold His gifts from us.

Brother John DiBattista, GMBA Chaplain, asked Sis. Faye (Lovalvo) Richardson to share her testimony with the congregation. Having been raised in the Church, Sis. Faye endured many trials on her way to baptism.

Brother Matthew Rogolino followed, speaking about his own conversion. He stated that we cannot love if we have never experienced being loved. He exhorted us to cry for our children still in the world, just as our fathers cried unto the Lord for us. The men's quartet from

(Continued on Page 2)

Fifty Years of Dedicated Service

On February 7, 1993, the brothers and sisters of the Bell, CA Branch gathered together for their regular Sunday service, as well as to honor Brother Jim Scalise for his 50 years of dedication as a brother and elder in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Harry Marshall offered the opening prayer, then Brother Scalise followed with a prayer of consecration for some new sacrament utensils.

Brother Bob McDonnell spoke to us from the Bible out of the book of Matthew, and from the Book of Mormon out of Moroni 7. As a tribute to Brother Jim, Brothers Efrain Luna and Miguel Gomez sang in Spanish, *God's Still on His Throne* and *To See the Morning Light*.

The meeting was left open for testimony and song. Many wonderful testimonies were shared, then a special prayer was offered for a friend of Sister Karen Elzby.

As Brother Bill Meo prepared to present Brother Jim with a plaque, the congregation sang *Sweeter As the Years Go By*.

Brother Bill gave the following account of Brother Jim's years in the Church: He was baptized on February 2, 1943, and shortly thereafter left for the Army, serving for almost three years. He moved his family from Michigan to California in

1948. He was ordained a teacher on November 19, 1952, and an elder on April 11, 1954. During his early years in the ministry, Brother Jim worked in Los Nietos with Brother Harry Marshall. He is currently presiding elder of the Bell, CA Branch.

Laura Elzby, Brother Scalise's 4-year-old granddaughter, recited a poem dedicated to her grandfather. Brother Jim gave his testimony and expressed his desire that God would give him many more good years to serve the Lord.

The meeting was adjourned with the hymn *It Is Well with My Soul*. Brother Bob McDonnell offered the closing prayer. Afterward, cake and coffee were shared with the brothers, sisters, and visitors present. We of the Bell Branch thank God for Brother Jim and his dedication to our Branch. Our prayers are with him and his family as they continue their walk with God.

A Note of Thanks

I must thank all of you for the many cards, flowers, visits, gifts, and phone calls to me during my continuing illness. All of you have shown great concern by the many, many prayers on my behalf.

Do not stop praying; I continue to stand in need of your prayers, as my affliction does not seem to abate.

Your consideration and thoughtfulness have meant a lot and have been a blessing. May God bless all of you.

Sister Helen Kovacs

CAMPOUT continued . . .

McKees Rocks sang *Higher Ground*. Bro. Adam Costarella continued, saying that if he enumerated the gifts God has given us, it could take all day. He reminded us of the peace which God gives us.

Brother Frank Ciotti was the final speaker for our morning service. He asked us if we are in love. He also related an experience which he had at a California Campout a number of years ago, wherein he was advised that it was time to reclaim our children. Tongues were spoken, the interpretation of which was, "I confirm My words, saith the Father of Glory."

Sunday afternoon a (semi-)pep rally was held, at which the teachers "stirred up their students" by first diving through a paper hoop and later by giving the class members words of encouragement for the seminars, which would begin the following morning.

Sunday evening brought our communion service. The Lord's table was set while we sang *The Latter Day Theme*. Bro. Brian Smith spoke concerning God's greatest gift, eternal life. In addition, he reminded us of Christ's time on this land, when he passed communion to the saints. As communion was

(Continued on Page 7)

Songs of Zion Available

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have recently received a shipment of the hard-cover *Songs of Zion* hymnbook, now in its third printing.

Due to the large quantity now on hand, we are reducing the price per book to \$4.50 for any quantity purchased. Please send your *written* order to:

Bob and Sandy Sullivan
1604 S. Medina Drive
Anaheim, CA 92804
(714) 776-1751

Please be sure to indicate a delivery address where there will be someone present to receive the shipment. Please send payment in advance for the books made payable to "The Songs of Zion." You will be billed for the cost of shipping the books.



Bro. Vincent (Jim) Scalise of Bell, California

MBA Highlights

Pennsylvania Area MBA Activities

By Lucetta Scaglione

ANNUAL PICNIC

It was a wet Memorial Day, but approximately 50 people braved the rain and gathered for the annual PA Area picnic. Lunch was accompanied with a cloudburst. By the time everyone had eaten, the rain stopped. The children spent the afternoon playing games, and the adults sat around visiting. Sister Cindy DiAntonio took some beautiful pictures. A dinner of hot dogs was eaten as the rain poured down again. All in all it was a wet, soppy, but enjoyable day.

SUMMER OUTING

On a Saturday in July, a large group of adults and children met and had a good time playing miniature golf. By the many squeals of joy or despair, you could tell who was winning and who was losing. I'm sure everyone had a lot of fun. Afterward, we gathered at South Park for a hot dog and corn roast, and a good old-fashioned songfest. Mingled with the voices were the guitars, keyboards, and even a saxophone. We had the pleasure of Brother Dick and Sister Barb Ackman in our midst from Arizona. The day was a huge success, and everyone went home greatly blessed.

CAMPOUT

The theme for the PA Area Campout was "Remember the Miracles." Friday evening found brothers, sisters, and friends registering to spend the weekend together at Antiochian Village. There were about 195 that stayed on camp, and on Sunday at least 245 were in attendance. It was the largest

campout the PA Area has ever had.

After chapel on Saturday morning, everyone attended their seminars to discuss miracles. From what was reported later, all the classes had beautiful discussions, and many testimonies were given concerning the miracles that Jesus performed in our lives.

In the afternoon the "young" people participated in sporting events. Some of us took part in crafts and painted flower magnets, and the children made water globes.

Brother Sam Dell of the Levittown Branch opened the evening meeting with prayer, after which the children entertained us with several songs they had learned in their seminar. The preaching was introduced by Brother Paul Ciotti. His words were centered on "Ascending the Mountain of the Lord." He asked, "Who shall ascend the mountain of the Lord and who shall stand in holy places? He told us that there are requirements, and they are laid out in the Word of God. He reiterated many incidents in the scriptures that took place on a mountain, and encouraged us not to be satisfied with the scrubs on the lowlands, but to get into good spiritual shape and ascend that mountain. This is where the blessings are. We have to give our hearts, our minds, our all, and then the Lord will lift us up and fill us with His Spirit.

Brother Brian Martorana followed with words of encouragement. He said there will be burdens that will slow our ascent up the mountain of the Lord. If we leave them at the cross of Calvary, the Lord will help us to climb. Brother Brian told of hearing a voice telling him to "Run, tell My people to go the extra mile in their service to Me."

The McKees Rocks quartet sang *Are You Washed in the Blood of the Lamb?* Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri asked us where we are on that mountain. He urged us to get closer to Jesus and to start climbing. The meeting was closed with prayer, and the remainder of the evening was spent in fellowship. We enjoyed the

fundraiser, which included donating money to see our Area officers and Camp Director get covered with cream pies. Another fundraiser was having our picture taken "crossing the Red Sea" as a souvenir of the weekend. Many of us gathered around the campfire and sang hymns until it was time to head for our beds and a good night's sleep.

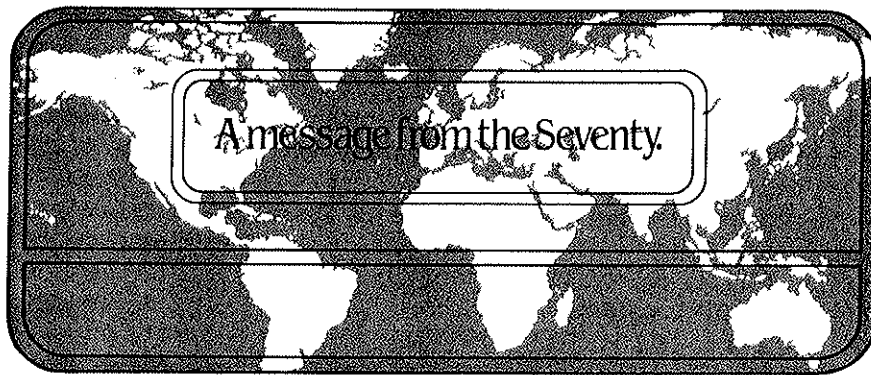
Sunday morning, Brother John Manes read from Moroni 7 concerning faith, hope, and charity. He continued with the theme of climbing the mountain of the Lord, advising us that without love we cannot even begin to climb, let alone expect to get to the top. Love is what changes our lives and causes us unbelievers to become believers. Sister Kim Mellor sang *Love Lifted Me*.

Brother Chuck Jumper followed, telling us that in order to climb that mountain, we have to take the first step to show God that we want to climb. Then there will be no adversary that we won't be able to overcome. It is time for us to scale the mountain and find that Love that Christ gave His life for.

Our last speaker, Brother Dell, reminded us what Joshua told the people, "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve." We also have to choose, and today is the day to make God our choice and begin to climb that spiritual mountain. The Giannetti Brothers sang *I've Decided to Make Jesus My Choice*.

The young people were invited to the front to sing and bear their testimonies. After closing remarks from Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri, the meeting was closed with prayer. It was the end of a blessed weekend, and we were thankful to Camp Director Brother Tony Ricci and all his helpers for a job well done.

"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth" (Deuteronomy 28:1).



Pacific Coast District Launches New Program

By David Koeth

The Pacific Coast District Mission Board has launched a program to encourage work among the Seed of Joseph, the American Indian people. Working through the District Mission Operating Committee, the Native American Committee has established the Native American Project (NAP).

The project committee is chaired by Brother Walt Jankowski and is coordinated by Sister Cheryl LaVella. Other committee members are Robert McDonnell, Roy Verstraete, and David Koeth.

The purpose is to develop an awareness of the urban Indian work among the branches and missions of the Pacific Coast District. NAP has developed an action plan to become involved with spreading the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

The objectives of NAP are:

1. To analyze the population and potential of Urban Indian work within each branch and mission's geographical area;
2. To provide educational opportunities with the district membership to prepare them for work among the Native American people;
3. To establish introductory contact between key people in each branch or mission and the local Native American organization and begin to develop an active and meaningful identity between the Church and the organization; and

4. To create a written record of Native American contacts and activity for district awareness and support.

The project will, of course, keep the work among the Native Americans fresh in our minds and remind the members of our commission to take the Gospel to the Seed of Joseph.

Sister Cheryl LaVella has had many experiences regarding this work. One such experience came while she was praying for guidance on how to conduct the group. That "still, small voice" told her to "listen to her heart." The committee has followed this direction and, with much prayer, the Lord has "gone before," opening doors and making a way.

Sister Cheryl has made contact in Riverside, California, which has a large urban Indian population; she has been named an honorary member of the Riverside American Indian Center's Board of Directors. Cheryl assists the center in handling their funds (bookkeeping and accounting) and in planning future activities.

The Riverside Ladies' Circle assisted in preparing and serving food at a recent Native American event. What a blessing to see our people working side by side with the Seed of Joseph!

The work among the Native American progresses slowly, and it requires prayer, patience, love,

caution, and a respect for their customs. NAP is beginning with education and building a cultural awareness by publishing a quarterly newsletter which shares some "Indian Views" and beliefs about religion and the "Great Spirit." The newsletter is currently distributed at our district conference.

This work requires great effort, and the current results of our labors are small. But the NAP Committee asks all to participate in some way. If you can't get out among the people, please pray for and encourage those who can.

Consider this message given to Sister Cheryl for the Church, concerning the work among the Seed of Joseph: "Prepare yourself, for soon will be the time you will have to tell these people who they are. Put away the things of this world and prepare yourself."

For more information concerning the Native American Project, write Sister Cheryl LaVella, 12399 Blazing Star Court, Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91739, or call 909/899-1904.

Announcement

For November, 1993, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.5%
2 years	4.5%
3 years	4.7%
4 years	4.9%
5 years	5.1%

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Dianna Gibson
24569 Scott Blvd.
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST
Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). This is the time of year when we pause to give thanks for all that we have and enjoy. There is certainly good reason to do so, for we live in an age when most of us are enjoying more of what life has to offer than we or those before us have ever had. "Having it all," however, engenders neither happiness nor thankfulness in our hearts. Once the Lord has blessed us with them, things that we once considered luxuries are often looked upon as necessities that we could not live without. Meanwhile, some people who have endured relatively deprived lives—naturally or spiritually—are more grateful for what little they have (Luke 7:47).

While the nation sets aside only one day for the purpose of giving thanks, we hope that no one who has experienced God's goodness only thinks about it once a year. If we take a moment to reflect, we are overwhelmed by the blessings God has bestowed upon us. To "name them one by one" would certainly take up more than one day out of 365.

The Lord is pleased when we give thanks. Like all good things, however, thankfulness runs contrary to human nature. Unless he is taught to say "thank you," a child will never think to say it himself. Likewise, as children of God, we sometimes need to be reminded to thank Him for everything in our lives. If we can learn to do this with full purpose of heart, our lives will be more fully aligned with the plan that the Lord has for each of us.

It is important for us to recognize that the Lord is the source of all that is good in our lives. Every sunny day, everything we own, every breath we take, is given to us by the Lord; we must choose to recognize that fact and reject the worldly notion that we are somehow responsible for or entitled to the good in our lives. Secondly, we must verbally acknowledge God to be the source of all this good. We should acknowledge it to Him in our prayers, and to our fellow man, that they too might know where all good comes from.

As we put these things into practice in our lives, we will come to fully appreciate all that the Lord has done for us, the most important thing being the redemption of our unworthy souls by the shed blood of His Son Jesus Christ. Once we come to fully understand what this means, our awareness of God's goodness will reach a higher plateau than ever before. Our gratitude to God will no longer be subject to how well "things" are going in our lives. We will finally be free to be thankful regardless of life's circumstances. This attitude of unconditional thanksgiving has the power to bring deep, lasting happiness and contentment to our souls and to our lives. When we can be so inwardly and outwardly joyful that the world covets our happiness, they will eagerly accept from us that precious gift—Jesus Christ—that we are commissioned to share.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



Gifts That Last

Dear Boys and Girls:

During this time of year, most of us in the Americas begin thinking about gifts. We think about special things we hope we will get, and about new games and toys advertised on television. A lot of times we get confused.

We start to look at all the sparkling, unusual, interesting new things and we begin to think things that are not true. We think, "Oh, if only I had that—I'd be so happy!" Or, when we're feeling bad about ourselves deep down, we say, "Oh, if only I had that—everyone would be impressed and like me!"

It's not true. They'd probably just be jealous (if they're the kind of people that like "stuff") and they wouldn't like *you*—they'd like your "stuff." And "stuff" doesn't make us happy.

This is an important idea to understand. It is important because those kinds of feelings happen and confuse human beings all the time. They happen to us when we're four years old to forty to a hundred and ten!

Think about the next commercial you see on television where people are playing a game and laughing loudly. They are actors pretending to be happy. They are paid to act this way so we'll think, "Those people playing the game are happy. I want to be happy, so I'll buy the game and be happy."

Now think about all of the

"things" in your closet, or toys on your shelf or in your garage. Do you remember ever thinking about how wonderful they were? Were you unhappy and disappointed afterwards? Do you see? They didn't make you happy forever.

Remember this: Two thousand years ago, Jesus understood how easily we humans get confused. He warned us to lay our treasures (good deeds, kind actions, loving thoughts, prayers for those who need them, etc.) in heaven. In heaven, nothing rots, rust doesn't destroy things, no one can steal the good things we've controlled ourselves, or allowed ourselves, to do. And the Lord notices every good thing we do.

Have *you* laid up any good treasures in heaven this week? Have you been kind to someone hurting? Did you share from all the abundance you have? Did you pray for someone else's problem? Did you say you're sorry? Have you quietly helped someone in need?

These are things that last a lot longer than toys. Because good deeds grow into more good deeds. If you give someone kindness and they feel better, then *they* can give kindness, and then the person they helped will help someone. You can start a huge chain of love like that. These are the gifts that last. These are the gifts that change people's lives. These are the treasures you'll have already in heaven.

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

LAY	TO
YOUR	ANYONE
TREASURES	START
UP	A
IN	CHAIN
HEAVEN	OF
KINDNESS	LOVE
LOVING	LIKE
ARE	JESUS
GIFTS	TAUGHT
YOU	US
CAN	TO
THAT	DO
LAST	

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

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Lawson, Richard and Erme
Tel. 412-331-7829
Fax 412-771-7912

Bittinger, Joseph
P.O. Box 132
West Leisenring, PA 15485
Tel. 412-438-6117

Elzby, Richard and Jane
R.R.#1
Meaford Ontario, Canada N4L 1W5

Our Women Today

Pennsylvania Area Circle Meeting

By Mary Tamburrino

The Pennsylvania Area Ladies' Circle meeting was held September 25, 1993 at the Aliquippa, PA Branch. Sister Linda Ottavian, Chairperson, welcomed everyone and she thanked God that those who attended arrived safe from all harm. Seven of the nine locals in the Pennsylvania Area were represented. There is a total of 105 Circle members in this area. All the Circles use Bible and Book of Mormon for their lessons; layettes are put together and sent to mission areas, and the sick are visited by the sisters in the locals.

The Roscoe Circle gave the devotions on obtaining a Higher Spiritual Mind. They quoted scripture and sang songs on the subject. Everyone in attendance was given a card with a word printed on it. Each word was something that would keep us from attaining a higher spiritual mind, such as Pride, etc. We took turns talking about our word, then symbolically throwing it away in a trash can while telling what we could do to reach a higher spiritual mind, such as fasting and praying more.

A fund-raising project of selling flowered note cards yielded a profit of \$224.50 for the Circle. The Mother/Daughter Banquet held May 8 and hosted by the Vanderbilt Circle was a huge success, with 69 ladies in attendance! Card Sender Sister Carol Monaghan sent 15 cards to those in various circumstances.

A donation of \$200 was given to the Pennsylvania District Mission Board. Our next fund-raising project is to sell napkins. There will be an area Ladies' Circle meeting and retreat on March 11, 1994; the location is not finalized yet.

The remainder of our meeting was spent in prayer and praise unto

God. A pot-luck lunch was shared, and there was some time spent in fellowship and socializing. It was mentioned throughout the meeting how supportive the older sisters are of the Circle. We all have a desire to see the young sisters more active in this work. May God bless one and all.

CAMPOUT continued . . .

taking place, Sister Lisa Champine, Christina Benyola, and Bro. Ken Lombardo played several selections on their flutes, accompanied on the piano by Sis. Carolyn Parravano.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a young man from Monongahela, Richard Nath, made his wishes known to be baptized in the Church. We were all delighted to hear that the words we heard throughout the day were not falling on deaf ears. Since Richard's family was not present at the Camp, he decided to wait until the following Sunday to be baptized in his home branch.

After every evening meeting throughout the week, Sisters Joyce and Rhoda Jumper worked diligently, along with numerous helpers, to finish up the daily newsletter, "The GMBA Gifts Gazette." The newsletter, as you may recall, was a wonderful Campout update instituted by last year's Camp Director, Bro. David Catalano. The campers looked forward to waking up in the morning and finding this compact report of the previous day's activities at their door. When were those papers delivered, anyway? Do newsletter staff members have a special curfew exemption?

Monday's chapel began with Brother Chuck Maddox, GMBA Vice President, reminding us that if we say we love someone, we have to back it up with our actions. Brother Joel Gehly advised us to prepare our hearts.

The congregation must have truly taken heed to Brother Joel's words, because what was to follow were some of the most powerful seminar sessions ever attended by this

writer. We experienced as many of the gifts of God as we could absorb. We heard the most inspiring prayers, saw hearts surrender to God, witnessed physical healings, heard and understood prophecy and experienced visions, while feeling a oneness of Spirit with the brothers, sisters, and friends that is not possible to describe in words. Brother John P. Buffa, Seminar Director, no doubt worked very hard to prepare the material for the seminar classes; however, most of that material went untouched as the Spirit of God filled the classes and directed the instructors in the way He would have them proceed.

Monday evening, we were once again pleased to hear our young people display their musical talents. Lydia Lee and Jeannette Link played *We Shall Sing on the Mountain of the Lord* on the violin and bass.

Brother Ken Staley then spoke directly to the young people, telling them that whosoever believes has a hope and a place at the right hand of God. He told them that Christ prepared a way that others might partake of this heavenly gift. He then gave his personal testimony and shared experiences he had on his recent trip to Guatemala. At this point, Timothy Mott requested baptism, followed by Jennifer Paxon and Christina Benyola.

I would love to go into detail on all the subsequent meetings, because each of them offered something special and exciting to the group, but space will not allow. It is sufficient to say, that if you missed the 1993 GMBA Campout, you missed blessings overflowing. Make plans now to attend the 1994 Campout. There is no better way to spend your vacation. We truly enjoyed a taste of Zion, and expect the same at future gatherings.

Two special canteen events took place during the week. The first was Sundae (Sunday) night, when everyone received a free sundae, and Wednesday's barbecue night, which featured hamburgers and hot dogs cooked on a grill.

A first for Campout this year

(Continued on Page 12)

Branch and Mission News

Showers of blessings in McKees Rocks

By Carol Monaghan

Muncey, Ontario

By Samuel French

On June 6, 1993, we at Muncey were most edified by the visit of our brothers and sisters from the Mexicottown, Detroit and Southampton, Ontario Missions. Both groups from The Church of Jesus Christ were a great inspiration to the Muncey Mission. It was a blessing to hear them praise the Lord in song and testimony.

Also visiting with us that day was Brother Dominic Thomas, General Church President, and elders from different branches in Michigan. The meeting was opened with the hymn *Won't It Be Something to See Israel Smile*, from *The Songs of Zion*. Brother Richard Thomas of Branch 1 opened in prayer.

Brother John DiBattista from Anaheim, California, spoke to us from Isaiah 62. Our brother stated that when we are in world, our lives are empty. When we repent of our sins, are baptized, and filled with the Holy Ghost, however, we become children of God. Isaiah states in Chapter 62:1, "... therefore go forth as brightness; and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."

Brother Frank Natoli from Mexicottown followed, telling us that we, the saints of God, must not be ashamed of the Gospel or of Christ. We must invite people to church and be willing to help someone in need. We must always look to God for strength.

The brothers and sisters from Muncey then sang *First Love*, and our meeting was brought to a close by Brother Gary Champine. We truly enjoyed the spiritual food that we received on this beautiful day of praise unto our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We wish to thank all the sisters who worked to prepare the dinner that everyone enjoyed as well.

We would ask everyone throughout the Church to remember us in prayer. May God bless you all.

Lorain, Ohio

By Iva Davis

Since the beginning of the year, the Lord has been showing His power to the brothers and sisters, whether in their illnesses or afflictions, at home, or on the job. On one occasion, the Lord even spoke concerning the children that have gone astray, "Come home, come home, the door is open."

We had the misfortune of losing our Brother Maselli this past March. But he left us many experiences to remember and gain strength from. There were five people in our branch who had a great desire to go to GMBA Campout. We organized a fund-raiser of selling pizzas to help them out financially, and praise God, they all worked hard and the Lord blessed their efforts. They sold over 100 pizzas, and all five were able to go to camp.

We have had several visitors in the branch over the last few months. Brother Ron Genaro gave us a seminar on "Sin As an Addiction." We also had the Area Ladies' Circle in our branch on May 22. Sister Roberta Hufnagle gave a beautiful seminar on "Building and Motivating Lasting Relationships through Jesus Christ, Our Example." Brother Lyle Criscuolo was a guest speaker at this seminar as well.

On May 2, we celebrated 50 years of service to the Lord by Brother Jim Alessio and Sister Rosemary DeFoggie. Sis. Rosemary was not able to be in church, because she has been confined to a nursing home for a number of years, but her spirit was felt by all as we listened to a recording of her testimony. Brother Jim Alessio gave his testimony and read a message from each of his three children sent to him on this occasion. What a blessing to hear one's children give thanks for their parent's dedication in serving the Lord!

"There shall be showers of blessings, This is the promise of love. There shall be seasons refreshing, sent from the Savior above." The Lord did send His showers of blessings upon us the morning of July 25, 1993. As we prepared to go into the morning service, Sister Rose Palacios, who was visiting along with her husband, Brother Frank, saw the roof of the church building open and saw water as drops of rain coming down. Surely we knew we would have great blessings to come. Our young men, Bro. Paul Ciotti Jr., Bro. Patrick Monaghan, and David Ciotti, sang *At the Cross*. The words of that familiar chorus were very fitting for the events that lay ahead.

Brother Carl Frammolino opened our morning service, speaking on "Commitment"—being committed to a way of life in The Church of Jesus Christ. We should not think about our ability as to what we can do, so much as our *availability* for whatever God wants us to do! Brother Carl read Psalm 37, *"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him and he will bring it to pass."* When we commit our lives to the Lord, He also makes a commitment to us, that He will never leave us or forsake us.

Our brother read us a definition of commitment: "Commitment is what really transforms a promise into reality. It is the words that speak boldly of your intentions, and the actions which speak louder than words. Commitment is the stuff character is made of; the power to change the face of things. It is the daily triumph of integrity over skepticism." Brother Carl asked if there was anyone here who hadn't come into the Church, to ask the Lord to come into their hearts, and to resist questions like, "What will my friends think?" The important thing is what we feel in our hearts toward Jesus Christ.

Bro. Paul Ciotti made a few closing remarks. He told us a story and said everyone wants to feel love and comfort when difficult things come into our lives. We need the arms of Jesus around us. There is nothing greater than the Love of God. He then spoke in the gift of tongues: "Listen, My children, Listen, My children, the only way is in Jesus Christ the Son of God," as the interpretation was received by Bro. Dennis Ricci. Ask in the name of the Holy One and it shall be given unto you. Brother Paul said, "Don't look for answers outside of Jesus Christ. What are we doing to keep the Lord out? If the Lord is touching your heart, I pray that you give in; I know my Father is calling this morning."

At the close of the meeting, Sis. Carol Monaghan felt inspired to sing a song which contained the words, "Give me one more day to dedicate my life to you."

We broke for lunch. While we were having lunch, Bro. Paul announced that David Ciotti and his fiancée, Angie Zaccane, had asked for their baptisms. Surely our drops of blessing had come to refresh our souls. As soon as the news was announced, Bro. Tony Ricci said that the night before, he had a dream where he saw David putting on baptism clothes, and he knew that it was his day! Sister Terri Snyder said that while Brother Paul was speaking, she prayed, "Lord, please take somebody today," and she heard Angie's name. Brother Patrick Monaghan said when he prayed that morning, he told the Lord he desired to see a baptism today, and his mind went to David and Angie.

It was decided to have the baptisms after dinner, and we would have our Communion then, too. We met later at the river shore and witnessed the baptisms of our new brother and sister. We then returned to church for the confirmations. Bro. Pete Giannetti spoke on how he could relate as a parent to Brother Ralph and Sister Arlene Ciotti's joy and the many prayers that were offered for this day. He said, "We've got to

believe in the Lord! God can use you. He can make you a blessing." Brother Paul Ciotti told a dream he had shortly after David was born, 25 years ago. He saw David reading the Bible and Book of Mormon. With God, all things are possible!

The elders knelt in prayer before the confirmations. Bro. Tony Ricci spoke in the Spirit, "Pray, pray, for God has done a mighty work and sealed it with an Amen." Brother Paul Ciotti confirmed Sister Angela Zaccane and prayed that she would go forth and rejoice in her testimony. Brother Bill Colangelo confirmed his grandson, Brother David Ciotti, and prayed for the gifts of Love, Compassion, Joy, Mercy, and Grace. As Brother Paul Ciotti embraced his nephew, Brother David, he spoke in tongues. The interpretation was given to be, "Know ye, David, that thou art numbered among the house of Israel. I will bless those that bless you and curse those that curse you." We then shared Communion with our new brother and sister in Christ.

Our young brothers, Paul Ciotti Jr., Patrick Monaghan, and David Ciotti, sang a song they had practiced, *Just for Me*. The words say, "But there was one drop He shed just for me." Our new brother and sister gave their testimonies and thanked God for the prayers of faithful family and the brothers and sisters which brought them to this day. They expressed their desire to be faithful to their commitment to serve God. We feel a surety, as we read in II Timothy, "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I've committed unto him against that day."

Church Dedication in Cala Gonone, Sardegna

By Rosario Scravaglieri,
Translated by Sabrina Scravaglieri

On Sunday, 20 June 1993, in Cala Gonone, Sardinia, The Church of Jesus Christ's dedication was officially celebrated. Participating in

the dedication were all the brothers and sisters of the Church in Cala Gonone, as well as some twelve Brothers and Sisters who came from America expressly for the occasion.

Other persons who are not baptized but are residents in Sardinia also participated in the dedication. The dedication was directed by Brother Vincent J. Lovalvo, an apostle of the Church. The service was opened by Brother Lovalvo and the group from America singing the hymn *First Love* together in English, and then in Italian with the whole congregation. Brother Alma Nolfi opened with prayer, and shortly afterward, the service continued with the consecration of the vessels and cloths which would be used for the Lord's Supper. This prayer was offered by Brother Stefano Romano. Then Marta, Lucia, and Chiara, daughters of Sister Marinella Romano, sang *Shall We Gather at the River*.

The deaconesses, Sisters Mary Lovalvo and Immacolata Romano, prepared the altar, accompanied by a hymn. Afterwards, Brother Stefano read a portion of Matthew Chapter 16, explaining the aspects of Jesus Christ's Church, of Peter, and of the Church's existence. He also spoke about baptism, which is the first step in entering into the life of Christ, and on to becoming Jesus' servants.

Then Brother Lovalvo introduced the brothers and sisters who had come from America, as well as the missionary brothers, Joseph Ross and Joseph Perri, who had arrived from Africa, where they had carried out their duties. Brother Lovalvo called upon Brother Michele LaSala to offer the dedicatory prayer. The prayer was touching, significant, and filled all those present with blessings. The American brothers and sisters then sang a hymn in English.

Brother Lovalvo continued his sermon, talking about Solomon, who supervised the construction of the first temple in Jerusalem. The brother's sermon was listened to with much appreciation. I can assure you

(Continued on Page 10)

SARDEGNA continued . . .

that even the non-members were gratified with the sermon which, in truth, caused the hearts of all present to vibrate.

The service continued with the administration of bread and wine, the Lord's Supper, followed by a hymn, *This Is the Lord's Day*, sung by the three young girls. Brother Romano offered the closing prayer. Afterwards, we gathered in front of the church, greeting and thanking all the visitors who had participated in the dedication service.

The same day, at 5:30, the brothers and sisters, together with the non-members, gathered again in church and continued in worship. Almost all present gave their testimonies, which were very, very touching. Some brothers and sisters were anointed by the brothers in the ministry, according to their requests. Hymns and songs were sung, and the day that was coming to an end marked in our hearts a deep furrow of recollection and spirituality whose impact is very difficult to express.

By the will of the Almighty Father and Lord of us all, the Church in Cala Gonone is now a reality. Amen.

PA District fellowships with Elkins, WV

By Lucetta Scaglione

On Saturday, August 28, 1993, a large group from the Pennsylvania District gathered together with those from the Elkins, WV Mission for a weekend of fellowship.

At 1:00 p.m. everyone met at Elkins Park for a picnic. The adults spent the afternoon visiting with one another, while the children participated in games and painted a T-shirt in remembrance of the day. They were very creative and turned out some masterpieces. For dinner, we all satisfied our appetites with a delicious catered meal of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Some of the sisters

provided after-dinner desserts.

After we were all sated, we gathered our lawn chairs together and had an enjoyable songfest in the park. Brother Pete Giannetti, Jr. accompanied the singing on a portable piano that the Pennsylvania District had rented. The McKees Rocks young men's quartet and Brother Joe Giannetti also honored us with several special selections. When we were finished singing our hearts out, and the watermelons were eaten, we cleaned up and everyone retired to their motel rooms for a good night's rest.

Sunday morning began with a baptism. Fanchon Pringle from the Vanderbilt Branch was taken into the water by Brother Bob Nicklow, Sr. Everyone then met at the Elkins Senior Citizens' Center for the Sabbath Day meeting. We again enjoyed singing praises to God, and Brother Richard Scaglione opened with prayer. Our first speaker was Brother Joe Ross. He read from the first chapter of James, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." Brother Joe remarked that it was strange to think that we should have joy in our temptations, but went on to explain. The joy is in overcoming our temptations! By doing this, we gain strength to make it easier to overcome the next trial that we face. In verse 5, he read, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Brother Joe encouraged us to continually go to God in prayer for all things. God is always ready to answer; all we have to do is ask. He spoke many more beautiful words to the congregation.

Brother Joe was followed by Brother Dick Lawson. Brother Dick read the words to the hymn, "Life's Railway to Heaven." He stated how well it went with the words that Brother Ross had brought forth. One verse reads:

You will roll up grades of trial,
You will cross the bridge of strife;

See that Christ is your Conductor
On this lightning train of life.

Brother Lawson also encouraged us to pray for our children and young adults who would soon be starting back to school. There would be many trials and dangers they would have to face, and they will surely need the Lord. Our brothers were inspired to call all the young ones, from infants on up to those in college, to come forward, and a beautiful prayer was offered for them.

Our new Sister Fanchon was called forward and was confirmed by Brother Russell Cadman. As he prayed for our sister to receive the Holy Ghost and a special gift of faith, Sister Hettie Benyola saw a pair of shining white hands on our sister's head.

Our new sister bore a touching testimony. One thing she said that impressed me was that she saw the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ not only having a special love for one another, but that they bonded together as a mother and child bond together.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Brother Richard Santilli, visiting from Ohio. As we departed and started our long trip home, there was a rejoicing in our souls for the blessed weekend we spent with our loved ones in Elkins!

Mexicotown (Detroit) Mission

By Dona Baez

On Sunday, June 27, 1993, the Mexicotown Mission in Detroit, Michigan had a glorious day. The morning was dreary, rainy, and cloudy, but by the time we reached the Detroit River for the baptism of Sister Virginia Gonzales, the skies had begun to clear. Many brothers and sisters from surrounding branches were there to witness Brother Gary Champine baptize Sister Virginia. She had been attending the Mexicotown Mission for almost three years, and everyone in

the mission was so excited when she related a dream that God gave her, telling her that it was time to be baptized! As our new sister came out of the water, Sisters Alma Palacios, Sara Zaccagnini, and Angela Palafox sang *Yo Soy Bautizado*.

When we returned to the mission, many brothers and sisters from other branches were there to greet us, not only with excitement for the baptism, but also because a baby would be blessed.

The service opened by singing three Spanish hymns, *En la Viña del Señor*, *Eran Cien Ovejas*, and *Gratis Das*. Brother Kerry Carlini was visiting from Saline, and had the honor of offering a blessing upon his nephew, Justin Kyle Zaccagnini, the son of Brother Rudy and Sister Neila Zaccagnini. Brother Gary Champine was our opening speaker, addressing the topic of miracles. He used Mormon Chapter 9 as his text. God ceases to perform miracles when we don't believe or we turn from the right way. Whatsoever we ask Him, He will give us if we believe. Brother Kerry followed on how necessary miracles are, and how we can do nothing by ourselves. Brother Frank Natoli spoke about the miracle of birth and of baptism.

The elders then formed a circle around Sister Virginia, and Brother

Frank laid hands on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost. One sister testified that while the prayer was being offered, she saw a white dress or robe being woven from side to side and from top to bottom. The neck and sleeves were trimmed in gold. Another sister immediately stood up and said that when she came into the mission that morning, the words, "It shall be woven" came to her. Truly God prepares a robe of righteousness for all.

Sisters Alma, Sara, and Angela then sang a beautiful Spanish hymn, *Cantare a Jesus*, followed by many testimonies of God's love for us. There were also anointings for God's healing power.

What a wonderful day with God's Spirit in our midst! We all went home and quitted with God's power. Please continue to pray that Christ may touch the many souls in the Mexicotown area. With over 20,000 Mexicans, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and other Central and South Americans who have never heard of the Restoration or of God's promises to the Seed of Joseph, there is much work to do. May God bless you.

Rochester, NY Mission

By Carmella D'Amico

The following is a report on some of the many visitors and special occasions we have had at Rochester throughout the past year. We felt the Lord's blessings in all of them.

On January 24, 1993, Brother Russ and Sister Lena Martorana came to Rochester from Niles, Ohio per the visitation schedule. Bro. Russ chose for his text a passage from the Book of Enos, found in the Book of Mormon. Enos wanted to know concerning eternal life and the joy of the saints. His struggle with the Lord applies to us as well. We must remember the promise that we made to serve Him.

On March 7, 1993, Brother Vince and Sister Sevilla Gibson made a trip to Rochester from Cleveland, Ohio. Brother Vince chose for his

text II Corinthians 5 and Psalm 1, "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." A good spirit prevailed during the service.

Brother Wayne Martorana visited us from Niles, Ohio on March 28, 1993. He read from John 6, where Jesus blessed the five loaves and two fishes that fed 5,000 people. Our brother went on to tell how Gideon won the battle with the Midianites with only 300 men. God is able to multiply and win the battles if we have faith, and are found possessing the fruits of the Spirit.

We were blessed with a visit from Brother Harold and Sister Berniece Burge of Erie, Pennsylvania on April 25, 1993. Bro. Burge read from John the first chapter. John baptized with water, but there came one greater that would baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost. Jesus came and asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water. He said, I am the living water, whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. At the end of the day, our Sister Kathy Klem felt the Spirit of God and asked to be restored to fellowship.

On May 23, Brother Joel and Sister Ruth Gehly and their children came to visit us from Erie, PA. Bro. Joel used the second chapter of Acts for his text, regarding Christ's

(Continued on Page 12)



Baptism of Sis. Virginia Gonzales



Sister Carmella D'Amico

ROCHESTER continued . . .

ascension to heaven. He related some wonderful experiences that were had on his missionary trip to Italy.

On July 11, a chartered bus from Detroit attended the Hill Cumorah pageant. On Sunday they came to worship with us. We enjoyed a beautiful season of community singing. A choir sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. The singing was so beautiful that it sounded like a choir of angels singing. I saw a vision of Jesus in a cloud, coming down and blessing us. Bro. Paul Pezzenti, who was visiting also that day, chose for his text the 100th Psalm, an exhortation to praise God. "Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all lands. Serve the Lord with gladness."

Brothers Peter Scolaro and Fred Olexa followed on the same subject. We should be a happy people. We have the opportunity to choose to walk after the ways of the Lord.

After Communion, the service was opened for testimony. Many beautiful testimonies were given by those in attendance that day.

When we dismissed for lunch, to my surprise, there was a large cake there that read, "God Bless You on Your 60th Anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ." We had a happy and wonderful day in the Lord. I was baptized on June 29, 1933, by Matthew Miller, and confirmed by Brother Frank Rosati. I was ordained a deaconess on July 24, 1947. On November 25, 1939, I married Brother Ansel (Sam) D'Amico.

On July 18, Brother Bob and Sister Ruth Batson and their children visited from Niles, Ohio. Bro. Bob chose Matthew 20 for his text, where the mother of James and John desired that her sons sit, one on the left and one on the right hand of God. Jesus said, "Are ye able to drink of the same cup that I drink?" He that wishes to be chiefest shall be the servant of all. May God bless you all.

CAMPOUT continued . . .

were two special post-meeting evening activities, which Brother Doug Obradovich organized and led. The young people enjoyed the games and activities which also served to keep them together and allowed everyone to get to know each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

The camp theme song chosen was *En la Viña del Señor*. And, as Brother Joel Calabrese states in his Campout Report, "We cannot overlook something very important that happened this week. A young man was baptized who is from Peru. Another baptized was a doctor from Guatemala. The Lord is picking His chosen people from around the world."

GMBA Campout was truly the start of an exciting summer. A summer in which the blessings of God overflowed and filled each of us in a personal way.

Children Blessed

Joshua Michael Cassidy was blessed by his grandfather, Brother Gary Champine, on June 20, 1993 at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. He is the son of Chris and Lori Cassidy.

On the same day, Brother Lou Vitto blessed Alyssa Marie Rey, daughter of Richard and Marlene (Parry) Rey at the Sterling Heights Branch.

On August 8, 1993, Alissa Cathryn Romanski, daughter of Ric and Karyn (Vitto) Romanski, was blessed by her grandfather, Bro. Lou Vitto, at the Sterling Heights Branch. She is the first grandchild of Bro. Lou and Sis. Shirley Vitto.

Georgegino Nicholas Dunn was blessed on September 19, 1993 by Bro. Lou Vitto at the Sterling Heights Branch. She is the first great-grandchild of Sister Sally Dubreuil.

OBITUARY

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

LOUISE FALLAVOLLITA

Sister Louise Fallavollita, of the Bell, California Branch, passed away on September 5, 1993 after a brief illness. She was born on June 10, 1924 in Greensburg, PA and moved to California in 1948. She was baptized into the Church on May 14, 1950 by Brother Rocco Meo.

Her love for God and family remained strong until the end. The funeral was conducted by Brothers Robert McDonnell (her nephew) and Vincent Scalise. She is survived by five sisters and one brother.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

December, 1993

Volume 49, No. 12

The Thoughts of Two Men

By Rusty Heaps

The centurion entered the inn,
And asked for some food, and water to drink.
He ordered his soldiers to leave him alone,
He just had to be by himself, to think.

The things that transpired these past few days
Were enough to boggle the mind.
This man Jesus was just something else;
For sure, He was one of a kind.

Why didn't He defend Himself at any time,
Why didn't He plead His case?
Even when they beat and mocked Him so much,
There was love written all over His face.

"I'm a soldier of Rome, I don't understand
How you beat a man and put Him to death,
And He looks in your eyes, and then He says,
'Forgive them, Father,' with His next to last breath."

The centurion ate quietly, thinking;
Thinking of all that took place.
He thought of Jesus, and the darkness, and the earth-
quake,
And said, "Was he really the Savior of the human race?"

He looked up for a moment and beheld
A very old man sitting in his chair.
His body was present with him in the room,
But his mind and his thoughts were elsewhere.

The centurion walked over and spoke to him,
And asked if he ever knew this Christ.

The old man looked up, and with trembling mouth
Stated, "Yes, but I only saw Him twice."

"Tell me of Him, I just have to know.
I'm a soldier—I must know what I've done.
Did I and my soldiers kill a man this day,
Or did we, without knowing, slay God's Son?"

"Without knowing,' you say? Well, maybe so.
Your sin may be in being a good soldier of Rome.
But what of me, and the pain that I've borne?
I refused to allow Him into my home.

"It all happened thirty-three years ago,
When the decree from Caesar was made,
And the people from all over the country
Had to go where their taxes were paid.

"I had a small inn by the roadside,
And let me tell you, those were busy days.
With so many traveling away from their homes,
An inn was the only place they could stay.

"It was good having all that business;
The money I needed, and the inn was really full.
But in my zeal for money, and seeking my gain,
I believe I broke the Golden Rule."

The centurion looked puzzled for a moment,
But the old man nodded, and speaking very clear,
"It was a nice night, with the heavens shining bright,
But it was chilly at that time of year.

(Continued on Page 10)

Ineffectual Conversation

By John R. Griffith

One of the most important abilities given to mankind is our skill in communicating ideas back and forth to one another. But do we use other important abilities, such as reasoning, in conjunction with our communication skills? Has God seasoned our hearts enough to aid us in controlling our tongue by not speaking worthless, damaging statements about others?

"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." (James 3:2)

Ineffectual conversation is destructive. We carefully choose our words so as not to appear ignorant, but at times we speak sentences that show our disobedient tendencies toward God's teachings. The "untamed tongue" referred to in the book of James will speak gossip, put others down, spread rumors, tell lies or try to deceive, speak slander, brag, bear false teaching, complain, and even manipulate others. Do you possibly lack this form of self-control?

"A man that beareth false witness against his neighbor is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow." (Proverbs 25:18)

The "truth" you believe you are speaking may be a partial or misrepresented truth, or even false. If tempted to spread a little gossip about someone, just imagine stabbing your victim with a sword. It is easier to bear a physical wound than to deal with a vicious and harmful slander coming from a fellow "believer."

Read II Thessalonians 3:6-15 and you may find out that if you have time to gossip, you may just be a "busybody." Scripture encourages

us to get a job, find something productive to do, use our time wisely.

Compare as James did the damaging effect of an uncontrolled tongue to that of a raging fire. The tongue's wickedness has its source connected directly to the powers of darkness. Who controls the tongue? Are we not taught that our tongue exposes our heart?

"Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessings and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so." (James 3:10)

We can be either a blessing or a curse to others, depending on how we allow ourselves to be used. Which speech pattern reflects your true nature? When the Holy Spirit purifies the heart, He gives self-control so that we are able to speak words that not only please our fellow man, but more importantly, please God. Before you speak, ask yourself these questions: "Is what I am about to say the truth? Is it necessary to say it? Is it kind? Will it help the listener grow closer to God?" Think before you speak.

Spreading gossip disrupts unity by destroying trust and creating conflicts. It tears down relationships and leads to dissension in a church. If we have received Christ, talking negatively about someone should be in our past. The Holy Spirit has given us a new role, and we are headed in a new direction. Don't put back on the old clothing, soiled by sin, that was left at the water's edge. With your every word, you are either building or tearing down God's kingdom here on earth. Purging will begin in the house of God.

"Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearer." (Ephesians 4:28-29)

365 Days

When I was just a little kid,
I used to like to hear
The story of how angels came
And told of a Babe so dear.
The shepherds and the wise men,
The star that shone in the sky,
They all seemed like a fairy tale;
I never questioned, "Why?"

All year long I used to wait
And think about the toys.
The trees, the lights, the magic nights—
These all were Christmas joys.
But after Christmas, everything
Was always put away.
It seemed the Christmas spirit
Couldn't last more than a day.

This year, again, I'll decorate
And celebrate His birth.
But now I know the reason why
Christ Jesus came to earth.
The toys may break, the colors fade,
The friends, they will depart.
But the gifts that Jesus gives me
I will keep within my heart.

Christmas is for children,
But Christ came for every day.
Both day and night, He is the light;
He helps us in every way.
But we must keep Him in our hearts,
And think about His ways;
And He will be there when we call,
Three hundred and sixty-five days.

K. A. Perkins



Last year Sister Rose and Brother Bill DiFranco of the San Diego Branch celebrated the 60th anniversary of their baptisms.

BRANCH AND MISSION NEWS

Levittown Branch

By Jennifer Kowalsky

On September 26, 1993, Brother Garry Camden was ordained a deacon at the Levittown, PA

Branch. Brother Mark King washed our brother's feet and Brother Joe Benyola ordained him.

Later on in the service, Brother Sam Dell asked Brother Garry to give his testimony. As he expressed himself that day, we all felt the

touch of the Holy Spirit.

In some ways, it was also a sad day for us, as we said a fond farewell to Brother Jim and Sister Kellie Speck, who are transferring to the Roscoe, PA Branch. Brothers and Sisters from the Edison and Freehold, NJ Branches were in our midst to see them off as well.

Sister Kellie gave her testimony and encouraged us to all support one another and work together to become kingdom builders. Then Brother Jim gave his testimony, telling us how he has been in the Levittown Branch since he was 14 years old, when his parents first visited the Church. This branch has been a big part of his life.

As he spoke, most of the people who were there started to get all choked up inside. It was a very emotional moment. We all wish our brother and sister God's blessings in their continued walk with God.

Financial Results for Nine Months Ending September 30, 1993

Dear Readers:

The nine-month results are shown in the following table, which is somewhat different than previous comparisons that have appeared in this series of articles. You will note that the membership is listed for each district (as of 12/31/92), which gives the reader a slightly different perspective.

<u>District</u>	<u>Total Received 1/1/93-9/30/93</u>	<u>Number of Members</u>	<u>Average Per Member 1/1/93-9/30/93</u>
Atlantic Coast	\$ 51,072	369	\$138
Michigan/Ontario	80,810	522	155
Ohio	26,443	421	63
Pacific Coast	55,452	440	126
Pennsylvania	75,919	480	158
Southeast	24,390	238	102
Southwest	18,059	213	85
Totals	\$332,145	2683	\$124

Our Spending Plan for the first nine months of 1993 is \$472,320. This means that we are \$140,175 behind where we expected to be at this point. Some of this can be accounted for by the fact that all receipts from the districts were not in when the third quarter results were prepared on October 15, 1993. Those receipts would not have made up the shortage, but it does indicate that some districts are not sending in receipts when they are required. As a reminder, receipts are to be received by the General Church Financial Secretary by the tenth of each month. When this report was prepared, on the fifteenth, four districts had not sent in their September receipts, and two still had not sent in their *August* receipts!

All is not lost, or at least we hope not. We still have the final quarter of 1993 to improve these results. Can we do it? *Will* we do it? The answer to the first question is a resounding YES! We must wait for the answer to the second question. It is our sincere prayer and belief that it will be done.

God bless each of us with the determination, strength, and vision to see the year end on a very positive and strong note.

General Church Finance Committee

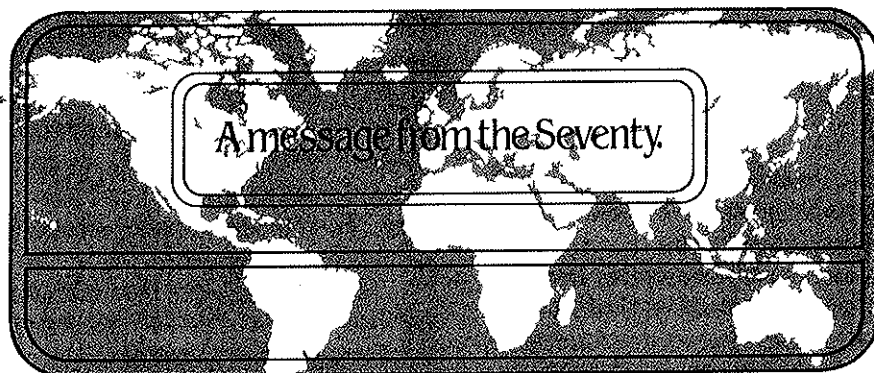
Summer, 1993 at Cincinnati, OH Mission

By Bonnie Miller

We had a busy summer at the Cincinnati, Ohio Mission, starting with the Memorial Day weekend, when we had visitors from Tampa, Florida. The Staleys were here, Brother Ken and Sister Sharon and their sons. On June 6, we were pleasantly surprised with a visit from Brother Fred and Sister Charlotte Olexa of the Columbus Mission.

The month of July, we had a wonderful series of visiting brothers and sisters, too. On July 4, our visitors were Cricket Murray, Brother Mike and Sister Karen Pandone. Brother Ron and Sister Kim Morle were visiting from Michigan a week later on July 11, and Sister Evelyn Swihart of Lake Worth, Florida was also visiting the same day. Kalan Yarke was visiting her grandparents, and came to church with them on that day.

(Continued on Page 7)



Conference of the Americas July 13-18, 1993 Tijuana, Baja California

By Paul Liberto and Jesse Guerrero

Representatives of the ministry and membership of The Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico, Guatemala, and the United States met together in Tijuana, Mexico, for the annual Conference of the Americas last July 13-18. The theme was taken from Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest."

The conference was presided over by Brother Paul Liberto, Pacific Coast District Missions Operating Committee (PCDMOC) Chairman, and Frank Ciotti, Guatemala Subcommittee Chairman, who were in charge throughout the week. At the beginning, those in attendance were reminded that all should "be strong"; that it was time for the Good News to be taken to all of the Seed of Joseph. The message was punctuated with the descending of the Spirit on the brethren with the first hymn that was sung, *Tenemos Grande Gozo* (What a Great Joy We Have in Jesus). Yes, "todos eran unidos a una voz." (All were united in one voice.)

CONSTANT GROWTH

Constant growth throughout Mexico and Guatemala was disclosed, with special reports given by each

presiding elder. Guatemala was represented by Brother Luis Marroquin. Mexico was represented by Brothers Vincente Arce and Jose Granados, Tijuana; Brothers Miguel Aparicio and Eleazar Gamez, Mexicali; Brother Juan Benitez, San Isidro; Brother Hector Carlon, Ahome; Brother Antonio Ortega, Mexico City; Brother Daniel Mora, Chihuahua; Brother Domingo Ortiz, Pedernales; and Brother Arturo Martinez, Oaxaca.

Seminars were conducted for the brothers on "The New Law on Remarriage," "Legal Requirements for Church Operations in Mexico," "Missionary Training Center," "The Creation, the Covenants, and the Commandments," and "Taking the Gospel to the Americas: Organizational Hindrances and Opportunities."

Seminars were also conducted for the sisters, on "Sharing the Gospel: Problems and Promises," and "The Power of Praise." During one of the evening seminars, the brothers desired to demonstrate their love for their wives and sisters of the Church by leaving their seminar to sing to them. At the appointed hour, the brothers filed into the room where the sisters were meeting, each carrying flowers to be presented to each sister. As the brothers sang

A Child of the King, many tears of love and appreciation were shed. It was a special moment of love that will be long remembered by those present.

FASTING AND PRAYER

During the conference, the brothers met in fasting and prayer and were mightily blessed by the manifestation of the Spirit of God. They witnessed the speaking of tongues, offered mighty prayers, and received direction for their lives. Also, during the conference, the PCDMOC met and recommended four Mexican brothers to the ministry. A wonderful spirit of confirmation was felt through experiences, the speaking of tongues, and the still, small voice of God, as brothers Carlos Rodriguez, Eduardo Gomez, Arturo Martinez, and Refugio Chavez were recommended.

The PCDMOC was inspired to begin the process of turning the oversight of the work of the Church in Mexico and Guatemala over to the Seed of Joseph. To begin this transition, it was decided that the Seed of Joseph should be responsible for selecting a coordinator and two assistants, to assist the PCDMOC with planning and coordinating the 1994 Conference of the Americas. These coordinators will work with the PCDMOC and receive special training to preside over portions of the conference. The brothers enthusiastically endorsed the proposal and subsequently elected Brother Hector Carlon as Coordinator and Brothers Luis Marroquin and Daniel Mora as Assistant Coordinators.

The brothers were given the understanding that by this same process they will someday elect their own district officers to oversee all of the work in Mexico and Central and South America. It was wonderful to see how they were desirous to take on the responsibility offered to them. The PCDMOC truly believes that this action marks the beginning of a new era for the Seed of Joseph.

(Continued on Page 9)

The Gospel News

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Anthony J. Scolaro
20 Byrd Ave.
Bloomfield, NJ 07003

ASSISTANT EDITOR
Leonard A. Lovalvo
8085 Schneider
Manchester, MI 48158

CONSULTANTS
Nephi DeMercurio
Peter A. Scolaro

OFFICE MANAGER
Cathy Gentile

GMBA EDITOR
Patrick Monaghan
RD-2 Box 304 A
Canonsburg, PA 15317

GENERAL CIRCLE EDITOR
Dianna Gibson
24569 Scott Blvd.
Olmsted Falls, OH 44138

DISTRICT EDITORS

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

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO
Lisa Champine
47025 Hennings Dr.
Chesterfield, MI 48047

OHIO
Mark Naro
4425 Broadway
Lorain, OH 44055

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

PENNSYLVANIA
Lucetta Scaglione
303 Union St.
Monongahela, PA 15063

SOUTHEAST
James G. Speck
3710 Player Dr.
New Port Richey, FL 34655

SOUTHWEST
Darlene Ignagni
607 Chaffee Dr.
Arlington, TX 76006

THE GOSPEL NEWS (ISSN 0279-1056) is published monthly for \$12.00 per year by The Church of Jesus Christ PRINT HOUSE, 8282 Boettner Rd., P.O. Box 30, Bridgewater, MI 48115-0030, 313-429-5080. Second class postage paid at Saline, Michigan and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO: THE GOSPEL NEWS BUSINESS OFFICE, P.O. BOX 30, BRIDGEWATER, MI 48115-0030.

Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"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" (John 3:16). Our Heavenly Father gave us the ultimate Gift when He sent His Son Jesus Christ to earth. At a time of year when we give and receive presents, this familiar verse of scripture—and its concept—deserve a fresh look.

By its very definition, a gift involves the voluntary transfer of something by one person to another, *without compensation*. The Bible and Book of Mormon teach us over and over again that Salvation was bestowed upon mankind free of charge, that Jesus Christ paid the price when He died on Calvary. Yet as humans, we sometimes forget that it was already purchased, and act as if our Salvation is something we choose for ourselves in exchange for a life of service and obedience to God.

In our human pride, we may have trouble accepting something so valuable as the Salvation of our souls without believing that we must somehow try to repay the debt we owe. Like the co-worker who won't let you buy him a cup of coffee, we take all the joy out of giving and receiving when we unnecessarily burden ourselves with the responsibility of compensating the Lord for His Heavenly Gift. Furthermore, we cheapen our soul's Salvation when we reduce it to something that we think we can repay. The scriptures clearly teach us that Salvation is something so great, so precious, and that in our fallen state we are so lost in sin and transgression, there is no amount of good we can do to make our souls worthy of being saved.

For us to fully experience the joy of Salvation, we need to relinquish any thoughts of earning our place in Heaven, and rest our minds and hearts in the knowledge that Jesus Christ has saved us. Our lives here below are such that we may at times have naught but this singular thought to hold on to as we weather the storms that surround us. Relying on the Word of God, we must remind ourselves how valuable, and yet how free, our Salvation is.

Will this lead us to sit back and become weary of good works? Will it impart upon us the arrogant attitude that Salvation has exempted us from having to exert ourselves spiritually? Not if we truly understand the extent of God's love toward us. If we are taught to realize that before we could ask for it, our soul's Salvation was offered to us in love, that it is so valuable as to be unrepayable, that it is eternal, and, most importantly, that it is *sharable*, our lives will be filled with good works that are not performed out of any sense of obligation, nor out of a fear of hellfire, but rather, are motivated by the same divine love that God showed toward us, and that we are now able to show toward our fellow creatures.

Let us go forth with the realization that our soul's Salvation is a gift so profound that it has the potential to reach far beyond our own frame of flesh and blood to affect—for eternity—every life that is touched by our own.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Did you know that when you make your decision to serve God and then get baptized, He immediately gives you a valuable, mysterious gift? It is given to you when the elders of The Church of Jesus Christ lay hands on you and pray. They pray to God in the name of Jesus for you to receive this gift, called the Holy Ghost.

Sometimes people say they feel a great peace and calmness after hands were laid on them. (I did.) Other people say they can't see the gift, so how do they know they received it? (By faith and trusting the scriptures.)

Some people think they never got it until several years passed after their baptism. I say that just as Jesus got the gift, He gave it to them. They just never had the need or teaching to understand how it worked. Later, in a time of true searching, they discover the amazing Holy Ghost within them, and call upon it.

Jesus teaches us that the Holy Ghost will comfort us. We never have to be alone or deeply afraid. We can count on help to make our decisions.

When Jesus was going to depart from this world and return to God, the disciples were brokenhearted. They wanted to walk with, talk with, and see Jesus all the time. That's when He told them about the Holy ghost that He would send upon them. Jesus told them that the Holy Ghost would lead them, guide them, and direct them.

Sometimes you will feel the Holy Ghost inside of you like a little voice, or thought. Often, when I'm confused or scared about what to do,

I pray for strength and wisdom and then wait quietly. Then I follow the good thoughts that come to me.

Thoughts and ideas from the Holy Ghost are never mean, teasing, or sneaky. The Holy Ghost is pure, is powerful, and is love.

My human side frequently wants to be cranky or unkind. The Holy Ghost reminds me that I was given gifts from Jesus. The Holy Ghost reminds me that I've been forgiven much, and it is my job to love and forgive others. The Holy Ghost shows us how to be greater, wiser, and kinder than we would ever be on our own.

I have a wise, older-than-me special friend named Sister Jean. She often calls me when I'm home alone, troubled about something. She'll ask, "Sister Jan, are you all right? The Holy Spirit keeps bringing you before me all day. I'm praying for you."

Then I am reminded of how deeply God loves me and how Jesus cares. I see the Holy Ghost working in my life and then I try to do better. I try to be the one to pray for and call someone else who is hurting. And this is just *one* way the Holy Ghost leads, guides, and directs us.

We don't have to do it alone. Even when we make a sin, there is a way to ask forgiveness and keep trying. We can start fresh over and over again. We can learn to listen to the mysterious gift within us. It's free; we just have to be willing to learn to use it.

We can each learn to be an instrument (like a pencil) in God's hand. We can be used by Him to do wonderful, miraculous deeds by



being clean in our hearts and minds, and willing to call upon the Holy Ghost to listen, learn, and be guided by it. And the more often we use it, the greater it becomes.

With love and care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

Find the words in CAPITAL letters.

OUR	US
COMFORTER	YOU
from	ONLY
JESUS	NEED
IS	TO
CALLED	ASK
the	for
HOLY	REPENTANCE
GHOST	IT(S)
IT	FREE
WILL	TRUST
LEAD	GOD
GUIDE	and
AND	CHRIST
DIRECT	HIS
EACH	SON
OF	

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

CINCINNATI continued . . .

July 18 brought Brother Ron and Sister Kathy Genaro and their children, along with Brother and Sister Olexa. And on July 31, the Ohio Area MBA sponsored an outing for the young people to attend a baseball game in Cincinnati. That Saturday, we were able to get together after the game at the Licata home for a pizza party. We had a wonderful time visiting with everyone. The brothers and sisters of the Cincinnati Mission were able to take several visitors home with them overnight that Saturday, then all attended church with us on Sunday. Our small building was overflowing with many saints and their children.

On August 8, we once again had several visitors: Sisters Cindy and Carolyn Parravano, Sister Tonia and Brother Greg Davis, and Celeste Amormino. On August 15, Sister Monica and her son Daniel Murray were visiting. They later transferred to our mission. Brother Lou and Jenny Ross visited with us from Aliquippa, PA on August 29. The same day, Brother Jesse and Sister Ruth Carr were here from Greensburg, PA.

Brother Russell and Sister Lena Martorana visited us on September 19. And the last weekend of summer, Brother Joe and Sister Erma Draskovich, along with Brother Fred and Sister Charlotte Olexa, visited us.

Our prayers are that we will always have this number of visitors coming through our area. Being away from the main group of brothers and sisters, we need to have you come visit. Each one uplifts us. Thanks to each of you for taking time to visit.

Joy in Cottageville, SC

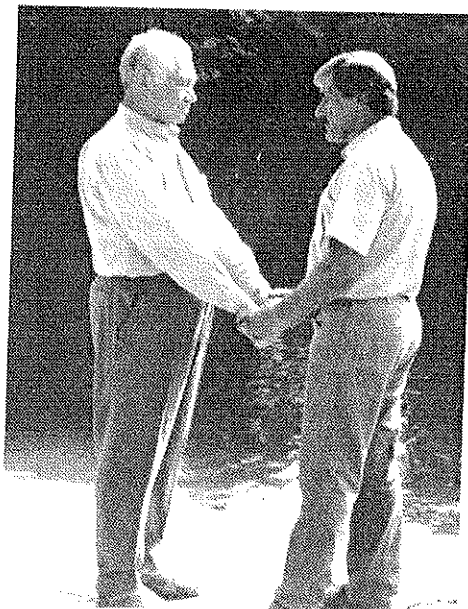
A joyous occasion took place in the mission at Cottageville, SC on September 26, 1993. Ralph Lee Heung was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Philip Arcuri of the Atlantic Coast District. It was a beautiful day. The sun was

shining, and the place of the baptism was a place of serenity and scenic beauty, as only God could have created.

A group of fourteen people gathered at the water's edge to witness the first baptism in this mission field.

Our Brother Philip spent ten months here, holding meetings on Wednesdays and Sundays with monthly visits by Brother Anthony and Sister Theresa Vadasz. Many other brothers and sisters made the trip to spend some time and to help with this work.

On this particular Sunday we had visitors from Spartanburg, SC; Metuchen, NJ; and people from nearby who have been attending the meetings at Cottageville regularly. After the baptism, we returned to the church building for our service and for laying hands on our brother for the reception of the Holy Ghost. As our brother was being confirmed, Sister Jessie Hill of Spartanburg saw a third personage standing between the two elders, laying his hands upon theirs as the prayer was being offered. The Spirit of God was felt as our sister related this experience, showing us that the Lord was pleased with the work going on in Cottageville.



Bro. Philip Arcuri (right) takes Ralph Heung into the waters of baptism.

Ordination at Bell, CA

Sunday, March 21, 1993, brought together a representation of brothers and sisters from San Diego, Anaheim, Riverside, Simi Valley, and Tijuana to the Bell, California Branch for the ordination of Brother Rudy Carrillo as an elder for the Riverside Mission.

Singing in Spanish and English was led by Brother Sal Azzinaro of Riverside. Brother Ken Jones asked that the meeting be left open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Brother Paul Liberto read from Alma 13, and then continued by saying that God has spoken that Brother Rudy shall be our minister. The Lord calls ministers to set themselves aside to preach the Gospel. Being called into the Priesthood is not a promotion, but rather is a great responsibility. He said that Bro. Rudy has been set aside to become an elder by the calling of God. No man can do it on his own without God's calling. Brother Liberto asked each one of us to be supportive of our brother in prayer for him and his family, that God will always be with him in this calling. It behooves us to prepare ourselves for what God has in store for us. Let's ask God to use us. Let us not judge Brother Rudy by his faults, but judge him by his walk as a servant of the Most High God.

Brother Luis Pacheco followed, in Spanish. He said that we should pray for Rudy so that Rudy, in return, will be able to pray for our needs.

The Zionees sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor* as Bro. Rudy prepared to have his feet washed by Bro. Luis.

Brother Bob McDonnell read from II Corinthians 6, concerning what the Apostle Paul endured, and what he interpreted were the duties of a minister of God. The elders then encircled Bro. Rudy, and a prayer was offered by Brother Luis Pacheco.

Brother Bob McDonnell ordained Brother Rudy. We sang *His Name Is Wonderful* as Brother Rudy

(Continued on Page 8)

was embraced by the elders.

Sister Bennie Jones had the following vision: "While the brothers were kneeling in prayer, I saw two pillars of fire on each side of Brother Paul Liberto. A personage came in and placed a cloak upon Brother Rudy, and then handed him a fiery sword." Brother Paul Liberto called Brother Rudy's wife and children forward and offered a prayer on their behalf.

Sacrament was administered, and the meeting was left open for testimony. Many beautiful testimonies followed, giving honor and praise to God. The meeting adjourned and lunch was prepared and offered to us all by the Riverside Mission. Truly the light of God shone brightly through the ministry and through the testimonies of the saints on this special Sunday.

Seven Baptized at Detroit Branch #1

*By Patti Saragosa and
Rosanne Champine*

On July 18, 1993, the Lord did surely "open the windows of heaven" and pour out His blessings upon our branch that wonderful day. The brothers and sisters were eagerly anticipating the baptism of 19-year-old Darin Amormino. Darin had asked for his baptism a number of days earlier.

Among many visiting brothers and sisters, Brothers Doug Obradovich and Eugene Amormino, Darin's father, were our speakers that morning. Afterwards, Brother Edward Palposi stood up and told the congregation that he had seen a vision of Christ sitting among the priesthood on a white throne, and that he understood the Lord was calling for more souls to repent that day.

While Brother Eugene and Darin were preparing for the baptism, a duet was sung, and then the congregation began to sing *For Those Tears I Died* to close the morning service.

As the congregation was singing this hymn, Brother Mike LaSala looked out at the members and their families, and it was revealed to him that 15-year-old Ryan Lesperance would ask for his baptism, and that he, Brother Mike, would be the one to baptize him.

When the congregation finished singing, Presiding Elder Peter Scolaro asked if anyone had anything to say. Ryan then proclaimed his desire to be baptized. What a beautiful blessing and confirmation that the Lord's Spirit was among us that day! But God's work was not done yet. As the congregation was preparing to leave for the river, five more souls, one by one, approached the brothers and asked for their baptism. They were: Paul Thomas (15), Jamy Lesperance (13), Andrew Perkins (14), Sam Miller (16), and Rachel Straccia (14).

After the baptisms, we gathered back at the branch with brothers, sisters, and friends from other branches who had heard the good news and come to join us for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost and Communion. Our afternoon service was opened with brief comments by Brother Tom Everett, who encouraged the young converts to stay close to the Lord and learn to lean on Him.

As the seven candidates were brought forward to receive the Holy Ghost, we heard many beautiful prayers on their behalf offered by the brothers who laid hands on them. While one brother was praying, Brother John Straccia spoke in the gift of tongues. Brother John also received part of the interpretation, "Their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life." Also, Sister Connie Leopoldo rose and testified that she understood part of the interpretation to be that the young brother who was being prayed on at the time, Andrew Perkins, would be as Andrew of old.

Sister Mary Jane Soave, the grandmother of Ryan and Jamy Lesperance, had dreamed early that morning that she was singing and praising God with the brothers and sisters of Branch 1. This dream was

so powerful that when she awoke, she had her arms raised upward to heaven and her lips were moving in praise to the Lord.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo addressed the congregation on behalf of the seven new converts. Citing the knowledge and wisdom gained through many years of experience, he admonished the brothers and sisters to be gentle, loving, nurturing spiritual fathers and mothers to these young members, for they would one day have the responsibility of carrying on with the Lord's work. He warned us not to be harsh with them, discouraging them and weakening them at such a precious time in their spiritual lives. He praised God for the privilege of seeing these young ones come to the Lord, adding the strength and energy of their youth to the congregation.

After a beautiful afternoon service, we dismissed for supper, then gathered at the branch again that evening for refreshments and continued fellowship.

Ordination, honors at Branch 4, Redford, MI

By Debbie LaCivita

Brother Eli LaCivita was ordained a deacon at Branch 4 in Redford, Michigan on September 26, 1993. Brother Eli's feet were washed by Brother Dean Coppa, and Brother Tullio LaCivita offered prayer for his ordination. Brother Frank Vitto and Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo spoke on the duties of a deacon in The Church of Jesus Christ.

On October 20, 1993, we honored our members over seventy years of age. A dinner was held to commemorate their faithful years of service to this branch, where they are fathers and mothers to all. Brother Tullio LaCivita and Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo presided over the ceremony. The members were each presented with a corsage or boutonniere, and enjoyed a lovely meal and the warm company of the branch.

members and their families. The members honored were: Anthony and Margaret Cappatocio, Gorie and Antoinette Ciaravino, Marie Fera, Lillian Furnier, Anthony and Anne Lovalvo, Marion Maisano, Connie Moraca, Pro Palermo, and Mary Spink. May God bless them all.

Fellowship in Saline, MI

During the past year, the Saline, MI Branch conducted several activities for the purpose of fellowshiping among our members, with those from other branches and missions, and with our neighbors, members of the surrounding community.

On March 26, 1993, after the local MBA meeting, nine women from the branch gathered at Sister Rosanne Batalucco's house for a Branch Slumber Party. They didn't get much sleep that night, but they proved that women of all ages could enjoy food, movies, games, and each other's company. They enjoyed it so much, another is planned in the future.

All who attended the second annual Happening on Friday, August 13, 1993 had an enjoyable evening. This included members of the Saline Branch, Detroit Branch #2, and friends from the community. It all began with a delicious picnic dinner with plenty to eat. For those who had a propensity for athletics, there was volleyball with good old-fashioned friendly competition. Others enjoyed just sitting around and fellowshiping with one another. The Happening concluded with everyone sitting around the bonfire on bales of hay from Brother Joe and Sister Virginia Carlini's barn, singing and praising God. A good time was had by all.

On August 27, 1993, ten members and five children from the Saline Branch and two members from Detroit Branch #1 visited and fellowshiped with migrant workers near Deerfield, Michigan. This activity was arranged by Sisters Roseann Wood and Kim Christoffersen who, along with Sister

Tanya Wood, have been visiting and helping migrant workers for several years, both in Michigan and in Homestead, Florida. Last year, several members of the Saline Branch visited the camp and provided the workers with clothes, food, and other needed items. Alice, the "crew leader" and our liaison, explained to us that the workers were appreciative of our visit and generosity, and asked us to return, which we did.

The visit began with an opening prayer by Brother Kerry Carlini, after which everyone joined in the singing of inspirational hymns in Spanish, including *En la Viña del Señor* and *Caminando*, which were well known by the workers. Bro. Kerry accompanied the singing on his guitar. Sister Sara Zaccagnini served as interpreter and explained to our friends who we were and why we were visiting. Everyone partook in and enjoyed refreshments, and even though we were unable to communicate in words, we all enjoyed each other's company, and could feel God's presence. We left promising to return in the very near future.

Little One

By Cristy Reynolds

Little one.
Precious one.
His mother holds Him
Close to her breast,
Close to her heart.

His kind father walks in,
Bringing with him
Three guests.
They have
Gifts.

Outside, in the
Cool night,
A bright
Star
Is shining.

Life has begun.
Little one.
Precious one.
Holy one.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Giovannone, Ron and Cindy
3711 Indian Run Dr.—Apt. 2
Canfield, OH 44406-9556
Tel. 216-533-7595

Lovalvo, V. James and Mary
3046 W. Wellington Ln.
Fresno, CA 93711
Tel. 209-431-2960

Rogolino, Thomas and Michele
7 Bailly Drive
Burlington, NJ 08016
Tel. 609-239-0665

MESSAGE continued . . .

SUNDAY WORSHIP

How inspiring it was to hear all of the saints and guests in Mexico sing hymns of praise to Our Lord at the Sunday worship service! When the youth combine to sound like celestial angels, one knows that they are "Keeping Step" (the hymn they sang in Spanish) with the wishes of God. Praise God that at their young ages, they already know what path they should be keeping. This thought kept running through the minds of all who were in attendance. While the young people were singing, Brother Jesse Guerrero was inspired to write the following poem:

How Like the Young

How like the young,
With their verses sung,
To lead the way for us all,
We say to one and all.

How like the young,
Now not so old,
To show the world
That they care for the ways of old.

Lord, the young sing
Of Your infinite goodness.
To us Your servants bring
The blessings for which we pray.

(Continued on Page 10)

MESSAGE continued . . .

"Oh, Jesus," the young proclaim,
"Lead us on by Your example,
With Your words, Your compassion,
And Your tender mercies."

How like the young,
To show us . . .
All of us . . .
The way.

How great, the young tell us,
Is the way of the Lord.
Sing praises now, while you can,
For the many blessings you've
received.

Now . . .
Not later . . .
Now!
To Our God!

The 1993 Conference of the Americas was a blessing to the saints. Although we were young and old, men and women, boys and girls, and we came from Guatemala, Mexico, and the United States, we were one in the Spirit of the Lord! Praise God for bringing us together through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

TWO MEN continued . . .

"The knock on the door irritated me;
With the inn full I needed no more.
And now this man with a woman with child—
What to do? Put them on the floor?"

"I told them there just wasn't room for them.
I couldn't do what I was not able.
From what I thought was the goodness of my heart,
I gave in, and they slept in the stable."

The centurion asked, "Why tell me this story?"
The old man said, "You asked if this Christ I knew.
Let me tell you, my friend, in my stable that night
Came forth the Son of God, the King of the Jew."

"Without knowing,' you asked, 'Did I and my men
Slay a man, or the savior of all?'
'Without knowing,' I've asked, 'Did I refuse them my bed,
And put them in an animal's stall?'"

"Without knowing,' we say, and yet
There is anguish, and so many tears.
'Without knowing,' I've said, trying to justify
My anxiety and all of my fears."

"That was the first time I saw Him,
With the shepherds who came to my place.
And three wise men, who had travelled so far
Just to look at His wonderful face."

"I saw that face again the other day,
As this man carried a cross up Calvary's hill.
Yes, kind sir, it was the same one
I put in the stable, and you were ordered to kill."

"Without knowing,' we tell ourselves over again,
And my friend, I know this is true.
But because of Him, His birth and His death,
His forgiveness ever reaches me and you."

"I treated Him shamefully at His beginning,
And you were the instrument of His end.
But I believe, and am told by those that knew Him,
That His forgiveness and love even to us condescends."

The centurion smiled, and said, "Yes, I believe, and I have heard from the people He has risen.
And without knowing the reason for the things that were done,
A part of God's plan unto us was given."

The centurion stood, and took the old man's hand.
He embraced him, and said, "I thank you for your words today.
And I know that we both will receive Him differently
When again He comes our way."

BAPTISM

Marge Kinser became Sister Marge on October 17, 1993, when she was baptized by Brother Joel Calabrese and confirmed by Brother Mark Naro in Lorain, Ohio.

* WEDDINGS *

CALABRO - MURRAY

Brother Rick Calabro and Sister April Murray were united in marriage on May 8, 1993 at the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother James Moore officiated at the wedding ceremony, assisted by Brother Dan Buffington. Musical selections, both instrumental and vocal, were provided by Sister Barb Nuzzi and Brother Rey Rangel.

The couple have made their home in Plainsboro, New Jersey and attend the Freehold, NJ Branch. May God bless them in their new life together.

WALLS - GIBSON

David Gibson III and Tami Walls were married on May 8, 1993 in Aliquippa, PA by Brother James Gibson, the groom's grandfather, and his uncle, Brother Pete Giannetti Sr.

Musical selections were provided by Brothers Pete Jr. and Joe Giannetti.

We pray the Lord will bless David and Tami throughout their lives.

GRIFFITH - HAEDO

On June 26, 1993, Brother Scott R. Griffith and Meruchy Haedo were united in holy matrimony before many family members and friends in Clearwater, Florida.

The groom's father, Brother John R. Griffith, performed the ceremony. Musical selections were offered by Brother David Majoros, the groom's cousin.

The couple attends the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch, and are residing in New Port Richey, Florida. We pray God's blessing upon them.

LIBERTO - RAMOS

On June 12, 1993, Brother Thomas P. Liberto and Lillian Ramos were united in holy matrimony in San Diego, California.

Brother Thomas M. Liberto, the groom's father, officiated at the ceremony; Brother Paul Liberto, the groom's uncle, offered the opening prayer; and Brother Bob Womack, the groom's brother-in-law, gave the sermon.

Vocal selections were performed by the groom's sisters, Sisters Lynn Womack, Nancy Hemmings, and Debbie Jackson. The groom also performed a solo.

Tom and Lillian are residing in San Diego. Our prayers are for God's blessings upon their lives.

DiMELIS - GENTILE

Dino Anthony DiMelis and Sister Christina Marie Gentile were brought together in holy wedlock on July 31, 1993 on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

Prayer was offered by Brother Dominic Thomas, and Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, the bride's uncle, performed the ceremony amongst a large congregation of family and friends. Musical selections were provided by Sister Loretta Lovalvo, the bride's aunt, and Sister Marilyn Scolaro, accompanied by Sister Olivia Parravano.

The newlyweds are residing in Saline, Michigan and are attending Branch #2. We pray God will bless them in their life together.

GIOVANNONE - THOMAS

Brother Ronald Lee Giovannone and Sister Cindy Marie Thomas were married on September 24, 1993 at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Brother Richard Thomas, the bride's father, performed the ceremony, assisted by Brother Jerry Giovannone, the groom's father. Musical selections were sung by Sister Marilyn Scolaro and Brother Steve Champine, accompanied on the piano by Sister Kathie Perkins, who also played a variety of selections on the organ.

The newlyweds are making their home in Canfield, Ohio, and attending the Warren, Ohio Branch. May the Lord bless them both.

COTTON - DAVIS

Brother Arthur L. Cotton and Sister Iva L. Davis were joined in holy matrimony on September 25, 1993 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch of the Church.

Brother Joseph Calabrese officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sister Carla King, accompanied by Sister Katie Cocco.

The newlyweds are residing in Oberlin, Ohio. May the Lord's blessings be with them as they start out together.

ONDIK - ROSS

Brother Joel Ondik and Elizabeth Ross were joined in marriage on October 16, 1993 in the Aliquippa, PA Branch.

Brother John Ross Jr., the bride's uncle, delivered a beautiful message, after which they were married by the bride's father, Brother Anthony Ross Sr. Musical selections were provided by Sister Marty Jumper and Brother Pete Giannetti Jr.

May the Lord bless them with a long and happy life together.

Children Blessed

Samantha Jo, daughter of Brother Albert and Sister Cindy Giannetti, was blessed at the Aliquippa, PA Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on April 25, 1993 by her grandfather, Brother Pete Giannetti.

Jessica Venuto, daughter of newly-baptized Brother Bob and Sister Judy Venuto, was blessed by Brother Joseph Perri in Freehold, NJ on July 11, 1993.

Brother Ken Surdock blessed his granddaughter, Taylor Nicole, daughter of Brother Darron and Michelle Surdock, on July 25, 1993 in San Diego, California.

Tawny Marie, daughter of Brother Paul and Sister Kim Palmieri, was blessed at Aliquippa, PA on August 1, 1993 by her grandfather, Brother Paul Palmieri.

On August 8, 1993, Brother Bob Womack blessed his nephew, Nathan Menard, in San Diego, California. Nathan is the son of Brother David and Sister Lisa Menard.

On August 29, 1993, Brother Jerry Benyola blessed his granddaughter, Ashley Rose, at Detroit, Michigan Branch #1.

Angelo Tullio LaCivita was blessed by his grandfather, Brother Tullio LaCivita, at Branch 4 in Redford,

(Continued on Page 12)

CHILDREN BLESSED continued . . .

Michigan on September 19, 1993.

Ally Kirsten Lewandowski, daughter of Andrew and Kelly Lewandowski, was blessed on September 26, 1993 by Brother Joe Calabrese at Lorain, Ohio.

Brother Charles E. Smith blessed Jessa Lyn Thompson, daughter of Brett Allen and Dana Marie (Bilsky) Thompson, on October 3, 1993 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch.

Zachary Thomas, son of Lance and Sister Denise Gula, was blessed at Aliquippa, PA on October 24, 1993 by Brother Charles Jumper.

Ciera Rose Russell, daughter of Steve and Traci Russell, was blessed on November 7, 1993 by her grandfather, Brother Frank Ciotti.

OBITUARIES

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

ANN JUMPER

Ann Jumper passed away on June 30, 1993, at the age of 74. Although she was not a member of the Church, Mrs. Jumper loved the Aliquippa Branch and came to be a familiar face at many of our activities.

The funeral was conducted by her son, Brother Charles Jumper, and Brother Tom Ross.

Mrs. Jumper will be remembered as a wonderful mother to her two surviving sons and two daughters, a wonderful grandmother to her ten grandchildren and three great grandchildren, and a wonderful friend of the Aliquippa Branch.

BARNEY LETO

Barney Leto of Eugene, Oregon passed from this life on August 14, 1993 at the age of 74. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on February 26, 1919. He married Janet Kirkpatrick on January 25, 1957 in South Gate, California.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; two daughters; two sons; one brother; one sister; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. We pray the Lord will comfort those he left behind.

DEWEY GENTILE

Dewey Gentile, brother of Brother Alex Gentile (Michigan, Branch #2), passed away on August 25, 1993.

Funeral services were held on his behalf on August 28. The eulogy was given by Brother Dominic Thomas, and Brother Alex shared a little of Dewey's life story with everyone in attendance.

Dewey is survived by six children, their spouses, nine grandchildren, two brothers, and a sister. May God comfort his family in their time of loss.

ROGER E. PEPPER

Brother Roger Pepper of Branch 4, Redford, Michigan, passed on to his eternal reward on August 26, 1993.

His funeral was officiated by Brothers Tullio LaCivita, Joe Draskovich, and Frank Vitto.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Josephine; his two children, Kathy Sorrell and Raymond Pepper; and eight grandchildren. Brother Pepper was a pillar in our branch, where he served as the head trustee. He was skilled in the building trade, having been trained as a mason. His handiwork is a constant reminder of his dedication to the Church and to his family. He will be missed by his dear family, and all of the brothers and sisters of the Church.

JAMES KOSLOSKY

Brother James (Bill) Koslosky of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his eternal reward on October 10, 1993.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers George Johnson and Alexander Cherry.

Brother Bill is survived by his wife, Wilma Geems Koslosky; his mother, Sister Molly Koslosky; seven sons; two daughters; one stepson; fifteen grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; five brothers; and two sisters, Sisters Dorothy Holan and Nancy Cartino.

After much suffering, we are thankful that Brother Bill has found rest in the paradise of God.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____