

The Gospel News

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

January, 1994

Volume 50, No. 1

Southwest Area Campout 1993

"I do set my bow in a cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth" (Genesis 9:13).

When God spoke these words to Noah, He sealed His covenant never to destroy the earth by flood again. The symbol of a rainbow reminds us of that great promise He made.

A glorious rainbow greeted all those who came to the Southwest Area Campout on August 14, 1993. The colorful arc in the sky could be seen from miles around as drivers made their way to the wooded campsite in Gallup, New Mexico. The theme for this exciting event was *Covenants*. How appropriate that God should provide us with a wonderful reminder of the many covenants He has made with His people! Friday night, as the campers gathered in the lovely chapel set in the piney forest, many related that they saw the rainbow. Truly we knew that God would be blessing us during our weekend together.

Friday evening was spent singing hymns of praise as people flocked in from various parts of Arizona and New Mexico. A car full of members from the Dallas Mission even made the 14-hour journey to be with the saints of God. Brother John Mancini inspired us

with a brief sermon on the greatest convert of all: God's sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ. His death and resurrection were fulfilled so that we might have eternal life through His mercy and grace. As the service ended and we fellowshiped in the meeting hall, there was an atmosphere of great joy and excitement. Many were anxious to see what the Lord had in store for us. But few could anticipate the great events that would take place on Saturday!

The crisp morning air in the mountains of Gallup spurred us to rise from our beds. We filled ourselves with a wonderful meal provided by Brother Tony Danté, who worked tirelessly to feed the saints throughout the weekend. Afterward, we gathered in the chapel where Brother Larry Watson greeted everyone. He related how God had inspired him to choose the theme for the campout. Then he introduced Brother Joe Ignagni, a newly-ordained elder from Dallas, who would open the meeting.

Brother Joe expressed the great joy he felt in being at the camp. He stated that as he was preparing to be the keynote speaker, he too felt God's direction. He spoke on God's forgiveness and how it is through this that we have an opportunity to

follow him. Each day, we need to recommit ourselves to the covenant we made at the water's edge. Putting God first in our lives and following the leadings of His Spirit helps us to keep that promise. Brother Joe reassured us that God will always be faithful in fulfilling His portion of the covenant. Our service to God is based on liberty, not constraints. God has given us the tools to be free to celebrate the joy of loving Him and

(Continued on Page 2)



Saints and friends gather at water's edge during 1993 Southwest Area Campout.

Note of Thanks

On September 1, 1993, my son, Bill Krocsko Jr., passed from this life unexpectedly at the age of 38. The elders of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch conducted the funeral service. It was a peaceful, quiet morning. God comforted us.

I thank God that He has been with me and given me the strength that I need.

"While the child was yet alive, I fasted and wept: for I said, who can tell whether God will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (II Samuel 12:22-23).

I want to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all of you—for your love, cards, and kindness towards me and my family during our time of sorrow. How many times I have said, "Where would we be without the love of our brothers and sisters?"!

Love in Christ,
Sister Margaret ("Sis") Roscart
Moore Rd.
Imperial, PA 15126

With all my heart I wish to express my thanks to all the brothers and sisters for the expressions of sympathy, beautiful cards, telephone calls, and gifts in our time of sorrow for the loss of our beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

Some of his last beautiful words were, "... I am happy. ... I want to see the Lord. ... I will meet you at the first resurrection. ... God is love and love is of God."

Sister Eva Moore and Family
Imperial, Pennsylvania

CAMPOUT continued . . .

committing ourselves to His will.

The rest of the day was occupied by seminars, Ladies' Circle, a young people's meeting, crafts, and, of course, sports. We were able to enjoy the chance to fellowship in this beautiful setting.

The Saturday evening service began with a long period of community singing. Brother Ike Smith opened in prayer, and Brother Pete Genaro stated that this would be a service where everyone would participate. Several small groups sang hymns. Brothers Bob Watson and David Majoros gave beautiful solos for the congregation to enjoy. Soon, the meeting was opened to testimony. After a few brothers and sisters expressed themselves, the young people sang some wonderful songs. Then Brother Ike Smith, under the inspiration of God, spoke to the newly baptized members. He asked all of those who had been baptized in the past year to come up and make a public declaration that they would "keep their covenant with the Lord." One by one, they made that powerful statement. As each member of the congregation witnessed their commitment, many cried tears of joy. All were touched by God's precious Spirit. One sister heard a voice speak to her over and over during this time. The Spirit said, "Compel them to come in. Compel them to come in. Compel them to come in, and taste the feast which I have prepared for them!" As she related this experience, Brother Ike Smith spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was given as "Come into the covenant."

As the evening progressed, twelve souls asked for their baptism! Praise God for His goodness! Coralee Tenijeth, Pat Mead, Charlie Mead, Amy Palensar, Luke Smith, Larisa Landrey, Ty Duncan, Tim Gibson, Jonah Mancini, Kathy Watson, Ann Wilson Calabrese, and Nicole Hood all asked to make their covenant with the Lord that night. At this time, Brother Joe Ignagni related an experience. He had asked God in his prayers to bless the

campout with ten baptisms. Then he heard a voice say, "Do not limit Me. There may be even more." Truly, it was a glorious sight seeing each candidate step forward and ask to taste the feast which God had prepared. The gifts were made manifest that evening as a confirmation to His Spirit.

Sunday morning, our service began at the shore of a serene lake in the midst of the Zuni Indian Reservation. The stark beauty of the mesas served as the backdrop for the witnessing of four baptisms. The other candidates chose to wait until they went home to be baptized. Prior to closing in prayer, an invitation was presented to anyone else who might want to partake of the covenant. Upon hearing this, Emil Palensar came forward to declare his desire for baptism.

Our service resumed back at the chapel as the brethren conferred the Holy Spirit on our new brothers and sisters. Brother Pete Genaro spoke on the significance of the Holy Ghost in assisting us in keeping our commitment to the Lord. Brother Brian Martorana continued the service by imploring us to step forward and not be ashamed of our covenant. He directed us to go the extra mile in our service to Him and we would be truly rewarded. Truly, this campout will long be remembered as a time when God blessed His people and renewed His covenant with His children.

Announcement

For February, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.75%
2 years	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
5 years	5.25%

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

Pacific Coast District Conference

By Virginia Suprenant

The West Coast District Conference was hosted by the Bell Branch and convened at the Western High School in Anaheim, California on Sunday, November 7, 1993.

Brother Thomas M. Liberto announced that Brother Rudy Meo would be ordained into the priesthood. Brother Rudy was an ordained elder 20 years ago when he left the Church. After being away from the Church all these years, he was reinstated in February of 1993. Today, he would be re-ordained into the ministry. Revelations were given during the Saturday conference confirming his ordination.

Opening prayer was offered by Brother Walt Jankowski. Brother Ken Jones followed by singing *There Is a Lighthouse on the Hillside*. The Spanish Choir, consisting of brothers and sisters from California and Mexico, sang *Because He Lives and Come to the Light* in Spanish. A trio sang *There Is No Other Name but Jesus and Lord, Have Mercy Now on Me*.

Brother Rudy was called forward by Brother Tom Liberto as Brother Joseph Lovalvo spoke to the priesthood regarding the ordinance of washing Brother Rudy's feet. He asked that the elders would turn their hearts to God and pray that someone would be inspired by Him to perform this ordinance. Brother John DiBattista came forward and washed Brother Rudy's feet. The priesthood then surrounded Brother Rudy and Brother Paul Grey stepped forward to ordain him.

Brother Frank Genaro spoke to the congregation from I John 4, "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (verse 3). He spoke of love being action. Christ's action was that He loved the world and died on the cross for our sins. Brother Frank gave us the following message that he received from God. He related to us that while standing in his garage, the voice of the Lord

spoke to him, saying, "Go across the street and give your testimony to your neighbor." He was reluctant to do so, and said, "Lord, I can't do that." The voice spoke to him twice more, repeating the message. Brother Frank then went reluctantly across the street and gave his neighbor his testimony on how he came into the Church. He explained how good he felt afterward, when he came home. The neighbor never came to church, but Brother Frank is now known in his neighborhood as a minister of the Church, and has been called upon to anoint some of his neighbors.

Brother Frank admonished us to act upon our love for mankind as Christ did, by sharing our testimony with our friends and neighbors.

Brother Frank expounded that we should not be closing branches and missions, we need to be building new churches and filling them. We must go out and tell others about the Gospel. Bring our friends and neighbors to church, and the elders will talk to them. It does not matter that our neighbors have a church of their own; we need to tell them of our church. We must work on our God-given talents and not hide them. Our brother challenged us all to go out and speak to our neighbors about The Church of Jesus Christ.

The children's choir sang *Everybody Ought to Know Who Jesus Is*.

Brother Paul Liberto spoke about the Quorum of 70 evangelists and presented Brother Tony Picciuto with a plaque for his 25 years of service as an evangelist. Brother Picciuto humbly accepted the plaque and expressed his gratitude.

Sadly, news of the passing of Brother Peter Capone was announced. Brother Tom Liberto called for a moment of silence. Afterwards, Brother Rudy Meo gave a brief word of testimony and closed in prayer.

The conference was adjourned, and everyone was invited to the Anaheim Branch where lunch was served and an afternoon meeting was scheduled, with the ordinance of Communion being administered. During the afternoon meeting, Sister Gertie Alms was reinstated into the Church.

Another conference well-attended, and the good news of the ordination of Brother Rudy Meo into the ministry and Sister Gertie Alms's reinstatement into the Church. Sadly, the news of the passing of our Evangelist Brother Peter Capone and the announcement of the many brothers and sisters who are so seriously ill. Please, let's remember these prayer requests throughout the Church. May God bless you all.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

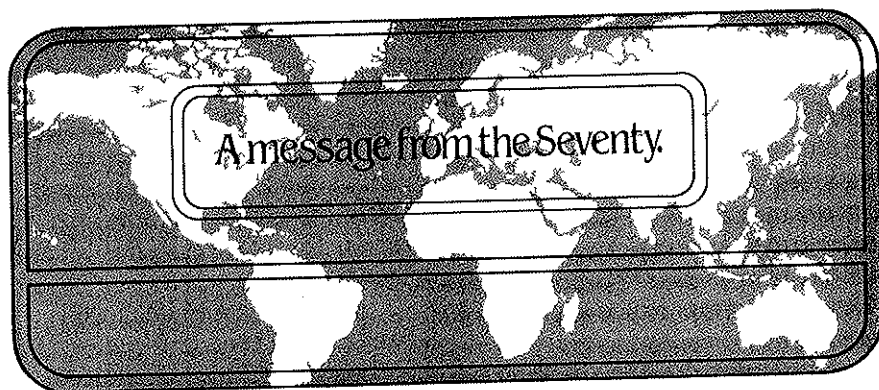
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Correction

Brother Joseph Bittinger's zip code was printed incorrectly in the November, 1993 *Gospel News*. The correct zip code is 15489.



Missionary Trip to India, via England

(Following is a report of a very successful, eventful trip which Brothers Joseph Calabrese, Paul Palmieri, Philip Jackson, and Joel Gehly made to India via England from November 27 through December 12, 1993. The Lord's protection and guidance were present throughout the fast-paced journey. —Evangelist Editor's note)

The four brothers first stopped in England on Sunday, November 28, and traveled to the home of Brother Pat O'Callaghan and his wife, Beryl, about 100 miles from London. There were many blessings during the meeting held in the afternoon.

Brother Paul spoke from St. John 15 on love. Communion utensils were consecrated and the Lord's Supper was served.

The four visitors felt the Spirit of God directing them to ordain Brother Pat a deacon, and he gave a very humble testimony in accepting his calling. He also requested, along with his wife, that their home be dedicated to God for use by the Church. Brother Palmieri offered this dedicatory prayer. The Spirit bore witness to Brother Calabrese that this is the first mission in England for The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Gehly washed Brother O'Callaghan's feet, and Brother Calabrese ordained him a deacon.

ON TO INDIA

The next day, the brothers left for India, arriving in Madras early Tuesday morning. After getting

settled at their hotel, they went to the new Church building for the first Indian conference, and were warmly received by the brothers and sisters. The church building is a beautiful, large concrete structure which can accommodate 200-250 people. It is located on a main thoroughfare in downtown Madras. A thatched room was erected on the roof of the building, housing a basket-weaving business. There are 67 members in Madras.

Brother Babu began the conference by introducing the four visiting brothers, who were presented with flowers and a plaque. Brother Jackson spoke about Communion, after which the sacrament was passed to all members.

In the afternoon, Brother Palmieri discussed feet-washing. There was a spirit of humility as the ordinance was then performed. After singing some hymns, the session was dismissed.

The conference continued for two more days. The brothers observed that there were three languages represented: Temil, Telligu, and English, and they noted, "It is a wonderful experience to teach and communicate together in the unifying love of Christ."

On Wednesday morning, Brother Gehly discussed the Spirit of God and the spiritual gifts. Various testimonies and experiences were shared.

After lunch, a few hymns were sung in Temil and Telligu. All in

attendance were asked to introduce themselves and tell where they work.

Brother Calabrese gave a lesson on the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ, including information about Joseph Smith Jr. and the Restoration of the Gospel. All the saints there feel tremendous love and respect for Brother Calabrese, who had traveled with the late Evangelist Alvin Swanson to start the work there in 1980 and who until recently was the General Church's Coordinator to India.

The next day, Brother Jackson, who succeeded Brother Calabrese as the Indian Coordinator, began the sessions with lessons on the Holy Ghost and anointing with oil. The blessing of children was also reviewed. Brother Palmieri then spoke about the duties and responsibilities of members.

Two new elders, Brothers Francis and A. Amos, and a new deaconess, Sister Vasanthi Francis, were ordained during the afternoon meeting. Brother Calabrese spoke of the "beautiful calling and responsibility which now are upon our brothers." He stated that "many hundreds will be affected by the Gospel in India, and our brothers will be used by God in the work." Brother Palmieri enumerated on the duties of an elder.

Brother Francis' feet were washed by Brother Palanisam, and Brother Amos' feet were washed by Brother Yohan. Brother Jackson then offered prayer as all the elders knelt in a circle around the two brothers. Brother Francis was ordained by Brother Babu, and Brother Amos was ordained by Brother Livingston.

Brother Palmieri discussed the duties of a deaconess and the special calling which is upon our sister. Sister Vasanthi had her feet washed by her mother-in-law, Sister Mary Manuel, and she was ordained by Brother Dev.

Brothers Jackson, Calabrese, Babu, and Livingston gave some closing remarks about the conference and the dedication needed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Phil,

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The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (James 3:10). This rebuke by James to the faithful skillfully criticizes the behavior of Christ's followers in a manner that is somehow not offensive to the hearers. To this day, James's writings effectively motivate people to prayerfully correct their erroneous thoughts and actions. In our own journey through life, we might likewise feel prompted on occasion to offer our opinions about the conduct of others, usually with somewhat less success than James had in changing people's lives.

It is true that we should not stand by silently while others—especially professing believers—commit transgressions before our very eyes. All sin, whether public or private, has a detrimental effect on the spiritual welfare of the saints, the Church, and the world. However, we quickly learn the meaning of Christ's commandment, *"Judge not, that ye be not judged"* (Matthew 7:1), when we make the mistake of telling people, without divine inspiration, what they should and should not do. What, then, enables James and other Bible and Book of Mormon authors—or any effective preacher, for that matter—to correct without offending, to criticize without discouraging, and to lead without coercing?

James's writings bear the mark of one who has spent much time observing the mixture of human interaction around him with an analytical eye. Seasoned with the Spirit of God, this tendency to observe and correct evolves into self-examination. None of us can change another person, but each of us, with the help of God, can transform the carnal, debased nature of our own hearts and minds. Confronted with such a task, the introspective man or woman of God offers no judgment on the lives of others except to learn from the errors of their fellow servants and resolve inwardly not to make the same mistakes.

Real change requires continued application of an inward determination not to sin. Thankfully, we have the Spirit and power of God at our disposal to do for us what we cannot do ourselves, and bring about that miraculous change of heart. Real spiritual growth is neither effortless nor painless, but once we have experienced change—once we can say with confidence in Christ that what we were, we'll never be again—we will have the power of that testimony to draw upon for our own sustained growth, and for assisting in the spiritual growth of others.

James, like every true follower of Christ, experienced a change of heart and life that freed him from sin and gave him the liberty to effectively teach and lead, even to the point of saying, *"These things ought not so to be,"* with credibility, integrity, and authority. The same words spoken by a hypocrite would fall upon deaf ears, for it is the life we lead, the example we set when we have been spiritually transformed, that becomes our most effective teaching tool.

Jesus put it best when He said, *"[F]irst cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye"* (Matthew 7:5). Let us try in the coming year to examine what *"ought not so to be"* in ourselves more than in others, and prayerfully work at becoming a new person in Christ. It will require a great deal of hard work, and is bound to be painful at times, but God's Church will prosper as a result, and the world will be a much better place for it.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Nephi's Father Dreams

Dear Boys and Girls,

How would you feel if your father woke up one morning and told you that you and your family had to move? If he told you that you were going to leave your beautiful, safe home and live in tents would you be happy?

Nephi's father, Lehi, told his wife and four sons that they had to leave everything behind and go into the wilderness. God was going to allow the city of Jerusalem to be destroyed and the wicked people there to be taken as slaves. But the family of good Lehi was going to be saved. God planned to take them to a new land, far away, a land of promise.

Two of Nephi's sons, Laman and Lemuel, were really mad that they had to go. They didn't want to leave their friends, their plans, and the property and riches they would someday own. They did not believe anything could destroy a city as important and big as Jerusalem.

Every step of the way they muttered and murmured against their father. Anger filled them until they were like the Jews in Jerusalem who tried to take Lehi's life. The two younger brothers, Sam and Nephi, began to wonder who was right, their father or their older brothers.

After walking for several days from Jerusalem, Lehi had enough of his older sons. The Spirit of God filled him and he began to talk with Laman and Lemuel. Such power was

there that those young men shook. They were so overcome that they did not dare to keep complaining against their father, and they did as he commanded them.

Now Nephi was a very young man, although he was the size of a full-grown man. Yet he began to wonder about the mysteries of God. He wondered if God had really showed his father everything he said God had. And Nephi cried unto the Lord.

The Lord heard Nephi, and visited him and softened his heart until he believed the words of his father. Nephi told his brother, Sam, about the love of God and Sam believed him.

But Laman and Lemuel still hated and disbelieved. Nephi was brokenhearted that his brothers were so hard. He went to God in prayer for them, and God showed Nephi that everything was under control.

All four sons of Lehi were going to a Promised Land. The Lord told Nephi that in the future the people that descended from Laman and Lemuel would go against the people descended from Nephi. In that day God would curse them. They would be lazy, full of trouble, and not able to beat the people of Nephi. Those people of Nephi would rule over them as long as they served God.

The Lord continued to bless Nephi as time passed. Nephi saw many wonderful things in dreams. He was shown every single human being that ever would live. (That means

you and me!) He saw Jesus Christ before he was even born on earth.

All of this happened according to God's plan and because one young man, Nephi, had a desire to know the mysteries of God. Nephi gave up a comfortable life he knew well to journey in the wilderness and cross the mighty oceans. What if sometime we are asked to give up something familiar, and safe, because God's Holy Spirit shows us to? Would you be willing to ask God, to believe your dreams, and to open your heart to a new life? As God helped Nephi, He could help you, and He would, but *you* have to ask first.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

JERUSALEM	JEWS
RETURN	CRY
TO	PRAY
NEPHI	SHAKE
SAM	LOW
LEHI	STONE
DREAMS	BOW
GOD	

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

Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Detroit Branch #1

By Patti Saragosa

On August 8, 1993, Stephanie Rado, daughter of Brother Edward and Sister Frances Palposi, was baptized by Brother Mike LaSala and became Sister Stephanie Rado, a daughter of the King!

Brother Peter Scolaro began our morning service by speaking from Acts 8:26-40. In this portion of scripture, Philip meets an eunuch who is reading from Isaiah. Philip is led to preach to him about Jesus and, as they go on their way, they come upon some water. The eunuch declared, "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?" Brother Peter remarked that so it is with Stephanie; what, or who, can keep her from being baptized?

Visiting with us that day from the Sterling Heights Branch was Brother John Buffa, Stephanie's uncle. He spoke from Matthew 3 and quoted verse 11, "... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Stephanie's father, Brother Ed, then got up and testified about how our prayers are heard by a living God. When Stephanie had called him and said that she wanted to be baptized, he was shocked, but he told her to come to church. After he hung up the telephone, he heard a voice say to him, "She is My daughter."

When we met at the water that afternoon, there was a bustle of activity going on. A boat show was beginning on Lake St. Clair; airplanes and helicopters were flying overhead, and there was a group of people sitting near us, waiting to watch the boats. Little did they know they were about to witness something greater than a boat passing by; they were going to witness the true disciples of Jesus Christ performing

His will. As Sister Stephanie came up out of the water, her face looked so radiant and beautiful that you could see the peace of God was upon her.

In our afternoon service, Brother Mike LaSala told of his experience when Sister Stephanie called him that Friday night. He asked her if she was sure she wanted to get baptized and she replied, "Brother Mike, I am sure because God has blessed me."

After our sister was confirmed by Brother Lou Pietrangelo we sang the hymn *Now I Belong to Jesus*. Sister Frances Palposi then stood up and said that she knew Brother Lou was going to confirm Sister Stephanie before it happened. Here is our new sister's personal testimony:

I was raised in the Church and attended regularly until my late teens; then I drifted away. My parents would often tell me of the many blessings they received in church: topics preached upon, the importance of salvation, the power of prayer. My parents never pushed, but every now and then a little suggestion was made. When I did go to church, the brothers and sisters were so warm and friendly—this always stayed with me.

A year before I was baptized, there began a horrible battle within me; it felt like I had no control. Something tried so hard to keep me away from hearing the things of God and the Church. This battle tried to keep me from praying, but I still prayed; I had to force myself. My struggle made me literally go into panic attacks when anyone talked about the Church or the things of God, but I forced myself to listen because I felt that if I let this evil take over me, I would be lost forever.

One year of intense battle went on and I said to myself, "The best way to conquer a fear is to face it." This struggle with evil had made me afraid of Church and it made me afraid to talk about it with *anyone*.

Then it seemed that whenever I would say I was going to face my fears and go to church, the battle lessened!

On August 4, I called my dad and out of the blue he began to tell me his testimony and how he came into the Church. I didn't tremble or fear, and I couldn't understand why not. The next day, I was sitting at my computer at work when I felt a panic begin within me. I don't know exactly where it came from, but I began to shake. By this time I had had it with this confusion and fear! I called upon the Lord and began to pray. I said, "Lord, I know You know how to work with me. You don't want me confused and afraid, You want only good things. Please rebuke this evil that wants to take me away from You, please work with me in a way that it will be easy to shake this evil and follow you, for no one knows me like You do. Please help me."

At that moment I was unaware of my surroundings. I could feel this evil *drain* from my body and the Spirit of the Lord filled me from head to toe! What a peace! What love! What a heavy burden lifted! I didn't know what to do with this new feeling. I loved even those who used to irk me at work. How could this be? I said to myself, "I want to be baptized," and I waited for the battle to rage, and it didn't. I said, "I want to go to church and be baptized," and I waited and no battle, nothing but joy and a drive to be baptized in the water and of the Spirit in The Church of Jesus Christ!

I called my parents and asked my dad, "What would mom do about work Sunday if I called for my baptism?" My father was in total shock. Later that evening, I went to my parents' house and Brother Mike LaSala came over. Along with my parents we prayed and we cried a joyful cry. I called Brother Tom Everett and told him I wanted to be baptized, and he called Brother Peter Scolaro. I spoke with Brother Peter and expressed my feelings and told him my experience. I expressed

(Continued on Page 8)

BRANCH #1 continued . . .

again that I wanted to be baptized. Brother Peter gave me some wonderful spiritual advice and food for thought. They were words that I will never forget. He said, "You're an empty house; now you must fill it with good works."

That Sunday, August 8, 1993, as I sat in church, every hymn that was sung touched my heart, every word spoken by the ministry pounded in my heart. How open my eyes were now. Everything made *perfect* sense! I was brought into the water and baptized by Brother Mike LaSala, and confirmed by Brother Lou Pietrangelo. Oh, how *Wonderful*!

A Gathering of the Saints

On Sunday, September 12, 1993, we had our first annual outdoor meeting and fellowship picnic at our home in West Grove, Pennsylvania. There were about seventy brothers, sisters, and friends from Freehold, Edison, Metuchen, and Hopelawn, NJ, as well as Levittown, PA in attendance.

Brothers Joseph Perri, Arthur Searcy, Philip Arcuri, Bob Pizzaia, Jim Crudup, Willie Brown, Tony Vadasz, and Paul Benyola were the elders in attendance.

God gave us a beautiful day to rejoice in the Lord and fellowship with our brothers, sisters, their families, and friends. He also blessed our meeting with a wonderful spirit and moving testimonies. A couple of days after our meeting, one of the visitors, Mrs. Fowler, who is our daughter Jessica's teacher, called to say that she enjoyed the meeting and fellowship so much, she wants to hear more about the Church. Not only that, but she was moved to contact her mother, whom she regrettably hadn't kept in touch with very much lately. We were very happy to hear this, because this was the main reason for the meeting. We hope that next year's meeting will be bigger and bring more friends to know of the Lord and His Church.

We wish to thank everyone who came and brought food. Also, a special thanks to our family for all their help in preparing for this meeting.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,
Brother Bob and Sister Judy Venuto

**Visitors from Ohio
sojourn to Aliquippa**

We are thankful and praise the Lord for all the blessings that He bestowed upon us as the Aliquippa and Youngstown Branches gathered for a joint meeting in Aliquippa on November 7, 1993. The Lord heard and honored our prayers for good traveling weather for our brothers and sisters, as the memory of the previous Sunday's unexpected seven-inch snowfall was still fresh in our minds. The way was made clear and we enjoyed a beautiful day both within and without the House of God.

Our brothers delivered a message based on the question, "Why are we here (in church)?" Brothers Don Pandone, Ralph Berardino, and Mike Italiano from Youngstown, Brother David Nolfi from Glassport, PA, and Brother Pete Giannetti Sr. from Aliquippa discussed the ground between us and the Lord, and how attending church and keeping His commandments makes that ground smooth and allows us to know where we are going.

A godly life also gives us a joy unmatched when compared to anything else in the world. The morning service came to an end with us all longing for more spiritual food.

The time had come for our needs to be met for physical nourishment. A delicious lunch was served by the Aliquippa Branch for all in attendance, satisfying and refreshing us before meeting for an afternoon service.

Coming together again, we shared the Lord's Supper and a beautiful time of testimony, giving praise to the Lord for His goodness in our lives. Special music was provided by Brother David Pandone

from Youngstown and Brother Pete Giannetti Jr. from Aliquippa. In closing, all the Youngstown visitors sang *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*.

Once again, the Lord had blessed us with a glorious day with our brothers and sisters from Youngstown. May God bless us all until we meet again.

**Spanish Singspiration in
Freehold, NJ**

By Carl Huttenberger

On Saturday night, September 25, 1993, the Freehold, NJ Branch held our first-ever Spanish Singspiration. The singing and praising began at about 7:30, and continued on until after 11:00 p.m. We were happy to see so many visitors from throughout the district. We were also very happy to have many visitors from the Seed of Joseph with us.

Brother Larry Miller of the Freehold Branch made his debut on the guitar, playing along with Sister Suzette Huttenberger on the piano. From the beginning, there was a sweet, beautiful presence of the Spirit of God. Several young brothers took a few minutes to read a little scripture and offer words of encouragement. Brother Mario Morales interpreted, and also spoke in Spanish to his people, introducing them to the wonderful Church of Jesus Christ.

A visiting man from the Seed of Joseph came forth to be anointed for an affliction on his body. After the prayer, he stood and exclaimed that all the pain had left him. Brother Juan Murillo was relating an experience surrounding his father-in-law, who had just arrived in the U.S. from Mexico. As he was speaking, his father-in-law entered the building. He offered a beautiful testimony, saying that despite the fact that his other children attended another church (just around the corner), he would attend The Church of Jesus Christ, because he said the truth was spoken here.

The work with the Seed of Joseph began in the Freehold Branch nearly four years ago. County seat of Monmouth County, New Jersey, the city of Freehold is known to have the fastest-growing population of Hispanic people in the state. For nearly twenty years, the Freehold Branch has always been a melting pot for people from all nations to find the truth in Jesus Christ. We've been so blessed now to see the children of Joseph learning about the Book of Mormon, and their role in the last days. Satan has tried to destroy our work many times, but fervent, continuous prayer and hard work by everyone (even in rebuilding the church building from the inside out) has allowed God to continue to move His mighty arm among us. This evening was a good example of that.

During the opening prayer, a sister saw a door with many people trying unsuccessfully to get through. Later in the service, a sister saw a long table spread, but with only a few people sitting there. But then she saw more and more people coming to sit with the saints of God. This vision was had while we were on our knees, praying for our work.

Another sister said that the night before our meeting, she was in prayer and heard the voice of God say, "Pray for those who are lost and no longer in the fold." Then, at our closing prayer, a sister saw sheep gathered in a circle. She sensed that there were some sheep of that fold that were missing. Then, in the distance, she saw the rest of the fold coming in. We know that a better day is coming for the people of God. Our desire, with yours, is to be a part of it and to be used by God in bringing about His great kingdom on earth.

Baptism in Mexicotown, Detroit, MI

By Dona Baez

Sunday, September 5, 1993 was another glorious day at the Mexicotown Mission in Detroit,

Michigan. Josefina Velasquez was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. Many members of the mission and members from surrounding branches met on Belle Isle in the Detroit River for this momentous occasion.

Sister Josefina is afraid of the water, but her desire to have her name written in the Lamb's Book of Life far outweighs her "natural" fear. Sister Josefina told us later that when Brother Frank Natoli was about to baptize her, she felt the Lord take her hand. A beloved sister in the Church spoke in tongues at the water's edge, and the interpretation was, "My servant has been called, and I will guide her in My path. Her name has been written in the Book of Life."

When we returned to the mission, we sang hymns of praise in Spanish and English. Brother Claude Champine opened in prayer, and the service was opened by Brother Gary Champine. He told us that when we are baptized, we give our lives over to the Lord so that He might have His way with us. He spoke to us from Daniel 6:1-24. Daniel was more afraid of displeasing God than he was of the lions. Like Daniel, we too must stand fast in our faith.

Brother Frank Natoli said that Daniel was given faith that the lions would not harm him. After we are baptized, we, too, face many problems, like the lions that Daniel faced. Even after Jesus was baptized, he faced temptation in the wilderness.

Brother Gary Champine laid his hands on Sister Josefina for the reception of the Holy Ghost. While she was receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, she had a vision that she was lifted higher than the building, and Jesus talked to her. The Lord said to follow His path, because she was not alone. "You have many brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ. You must be a good example for your family and the world. You are of this world, you live in it, but you do not belong to this world."

Also, as Brother Gary was praying, Sister Josefina said that she heard the brother's voice, and then she didn't hear it—I heard the Lord's

voice. The Lord said, "From this moment on, the Holy Ghost will go with you wherever you go."

Before Sister Josefina's baptism, Brother Frank Natoli had a dream. He dreamed that one Sunday, while he was passing Communion, Josefina asked to partake, but he told her that she had to wait for her baptism. Isn't it wonderful that Sister Josefina will now be able to enjoy the blessings of receiving this sacrament?

We closed the day by singing *Caminando*, one of the many Spanish songs we sing at our mission. Brother Dan Cotellesse closed in prayer.

What a wonderful blessing it is to see Israel coming home!

An Experience to Remember

On May 17, 1993, my dad, Brother Ken Wright, was escorted from his earthly home to his heavenly home by an angel which had visited him many years ago. His untimely death was a great shock to us all, and we feel a tremendous void in our hearts that only God can heal.

My dad was 61 years old, just recently retired and in good health. He had anticipated many plans for his retirement, and was especially excited about doing more missionary work. God's plans for him were different...

On Monday afternoon, May 17, my dad went for a canoe ride behind his home, where he would commune with God and marvel at God's beautiful Creation. He used to say he felt so close to paradise when he was out there alone—with God! That was where he was when God called him home.

The Lord must have a marvelous work for my dad, because he called him home at his spiritual peak. He loved God with his whole heart, mind, and soul, and was zealous about serving the Lord. He left for us a wonderful legacy.

Brother Don Collison introduced my dad to The Church of Jesus

(Continued on Page 10)

EXPERIENCE continued . . .

Christ in the 1960s. My dad had desired his own experience, and petitioned God to show him whether man really had a soul or not. Here is what God revealed to him:

"I had been reading Third Nephi, learning about the wonderful things Jesus did on this continent. As I read, I felt a love of Jesus growing within me. It became my greatest hope that these things were true.

"I was told that God is the same today as He was in times past, that He actually revealed things to men if they went to Him in sincere prayer. I took Him at His word and asked Him in earnest prayer to show me if man really was eternal. Was there really a soul or spiritual body? I cried to Him in prayer and asked Him to show me that these things were not made up by men in their own conceit. Many thoughts of this nature were running through my mind. I told them all to the Lord in prayer. I said, 'Dear Lord, show me that when I die it isn't the end, as many believe.' I also asked the Lord to give me a live experience, as I didn't feel I would have much faith in a dream. It had to be something I knew was not the product of my own imagination. This is the experience God gave me:

"My wife and I had gone to bed; she was sleeping soundly. I was just lying there thinking, when suddenly I felt the presence of someone in the room. I saw a man dressed in a white gown with a white hood. As soon as I saw him I sat up on my elbows, startled, but immediately a feeling of peace came upon me. I knew that he was here in answer to my prayer. I was to be shown something. He put a finger up to his lips and extended the other hand, palm downward, toward my sleeping wife. This he did as I was sitting up on my elbows. I took this to mean not to cry out or to disturb her. He then motioned me to get up.

"We walked through the brick wall of the house, out to the edge of the road, where the angel stopped. He motioned me to stand in the middle of the road. It was a wonder-

ful thing to be standing on the road, looking around, realizing I was out of my body, yet fully conscious of where I was, and what was happening. I could see my neighbours' houses, my own house, and the angel standing at the edge of the road. I looked down at myself and noticed that I was dressed in a white gown just like the angel.

"How wonderful! I now knew that my physical body was only a part of me, and that I was still "me" even without it. As I stood on the road I noticed a car was coming towards me. The rain was falling quite heavily, and as the car got closer, I could hear the tires singing on the wet pavement. Closer still, I could see the windshield wipers, even hear them working, and see a man's face behind the windshield. In the next second the car had passed through me. What a realization that a moving mass of tin and steel could have no effect on me!

"I started looking toward my bedroom window, feeling that this was wonderful, but nevertheless being rather anxious to get back into my body. The angel seemed to be able to discern my thoughts, for when he saw me looking toward my bedroom window, he motioned to me to go back in. I seemed to glide back across the lawn, through the brick wall, and saw my body there in bed, asleep. I simply lay down in it, remembering nothing until I awoke the next morning.

"When I awoke it all came back immediately to my mind, and looking out the window, I noticed all the puddles I had seen forming a few short hours ago as I stood in the heavy rain with the angel.

"I told my wife that although I didn't want to die and leave her and the children, I felt that it was no longer anything to fear. The Lord surely answered my prayer, showing me plainly that death is not the end."

Brother Ken Wright, 1961

On May 17, 1993, that angel returned . . .

"I had just got out of bed when I noticed that the red light on our

telephone was blinking. The message was that they thought Brother Ken Wright had had a heart attack. I told my wife about Brother Ken and then began to pray a silent prayer for him. I asked the Lord that whatever was His will would be done on Brother Ken's behalf, and then I prayed for his family. All of a sudden I received a vision from God:

"I could see a brightly lit room; it looked like a hospital room. Brother Ken Wright was lying on the bed. God told me that he had passed away. Suddenly the room was filled with a magnificent white light. I could see a beautiful angel come through the wall and stand, looking at Brother Ken. I asked the Lord who this angel was, and the Lord told me that this angel was the very same angel whom Brother Ken had seen before.

"As the angel looked at Brother Ken, he raised his right hand in a motion for Brother Ken to rise up. Brother Ken rose up in the spirit and went and stood at the left side of the angel. Brother Ken and the angel looked at Brother Ken's body on the bed. Brother Ken's face was filled with the Spirit of the Lord, and he smiled a beautiful, loving smile, his face illuminated with the Spirit. The angel took his left hand and very gently placed it upon Brother Ken's right arm. A moment later, this angel and Brother Ken turned and went through the wall, just as the angel had come into the room before.

"At the same moment, I asked the Lord where Brother Ken was going. The Lord spoke to me and told me that He was taking Brother Ken back home. About an hour later my wife and I received a phone call telling us Brother Ken Wright had passed away."

Brother Armand Hotte

There have been other dreams and visions, and we are truly thankful to God for each one.

Brother Rick Lobzun received a vision in which he saw my dad with Brother Sam Cuomo, Brother Allen Henderson, Brother Ross Collison, and Brother Joe Collison, all elders

of the Windsor, Ontario Branch who had passed away.

Brother Rick said that my dad's face shone brightly as he stood amid these brothers, and my dad smiled and spoke these words to him:

"Tell my family to remain steadfast and sure, and they will see me again."

Brother Rick felt that this message from my dad was not only for his natural family, but for his spiritual family as well, as he was presiding elder and he was standing with the other elders of the Windsor Branch who had passed on to their rewards.

Although we are heartbroken because we miss my dad dearly, we know he has been welcomed home into the arms of Jesus and we have that blessed assurance that we will see him again.

Thank you for your cards and prayers. Please continue to remember my mom, Sister Anne, and our family in your prayers. God bless you all!

Sister Patti (Wright) Saliga

MESSAGE continued . . .

under inspiration, exhorted the brothers to proclaim the Gospel. Brother Calabrese closed the conference in prayer. As he prayed, he asked for the Spirit of God to rest upon Brothers Jackson and Brian Martorana as they labor to further the Gospel in India.

There was 100% participation by the elders and teachers at the conference. All felt that the time together was very helpful, and that everyone is learning.

The brothers met with various members and friends during the next two days. Brother Phil blessed Mercy Deva, daughter of Jacob and Ruby Prayadareani. The also traveled to the HOINA compound. The roads were covered with water, as a cyclone had come into this area as well as other parts of India. Sister Raja and the girls there took the brothers on a tour of the compound, and Brother Palmieri offered a prayer for the girls and the work of HOINA.

On Saturday evening, December 5, they attended a service in Brother Stephen's home. There were 40 adults and children in the meeting room. Brother Stephen started the meeting with Isaiah 49:9-12, and Brother Joe discussed the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well, as recorded in St. John 4:7-14. The brothers expressed themselves, and there were many anointings and prayers for strength. The sincerity and desire of the people were felt deeply.

The roads were flooded, so the brothers could not travel to the Church in Ayallur on Sunday. In the evening, they attended the dedication service of the Church building in Madras. The building was decorated with lights and brightly colored streamers.

After the introductions, opening remarks, and prayers, Brother

Calabrese gave the dedicatory prayer. Brother Jackson read from I Samuel and spoke on how God looks at the hearts of men and women, and not at the outside appearance. Brother Gehly followed from Ephesians 2, and explained how Christ is the Chief Cornerstone in our lives. Brother Palmieri uttered words of exhortation to all to dedicate their lives fully to Jesus Christ, and he talked about the saints' responsibilities in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Calabrese gave a summary of the evening messages, and expressed his love and encouragement to all in India.

After the speaking, Brother Dexter (Bangalore) was brought forward to be ordained an elder. Brother Babu washed his feet, and Brother Paul prayed for God's direction in the ordination. Brother Joel then ordained Brother Dexter.

A sister from Madras was set aside as a deaconess. Her feet were washed by Sister Merlin, and she was ordained by Brother Dev. Brother Joel then blessed a little girl whom he named Ruth.

There were an estimated 140 people at the dedication.

The next morning, the brothers separated. Brothers Jackson and Gehly took a train south to Erode, about a 7-1/2-hour trip. Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri went the opposite direction to Tadepalligudem, also traveling by train, for about 10 hours.

(The brothers' continued travels will be recounted in next month's column.)

* WEDDINGS *

JANKOWSKI - FREBERG

On August 7, 1993, Brother Andrew Jankowski and Sister Deborah Freberg were united in holy matrimony at the Dallas, Texas Mission of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The groom's father, Brother Walt Jankowski, officiated at the service. Brother Dominick Rose, the bride's grandfather, performed the vows. Musical selections were sung by Brother Thomas P. Liberto.

The Dallas Mission is grateful that God has brought them together. We feel confident that He will continue to bless them in their new life together.

DEVORE - WHITE

Edward A. Devore and Beth A. White were joined in holy wedlock on November 20, 1993 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother James Abbott performed the marriage ceremony.

The newlyweds are residing in Brownsville, Pennsylvania. May God's richest blessings follow them through life.

(Continued on Page 12)

WEDDINGS continued . . .

MURRAY - RYHAL

Blue Murray and Kristina Ryhal were united in marriage on June 6, 1992 in The Church of Jesus Christ in Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Brothers Jim Moore and Dan Buffington officiated at the ceremony.

The couple now reside in New Castle, Pennsylvania. May the Lord bless them throughout their life.

Children Blessed

Julianna Marie Rattenni was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ on March 29, 1993 by Brother Dan Buffington at Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Brianna Adria Murray was blessed in Imperial, PA on April 4, 1993 by Brother Bob Buffington. She is the daughter of Blue and Kristina Murray.

Sarah Anne Weiner, born April 22, 1993 to Richard and Barbara (Henderson) Weiner, was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Otto Henderson in Anaheim, California on June 6, 1993.

Caleb Alan Heinz, son of Brother Todd and Sister Wendy (Jordan) Heinz of Albuquerque, NM, was blessed on October 31, 1993.

On November 7, 1993, Tyler Austin Z. Kline, son of Douglas and Janice (Zanardelli) Kline, was blessed at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch by Brother Matthew Laktash.

Jon Jacob Seighman, son of John and Julie Seighman of Fredericksburgh, Virginia, was blessed on November 7, 1993 by Brother William Chepanoske in Monongahela, PA.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

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

JAMES MOORE

Brother James T. Moore of the Imperial, Pennsylvania Branch passed away quietly on October 30, 1993. He was born on October 5, 1900, and kept the faith that he had received 52 years ago in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Services were conducted by Apostle Paul Palmieri and Elder Bob Buffington. Brother Moore's favorite hymn throughout the years was *Amazing Grace*; this was sung by the congregation.

Our Brother Jim is survived by his wife, Sister Eva, three children, 15 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and one brother.

LUCY ROSSI

Sister Lucy Rossi of the Niles, Ohio Branch passed on to her eternal reward on August 27, 1993. She was born on April 1, 1900, and was baptized into the Church in 1921.

Our sister is survived by two sons, Nick and Eugene; two daughters, Anna and Philomena; eleven grandchildren; and seventeen great-grandchildren. She was truly an example of faithfulness. Her life was completely dedicated to the Lord. She bore her testimony every week and closed each time with these words: "We have to love each other and love God truly." We will greatly miss her.

CORNELIA ALBERT

Sister Cornelia Albert of the Muncey, Ontario Mission passed away on Saturday, October 30, 1993. She was baptized in June of 1980 at the GMBA Campout in Massaneta Springs, VA.

Our sister was a pillar in the Church at Muncey. She will be sadly missed by all who knew her. She has fought the good fight and finished her course and kept the faith. Henceforth, there is laid up for her a crown of righteousness.

NICHOLAS BERISH

Nicholas Berish, from Monongahela, Pennsylvania, passed from this life on November 27, 1993. He was born on December 19, 1904.

Brother George Johnson conducted the funeral service. Left to mourn are two daughters, two brothers, and several grandchildren.

The Gospel News

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

February, 1994

Volume 50, No. 2

Brother B.D. Livingston Called Home

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

Only 14 days after Brother Paul Palmieri and I said good-bye to Brother Livingston, we received the sad news that he had gone to be with the Lord in Paradise. As I begin to write this account of our dear departed brother, I feel like I am writing of one who very well could be related to me, not only as a brother in Christ, but as a blood brother, for I immediately learned to love him from the first day we met, December 5, 1974.

It was then that he was sent to the United States to represent a group which had become interested in The Church of Jesus Christ. They had kept correspondence with me, as I was General Church Correspondent. At that time, I was assigned to expose him to the Church in action, to let him see and feel for himself how God blessed His people with the true Gospel Restored. This tour took us through six districts and 21 branches. Although he did not request baptism at that time, he was completely satisfied that The Church of Jesus Christ was his church, and that we were and are his people.

Seven years would pass before we would see Dr. Livingston again. During this period of time, I kept a

continuous correspondence with him, sending him letters, tapes, and literature to keep him informed of the Church's faith and doctrine, and its law and order.

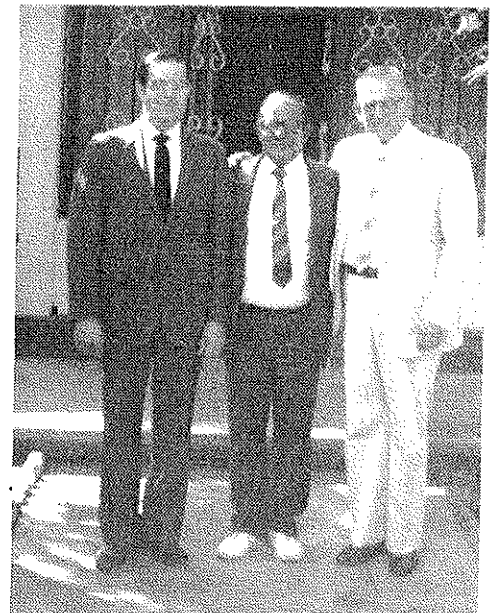
Finally, by the revelation of God, the Church sent Brother Alvin Swanson and myself to India. We arrived in Tadepalligudem to establish The Church of Jesus Christ on December 5, 1981. The next day, December 6, Dr. Livingston, along with five others, two of whom were his sons, were baptized in the Godovari River.

From this moment on, now Brother David Livingston, himself being named after the Scottish humanitarian David Livingstone (1813-1873) of "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?" fame, became a servant of the Lord and a humanitarian for The Church of Jesus Christ. On the same day, we were led by the Spirit of God to ordain him an elder.

Armed with the authority after the order of Jesus Christ, he immediately began to preach to his people. In his twelve years as an elder, God used him to establish the Church in nine villages, dedicate six new church buildings, bring over 500 members to Christ (this, in a

Hindu land), maintain the "Orphanage Saved by Grace," keep his practice at home, and serve villages under the IMA Rural Medical Society. Only recently he had been awarded a Certificate of Life Membership for medical excellence in recognition of outstanding services rendered to the public by the Association of the College of Chest Physicians. He is also listed in Who's Who of Eminent Doctors in New Delhi, India. In the

(Continued on Page 2)



The late Brother B.D. Livingston, M.D. poses with Brothers Paul Palmieri and Joseph Calabrese in a picture taken six years ago.

CALLED HOME continued . . .

following testimony Dr. Livingston recounts the remarkable circumstances of his life. Truly the Lord preserved and prepared him for His own purposes.

"I hail from a property-owning family from Tenali town in Guntur district. My family name was Pulipaka. When my mother was carrying me, in the third month, my father died of cholera. When the time for delivery came, my maternal uncle took my mother to Chirala, where Dr. Mary Baer, originally from Ohio, had started a mission hospital for women and children. Dr. Baer delivered my mother of me in her own bed. The year was 1925.

"On the eighth day after delivery, my mother died due to puerperal sepsis. My maternal uncle intended to kill me in order to take my mother's property. (He had expressed this to an ayah in the hospital.) The ayah told Dr. Mary Baer about my uncle's evil intention. She called for my uncle and told him, 'Go away and take the property, but leave the boy here for me to adopt him.' To save my life, she made a promise that she would not inform me of my parents' names, to ensure that I would never go to a court of law and secure my rightful property. Because of this, even to this day I do not know the names of my parents.

"Dr. Baer brought me up like her own son and gave me an education. When I was 17 years of age, I passed my high school examination with flying colors. In 1942 I entered college. Three weeks later, Dr. Mary Baer was admitted to the Kugler Hospital in Guntur with a heart attack. She died on July 11, 1942 in the hospital, leaving nothing for me to fall back on.

"I engaged myself as a tutor to high school children, and paid my room and board from this income. I earned my bachelor's degree in 1946 and applied to medical school. By God's grace, I was selected to study at Madras General Hospital, depending on tutoring fees only for my subsistence.

"After passing my medical degree, I worked in a number of different hospitals in varying capacities. Eventually, I set up private practice at Tadepalligudem, West Godovari District, Andhra Pradesh. I built a small hospital there.

"I was baptized and ordained an elder on December 6, 1981. I am totally dedicated to serving in and through The Church of Jesus Christ for His glory and honor, only.

"This is the testimony of an orphan, saved by His grace to serve Him, and made a doctor of medicine. I am very grateful and thankful to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for using me in the soul-winning ministry, and even through the hospital service. All glory, laud, and praise be to Him and to Him alone, now and forever. Amen."

I personally have been privileged to know Dr. Livingston. He lived a life full of excitement and joy in the Lord, under circumstances that only a man of his caliber could handle. Our loss is severe, and we look to God to choose who will take his place. Indeed, it is heaven's gain as he has been called to the Paradise of God. I will conclude by saying that this wonderful brother, who thrived on hard work and sacrifice, is now at rest. He was a person whose stature was very small, but he stood tall as a giant in goodness. May God comfort his family and the saints everywhere who learned to love and admire him.

"We Have Come into This House"

We Have Come into This House. What a great song of praise! What a blessing it brings—every time.

The first time I heard this simple melody, chills rode up and down my spine. Now it's a recurring effect. And the repetition in the lyrics allows the message to really sink in deep. So when we *do* come into His house, do we . . .

Focus on Christ? . . . lay aside the problems and distractions that pull us away from God? . . . get enough rest, so that we can be alert during the worship service? . . . graciously accept one another's faults? . . . show our love for God by clearly and openly showing our love for each other? . . . focus on Christ? . . . respect God's house, consistently, with reverent and tempered behavior? . . . focus on the sermon? . . . focus on the words of the hymns we sing? . . . sing? . . . focus on the testimonies? . . . testify—to the honor and glory of God, only God, and nothing but God? . . . focus on Christ? . . . willingly accept and fulfill the responsibility of our offices to the best of our ability? . . . complement, i.e., add to the Spirit of God? . . . distract our neighbor(s) with inappropriate or idle chatter? . . . sit still? . . . chew gum, munch on goodies, comb hair, write letters, etc., etc.? . . . focus on Christ? . . . yearn to read and hear more and more scripture? . . . pray silently along with the audible prayer? . . . pray for inspiration of our ministry? . . . pray at home, in our cars, at work, at play, without ceasing? . . . want to reinforce our personal relationship with God? . . . focus on Christ?

"We have come into this house to worship Him . . . worship Jesus Christ the Lord. So forget about yourself, concentrate on Him, and worship Him."

May God bless you with a burning desire to come into His house . . . the right way.

Anonymous

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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MBA Highlights

Pacific Coast Area Conference

By Linda Reynolds

Our Area MBA Conference was held at the Simi Valley Branch on Saturday, September 4, 1993, at 1:00 p.m. The opening hymn was an old favorite, *The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning*. Brother Bob McDonnell offered prayer.

Area Chaplain John DiBattista opened the meeting, following the theme set forth in the opening prayer. Our purpose in the Church must be understood to be the gathering of Israel. The MBA is where the young people can develop the stability to carry out the Commission of the Church. There is much to do, and few laborers to do the work.

After the officers' reports and a few more hymns, Brother Bob McDonnell reported on the 1993 Couples' Retreat held in May at the Palm Springs Riviera Resort. Fifteen couples attended the retreat. The theme for the weekend was, "Commitment Is the Key."

The election of officers was followed by a report of future activities, including a weekend campout in the mountains, and a Couples' Retreat planned for January, 1994.

District President Thomas M. Liberto addressed the conference with a few words of encouragement. He expressed his concern for the youth of the Church, and told us we must incorporate the spiritual aspects with the social interests of young people. He encouraged parents to show enthusiasm toward the Church and Church activities to our children.

Our next conference will be held in Modesto, California on March 12, 1994. We welcome any visitors and pray you will experience God's richest blessings.

Singles' Retreat '94

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

This will be the primary focus of this year's upcoming Singles' Retreat Weekend, "Wait upon the Lord." Wow! What a message!!! In a world where everyone seems to be in a frantic race, it's hard for one to swim against the current and carefully listen for God's soft, still voice for direction and guidance in life. This is a great opportunity for singles to gain a better understanding of the importance of patience when looking for a mate in life. It will likewise benefit those individuals whose patience has grown dim, helping them obtain strength that they may be able to "mount up with wings as eagles"!

This year's retreat director is Sister Tonia Davis. She, along with the GMBA officers, anticipates a weekend with a great message. The date set aside for this even is **March 25-27**; it will be held at the **Assemblies of God Camp** located in **Big Prairie, Ohio**. The age group targeted will be 16 and over. **This retreat does not focus primarily on unmarried adults!** There will be seminars provided for widows, widowers, and divorced persons, so these individuals are greatly encouraged to attend as well. Sister Karen Progar is in charge of registration, and all forms should be sent in by the deadline of March 5, 1994.

Last year's retreat proved to be an enlightening, and encouraging weekend as all who attended surely enjoyed themselves. The retreat scheduled for 1994 will likewise be a great blessing to all who are seeking God's direction in this matter. So if you weren't able to make it last year, and you think it would benefit you to attend, then make an effort to be there this March!

Announcement

For March, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.75%
2 year	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
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To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

Praise the Name

By H. H. Hansen

Praise the name of Christ today,
He came to take our sins away,
He came to earth to take our place,
And to meet us face to face.

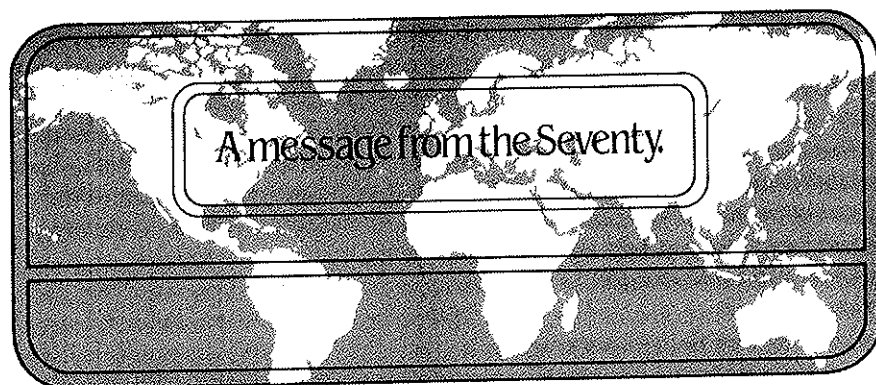
He took our guilt and shame away,
He brought to us a brighter day.
He came to save our dying race,
Because of His amazing grace.

Now in love my brothers and I,
Hear and heed the Master's cry.
We walk in peace and share His love,
For we've been blessed by God above.

Walk with us and share our joy,
Men and women, girls and boys,
By His hand we've all been blest,
And feel the peace of God in us.

Share the joy that God can give,
Learn true brotherhood and live,
Life's that rich in every way,
Share that joy with us today.

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen" (II Corinthians 13:14).



Report on Trip to India, Continued

(Last month's article traced our four brothers' journey together from November 27 to December 6, 1993. Below is a report of the second half of their missionary trip, during which time they separated and covered twice as much ground.)

On Monday, morning, December 6, 1993, Brothers Jackson and Gehly took a train south from Madras to Erode, while Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri went the opposite direction to Tadepalligudem, also traveling by train.

BROTHERS JACKSON AND GEHLY

There was much water and flooding from the cyclone that had hit the southern part of India. On Tuesday morning, the brothers started out early, visiting the various villages. There were initially rains out at the village of Mulanoor, and it took them many miles out of the way, encountering two blocked routes, before they finally made it to Manjakampatti Village at noon for a short service. With about 25 people in attendance, Brother Dev opened in prayer, Brother Jackson gave a short message, and Brother Gehly closed in prayer.

At the next place, Metoor Village, Brother Babu prayed, Brother Gehly spoke briefly, and Brother Jackson closed in prayer. Approximately 35 people were in attendance.

They then returned to Mulanoor, where they had initially been rained

out, and held a service in a thatched-roof hut with more than 50 people in attendance. Brother Kalai Selvan, an ordained teacher, made some welcoming remarks, and Brother Manuel opened in prayer. Brother Jackson gave some exhortation and instructions to the members. Five ordinations—two teachers, two deacons, and a deaconess—were then performed.

Brother Gehly then addressed the congregation and encouraged them in serving Jesus Christ. Brother Jackson made some closing remarks. Many requested prayer, among them the blind, lame, deaf, and leper.

The brothers quickly drove to a village in a very desolate area, where they offered a prayer of blessing at one location.

The next day, there finally was sunshine. The brothers conducted a morning meeting with all the elders and teachers from the Erode area. There are five Gospel Teachers, one for each mission, and in 1994 three more villages will be opened to the Gospel.

Brother Jackson opened in prayer and addressed the brothers. He taught them about the coming forth of the Book of Mormon and about its importance. He briefly explained the twelve tribes of Israel, and stressed the importance of inspiration to the Ministry.

Brother Gehly talked about the future plan of God to take the Gospel to the world. He encouraged every-

one, especially young teachers, to study and learn the scriptures.

Also discussed were the three Nephites, and various experiences concerning the inspiration of God to the Ministry. Brother Gehly closed in prayer.

Later in the afternoon, the brothers took a train back to Madras, where they spent time with brothers and sisters who came to visit as they waited for the return of Brothers Calabrese and Palmieri, who were due back from the north early the next morning.

BROTHERS CALABRESE AND PALMIERI

After arriving in Tadepalligudem on Tuesday, December 7, the brothers went to the newest village congregation in Sathenagudem, where over 100 people were waiting. Brother Livingston introduced them, and Brother Palmieri opened the meeting with John 14:1. He encouraged everyone to follow Jesus so that some day, we can all meet Him in heaven. Brother Calabrese followed along the same theme, promising that there is a mansion prepared for everyone who obeys the Lord.

A prayer of blessing for a young child was offered, and many people were anointed.

A highlight of the meeting was the presence of the village chief. His daughter had asked Brother Livingston to pray for her father when he was away from the village in a hospital, where he suffered with enlarged lymph glands. The chief declared that God had heard Brother Livingston's prayer, and that he was healed.

The next morning, the brothers journeyed to Golla-Puram, for the dedication of the church building there. They were met by a large crowd, among which were many non-members.

To celebrate this joyous occasion, Brother Palmieri was asked to cut a ceremonial ribbon from across the door. The door was then unlocked and all went inside the new building. Brother Livingston read

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

It was reported some time ago that an American missionary lost his life overseas at the hands of a group who opposed his spreading the Gospel among their people. After reflecting on the matter briefly, it occurred to me that this was something which our own organization, The Church of Jesus Christ, had not yet encountered in this last dispensation of time. We are grateful that in His mercy, the Lord has continued to spare the lives of those in our Church who have traveled on dangerous ground while carrying forth the Gospel Restored.

Our faith is strengthened and encouraged by the many experiences—both ancient and modern—that testify of God's divine protection of and provision for traveling missionaries. However, we must guard against labeling as "faith" the mistaken impression that, in addition to the salvation of our souls, we are somehow exempted from certain of life's calamities. This kind of thinking, which carries as its motto, "I'll serve you, Lord, in exchange for a calm, safe, prosperous, happy, predictable life on this earth," is not founded in scripture. Unless it matures beyond this level, "faith" of this kind will inevitably lead us to disappointment and frustration in the face of life's adversities.

Anyone who has truly experienced serving God and trusting in Him daily can attest to the fact that it is an *adventure*, an extraordinary, exciting, unpredictable journey through life that brings us closer to Him each day and, through ever-changing circumstances, is sure to leave us stronger in spirit, faith, righteousness, and joy at its end than we could have ever *hoped* to be at its beginning. As human beings, however, we prefer the routine, the predictable, the humdrum, and seek to avoid pain (and consequently, growth) at all costs.

King Mosiah was concerned when his four sons expressed a desire to do missionary work among the Lamanites. A man of great faith, he inquired of the Lord concerning the matter, and was comforted by His answer: "*I will deliver thy sons out of the hands of the Lamanites*" (Mosiah 28:7). Was this promise a blanket statement by God exempting Mosiah's sons from distress? Hardly. A little later on, it says in Alma 17:5 that ". . . they had many afflictions; they did suffer much, both in body and in mind, such as hunger, thirst and fatigue, and also much labor in the spirit." The chapters that follow recount in rich detail the severe tribulations and unparalleled successes of these men of God, ending with Ammon's jubilant paean to God's goodness, which comprises the whole of Chapter 26. Had these men placed conditions on their service to God, they would have been disheartened by their sufferings, and would never have had the privilege of experiencing the joy that they did.

No less zealous a servant of God was the Apostle Paul, who could testify, "*Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep*" (II Corinthians 11:24-25). Again, Paul's willingness to serve was not contingent upon God's guarantee of safety, comfort, or security. Were he motivated by a desire to avoid pain in his life, much of the New Testament would likely be missing from our Bibles today.

Rather than glibly joking about doing missionary work in Hawaii, let us be sober, and emulate the examples of sacrificial faith set forth by our brothers of old. When our faith in God and the desire to serve Him grows to the point where we can say, with no strings attached, "*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him*" (Job 13:15), nothing will be able to stop us from building God's kingdom on earth.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



began to forget about my suffering, and it truly ended.

So, that is how we can get over terrible hurts—by trusting in Jesus and telling Him all about it. And then by asking Him to help you change and forgive. It will happen before you know it.

With care, your friend
Sister Jan

The Power of Forgiveness

Dear Boys and Girls,

Have you ever had a chance to forgive someone who has hurt you? Did you know that if you don't forgive them, then they are still hurting you? If they try to "beat you down" with unkindness or deliberate cruelty, they won't win if you can find the love of Jesus in your heart and forgive them.

If you don't forgive them, and don't forget what happened, then in your mind you are hurt over and over again. For example, every time you tell someone else about their unkind actions (maybe to get sympathy or to win them over to your side), you only make the bad event worse. Talking about it to other people magnifies the problem.

And oh, how that old devil and his demons love to make us feel hurt and re-play that hurt over and over again! In fact, if you can forgive the person that hurt you, then the feelings of pain will go away, too. Jesus has power over the old devil. Anything good that we ask in Jesus' name can be given to us if we are leading a good life, and if it is in God's plan for us to receive it.

The Apostle Paul had murdered many of God's people before he knew Jesus. Can you imagine forgiving someone who has hurt the people you love? But the saints did forgive Paul.

Once, someone I trusted hurt me deeply. And this person did it on

purpose and wasn't even sorry for it. The person was glad to see me suffer. The longer I hated this person, the longer I suffered.

I would get into my car to drive to work, and as I would pull into the parking lot, I would realize that I had spent the entire half-hour drive thinking about this person. I wouldn't even remember the road I'd ridden on. I was in deep pain, and couldn't get over it.

Everything seemed sad, or boring, or pointless. I would go to sleep feeling tired, and wake up with a heavy heart. Boy, was that person who had hurt me ever winning! First, there was the sin against me. And second was *my* sin against myself. Because, by not praying for God to give me a forgiving heart, I wasn't healing. I wasn't growing inside, either. Only pain could live in my heart. The love of Jesus was waiting for me, but I wasn't letting all the cracks and chips be filled in with God's love.

But other people prayed for me. Little by little, I could talk to Jesus about my problem. Finally, I was able to truly say, "Lord, help me to forgive." And then, finally, I have been able to pray, "Lord, bless my enemies. Help them; touch their lives. They need you too, Lord. Forgive them."

And *that's* when the old devil lost. Because Jesus took away my terrible pain and helped me put good thoughts in my heart instead. And I

WORD SEARCH

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Branch and Mission News

Ordination in Imperial, PA

*Stand with God's help, son,
defending the Title
With true men of valor,
the best in the land.*

*Teaching only pure doctrine
and sound revelation,
And living with vision of peace
in the land.*

On August 8, 1993, we in the Imperial, PA Branch were blessed when Brother Bob Buffington Jr. was ordained into the office of a teacher. Our branch has needed a teacher for quite some time. We made it a matter of prayer that the Lord would call someone, and, so wonderfully, He did!

Among our visitors that day was Brother Rey Rangel, who sang *The Standard of Liberty* for our opening hymn. The spirit of ordination was truly in our midst that day.

Brother Jim Moore opened the service, speaking on the anointing of David. He said, "Like David, God needs young men and women to stand for Him, to come forth and say, 'I want to serve God; I want to raise the Standard of Liberty!'"

Brother Bob Buffington Sr. followed, telling of David's desire to build a house for the honor and glory of God. As David laid up the gold and the silver, etc., so Jesus laid up the gifts in the Church. "*And some he gave apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ*" (Ephesians 4:11-13). Jesus' beautiful Church! He's calling men and women, those who are willing to work!

Our Brother Dan Buffington then told a dream that he had had, wherein he was reading the duties of a teacher to Brother Bobby. God had

also prepared Brother Bobby by giving him two experiences:

I dreamed I was sitting in a room, where we were waiting for our orders, like in the army. A tall, very distinguished looking man with a beautiful gray beard, whom I felt was the Lord, came into the room. He was wearing a splendid army dress uniform, not today's modern uniform, but more like that worn in the Civil War. At his side, as a weapon, he had a great beautiful sword. Brother Tim Tarbuk was near me and he asked, "Would you like to meet the General?" I said to him, "Very much!" As I rose from my seat to greet him, I noticed that I was in the same uniform as he was, and also had a sword at my side. After we shook hands and were introduced, he went into his office.

The second experience started as a dream where I was in the basement of the Imperial Branch. Upon awakening, I heard a voice speak to me, saying, "*It's time to go up and eat with the Lord's anointed.*"

What a beautiful calling and confirmation! Thank God, He provides our needs if we but wait upon Him to move and direct us.

Brother Bobby's feet were washed by his father. Then someone very special was brought forward, Brother Jim Moore, Sr. In recent months, he was confined to a home because of his inability to walk. He was brought to Church this day to see his grandson ordained a teacher. It was a touching moment. He was the patriarch of our branch, a pillar, in his 93rd year. We sang *Second to God*, and Brother Moore was wheeled to the front and sat beside Bobby as he was anointed with oil and ordained. It was a beautiful, happy occasion.

*Men long in battle, a lifetime
of fighting,
But years creep upon them
and time starts to show.*

*Holding positions while calling
replacements,
"Where are there some brave
men, some willing to go?"*

Our Brother Jim Moore has since been called home, and will be greatly missed by the members and friends of the Imperial Branch.

Evangelist called home at water's Edge

By Brenda Capone

On Sunday, November 7, 1993, I awoke to a very cloudy day. In my morning prayer, I asked the Lord if he would manifest the gifts in our branch that day. I said, "Oh Lord, please don't think of me as selfish, but could we please be blessed in our own branch?" I didn't want to *hear* about the gifts, I wanted to *see* them in our midst.

That morning, after our Sunday School, we started to open our morning service. Brother Joe Furnari was to speak to us, and asked that we open by singing *Shall We Gather at the River*. As we were singing, I noticed that my 14-1/2-year-old daughter Colleen was not sitting with us. I went to check on her and found her crying. She said that she had asked God if this morning He would give her a song that could be hers. Then Brother Joe called this song. She said, "Mom, I just feel like God is talking to me again and I want to be baptized."

I knew that on many occasions Colleen had asked the Lord to speak to her, and He had answered those prayers every time. After my husband Tim, myself, and our presiding elder spoke to her, we realized that she was very serious. I knew without a doubt that this was to be one of the days I had prayed for many times! Tim and I made phone calls to as many branches as possible (even some in Ohio) to let everyone know of our news. But before we called any of them, we made a call to

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WATER'S EDGE continued . . .

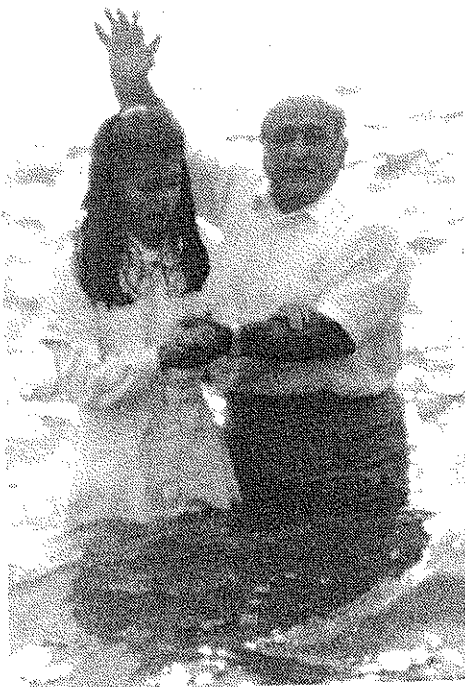
Colleen's grandfather, Brother Peter H. Capone. He was at home this morning because of his recent heart trouble. When Tim called him and told him about Colleen's baptism, he said, "I'll be right there." We told him that it was cold and he said, "I'll be right there."

When we got to the water, there was Dad, waiting and smiling. Many brothers, sisters, and friends were there also. Dad spoke to Colleen of her commitment, and they entered the water. By the hand of God, I had my camera with me that day so I was able to capture the moment on film. When Dad called out to the Lord, his voice caught in a sob, as this was his granddaughter! The last words we heard him say were, "Colleen Joy Capone! Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Amen." God allowed Dad to be with us long enough for Colleen to give her life to the Lord. Then, Dad came out of the water and gave his life to the Lord.

You see, Dad died within minutes of coming out of the water. But the Lord was so merciful, he allowed us (his family) to all turn and start to walk away, then He reached down and took Brother Pete home to be with Him. There were so many blessings that were to come from this, but I will admit, at that moment, I couldn't imagine what they would be. I felt so confused. The best way to describe it is that we rode a roller-coaster to the top, and then somebody cut the cables. But oh, how good the Lord is! Brother Mike Coppa, who has the gift of speaking the Word of the Lord, pulled up right after Dad went down. He didn't see what had happened, but he uttered these words: "Hear ye the Word of the Lord this day. I have called My servant home. He has fought a good fight. Do not shed your tears for him, but cry for those that die by the wayside, never tasting the Waters of Life!" When some of us heard those words, we had no doubt that Dad was gone.

Brother Pete was an elder at

Branch #3, an evangelist, first counselor at the Muncey, Ontario Mission, second counselor of the Michigan-Ontario District, and a member of the District Mission Operating Committee. Dad lived for God and was willing to do not only anything that he could, but *all* that he could. At his funeral, through the mail, and at our doors, people came to tell us how Dad had touched their lives. No one came to pay their respects to Dad, but they came because Dad had touched their hearts in a way that they *had* to come, to say good-bye, to say thanks. The love that was shown to all of us at this time was wonderful. No words



Evangelist Peter H. Capone baptizes his granddaughter, Colleen Joy Capone. Moments later, the Lord took him home.

could describe how much it meant to us. A brother told us that he had spoken to Dad a couple of weeks before, and Dad had told him that he had one more thing to do for the Lord!

When Dad came to the water, many people expressed their concern for his health, but Dad said, "What a way to go." Dad was certainly in contact with the Lord that day, and what the Lord said certainly proved

that. Dad was a kind and gentle man. And certainly if there is one thing that I can say about my father-in-law, it is that he loved everyone unconditionally. Nothing else mattered. He stood for the truth, never backing down or being swayed. Through his knowledge from God, he knew things to be true and went to meet his Maker, standing strong in that Truth. Dad always reminded us about the scripture, "To whom much is given, much is required." Even when others disagreed due to a lack of knowledge, Dad still loved them. Nothing could stop Dad from loving you.

So as you read this, yes, we thought very much of Dad. But our honor and glory go to God, for He gave us Dad, he was a gift, and oh, what a wonderful gift he was! Now, when you hear of his death, and you are told of *how* it happened, know this day that it was truly the hand of God. It was His will. God waited for that very special moment when Dad was again doing His will. And yes, at first Colleen thought it to be her fault, but through the loving support of the brothers and sisters, through the experiences told and through the Spirit of God that is now within her, she too has come to the knowledge that Dad had finished his work on earth.

If you could have all been there, you would have seen the clouds. You would have known there was no sun. And yet it came out, in a single ray that shone down upon Colleen and Dad. It followed them from the stairway out into the water and back to the stairs. There were many people there and they can all testify to this. God was there, just like He is at all baptisms, but He was talking with Dad and guiding him, waiting until Colleen was safely back to the shore, then He took him home to his reward. Dad received what he had prayed for. We praise and give thanks to the Lord this day, for all that He has given us. We all knew, when Dad died, that he would go to heaven. But God gave us food that day, to sustain us at a time of confusion. We are at peace with it all.

We will always miss Dad, but we know where this "servant" is. Dad lived and died for the Lord. What about the rest of us? Are we ready to go, or just ready to stay? May God be with us all.

On the following Sunday, November 14, Kathy (Furnari) Peshl asked for her baptism at Branch #3. She said that the Word of the Lord had stayed with her all week. She said that she knew that when the Lord said, "Do not cry for him (Brother Pete), but cry for those who stand by the wayside, never tasting the Waters of Life," that she was one of those whom He spoke of. Her father, Brother Joe Furnari, had the pleasure of baptizing his daughter. Kathy's mother, Sister Mary, is blind, but was able to witness the baptism with the vision of it in her heart. Brother Nephi DeMercurio asked God to bestow the Holy Spirit upon our new sister, and asked that she be blessed with her own spiritual gift. Brother Peter Scolaro had confirmed Sister Colleen the previous Sunday.

We are thankful for our priesthood and the authority that God has bestowed upon them when they accepted His calling. May the words of our Lord be with us all, always.

Lakeside, Arizona

During the past twenty-four years we have been striving to share the Gospel not only to the surrounding communities, but also have made a conscious effort to make our children an integral part of our service. One of the most rewarding things in our service to God is to watch our children make their covenant to serve God as well.

Our families have been the recipients of such blessings! At our recent District Conference/Campout, the Spirit of God was made manifest with great power. The priesthood felt directed to call our young people forward to petition God in their behalf, that not one would be lost. It is through this inspiration and allowing God to bless us that not only did

many feel more determined to keep their covenant, but also many decided to *make* that covenant!

At the Lakeside Branch, we realized an increase in our membership with the baptism of three at camp, and three more at home the following week. Those baptized at camp included father and son, Pat and Charles Mead, as well as Emil Palensar, Jr. Brother Pat, the husband of Sister Dana Mead, was not raised in the Church, and suffice it to say, much prayer had gone before God on his behalf. We were truly blessed to see him come in.

The following Sabbath our branch gathered at the river in Whiteriver to witness the baptism of Luke Smith, Coralee Tenijieth, and Amy Palensar. They had all asked at the camp, but waited to be baptized at home so that their families could be present. Luke is the son of Sister Cheryl and Brother Skip Smith. Coralee is a niece of our Brother Scott, and we have watched her grow from a young child when we first arrived in Whiteriver. Amy and Emil Jr. are the children of Sister Patricia (Seighman) Palensar. We are so grateful to God for blessing our families. Nothing can compare to the joy of the saints!

Blessings abound at Ft. Pierce, FL Branch

By Florence Catena

Our service in Ft. Pierce, Florida commenced on July 18, 1993 with a wonderful spirit of singing. Brother Norman Campitelle offered prayer. After hearing from Brothers Frank Rogolino and Sam Costarella, Sister Ruth Morris asked to be reinstated. Her testimony was sincere, and a blessing to hear. We then sang *Happy the Souls That First Believed*.

On August 8, 1993, our Brother Alexander Perry asked to be reinstated. May he be a light and example to other young people. The following Sunday, August 15, was a

morning of great rejoicing—three souls requested baptism! It was indeed a great blessing to be gathered at the lake to witness Earl and Mary Carson, and Curt Smith, giving their lives to Christ. Brothers Frank Rogolino and Norm Campitelle performed the baptisms.

Upon returning to church, the new converts had hands laid on them by our elder brothers. Brother and Sister Carson requested that their three young children, Justin, Leah, and Laura, be blessed. I pictured Jesus calling the little children to be blessed as our elder brothers laid hands on them.

In our testimony service, Sister Mary related that on Saturday evening, she heard her son Justin talking in his sleep, saying, "Mommy, Jesus is here and He loves you." Her excitement was great, because his speaking was unusually clear and distinct—moreso than she had ever heard him speak before.

We ended this beautiful day with the hymn, *He Keeps Me Singing*. Prayer was offered by Brother Bill Sommerville of Orlando, FL.

On September 19, 1993, Daniel Nowells, after attending services for several months with his family, surrendered himself to the Lord. It was indeed a blessing for all when he expressed his desire to be baptized. Brother Frank Rogolino performed the baptism and Brother Sam Costarella confirmed our brother. Thank God for a glorious day.

On Sunday, October 10, 1993, Sister Lori Checchi related the following experience in our testimony service:

"I suddenly woke up this morning around 5:30. I could hear my six-month-old son on the baby monitor, moving around his crib. Usually I listen for a few minutes before going into his room, and he goes back to sleep on his own. But this morning, I heard a voice say, 'Go check on him NOW.' I jumped up and ran to his room. There I discovered that he had pulled the blanket up over his head and then

(Continued on Page 10)

FT. PIERCE continued . . .

turned over so that it was twisted around his neck. He was wriggling around, trying to get it off, but he was only making it worse.

"I quickly got him untangled, and he was fine. If I had waited when I heard him, as I usually did, he might have been strangled and suffocated. I thank God for sparing my son's life and for warning me in time to help him."

Brother Nick Pietrangelo returned to us on October 24 for the winter months. We also had Joann Campitelle join us as well, which was a blessing. On his first Sunday here, Brother Nick chose for his text Matthew 25. He gave an inspiring sermon on the parable of the ten virgins—five were wise and five were foolish. May we emulate the five wise virgins and keep our lamps filled with oil. The Lord's Spirit surely prevailed throughout the service.

San Carlos, AZ Mission

By Terry Ross

(Editor's note: This article's late printing is due to being lost in the mail. We are still happy to hear good news, however late.)

We thank God for progress and blessings during 1992. We were blessed with visitors, baptisms, the blessing of children, and progress on our new church building.

During the year we have appreciated your prayers, the support lent to our Vacation Bible School, contributions to our building fund, and seeing the faces of those who visited us from near and far. We had approximately 225 visitors during 1992.

Thirty-nine youths of the Nazarene Church came from Colorado and labored diligently around our building, improving the grounds and cleaning up the area. Their desire to work with the Seed of Joseph was an inspiration.

We also had the privilege of

welcoming five new members to our mission: Brother Henry Grant Jr., Brother Chris McIntosh, Brother Harrison Kayson, Sister Tanya Kayson, and Sister Barbara Dillon. Each one had different spiritual experiences before giving themselves to the Lord. We pray that the Lord will keep a hedge around them as they strive to grow spiritually. We also had one reinstatement into the Church. There are 18 regular visitors from the reservation who attend our church meetings and participate in our testimony services.

Though our members are excited about our new church building, it is far from being complete. The first phase was completed in June of 1992 with the installation of the septic system, the foundation, and the concrete floor.

Our second phase was 90 percent complete as of December, 1992, with wall framing, exterior siding, windows, and roof. We have several more phases to accomplish before our new church becomes a reality, as well as the task of raising the funds to complete these phases.

During Thanksgiving week of 1992, we had brothers and sisters helping us start the second phase of the building. We appreciate their helping hand and going out of their way to assist us. We would like to extend our thanks to Brother David Hemmings from Lakeside, Brother Wally Cihomsky, Phil Damore, and Brother Robbie and Sister Mary Duncan and their son Ty from Phoenix, Arizona. Also Brother Matthew and Sister Martha Picciuto, Brother Mark and Sister Karen Picciuto, and Brother Mike Pepe from Modesto, California.

Before the ground was broken for our new church building, many dreams were related, months and years before. The dreams were all similar, yet were related by different people. One such dream was had by our Sister Mary Ross, who passed away in February of 1992. In her dream, she saw a big church next to our current building. She dreamed that she saw a lot of people in the new church building. She saw a few

of the older saints in the congregation, and a lot of new faces. She understood everyone in the building to be happy and praising God. In this dream, she did not see herself. When this dream was related, our Sister Mary was ill and conveyed to her family that the Lord showed her a glimpse of His plans for San Carlos.

Our dreams are becoming a reality through the grace of God. The last few years, our mission has grown to a number that warrants a larger facility to accommodate our needs. We thank the Lord for our spiritual blessings. To those of you who came to visit us, may our paths meet again. And to all of you, an invitation is extended.

May God bless you all. Love from the brothers and sisters of the San Carlos, AZ Mission.

Sterling Heights, MI

The children of the saints are coming home!

We are still longing for the fulfillment of Brother Lou Vitto's dream which showed the doors in the back of our church swinging open during a service, allowing a stream of the children of the saints to come in. They filled every empty seat and lined the walls in standing-room-only fashion.

We are thrilled and joyful, however, to have received one returning child back into the fold. Sister Linda (Palermo) Conger made her decision to surrender her life to Christ on October 24, 1992. She was baptized by Brother Lou Vitto and confirmed by Brother Spencer Everett.

Our sister related to the writer that marrying outside of the Church made it quite easy to stay away for nearly fifteen years. The lessons of her childhood haunted her, though, and when things went badly in her life she would find her way back to church and struggle with the decision she knew she had to make. Like many, she thought she needed to straighten out her life before she could do so, while the worry of dying

without the Lord burdened her.

Upon sharing an experience with a co-worker, in which God illuminated Branch #1 by lightning from the nearby freeway as Sister Linda had lost her bearings one dark night during a driving rain, she was challenged with the question, "What are you waiting for?" Realizing what she had to do, she called our presiding elder and confessed her desire to be baptized. She is thankful that the members never stop praying for the children of the saints, and now asks herself the question that is often repeated, "Why did I wait so long?"

The beautiful ending of this testimony of the goodness of our great Lord is that Sister Linda's husband Joe began attending quite often after she had made her commitment, and we also rejoice in his recent conversion. Brother Joe was baptized by Brother John Straccia and confirmed by Brother Lou Vitto on November 29, 1993. Satan gave our new brother much grief in his struggle to surrender to Jesus, and we are grateful and thankful that once more the Holy Spirit was the victor!

MESSAGE continued . . .

from II Chronicles 6:20. The brothers reported, "It was a joy to behold such a beautiful building. It has a restoration quotation on the back wall, which is beautiful to see."

After several congregational hymns, Brother Palmieri offered the

dedication prayer. Brother Calabrese opened the service, using II Chronicles 5:1, 6:33, 7:14-16, and Isaiah 66:1,2. He elaborated on the thought that now that the Lord's House had been built, it is more important for us to build a spiritual house unto the Lord. The brothers and sisters are the treasures that were brought into the Lord's House. Additionally, they should give Him a place of rest in their hearts.

Brother Palmieri followed on the same theme, and also exhorted the members to take care of the Lord's House, because it is their responsibility and it belongs to them. Brother Livingston closed with comments in the Telligu language, reinforcing the speaking, and then closed in prayer.

On Thursday, the brothers drove to Nallamadu, where over 200 were present for the meeting. The children and congregation did some beautiful singing, after which Brother Palmieri opened the service. He spoke about Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch, using the text in Acts 8:26-40, and emphasized how the eunuch believed Philip and was baptized when he explained about Christ.

Brother Calabrese followed on the theme of baptism. While Brother Joe was speaking, the village chief came in; after the speaking, he personally came up and placed leis of fresh flowers on Brothers Paul and Joe.

Everyone then walked to the baptismal site, about a mile away. It was a very impressive scene as the people lined up to see the procession going through the village. Brothers

Livingston and Pushparaj baptized 30 people from the four closest villages. The group returned to church for the confirmations. After the meeting was closed, the brothers were again overwhelmed by people requesting prayers and blessings.

Immediately thereafter, the brothers prepared for the long journey back to Madras to rejoin brothers Jackson and Gehly for their flight back home. It was once again sad, as it always is, for missionaries to say good-bye to the saints. As they bade farewell to Brother Livingston, the brothers did not know that it would be for the last time. Shortly following their return home, they would learn of his passing away. Brother Livingston was the first member of The Church of Jesus Christ in India and had served as a leader of the Church there ever since.

TRIP HOME

The trip home began at 4:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 11. The four brothers lodged overnight in London, after having been awake for nearly 24 hours. They arrived back in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania the next evening, where they were greeted by family both natural and spiritual. They were extremely thankful to God for His protection and inspiration during their travels. Much was accomplished, and the prayers and well-wishes from our brothers and sisters abroad certainly made their efforts worthwhile and helped to bring the Church closer together in the Love of God.

Children Blessed

Kayla Jean Risola was blessed on February 28, 1993 by her great grandfather, Brother Saverio Risola, in Palm Harbor, Florida.

On July 11, 1993, Brother Frank Rogolino blessed James "Adam" Griffin at the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch.

Candice Elena Van Buhler was blessed on October 24, 1993 by Brother Richard Thomas at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch.

Olivia Rose Gonzalez was blessed on November 7, 1993 by Brother Ken Staley in Palm Harbor, Florida.

On November 29, 1993, Kyle Ashton Chambers was blessed by Brother Malcolm Paxton at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch.

Patrick Joseph Roach was blessed by Brother Spencer Everett at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch on November 29, 1993.

On December 5, 1993, Anissa Marie Dalfovo was blessed by Brother Eugene Amormino at the Sterling Heights, MI Branch.

*** WEDDINGS ***

VITTO - HILDEBRANDT

On September 18, 1993, Brother Gregory Vitto and Kathleen Hildebrandt were united in holy matrimony at the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The message on marriage was given by Brother Frank Vitto, the groom's uncle. The couple were then joined in marriage by the father of the groom, Brother Lou Vitto. Outstanding musical selections were provided by Brother Steve Champine, accompanied by Brother Eugene Amormino on piano and organ.

The newlyweds will make their home in Clinton Township, Michigan. May God bless and direct their life together always.

PURKALL - RILES

Brother David Purkall and Deborah Riles were joined in holy wedlock at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ on November 13, 1993.

A sermon was delivered by Apostle Paul Benyola, and the marriage ceremony was officiated by Brother Joseph Pittius. Musical selections were provided by Brother Richard Benyola.

The newlyweds are residing in Edison, New Jersey. Our prayer is that God would accompany them throughout their life.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

FRANCES CANNAVO

Sister Frances Cannavo passed on to eternity after serving the Lord for 59 years on March 27, 1993. She was born in Patinece, Italy on July 6, 1905. She received the Lord Christ and was baptized by Brother Joseph Gianzante on February 25, 1934 in Detroit, Michigan.

The funeral was conducted by Brother John Straccia of the Sterling Heights Branch and the late Brother Peter H. Capone of Branch #3, where she had been a member for many years.

Sister Frances is survived by two daughters, Catherine and Antoinette; a son, Sam; and several grandchildren. Our sister was very giving and active in her service to the Lord, always having a meal ready when the brothers returned from missionary work while she lived in New Baltimore, MI, and untiring in giving her testimony to everyone she met. Very faithful until her last days, she will be sorely missed by all.

DOROTHY RICHTER

Sister Dorothy Richter of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch passed away on December 2, 1993, at the age of 88. She was baptized on January 23, 1955 by Brother Oran Thomas.

Our sister was a faithful member of the Church, attending at both Bitner and Vanderbilt, as long as her health allowed her. She will be sadly missed by her family and the Brothers and Sisters of the Church.

BAER DAVID LIVINGSTON

On December 26, 1993, Brother B.D. Livingston, M.D. had a coughing spell from which he did not recover. He experienced heart failure, deceasing 4:00 p.m. India time. He was 68 years of age.

Funeral services were held the next day in Tadepalligudem, India, and were conducted by Elder Yohan of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brother Livingston was well known by many of the saints, having come to the United States in 1974 and 1983. He leaves to mourn his wife, Damana; three sons, Dr. Philip, Daniel, and Solomon; and one daughter, Mary, all living in India.

Brother Livingston will be sorely missed by all. May God comfort his loved ones. Condolences may be sent to:

Baer Memorial Hospital
Dr. B. D. Livingston
Tadepalligudem 534101
Andhra Pradesh, South India

The Gospel News

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

March, 1994

Volume 50, No. 3

To God Be the Glory Dedication in Spartanburg, South Carolina

We praise God from the very depths of our hearts, for He has provided the Spartanburg, SC Mission with a brand new house of worship! It has been three long years of laboring, and many times it seemed as if the day that we would meet in our new building would never come to pass.

The Spartanburg Mission had such a great need for a building. Our previous building was so small that we had no room for visitors when all members were in attendance. We have to thank God for every obstacle, because He has taught us longsuffering, patience, and endurance. Various projects were held to secure funds for the building, such as bake sales, yard sales, and flea-market sales. Other projects during the summer months included car washes, selling peanuts and watermelons, and selling dinner plates.

The dedication was scheduled for October 22-24, 1993. There was a feeling of excitement in the Friday evening as many of the visiting brothers and sisters began arriving. Visitors came from Florida, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, and

Ohio to share in our blessing. The services began on Saturday morning with an 8:00 fasting and prayer meeting, followed later by an open house from noon to 2:00 p.m. We returned to the church at 6:00 for an evening of praise, worship, and testimony.

The brothers in the ministry spoke to us about humbling ourselves before the hand of God, and about sharing the Gospel with others. The members of the Spartanburg Mission then sang a Restoration medley, which had been prepared especially for the dedication. Later, during the testimony meeting, Sister Lisa Rogolino testified that she saw bright lights around some of the sisters of the mission as they bore their testimonies. We thank God for pouring out His Spirit upon us. After the meeting was dismissed, we enjoyed a season of fellowship and some light snacks.

The Sunday morning meeting began at 10:00 a.m. Brother Harold Littlejohn offered the prayer dedicating our new building unto the Lord. The other brothers followed, as

(Continued on Page 3)

Sister celebrates 100th birthday

The Hopelawn, NJ Branch helped celebrate Sister Pauline Kowalczyk's 100th birthday on November 14, 1993 at the nursing home where she has been a resident for the past year and a half.

Pauline Plona came to America from her native Poland, arriving at Pawtucket, Rhode Island on July 4, 1911, at the age of seventeen. She met and married Joseph Kowalczyk.

(Continued on Page 7)



Sister Pauline Kowalczyk at her 100th birthday party.

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

LEST WE FORGET

The year 1993 and the beginning of 1994 have brought us many changes, some successes and some ugly destructions, personal, within families, national, and international.

These have been eventful times for many people. The future is one of challenge and decisions. We need to face the future with faith in God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

We need to bless and curse not. This may take courage, but if we want to be the Lord's disciples, then we must follow Jesus' example: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Truly, it is better to bless and curse not. "We are only a small part of God's Creation." We do appreciate God more as we grow old.

God is also good to the young generation. The more love we have, the more that we become pure as gold.

We need to remember also that way back in 1933, we used to sing a verse that I still sing to myself:

Must I go bound while others go free,
And love the ones who don't love me?

Sure, I shall play the childish part,
And love the ones who break my heart.

Make up your own tune and sing it. It will help you, no matter how big your problems.

Love, in our physical life, is

the great combining force that seeks to join all parts together. It is the organizing element in our emotional structure. It is the power that reaches out to build and construct. Love is the immortal energy that nourishes, extends, and preserves. Its eternal goal is Life.

Side by side with love exists the antagonistic force of aggression. This is dark instinct, which strives constantly to pull the parts asunder. It is the power that conquers and dissolves. It bores inward, seeking to separate and destroy. Aggression's goal is Death.

We need them both; Love and Aggression. Our lifetime job is to equalize them and make them live together. They both exist within our lives. Inasmuch as love needs a challenge to prove its consistency, aggression needs love to soothe and provide the opposite pull, to hold life together. We must be aware of both and be responsive to both, and learn where to draw the line of life. Be angry and sin not. We mature when we learn to know our limitations.

Since we know our limitations, should we not have compassion on one another?

May God's blessing rest upon you.

Mark Randy

A Most Miraculous Birthday Present

I am once again obligated to write a "note" of thanksgiving to our God as well as to each of you. You see, about 18 months ago, I was the recipient of a miraculous gift—the divine removal of a tumor from my left ear. It was such a glorious blessing that I reported it belonged to each of you who had been praying. At this time I want to tell you what transpired on August 21, 1993.

After surgery in 1992, I was told that my ear's functions should return to normal and my surgeon

and I said a fond farewell, expecting not to see each other again. By October of that year my ear began to be symptomatic, and I had again lost hearing. Upon examination, I was told that the graft that had been fabricated into an eardrum had healed ineffectively, and that I had the equivalent of an open wound on the eardrum and in the ear canal.

I began again to ask for prayers that God would intervene. The surgeon began trying to remedy the situation, and tried no less than eight treatments over the next seven months in an attempt to spare me the ordeal of repeat surgery. Nothing worked.

By June, 1993, we had given up, and had decided that surgery was the last resort. However, at the preoperative examination, the surgeon said the ear environment was too hostile, and that we couldn't undergo surgery until it was healthier. I was sent home with three months' medication and was told to return in August for another pre-op exam and surgery. As August approached, I began to be less and less enthusiastic about the prospect of surgery, and canceled my pre-op appointment in early August. I just was not up to doing it at that time. I did not reschedule; I just prayed.

August 20-22 was the weekend of our District Conference, which was held here in San Diego. Friday and Saturday were very busy, and I enjoyed fellowshiping with all. Saturday evening, we returned to our home with our houseguests, Brother Joe Lovalvo and his daughter, Sister Faye Richardson. It was late, and yet we began to relate experiences and miracles. Before we knew it, we had been talking for two hours and midnight was approaching. I felt like I was at a feast that evening; my hungry soul was being fed and my husband and I were so grateful for the conversation. There was a unity of faith in the room that could be felt by all. Soon, however, Brother Joe stated that he would be retiring to bed. Stacey then re-

(Continued on Page 9)

My Experience

I was given a very special gift this past holiday season, a very precious gift from God. I was healed!

On December 14, 1993, I was given a physical examination by my doctor, which included an annual mammogram. The mammogram was taken at 3:00 p.m., and by 5:00, my doctor was on the phone with the report. He apologized several times for calling me at home, but he felt that I needed to do something right away, as the mammogram revealed an abnormal condition. The doctor's office made an appointment for me to see a surgeon.

Seven days later, I saw the surgeon and he verified the existence of a lump and said it should be removed for peace of mind and a positive diagnosis. The surgery was scheduled for December 29, 1993.

That day I was admitted to Sharon Regional Hospital and was prepared for surgery. An IV was inserted, and the procedure was explained to me. I sent my mother, Sister Lillian Klein, and my husband, Roger, to have breakfast, as I was to go into X-Ray before the actual surgery. They were to wait for me later in the surgical waiting room.

I was taken to the X-Ray department. After a series of X-Rays, the technician came in and said they needed to take another series. After the second series was taken, the technician came in, pulled back my chair, and said, "You are going home now. We couldn't find any lump on your X-Ray."

After all the anxiety and stress that I had felt in the weeks prior, I was very relieved and thanked God. As I expressed myself in testimony the following Sunday at the Youngstown Branch, the Holy Spirit touched the congregation and we rejoiced in the miracle of healing that I had received through the power of God, by way of anointing by the priesthood and the prayers of the saints, family, and friends.

I am so grateful for the goodness of God and feel to share this with all of my brothers and sisters. May God bless you all.

Sister Mary Kay Klein Surrena
Youngstown, Ohio

Note of Thanks

Our heartfelt appreciation to everyone for their many acts of kindness, cards, phone calls, and prayers on behalf of our beloved husband and father, Paul D'Amico.

His passing leaves a void in our lives, but we know he has gone to a far better place and his suffering is finally over.

We thank God for the love and caring of our brothers and sisters.

God bless you all,

The D'Amico Family

The Art of Teaching

He never taught a lesson in a classroom. He had no tools to work with, such as blackboards, maps, or charts. He used no subject outlines, kept no records, gave no grades, and His only text was ancient and well-worn.

His students were the poor, the lame, the deaf, the blind, the outcast—and His method was the same with all who came to hear and learn. He opened eyes with faith, he opened ears with simple truth, and opened hearts with love, a love born of forgiveness.

A gentle man, a humble man, He asked and won no honors, no gold awards of tribute to His expertise or wisdom. And yet this quiet Teacher from the hills of Galilee has fed the needs, fulfilled the hopes, and changed the lives of many millions, for what He taught brought heaven to earth, and revealed God's heart to mankind.

Submitted by Linda Reynolds

DEDICATION continued . . .

directed by the Spirit. Sister Flo LaRosa of the Gastonia, NC Mission sang *God's House*. We then joined our hearts to partake of the Lord's Supper. The day was finished with the blessing of two children in the Church. This was a very special blessing for me, because the children that were blessed are my brother and sister. I am so thankful to God because my mother attended the Saturday evening meeting, and He touched her heart. I am the only member of my family baptized in the Church. The rest of my family are Catholic, so I know it was the hand of God that allowed my mother to request that her children be blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Joe Ross blessed Ruben Figueroa, age 8, and Brother Paul Benyola blessed Natalia Figueroa, age 7. The meeting was then dismissed, and we gathered for dinner prepared by the sisters of the Spartanburg Mission.

After dinner, many of the brothers and sisters had to say goodbye, but for those that remained, we enjoyed another evening of worship, testimony, and singing.

We cannot bless the name of the Lord enough, for He has provided our every need and we love

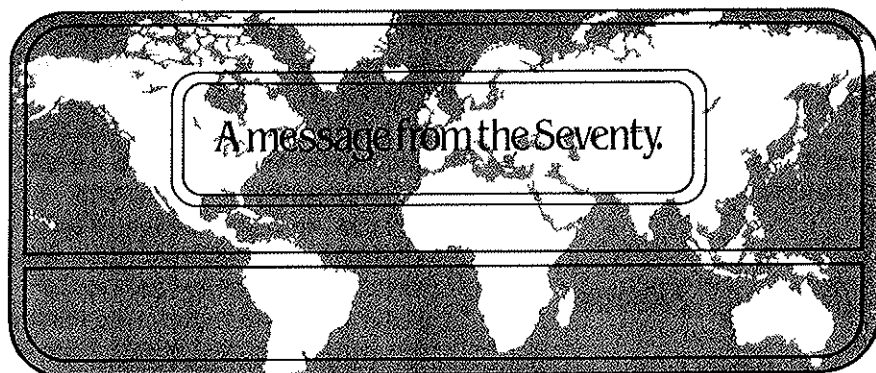
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Announcement

For April, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.75%
2 years	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
5 years	5.25%

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



Come and Dine

By Brother Paul Ciotti Sr.

Since my first visit to the country of Guatemala last September, I have anxiously awaited for the Lord to provide an opportunity for me to return. The blessings of that visit and the memory of the brothers, sisters, and friends of The Church of Jesus Christ there have often stirred up my soul with a great longing to again fellowship with the Seed of Joseph in Guatemala. The promises of God to the House of Israel have become more alive to me than ever before.

Plans were made with Brother Frank Ciotti, Guatemala Subcommittee Chairman, to visit in February, 1994. Brother Mark Lawson of the McKees Rocks, PA Branch, who had been baptized last November, expressed a desire to go with us. Brother Mark testified that when I had given the account of my first visit, he was touched by what he had heard, and this actually influenced his decision to be baptized.

As the time approached for our departure on February 4, I sought the Lord's direction as to what message we should carry to the Church in Guatemala. After much prayer, but still without an answer, I received a telephone call from Brother Dennis Ricci. He told me of a dream he had, in which he found himself in a congregation of the Seed of Joseph. In his dream he knew that they were from Guatemala. In this gathering, Brother Ricci began to sing in an unknown tongue, which he was given

to understand was Mayan. A portion of the tongue was interpreted to him as, **"Come and dine."** When the brother related this experience, I knew immediately that the Lord had given me the message to take with me: it is time for Joseph to **"come and dine."**

Just prior to leaving my home for the airport, I felt a strong desire to call Brother Frank and Sister Rose Palacios to tell them we were going to Guatemala and ask them to pray for us. They were not at home when I called, so I left a message on their answering machine.

After arriving in Guatemala City, I received a telephone call from my wife, Sister Ann. She told me that Sister Palacios called to tell of her experience upon hearing my phone message. The Lord spoke to her saying, **"Hear Me, I have sent My servants to bless My children. I will speak through them."** What a confirmation to the message which was to be delivered, **"Come and dine."**

An additional experience was given to Brother Nayo Ramirez. He told Brother Luis Marroquin that, as he looked upon us as we arrived at the airport in Guatemala City, the Lord spoke to him saying, **"The brothers have come with a message."**

We began immediately to visit the homes of the brothers, sisters, and friends of the Church. Many were awaiting our visit with great anticipation. We do not have the space available in this article to tell of all the blessings we received in the home visits, as well as the IMA school visit. God manifested His

power through prayer, testimony, and song. Many experiences were related by the brothers and sisters which brought great joy to our souls.

As we gathered for the Sunday service, we were so happy to see visitors from the United States: Sisters Mary Ann Nicosia, Tina Sechrist, and Shari Ciotti, as well as Brother Sam Randy, were in attendance. We were also pleased to see Brother Isidro Dominguez and his wife, Sister Maricela, who have returned to Guatemala. They will be living in San Mateo, a town near the city of Quetzaltenango, approximately five hours' drive from Guatemala City.

The scripture given to me following the experience relative to the message **"Come and dine"** was the Gospel of John, Chapter 21:1-13. Never before was I made to understand this scripture in the light which God gave to me this day.

Following His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples on several occasions and manifested Himself to them. After all of this, Peter and a number of the disciples decided to go back to their old life of fishing. They toiled all night and caught nothing. I explained to the brothers and sisters, as given to me, that this is a representation of the Seed of Joseph. After being blessed abundantly upon the land of promise and being visited by Jesus following His resurrection, they went **"fishing,"** back to their former life, forgetting the purpose for which God brought them to this land—to raise up a righteous branch of the House of Israel. Verse five states, **"But when the morning was come, Jesus stood on the shore."** What a joy to know that, through the Restoration of the Gospel and The Church of Jesus Christ, morning is come! Jesus is on the shore calling out to Joseph, **"Have you any meat?"**—telling Joseph to cast his net on the right side and they shall find.

Peter standing naked in the boat represents the children of Joseph, who for many years have been shamed before the world. Now it is

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Not too many years ago, much of what believers in Christ upheld as good and righteous was also accepted as "normal" by the people around us. Today, however, we find ourselves surrounded more and more by people who are offended when we take a stand on issues of good and evil. Matters of right and wrong are now considered by the world to be "relative"; we are taught to examine such issues within their "cultural context." We can no longer communicate in "socially acceptable" terms; we must now express our thoughts in phrases that are "politically correct," lest our narrow-minded and judgmental pronouncements offend the special interests of any individual or group championing a cause, no matter how ungodly.

The biblical truth that Mankind was created by God was challenged 150 years ago by the now universally-accepted theory of evolution; today, "science" is finding biological justification for such crimes as deviant sexual behavior, vindicating—at least in their own minds—those who love pleasure more than God (II Timothy 3:4). Meanwhile, the Bible is being re-interpreted by some groups within the confines of its cultural and historical framework, limiting the dominion of God's Word to a specific place and time, dulling the blade of that ageless two-edged Sword.

Things have definitely become more complicated for those of us who are trying to live *in* the world without being part *of* it. More than ever before, people are keeping vigil against anything being "labeled" as evil, including behavior that is clearly defined in the scriptures as being sinful. We know that a self-righteous attitude was never taught by Christ; indeed, such behavior has probably been more harmful to people than beneficial, spiritually speaking. It is equally unwise, however, for us to adopt the prevailing philosophies of the world, and indiscriminately close our eyes to sinful behavior, thinking that this kind of "acceptance" will somehow bring sinners to genuine repentance and ultimately transform them into righteous saints of the Living God, with lives marked by purity and good works.

Jesus Christ spent His life on earth among sinners—half of whose wicked lives shocked the sensibilities of the equally unconverted, self-righteous other half. As He sat among them, He spoke words which changed their lives. Through the Spirit of God which was in Him, Jesus was able to gently, lovingly confront the sin in people's lives at precisely the right moment, and win their gratitude, respect, and obedience by showing grace and forgiveness in place of the punishment and condemnation they realized they deserved.

Can we do the same today, living in the Last Days? "*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves*" (Matthew 10:16). Only by leading a pure life, filled with God's Spirit, will we be able to strike the delicate balance wherein we can boldly stand up for righteousness, while at the same time show love, mercy, and compassion toward our fellow beings. As the battle between good and evil intensifies, let us anchor ourselves in the good, and win souls for Christ.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Dear Boys and Girls and Friends,

Have you ever noticed how fast life goes by? Have you ever really thought about and looked forward to some great event, only to have it just "fly" by? Sometimes do you look back and remember how special that event was? Or sometimes do you try to remember and feel surprised that you've already forgotten?

That seems to be the way we humans are. We often are worse than little two-year-olds who insist on getting their own way, shouting, "No—my way!", no matter what's offered.

God is very patient with us. He knows how we are. His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, came to earth as a human and experienced everything that we do. Jesus gave us a new way to live. From His day forward, the old laws from Moses were fulfilled (completed). He gave us new laws of love and great personal choice.

With Jesus' new laws, we humans can make terrible mistakes and be forgiven. We are also taught to come to the Lord with a deep feeling of sadness when we've done wrong. We don't pay money to join The Church of Jesus Christ; we pay with a broken heart and a spirit that is sorry and willing to learn new ways.

When we are baptized, then the priesthood lays hands on our heads and prays to God to give each one of us the Holy Ghost. It leads, guides, and directs us.

Jesus taught His twelve apostles in what is today the nation of Israel the same words that He taught to the

people of the Americas. In the Bible (John 10:16) and the Book of Mormon (III Nephi 15:17), He tells His followers that He has other sheep (followers). Jesus often calls Himself a shepherd who watches over His people (like sheep). He knows each one of us. He cares that we are safe, and healthy, and well-fed. If one of us, His sheep, gets lost or goes the wrong way, He'll look for us to bring us safely back to Him.

When we make wrong choices because our feelings are hurt or we are jealous, Jesus can help us "clean up our act." Take your troubled, angry, and scared feelings to Jesus. Tell Him how upset you are. Follow His laws and ask Him to help you be willing to change. And Jesus will help you. He cares for you in the same deep, precious way that He has cared for all of His sheep, wherever they are scattered.

The next time you find yourself forgetting to act the right way, stop. Tell Jesus, say you're sorry, and be ready to change. Jesus loves you and never sleeps. He can hear you any time of the day or night, any place. He can hear your cries whether you say them out loud or talk to Him in your heart. We never need be alone.

With care, Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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DEDICATION continued . . .

Him so much. I pray that everyone who reads this article will feel the same blessings that we felt during our dedication weekend. We open our hearts to all of you who desire to visit with us in this part of the vineyard. May God bless you all!

With love in Jesus,
Sister Regina Alverson

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Coppa, Mario and Mary
18528 Stoneybrook Lane
Clinton Twp., MI 48038-5240
Phone (810) 412-8157

Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Simi Valley, CA

By Linda Reynolds

Even though Southern California has experienced some disasters these past few years, the Lord continues to bless us. The day before the 6.7 earthquake, Jenny Owens stood up and asked for her baptism. Brother Tony and Sister Lydia Picciuto were visiting from Lindsay that Sunday, and Brother Tony delivered a wonderful sermon. As events unfolded, it turned out that Jenny had to wait three weeks before being baptized.

Our beautiful new building was hit quite hard during the earthquake. We have many large cracks in every room; some water pipes broke, doing considerable damage to the walls and electrical wires. Our entire block wall fence around the church property came tumbling down.

Brother Tom and Sister Marcia Liberto and Brother Ken and Sister Diane Surdock, all from San Diego, were visiting on the day of Jenny's baptism. We met at 8:00 a.m. at Oxnard breakwaters, where the sun was shining, and Brother Emmett Hood took Jenny into the water. Later in the meeting, Sis. Jenny was confirmed by Brother Ken Surdock.

Our Brother Ken spoke to us that morning and gave us many words of encouragement. He told us that all these tests we have in life help make us valuable to others. He told us that we should put up a big sign in front of the church, "Open for Business—Come on in!", as he saw many similar signs as he drove through the valley to Church this Sunday. Brother Ken encouraged us by saying that all challenges can be met when we are possessed with the Spirit of God. He read Psalm 46 to us, and told us that God is our ever-present help.

Brother Tom Liberto continued with words of encouragement, telling us not to close the chapter on any-

thing in life, as we might be missing something wonderful in the next chapter. He related the story of Joseph of Egypt, telling how Joseph never gave up. Brother Tom read Psalm 37 and said that righteousness is never forsaken. In closing, he told us to "Go on going on!" We thank the Lord for our family of God.

Baptisms in Phoenix, AZ

Tyrone B. Duncan was baptized by his grandfather, Brother Chuck Curry, and was confirmed by Brother Robert Watson. He is the son of Brother Rob and Sister Mary Duncan, members of the Phoenix Branch.

Timothy Gibson was baptized by Brother Richard Christman and confirmed by Brother Joseph Griffith. He is the son of Brother Timothy and Sister Betty Gibson, members of the Phoenix Branch.

Our best wishes and prayers will follow these two young brothers.

BIRTHDAY continued . . .

Together they had six children; two are deceased.

The family moved to Hopelawn, New Jersey, just outside of Perth Amboy, around 1930. One evening in 1934, while Pauline was in her yard, her neighbor, Josephine Benyola, came walking through the yard carrying a book under her arm. Pauline asked her, "Where are you going?"

Her neighbor replied, "To church." Pauline asked, "Can I come with you?" "Yes!" her neighbor responded.

"I'm not ready tonight, but next time, come for me." Pauline and her husband, Joe, attended The Church of Jesus Christ in a converted garage in

(Continued on Page 9)

Our Women Today

General Ladies' Uplift Circle Upcoming Events

ANNUAL SEMINAR DAY

DATE:
Friday, April 15, 1994

TIME:
10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

PLACE:
Greensburg, PA Branch Building
Next to World Conference
Center, Greensburg, PA

TOPIC:
"Let Go and Let God"

PRESENTED BY:
Atlantic Coast Area Circle

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:
Bible and Book of Mormon

PREPARATION:
Read Hebrews Chapter 11 (all)
and Chapter 12:1&2

GENERAL CONFERENCE

DATE:
Saturday, April 30, 1994

TIME:
10:00 a.m.

PLACE:
The Church of Jesus Christ,
Cleveland Ohio Branch

"Come and share a day of
blessings and fellowship!"

"Come Plant Your Feet on Higher Ground"

GMBA CAMPOUT REGISTRATION FORM
Antiochian Village Conference Center
June 25 to July 1, 1994

Name _____	Home Phone _____
Address _____	Arrival Date _____
_____	Departure Date _____
City _____	Special Needs _____
State _____ Zip _____	Ordained Offices _____
Guardian Needed? (yes or no) _____	Medical Training _____

Accommodations					
Name	Sex	Age	On-camp (yes or no)	Off-camp (yes or no)	Sports (1) Crafts (2)

Meal Attendance List the number of persons eating at each meal							
	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast	NONE						
Lunch	NONE						
Dinner							NONE

WEEKLY RATES	DAILY RATES
\$350 for one adult in a room	\$50/day for meals/lodging
\$220 each for 2 adults in a room	\$30/day meals only
\$180 each for 3 adults in a room	OTHER RATES
\$150 each for 4 adults in a room	
\$135 each for 5 adults in a room	
\$120 for adult MEALS ONLY	\$3 for each songbook
	\$10 late registration fee

Registration fee	
Songbooks (\$3 each)	
Late fee (if applicable)	
Total fees	

Make check payable to: **Campout '94**

Adults are individuals 8 years old and older.

Forms must be received on or before June 11, 1994.

Individuals 17 and under not coming to camp with their parents must have a completed consent form accompany their registration form.

No accommodations will be provided without full registration fee and a consent form when necessary.

Send **Mike Pandone**
checks to: **14920 Anne**
Allen Park, MI 48101

Due to the GMBA Fundraiser Program, the cost of this years' registration has been directly reduced. Thank you for your support of this activity.

Medical Consent Form

Dear Parent,

The following form has been provided to assist you in assigning guardianship of your child. Over the years, we have found that people acting as guardians for minors during GMBA Campout are not adequately empowered to act in the event of an emergency. Please complete this form and submit it with your child's registration form. We will make a copy and give the original to the guardian for their use at camp should an emergency occur.

I, _____, the parent of _____, do hereby give my permission to _____ to act as temporary guardian for my child, and authorize emergency medical treatment for the minor named above. I am insured by _____ policy # _____. Do not hesitate to call me at (_____) _____-_____ should you require additional information.

Signed, _____

Dated _____

Signed and sealed before me this _____ day of _____, 19 ____.

Signature of Notary _____

My commission expires _____

BIRTHDAY continued . . .

Hopelawn for two weeks and asked for their baptism because, as Sister Pauline says, "I didn't like being called 'friend.' I wanted to be 'Sister Pauline.'" They were both baptized by Brother Louis Mazzeo on September 9, 1934.

Sister Pauline testifies that when they came to the Church, she only had 18 cents in her pocket. In a short time Brother Joe found work; they saved money and built their first home in nearby Fords, New Jersey with God's blessings.

While the Hopelawn Branch's present building was in its planning stage, Sister Pauline went from house to house, door to door, asking for donations toward the new building. She got pennies, nickels, dimes, occasionally a dollar, until she collected \$75, which went a long way in the late 1930s.

Sister Pauline has been a very faithful servant. While she was able, her and her husband's greatest desire was always visiting the sick and giving their testimonies. Through

their testimonies, one Russian family and several Polish brothers came into the Church.

Sister Pauline had many beautiful experiences. One day, having a severe headache, she closed her eyes. While praying, she saw the head of Jesus through a mist, and the hymn *No, Never Alone!* came to her mind.

The Lord has not left her alone unto this very day. At 100 years of age, she still has a sharp wit, and clear blue eyes that sparkle when she smiles. God has blessed her with a great love for Him and His Church and a ready testimony on her lips. She prays constantly for the saints and the Church, thanks God always for His goodness, and ends her prayers with, "God Bless America, My Home, Sweet Home!"

PRESENT continued . . .

heard my problem and asked him if he would anoint me while this spirit prevailed.

As Brother Joe began to pray,

my concentration was focused at first on his prayer, but soon, shifted to my own prayer. Two thoughts kept going through my mind. First was the scripture in Mark 9:25, "*Lord, I believe; help thou my unbelief.*" (If only my faith were unshaken, I felt that God was present and would hear our prayers.) Secondly, I kept rehearsing verses in James 5, "*Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil. . . . And the prayer of faith shall save the sick . . . and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.*" My mind held this thought as I begged forgiveness of God, hoping to approach Him with a pure heart.

Although I can remember very few of the words that Brother Joe spoke, I remember feeling as if I could *hear* him *better* during the prayer; in fact, it was almost *too* loud! When he stopped praying, I waited for someone else to speak, not knowing what to expect. For a short

(Continued on Page 10)

PRESENT continued . . .

period both Stacey and Brother Joe said nothing, as if they were waiting for my good report. I had to be sure, however, and said nothing. Soon they began to speak to each other and Stacey began to pray before we all retired. He stood on my left side and *I heard him from that ear*. I could hardly contain myself (in fact I didn't, and began to sob). He looked at me and said, "You can hear, can't you?" All I could do was nod my head. Praises went up to God; four overjoyed people hugged and rejoiced and began to glorify God again! I went to the telephone to listen to the dial tone with my left ear! (That was just before I began to wake people up with my good news!) When I went to the kitchen to do so I noticed that the clock read a few minutes past midnight. I had been healed on Saturday, August 21; my birthday! No one could ask for more.

My hearing was restored and I wanted to share the news with my physician. The earliest available appointment was two months later, but finally the day arrived. I spoke to the nurse and told her my hearing had returned. She was surprised and

puzzled, considering what we had gone through. I said nothing prior to my examination, and as the surgeon looked, he began to sound positive, saying it "looked pretty good," with a lot of "Hmmmmmm"s, and finally he reported, and I quote, "It's healed." I literally jumped off the examining table and began to recount my story. While he listened, I could detect skepticism, and although he shook his head and said little, on my record he wrote "Patient healed," and "that's incredible." My nurse and the office staff were all rejoicing with me, and offered a copy of my patient record, which I keep as a testimony of the best birthday gift I have ever received.

Thank you, God.

Sister Carolyn Martorana Light

MESSAGE continued . . .

time to pull for the shore. The children of Joseph can say, as did Peter, "*It is the Lord*," and, as they come to the shore, they will find fish on the fire and bread ready to eat. Jesus cries out, "**Come and dine.**"

The table of the Lord is spread, the feast is ready, the blessings and

promises of God await His chosen people. We know this is true, not only in Guatemala, but also in Mexico, Canada, the reservations of the United States, and even in the cities wheresoever the Seed of Joseph has been scattered. He who scattered Israel will also gather as a Shepherd with the flock. He will send hunters and fishers to bring His children home. The Lord truly bore witness of the message "Come and dine," not only in this service but throughout our visit, with several asking to be baptized.

We made a trip to San Mateo, the place where Brother Isidro and Sister Maricela Dominguez will be residing. What a joy to visit with Brother Isidro's relatives and the people in that area! A special prayer was offered by Brother Frank Ciotti, asking the Lord to prepare the hearts of the people for His word. We felt the evidence of God's Spirit confirming that this is His work.

Let us pray for all of our mission fields, and the missionaries who are endeavoring to carry forth God's word. Brothers and sisters, we have been given a great task to perform, and it is important to get the message out to all peoples of all nations: Jesus calls, "**Come and dine.**"

* **WEDDINGS** ***BEEMAN—CUMMINSKY**

Brother Robert Beeman and Suzanne Cumminsky became man and wife on June 27, 1992.

Brother Lawrence E. King Sr., officiated at the ceremony, which was held in Towson, Maryland. Musical selections were presented by Angelique Ashworth.

The couple is making their home in Wilmington, Delaware.

CARR—MILSTEAD

On May 22, 1993, Brother John Edward Carr and Mary Ann Milstead were united in holy matrimony in Stafford, Virginia.

Brother Paul Carr Sr. married the young couple.

They will be residing in Stafford. May they have God's blessings as they continue life's journey together.

MALETTA—PHARR

Brother Andrew Maletta and Nellie Pharr became husband and wife on June 12, 1993. Brother Chatman Young participated in the ceremony.

The new Mr. and Mrs. Maletta are residing in Baltimore, Maryland. May God's richest blessings abide with them and bless their years together.

COUNTS—LUNSFORD

Gregory Counts and Elizabeth Lunsford were married in Manassas, Virginia on October 16, 1993. Brother George Timms officiated at the ceremony.

Gregory is the son of Sandy and Pat Counts; Elizabeth is the daughter of Sister Cora and John Lunsford.

The newlyweds are making their home in Dale City, Virginia. May God bless this couple in their new life together.

Children Blessed

Carlos Orlando Bonds was blessed by his grandfather, Brother Chatman Young, on January 19, 1992. His new brother, James Austin Bonds, was blessed on October 31, 1993, also by Brother Young in the Herndon, VA Branch. Their parents are Chauna and Carlos Bonds of Sterling, VA.

Anthony James Carrabia was blessed on September 13, 1992, by Brother Gary Coppa at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

Travis Hunter Smith and Joseph Logan Smith, sons of Joseph and Janette Smith of Rockville, Maryland, were blessed by Brother George Timms on January 19, 1992.

Faran Leigh Frankenbery was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Lawrence E. King Sr. on Father's Day, June 20, 1993 at the Herndon Branch. She resides in Crownsville, Maryland with her parents, Brother Robert and Sister Connie Frankenbery.

Ashlyn Kaylee Leafly, born to Terry and Tonya

Leafly on September 17, 1993, was blessed by her great grandfather, Brother Russell Cadman, at the Carolina Mission. Her grandparents are Glenn and Sister Ellen Larimer of Lexington.

Jacqueline Marie Rich, daughter of Brad and Tina Rich was blessed on October 31, 1993 at the Saline, Michigan Branch.

Anthony Raymond LaRosa, born November 19, 1993 to Ray and Lisa LaRosa, was blessed by Brother John Genaro at the Carolina Mission. He is the grandson of Brother Bill and Sister Flo LaRosa of Gastonia.

Brother Steve Champine blessed Luke Jacob Mancinelli, son of Brother Mark and Sister Karen Mancinelli, at the Inner City Branch in Detroit, Michigan on December 19, 1993.

Leslie Nicole Carr, daughter of Brother John and Mary Carr, was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Paul Carr Sr., on January 16, 1994.

On January 30, 1994, Brother Flip Palacios blessed his daughter, Monica Delia Palacios, at the Inner City Branch in Detroit, Michigan.

OBITUARIES

ERNEST CARSON

Ernest Carson of Dawson, Pennsylvania passed away on October 1, 1993, after nine years of painful illness. He was cared for at home by his wife, Sister Eldora.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Lawrence King Sr.

Ernest sis survived by his wife, Sister Eldora (Thompson) Carson of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch; two sons, Ernest Jr. and Dennis; two daughters, Jaqui and Gayle; and six grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. May the Lord bless and comfort them.

GRACE TAORMINA

Sister Grace Taormina was born in Terrasini, Palermo, Sicily on July 29, 1899. She was called to eternal rest on October 29, 1993.

She married Salvatore Taormina in September of 1916. Five children were born of this union: Joseph, Samuel, Josephine, John, and Grace.

Surviving her are 16 grandchildren, 34 great grandchildren, and three great-great grandchildren.

Baptized into the Church in March, 1936, she served e Lord faithfully and loyally all the days of her life.

Brother Walter Cihomsky conducted the funeral services, and grandson Pat King delivered a beautiful eulogy.

Our deepest sympathy goes to the family.

FLORENCE PAGANO

Sister Filomena (Florence) Pagano of Branch #1 in Roseville, Michigan passed on to her heavenly reward on November 17, 1993. Our sister was born on January 25, 1909 in Sicily, Italy. She was baptized on March 18, 1951 by Brother Anthony Ruzzi, and confirmed by Brother V. James Lovalvo.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Louis Pietrangelo and Mike LaSala.

Sister Florence is survived by a daughter, Grace Passalacqua; a son, Dominic Bommarito; and a granddaughter.

What an assurance to know that our sister's soul is resting in the Paradise of God! She will be missed by all.

PAUL D'AMICO

Brothers and Sisters, our loss was truly heaven's gain when on December 5, 1993 at the Lockport Memorial Hospital, the Lord called Brother Paul D'Amico home. Born June 26, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan, he was the son of Brother Ishmael, who, like Brother Paul, was also an apostle in the Church, and Sister Julia D'Amico.

Baptized in the Church on October 9, 1938 in Rochester, New York, he was ordained an elder in 1946 and served at The Church of Jesus Christ on Ontario

(Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES continued . . .

Street in Lockport, New York ever since. He was ordained an apostle in the Church in 1953.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Grace Simone D'Amico; three sons and one daughter, Gary D'Amico of Pendleton; Sharon (Jack) Church of Simi Valley, CA; William (Wendy) D'Amico of Batavia; and Richard (Sue) D'Amico of Akron; nine grandchildren; two brothers and two sisters, Ansel (Carmella) D'Amico; John (Frances) D'Amico, and Loretta (Charles) Maggio all of Rochester, NY; and Erma (Carmine) Rossi of Aliquippa, PA; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were conducted by Brothers Paul Benyola and Dominic Thomas, president of The Church of Jesus Christ. Prayer was offered on different occasions by Brothers Wayne Martorana and Joseph Perri, and Brothers Russell Martorana and Paul Whitton offered a few words during the course of the funeral. Our Brother D'Amico's three sons spoke of their father's work for the Church and the family. His daughter played the piano and Bro. Sal Azzinaro Jr. of California and Sis. Laurie DiSantis of Michigan offered vocal selections at the service.

There was representation from Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Michigan, Florida, California, and New York State.

Brother Paul had been ill for many years, but he devoted his entire life to the work of the Church.

He will be greatly missed by his wife, his family, and the few brothers and sisters from Lockport; as well as the many brothers and sisters throughout the entire Church, along with many relatives and friends. May God bless and comfort the family.

HARRIET BYERS

Sister Harriet B. Byers passed on to her reward on December 17, 1993 at the age of 80 years. She was born on June 27, 1913. She was a fervent and devoted servant of the Lord, working tirelessly for her husband, six children, and the Church. In addition to being a devoted member of the Monongahela, PA Branch, she also served the Church as an ordained deaconess. Throughout her life, Sister Harriet showed her love and caring by often visiting the sick and shut-ins. She also traveled extensively throughout the United States, and was a familiar face in many branches and missions.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Brian Smith in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, with assistance from Sister Harriet's sons.

Our sister is survived by four sons, Dwayne, Marvin, Jay, and Mark Byers; two daughters, Sister Ann James and Janice Elofson; three sisters, 22 grandchildren, and 13 great grandchildren.

Sister Harriet will be sadly missed. Our prayer is that God will comfort her loved ones.

Memorial services were also held for Sister Harriet Byers at the Phoenix, Arizona Branch on December 26, 1993. Brothers Barry Mazzeo and Richard Christman were the officiating ministers, and Brother Phillip Damore delivered the eulogy.

CHARLES PETROSKY

Charles W. Petrosky Sr. of Perryopolis, Pennsylvania passed away on January 10, 1994 at the age of 78, after a lingering illness.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers Robert Nicklow Sr. and Richard Lowther.

Charles is survived by his wife, Sister Thelma (Shazer) Petrosky of the Vanderbilt Branch, one daughter, three sons, seven grandchildren, two great grandchildren, and two sisters. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends. May God comfort them in their time of loss.

CLARA JOHNSON

Sister Clara I. Johnson was born January 25, 1906 and died January 30, 1994. Our sister was baptized October 10, 1978 in Youngstown, Ohio by Brother Ralph Berardino and confirmed by Brother Henry Cardillo. She transferred to the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch on January 16, 1991, and brought a beautiful spirit of love with her.

Brother David Nolfi officiated at her funeral, with Brothers Alma Nolfi and Edward Donkin taking part as well.

Sister Clara smiled all the time and took every opportunity to praise and glorify our Lord. She will be sadly missed by all.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

April, 1994

Volume 50, No. 4

Fear

By Brother Steve Champine

The scriptures tell us plainly that the only legitimate fear we should have is the *fear of the Lord*. Isaiah 8:13 reads, "*Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear. . . .*" Matthew 10:28 says, "*And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.*" Finally, Mosiah 4:1-3 reads,

"And now, it came to pass that when king Benjamin had made an end of speaking the words which had been delivered unto him by the angel of the Lord, that he cast his eyes round about on the multitude, and behold they had fallen to the earth, for the fear of the Lord had come upon them. And they had viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying: O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins, and our hearts may be purified;

for we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who created heaven and earth, and all things; who shall come down among the children of men. And it came to pass that after they had spoken these words the Spirit of the Lord came upon them, and they were filled with joy, having received a remission of their sins, and having peace of conscience, because of the exceeding faith which they had in Jesus Christ who should come, according to the words which king Benjamin had spoken unto them."

The Greek word translated as "fear" in the two biblical passages quoted above is "phobos," from which we get our present day word, "phobia" or "fear of." In its original context, phobos meant "the state of flight or running from," and finally came to mean "*the cause of our fear or running.*" Applying this word to a spiritual context, phobos is "a wholesome dread of displeasing God; a reverential awe."

Psalm 111:10 and Proverbs 9:10 tell us that *the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*. In any application other than the fear of the Lord, fear becomes a form of unbelief, because whatever (outside of God) makes us afraid, whether it

be a person (see I Samuel 17:24,26) the devil (see Isaiah 14:12-16), or a circumstance (see Luke 21:25-26), that "it" has **more power over us than God does** in that particular area of our life. If we truly believe that God is more powerful than any of these other things, and if we have faith in God's ability to intervene and provide for every area of our lives—all of which is made known to us through His Word—then we will no longer give place to fear.

We must remember that God wants our deepest respect, love, and discipleship. *He does not operate in fear, but in love.* (I John 4:18). As a matter of fact, God tells us that He will remove all of our misguided fears. Psalm 34:4 reads, "*I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.*" Hebrews 13:5-6 reads, "*. . . for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.*" Furthermore, II Timothy 1:7 goes on to say, "*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*"

Our heavenly Father wants us to be aware that Satan constantly attacks the followers of Christ like a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he

(Continued on Page 3)

Apostle's Column

"Unto Us a Child Is Born"

By Bro. Joseph Lovalvo

This article is the first in a series by each of our brothers in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

The prophet with righteous pride declared, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulders" (Isaiah 9:6-7).

Isaiah knew that this child, or son, was promised to Israel and, he being an Israelite prophet, had reason to rejoice, because this Son was the seed of Abraham, through whom the nations of the world



Bro. Joseph Lovalvo, President of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles.

would be blessed, and to Him would the gathering of the people be.

The law, or ten commandments, which were written on tablets of stone and were given to Moses to teach Israel, was not the government that would bring peace on earth and good will towards men. The law was only a schoolmaster, and it would come to an end with the

crucifixion of Jesus.

Christ was acknowledged at His baptism as God's only begotten Son, and on that day He placed upon the shoulders of Jesus a Sacred and Holy government, created by God Himself, for the salvation of the human family. This government was preserved for a king who would be able to overcome sin and Satan, and could judge with a righteous judgment. Christ was entrusted with the government of heaven. It was called "The Gospel of Christ."

Jesus called and appointed men (apostles and evangelists) to learn about the wonderful government that would set men and women free from the awful grip of Satan and would give them a hope of eternal salvation. The government that Jesus taught was composed of faith, repentance, baptism, laying on of hands for the reception of the Gift of the Holy Ghost, feet washing, the Lord's Supper, laws of offense, laws of forgiveness, and the greatest of all, "Love ye one another even as I have loved you." He exemplified the love and mercy of heaven in His every word, deed, and action.

After His resurrection, He met with the apostles and made an "everlasting covenant" with them as is written in Matthew 28:18-20.

He entrusted them with the government that was upon His shoulders, and told them to preach and teach it to all the world, and He would be with them until the end of the world. They zealously preached the new government of Christ, the Gospel, and protected it against wicked men who dared to change, alter, and corrupt it. Millions were brought to the knowledge of Jesus, and received their eternal reward.

The apostles left us the Bible, a great monument of their faith in keeping the "everlasting covenant."

After the falling away, the Great Apostasy, took place, the Authority of Jesus Christ was taken back to God. No person was able to preach the new government or gospel for 1260 years because of the spiritual famine that God sent to the earth.

Was this the end of the prophecy of Isaiah, when he said, "Of the increase of his government there shall be no end"? Not so. In the fourth chapter of Ephesians, it says that this new order or government of God would continue until we all come to the unity of faith and the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel was restored by an angel of God and entrusted to The Church of Jesus Christ. We, the ministers, have been entrusted with the government of Christ to preach and teach it to the whole world. What an awesome responsibility! If we are faithful to our trust, we will bring this government to the Seed of Joseph. Together with the converted Gentiles, we, the Church, will build the New Jerusalem and establish Zion. Christ shall come to Zion and sit on the throne of David. He will establish His Kingdom on Joseph's promised land.

The Jews, while being slaughtered by their enemies, will see their wounded Messiah on the Mount of Olives and acknowledge Him as their Savior, and that His government was of God. They will be saved and restored. The remnant of the lost tribes shall return back to Israel as promised.

The nations of the world, whose governments through the centuries have failed them miserably, will look up to the mountain of the Lord (the Kingdom of Jesus Christ) and shall see the banner of Christ flying high and mighty over the land of the free and the home of the brave. They shall say to each other, "Let's go over there. That's the house of God. He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths." From Zion shall come forth the law and from Jerusalem the word of the Lord. This government shall cover every nation and kingdom. The whole world shall know and serve God and Christ, fulfilling the vision of Daniel when he saw a little stone cut out of the mountain without work of hands. It grew and filled the whole earth.

Brothers and Sisters, we,

(Continued on Page 3)

FEAR continued . . .

may devour (I Peter 5:8). But Satan's success comes through *deception* and *ignorance*. He will do his best to convince you that he is fearsome and powerful, **but don't believe it!** Isaiah 14:15-19 tells us of his end:

"Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcase trodden under feet."

That old liar, the devil, knowing this is coming, cannot feel very confident!

But we, on the other hand, can feel very confident indeed! James 4:7 says, "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*" Jesus Himself

has given us permission to use His precious name in our battles against the evil one. John 14:14 reads, "*If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.*" There is **power** in the **name of Jesus Christ!** Use it! Satan is powerless against it!

Finally, the fourth chapter of Matthew gives us another important key in defending ourselves against the schemes of the evil one. In this important passage of scripture, Satan twisted the Word of God in an effort to tempt Christ; but Christ *rightly* used the Word to defeat him. Satan must flee when we hurl at him the missiles of God's Holy Word.

In conclusion, let us keep in mind these things as we seek to walk confidently before God, serving Him in the earth:

- Fear God only!
- Use the power of God's Word and the power of Jesus' Name to keep fear in check and the devil's influence in our lives under control.
- How can we use God's Word if we don't know it?! The study of the Bible and Book of Mormon will yield us a rich harvest of confidence and assurance in God's ability to protect us and provide for every area of our lives.
- All fear other than the fear of the Lord can be thought of like this:

F = False
E = Evidence
A = Appearing
R = Real

Announcement

For May, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.75%
2 years	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
5 years	5.25%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

BORN continued . . .

The Church of Jesus Christ, are the nucleus of this great trust. Let us be honorable and faithful, uphold, and lift high the Standard of Truth, the government of Jesus Christ. Let us declare the Book of Mormon and the Bible to everyone that we meet, because Jesus said in The Book of Mormon, "In them is my gospel, my rock and my salvation."

Branch and Mission News

Palm Harbor, FL

By Scott Griffith

Praise God for the marvelous blessings that we have experienced in the Palm Harbor Branch. We have witnessed a baptism, and the gifts of tongues and interpretations, the word of the Lord, visions, and healings.

On Sunday, August 1, 1993,

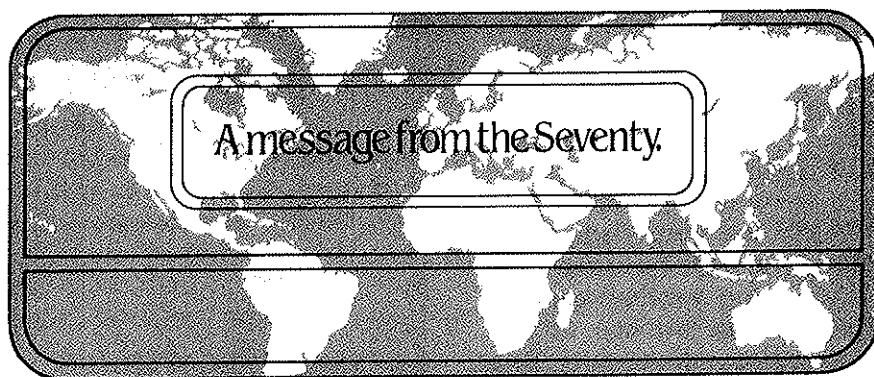
our cups were truly full from the Spirit felt that day. The theme of the meeting was the soul and its importance. Our brothers exhorted to us that the soul is the most important thing, and that we must strive our best to keep the commandments of the Lord so that our salvation may be sure. That afternoon, we had our feet washing service. The Spirit of God was evident, flowing from brother to

brother and sister to sister.

During feet washing, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation given, "**This day has My Father received your offering of obedience. I, your Lord, have been with you and washed your feet, thus saith the Lord.**" We praise the Lord for His manifestations and the ordinances that He established.

Sunday, October 10, we were encouraged as well as spiritually filled. At the beginning of the service, one of the brothers of the ministry related a dream that he had

(Continued on Page 7)



Even So Send I You

By Brother David Nolfi, on Behalf of the Foreign Missions Committee

Almighty God, in His Infinite Wisdom and as foretold through the declaration of the Prophets, ordained that the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ be restored to earth again in these the latter days. Likewise, this Gospel, under the banner of The Church of Jesus Christ, is to be spread throughout all the earth by the decree of our Lord Jesus Christ. Although the numbers of the Church of the Lamb of God may be comparatively few, this fact does not diminish the importance of the task to *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15).

By small means, according to the understanding of men, our Gracious Heavenly Father has planned great things to be accomplished. Simply by a piece of the Church's literature falling into the hands of Elizaphan Osaka, a man with a believing heart, the great Commission has been furthered as the Gospel's Banner waves in Kenya.

After this introduction to the Church, the Lord, in His Wisdom, tested our faith, determination, and perseverance for the advancement of His Gospel during the eight-year registration process in that land. Within that period, hope burned in the hearts of those whom the Lord used instrumentally to fulfill the task, and the Church was registered in 1993. Blessed be Our God who is able to provide exceedingly above all

that we ask or can possibly comprehend.

As Abraham, Moses, the Brother of Jared, and Nephi moved in faith, trusting the Lord's promise, brothers in our day and time have also committed themselves to God's grace to fulfill what He has foreordained. Over the years, brothers such as William Cadman, Joseph Bittinger, Alvin Swanson, John Ross, V. James Lovalvo, Alma Nolfi, Nephi DeMercurio, Paul Carr, Joseph Shazer, Joseph Perri, Joseph Ross, Joseph Calabrese, Jesse Carr, Dan Casasanta, Gorie Ciaravino, Dominic Thomas, Paul Palmieri, Mike Hildenbrand, and Robbie Duncan, along with some of their wives, and Sister Carmella Mazzeo, have been instruments in God's hand to answer the Macedonian call in Africa. Others whose names do not now come to mind have also journeyed there.

Now, we have great reason to rejoice over the Lord's work, for by the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya, souls lost in sin are exposed to the brilliant light of the pure and unadulterated Gospel. Hope shines forth! As in every land where so much help is needed in every aspect of daily living, the citizens of Kenya need only to seek first the Kingdom of Heaven, and all things will be added.

Our Brothers Joseph Perri and Joseph Ross have recently been making annual trips to Africa under the direction of the Foreign Missions Committee. They have been gone for weeks at a time, and they have willingly given their time to perform the necessary tasks involved.

Among their stops have been visits to Kenya. Pressing forward to complete their assignments to the glory of Almighty God, they carried forth the keys of the Kingdom. Upon arrival and after being warmly welcomed, these brothers last year attended to baptisms, souls born again. Hosannah to the Lamb of God! We are so happy that, although they live thousands of miles away, those converted are now our new brothers and sisters in Christ. No, we may never see them face to face, but surely we can pray for them and be happy that our representatives from this part of the world can visit with them and give them our love and best wishes.

Is the effort, the sacrifice, and the expense worth it all? Can we envision being there? Can we feel the joy and happiness of their salvation? Yes, a hundred times, yes! The worth of a soul is so precious that Jesus Christ gave His life upon the cross of Calvary. Oh, that each of us might bear that burden of love for the work of spreading the Gospel, not just in Africa but wherever the Lord has planned this wonderful Restored Gospel to go. The need is so great!

There are many needs that only our generosity can provide. Every

(Continued on Page 6)

Correction Notice

Two factual errors were inadvertently published in the series of articles on India in the January and February, 1994 issues.

It was reported that Brother Alvin Swanson started the work in India in 1980. The correct year is 1981.

The article also stated that Brother Livingston was the first member of The Church of Jesus Christ in India. Actually, Brother A. "Dev" Devanandam was the first member there.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"Keep Your Identity" was the theme that the Lord brought forth to us at the April, 1994 General Church Conference. Whether we choose to call it a reminder or a warning, this "wake-up call" was attended by a tremendous outpouring of the Holy Spirit, with the gifts of the Spirit being manifested in great power. The identity referred to, *our* identity as The Church of Jesus Christ, is the Restored Gospel which sets us apart—whether we like it or not—from other Christian organizations.

The story of the Restoration of the Gospel is one that should be familiar to us all. In his article on Page 2 of this issue (written prior to the Conference, incidentally), Brother Joseph Lovaivo touches on those plain and precious things which were lost in the Apostasy, and were brought back with the Restoration. He tells of the great understanding we have of God's future plans for Israel, and charges us, to "uphold and lift high the Standard of Truth," which is the Restored Gospel. If we are indeed in possession of this "pearl of great price" (Matthew 13:46), why the reminder to keep our identity?

Very possibly, in our desire to blend in with "the Christian community," we as Saints of Latter Days may shun our proper appellation, and identify with people whose views on baptism, communion, feet washing, and The Book of Mormon differ vastly from our own. Do we gain anything by this? When our conversation with a co-worker leaves him with the comfortable feeling that our Church is no different from his own, exactly when do we intend to approach him with the Truth?

Admittedly, we are faced with many challenges as we endeavor to witness to the world that the Gospel is restored. We encounter sincere believers in Christ, their lives filled with charity, whose minds have been turned against The Book of Mormon by propaganda condemning the Restoration movement. All too often, our daily lives fail to reflect to them our testimony that the Power of God dwells in The Church of Jesus Christ, and that His Spirit has been placed within us by the laying on of hands. Unless our righteousness—and our love—exceeds theirs in every respect, how can we expect them to be drawn?

Why do people, Christian or otherwise, need the Restored Gospel? Whether or not they can get to heaven without it will not be debated on these pages. What we do know, however, is that we have "a more excellent way" (I Corinthians 12:31). The relationship we enjoy with Christ our Lord—and with one another—through the fullness of His Restored Gospel is something that every soul should have the opportunity to partake of. If we are living the way God wants us to—if we are *truly* Saints of Latter Days, we will experience the joy of the saints, God's power will manifest itself whenever we gather, and people will be drawn to Christ by way of the Restored Gospel, just as they were when He walked upon the earth.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



The Children Who Remembered

Dear Friends,

Last month we read about how quick humans are to look forward to a great day or have a great blessing, and then, when it's over, simply forget it. But this is not always the way it's happened.

In the days after Jesus' crucifixion, He appeared to His other "sheep" (people) here in the land of America. A mighty destruction occurred first. Huge cities fell into the oceans while earthquakes happened. Other major cities were buried deep in the ground, or caught fire and burned. All but about 2,500 men, women, and children perished.

These people heard the voice of Jesus calling to them and comforting them. He appeared among them. Angels and fire encircled the little children, and one by one Jesus prayed for the children. These children never forgot. They grew up to be a marvelous, loving people. Everyone followed the loving laws of Jesus. When they were upset, or jealous, or angry, they immediately called upon Jesus to take away the bad feelings. They changed.

They raised their children to be the same strong, loving way. Everyone shared equally with each other. No one acted more important than someone else. There was enough love to go around, and enough provisions.

Imagine the peace! No one stole from each other. Mighty miracles were done amongst the people. The three Nephite disciples who were

never to die lived with them and preached to them. They visited with each other and ate in one another's homes.

There weren't any televisions or junky books, or reasons to be bored. A child was safe anywhere. Every neighbor was a beloved friend and member of the Church. I imagine that if a child wanted to stay outside and play past dark, no one worried about humans hurting them.

There were no robbers, or child-beaters, or drunks, or liars. People didn't work at jobs they hated just so they'd have enough money to pay for insurance in case they got sick. Everyone cared for and loved one another. Everyone helped each other.

I imagine that people could explore and spend the night doing what we call "camping," and only have to worry about the wild animals. People shared. There was much joy. And not one of those children who saw Jesus ever forgot. Not one of those children fell away to sin. Each of them raised their children to follow Jesus' laws, and there was wonderful peace, freedom, and joy upon God's people across the land.

WORD SEARCH

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MESSAGE continued . . .

penny spent by our brothers is disbursed only after serious thought has been given as to how it will be best used. But in considering the reality of this work, pennies are just not enough. Thousands of dollars are still required.

We need Jesus Christ, the head of the body of the Church (comprising its members—you and me), to direct the hand to reach deeply into the pocket and withdraw generously. Let the heart be assured that, as the Lord loves a cheerful giver, this generosity shall be restored tenfold. This cheerful act will thus provide the means by which our brothers can move forward to proclaim the Gospel, establish the Church, and supply the needs of the saints located in even the most distant missions. Hence-

forth, the body will be made complete and whole.

Our love is a precious gem with many facets. Let the facets of prayer and generosity shine forth as a bright path for our missionary brothers who are endeavoring to fulfill the great Commission of Jesus Christ, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

PALM HARBOR continued . . .

that morning. In the dream, he saw our congregation in a building five times the size of our existing facility. As he looked throughout the building, he saw each member of our present congregation leading a group. For example, he saw a brother who plays the guitar leading a group of guitarists, a sister who sings leading a group of singers, and other members leading respective groups. Our brother felt a strong spirit in the dream. While our brother was relating the dream, the gift of tongues was spoken and the interpretation given, **"And I will provide the increase, thus saith the Lord."** The message that followed was the love of Jesus Christ for all, and His great mercy and compassion for every one. We were surely encouraged that day, and praise the Lord for His goodness.

On Sunday, November 7, 1993, we had the privilege of witnessing the blessing of Olivia Rose Gonzalez, daughter of Mike and Debbie Gonzalez of Tampa. Our brothers opened the meeting with an explanation on why we bless children. The Lord has taught us that children have no need for baptism. *"And he took them up in his arms, put his hands on them, and blessed them"* (Mark 10:16).

While one of our brothers was speaking that day, a sister saw a personage in white standing beside our brother. When another brother spoke, the same sister saw a personage in white seated behind him. After the preaching, the baby was blessed by Brother Ken Staley. We praise the Lord for His goodness and giving us the desire to suffer the little

children to come unto Him.

On Sunday, November 21, we praised the Lord and gave thanks for all that He had done for us. Since the following week was Thanksgiving week, our branch ensemble sang a special song and the meeting was focused on giving the Lord thanks. Many voices were raised in thanksgiving to the Lord in testimony and song. During the sacrament service, as our brothers were breaking bread, the gift of tongues was spoken. Immediately following, the interpretation was given, **"Thus saith the Lord, I have given all, I have given My all to thee. Receive My joy, receive My love, receive the offering that My Son Jesus gives to you this day. Thus saith the Lord."** We felt the presence of the Lord during communion service, and gave thanks to our Father in heaven for His love for us.

The bells of heaven were rung on September 12, 1993, when Brother Dan Risola asked for his baptism. It was a beautiful day. Brother Ken Staley opened the service and related some of the beautiful experiences he had on his trip to Guatemala. His sermon focused on "spiritual sight," and told us of how we should open our eyes, ears, and hearts to the Spirit of the Lord. A song was sung entitled *Open My Eyes*, and a strong spirit filled the room. The gift of tongues was spoken, and Brother Dan asked for prayer for guidance. After the prayer, Brother Dan expressed his wish to become part of the family of God.

That evening, we gathered at the shore of the Gulf of Mexico and witnessed the baptism of Brother Dan by Brother Ken Staley. We then returned to church and his grandfather, Brother Saverio Risola, confirmed our brother.

We were very happy for our new brother, and pray God's blessings upon him in his efforts to serve the Lord.

May our blessings be an uplift to all in their service to God.

News from Modesto, CA

November 14, 1993 was a day to be long remembered for members of the Modesto, CA Branch, for this was the day that Marilyn Manes became a sister in Christ. For the past year, Sister Marilyn and her husband, Brother Joseph Manes, had been studying the scriptures with Brother Joseph Lovalvo. On this particular Monday evening, Marilyn had asked Brother Joe the meaning of the phrase, "a broken heart and a contrite spirit." Brother Joe answered that it was a spirit willing to serve God.

Marilyn was unsure as to whether she was feeling the Spirit of God, or mere emotion, so Brother Joe Lovalvo offered to pray for her. Marilyn was prayed on for both physical healing of an affliction and an answer regarding the timing of her baptism. She asked God for a sign, and she was healed. This made her feel that she had received her sign from God. When Brother Joe prayed, "Lord, make her free!" the Spirit of God came upon her at that moment, and when she stood at the end of the prayer, Brother Joe heard her say, "I'm free." Marilyn didn't feel that she had audibly said what her heart was feeling; however, Brother Joe heard the words clearly.

That night, Marilyn and Brother Joseph Manes departed with the desire to go home and pray about God's will regarding Marilyn's baptism. After a beautiful prayer together in their home, both Marilyn and Joseph felt the Spirit of God and sensed that this was the confirmation they were seeking. Because of the words in Sister Marilyn's prayer, they felt that the time was right for her to be baptized.

Another confirmation came from Brother Mitchell Edwards of South Bend, Indiana. When Brother Joseph Manes called him the Friday before Marilyn's scheduled baptism, Brother Mitchell asked Brother Joseph to tell him the good news. The Spirit of God had told him that Marilyn was

(Continued on Page 8)

MODESTO continued . . .

going to be baptized; this was a wonderful confirmation for both Brother Joseph and Sister Marilyn because Brother Mitchell had never received prior notification about the baptism until Brother Joseph's call.

That Sunday we met at the banks of the Tuolumne River, where Sister Marilyn entered the waters of life and emerged a new creature in Christ. Brother Joe Lovalvo performed the baptism, and when he spoke the words, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ," his voice had power and seemed to resound with authority; he felt his own voice deepening, and everyone on the shore was struck by the forcefulness of his words.

After the baptism, we returned to the church with our new sister in Christ. Sister Marilyn was confirmed by Brother Joe Ciarolla. During his prayer, the Spirit of God came down upon him, causing his hands to tremble upon her head as she received the gift of the Holy Ghost. Everyone in the church felt the blessing during his prayer.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo gave an inspired sermon on Christ's confirmation of the Apostle Peter and the other apostles, and their baptism with fire, which enabled them to stand against the spiritual battles they faced with the enemy of our souls. Brother Tony Picciuto gave us words to ponder upon in his discussion of the power of the Holy Ghost which enters our lives upon confirmation. The importance of God's calling in our lives must never be forgotten. We are called upon as servants of God—called to repentance and called because there is a need to help the Church. God Himself has a need for men and women to serve Him in His Church. We are very important, because God has called us and given us a new purpose in life.

After our service, Brother Joseph Manes gave a catered dinner in Sister Marilyn's honor. There was a sweet season of fellowship, and many who were present remarked upon the spirit of love and unity they felt on this happy occasion. Our prayer is that the Lord will bless our new

sister with the perseverance to stay faithful until the end, that we may all be together in that eternal state of bliss with our Savior one day. This was a day of rejoicing in which we felt hosts of angels in our presence, sharing in our happiness and in our praise of God, who makes all things possible.

Ordination at Branch #1, Michigan

By Patti Saragosa

Brother Larry Champine was ordained into the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ on October 17, 1993. Many visiting brothers and sisters were with us that morning.

Our service that day began with the reinstatements of Robert Thomas and Vicki Colpitts. Brother Robert, who was reinstated by Brother Tom Everett, gave this testimony: "I thank God for everything; for my wife and for sparing my life three years ago. God has been with me every day." Sister Vicki Colpitts, who was reinstated by Brother Nick Pietrangelo, also gave her testimony: "God has done so much for me; He's taken care of me through every circumstance. I'm having a new house built, and now my spiritual house is being restored, too!"

Our first speaker was Brother Steve Champine, from the Inner City Branch. Brother Steve spoke from Isaiah 41:21, "*Produce your cause, saith the Lord; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob.*" Brother Steve then posed this question to the congregation: "Brothers and Sisters, what is your cause?" He asked us what our life represents, and whether we believe in our cause. We all have a choice; we can choose to serve Christ, or not. If you haven't said, "I want to serve Christ," you have already made a choice, that is, not to serve Him.

Today, there is an abundance of "believers." Many people say that they truly follow Jesus Christ. We, as The Church of Jesus Christ, need to show, in love, that we are indeed

the true followers of Christ. We can show by our actions that there is a right way, a better way to serve Him. Brother Steve then quoted from I Peter 3:15, "*. . . be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.*" We, individually, may be the only Church of Jesus Christ that a person may ever meet.

Brother Steve continued, "I'm thankful that someone took the time to speak to me about Christ. Brother Sam DiFalco spoke to my brother Gary, and when Gary asked me to come to church, I said that I would go with him one time. Well, that one time was all that God needed."

Our second speaker was Brother Norman Campitelle from Ft. Pierce, Florida. Brother Norman said how good it was to see all the brothers and sisters that he grew up with. He then stated, "I have some beautiful memories. I look up at those words on the wall, 'The Church of Jesus Christ,' and I think of how proud I am to be a member of this beautiful Church. Brothers and Sisters, doesn't it feel good when you testify, when you wash feet, and doesn't it feel good to pray for a brother or sister who is in need? I am proud to call you my brothers and sisters."

We sang *Our Church*, and the Lord's Supper was passed. Brother Bob Batson, visiting from Niles, Ohio, closed the morning meeting in prayer.

The afternoon service began with Sister Tracey Francione singing *I Surrender All*. Brother Lou Vitto, visiting from the Sterling Heights Branch, opened in prayer, after which Sister Karen Progar sang *Amazing Grace* for us.

Brother Nephi DeMercurio addressed us with these words, "Today we are in the presence of God. We are here not only to ordain, but also to worship the Most High God. We are all stewards of God, and we have come here today to honor Him. Brother Larry has been called by God; not by man, but with a sacred call from above. A man's calling is the true test of his humility.

We are in perilous times today and face many challenges. We must try to preserve our families, to preserve the purity of the Gospel, and to preach this Gospel to all people, to the dying souls everywhere. Let us be renewed today and have one purpose, the cause of Jesus Christ. We must set aside our differences and become united. It is a beautiful thing to feel the presence of God in your heart and soul. May you feel the presence of God, my brothers and sisters."

As the congregation sang the hymn *Ready*, Brother Larry was called up to the front of the church. Brother Flip Palacios, from the Inner City Branch, washed Brother Larry's feet. Afterwards, Brother Nick Pietrangelo got up and spoke to us. He said, "It's going to be a new life for Brother Larry. A minister must be prepared to meet any situation. We had been praying for help, asking the Lord who He wanted to work in His vineyard. It is very important when someone is called to make sure God's revelation is there. When it is, they will prosper, whether it is an elder being called, a deacon, a teacher, or a deaconess." Brother Nick then called Sister Rosanne Champine to come up front. He then stated how important the wives are to their husbands. The wives truly support and encourage their mates, and this is a tremendous help to the elders of the Church.

Brother Peter Scolaro led the brothers in prayer as they asked for God's direction in ordaining our new elder. Brother Richard Thomas then ordained Brother Larry. As the brothers in the ministry embraced Brother Larry, we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*. Brother Peter then asked Brother Larry to say a few words. His face seemed to be shining as he spoke of his thankfulness to God for His glorious Gospel and the love and support he has felt from the saints over the past 17 years.

After a full day of enjoying and feasting on the blessings of God, our meeting was closed in prayer by Brother Tony Gerace from the Inner City Branch.

Blessings in McKees Rocks, PA

By Carol Monaghan

Enos 1:7, "And I said: Lord, how is it done?"

On November 7, 1993, Mark R. Lawson was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Mark, like Brother Enos of old, had many questions leading up to this day. The Sunday preceding his baptism, he came up for special prayer, saying he was at the point where he had to make a decision, that he was running out of excuses. That Wednesday, Brother Mark made his wishes known that he wanted to be baptized. Brother Mark was baptized by his elated father, Brother Richard Lawson, and was confirmed by Brother John Manes, his uncle.

Brother Mark testified as to "how it was done," coming to this decision, that is. He stated that one of the things that had left a great impression on him was the love the brothers and sisters always showed towards him and their love for one another. But three things stayed with him: First, his cousin Monica Mitchell's baptism, her life being similar to his; second, his sister Amy Bonasso's baptism, how the Lord changed her life; and third, his cousin David Ciotti, most recently baptized, knowing they had shared the same thoughts on religion, and were headed down the same road in life.

Brother David Ciotti told of his experience the day of his baptism, how when he came out of the water, as he looked upon the saints singing, he saw Mark's face illuminated brighter than anyone else's. As Brother David was relating this experience, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues and the interpretation, given by Brother Dennis Ricci, was, "My chosen will behold My glory. I am returning, My beloved, I am returning."

As Brother Dick kissed his son Mark before going into the water, Sister Rhonda Clements saw in a vision Brother Dick looking at Mark as the first time he saw Mark as a

newborn baby.

As the ministry knelt in prayer before the confirmation, Sister Jan Cornell asked the Lord to reveal God's will in Mark's life. It was given to her that Brother John Manes would confirm him, and that his gift would be wisdom.

We read in *I Corinthians 2:5*, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." We thank God once again for another blessed day.

* * * * *

On November 21, 1993, our Brother Anthony Son Ricci was to be ordained a teacher in the Church. We had many visitors from various branches in our midst that day: Aliquippa, Glassport, Greensburg, as well as many of Brother Tony's family and friends. Various musical selections were sung to the honor and glory of God by different groups and individuals.

Brother Paul Palmieri exhorted us on the duties of a teacher. A teacher must first be reliable and available at all times. Second, he must be private and confidential. Third, he must be a servant able to elevate and lift up, or come down to help.

Brother Paul Ciotti Jr. washed Brother Anthony's feet, and Brother Paul Ciotti Sr. ordained him a teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Paul then spoke in the gift of tongues, with the interpretation given as, "Go forth, go forth, in the power of God, and minister to His lambs. Thus saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord. Thus saith the Lord."

Brother Tony expressed himself, telling how far the Lord has brought him from the first day he came to the Church. He said that he questioned the Lord about this calling, and then he heard a choir singing the hymn, *My Redeemer*. Brother Tony related a dream he had in 1990 wherein he saw the ministry surrounding him and heard Brother Paul Ciotti's voice offering the prayer of ordination into

(Continued on Page 10)

McKEES ROCKS continued . . .

the office of a teacher. As always, Brother Tony expressed his love for Jesus Christ, His Church, and His family. We praise God for His unfailing love and mercy to us all, and echo the words our young men sang, "Men full of compassion who laugh, and love, and cry. Men who'll face eternity and aren't afraid to die. Men who'll fight for freedom and honor once again. He just needs a few good men."

Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

On December 18, 1993, the Freehold Branch held a Family Night, during which families were asked to come up and sing, testify, or present scriptures. Many different groups came up and none were left out. While opening this service in prayer, a sister saw a sea of dirty water in which many people were drowning. She then saw a chain at the end, which became a hand and pulled the people out.

Later in the evening, as the young people were up front testifying, Jennifer Huttenberger stepped forth and asked to be baptized. What a joyful night it turned out to be! Jennifer was baptized the following Sunday by her uncle, Brother Jim Huttenberger, and confirmed by Brother Jim Crudup. While Jennifer was being confirmed, a sister saw a crown being placed on Jennifer's head. As others were struggling with this same decision, God began to move. Several experiences came forth regarding more souls being called.

The following Sunday, Janet Murillo stood up and asked to be baptized. She is the first "second generation" of the Seed of Joseph to give herself to Christ at our branch. During this meeting, all the young people went up for prayer. They held hands in a circle with our elder, Brother Jim Crudup, who prayed for them. During this prayer, a sister

had a vision of gold liquid being poured down upon them from heaven. Janet was baptized by Bro. Jim Huttenberger and confirmed by Brother Joe Perri. During the baptism, Janet's aunt from Mexico, who is not a member of the Church, saw the lake turn into crystal. During the confirmation, two sisters saw personages surrounding the ministry as they prayed.

We were also happy to have Brother Ken Lombardo from Metuchen, NJ and Brother Sam Risola from Florida visiting with us. They both spoke to us on the treasures in life that our hearts need to be focused on for us to have joy.

This was also to be the last Sunday our Brother Joe Perri would be with us before traveling to Africa to do the work of God there. Our prayers went with him.

During testimony, Janet stood up to testify. Her words came from one innocent and pure before God. Tears of joy streamed down our faces. While she was testifying, Brother Bob Venuto stood and spoke in the gift of tongues. No one had ever seen Brother Bob stand so quickly, being that he had nearly lost his leg in a near-fatal car accident not too long ago, which brought him to the Lord.

Interestingly, on the way to church that morning, Janet had told another sister in the car that God would confirm her calling today with the gift of tongues. God also gave her an experience the night before that she would be given a crown.

During the confirmation, a sister saw a crown being placed on Janet's head, just like Jennifer the week before. While there were five other visions had by different ones, one is very noteworthy:

While Brother Salvatore Reyes was being prayed for, a sister had a vision of the Three Nephites, who approached him. One kissed him on the cheek, and they assisted the brothers in prayer. Praise God! The blessings of old have not gone away, but they are in His precious Church when we come together in unity and with the love of God.

There are yet more upon whom God is moving. Pray for us as we desire to see our church building overflow, as we seek to spread His Gospel, and be laborers for Zion.

A New Name in the Book of Life

On Father's Day, June 20, 1993, our hearts were filled with great joy at our mission in Six Nations, Ontario.

Sister Cathy Soltes was taken into the waters of baptism and baptized by her father, Brother Don Collison, of the Windsor Branch. It was an extra blessing having Brother Don baptize his daughter, Cathy, on this special day, Father's Day. I'm sure he received the greatest gift that a father could desire for his children.

Brother Tom Everett laid hands upon Sister Cathy for the reception of the Holy Ghost. Sister Cathy expressed her desire to serve God, and the love she felt within God's family. Her husband, Drew, stood up and testified how he had noticed such a peace within Cathy in the last few months. We enjoyed other beautiful testimonies and fellowship with visiting brothers and sisters from Windsor, Southampton, and Ohio.

After the meeting, we gathered upstairs for a luncheon in celebration of having a new sister in Christ. Brother Don and Sister Pat Green made a beautiful cake with the Book of Life on it, showing Sister Cathy Soltes' name written in it. Praise God!

May God bless our new sister in her daily walk with Jesus!

Sister Patti (Wright) Saliga

Let All the Earth Rejoice

Quincy, Florida Mission

On December 26, 1993, the saints at the Quincy, FL Mission rejoiced. "Let all the earth rejoice. Wake the smallest creature up to hear

my Father's voice!" Why rejoice? A soul standing at the water's edge . . . an elder lifting up his eyes toward the heavens, lovingly clasping the hand of a repentant one, pauses for a moment in silence. This moment was an opportunity for the saints, nature in its glorious array of excellence, and the glories of heaven to blend in an accord of holiness. The question asked, "What is your full name?" The humble reply, "Crystal Morris."

"Crystal Morris, do you fully repent of your sins?" "Yes," she replied. The elder, Brother Charleston Hester, then took this soul, whose heart had been broken by the sweet words of the Restored Gospel, so gently he led her, carefully and tenderly, into the clear, beautiful Waters of Mormon, which scene had already been captured by the saints. Another moment of silence, so quiet that one could hear the rejoicing of the breeze as it so softly moved about the saints and the surroundings, completing the sacredness of these precious moments. I believe the silence was God-sent, that all who stood by could catch a glimpse of the sublime glory of the event transpiring . . . the intense depth of death, then, in the twinkling of a moment, seemingly quicker than the flicker of lightning across the sky, came the breath of life, a new life, a resurrected being. Rejoice! Why rejoice? Only the souls that have experienced the New Birth can truly rejoice.

The elder brother looks upon this soul with great love and compas-

sion, then lifts his hand straight up to the heavens from whence all mercy, love, and power descend. The words echo forth, "Having the Divine Authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, Amen." Suddenly, quicker than a second, one could see a form lying straight underneath the water. Before one could fully comprehend or perceive or capture the image displayed to the eye . . . she arose. Crystal Morris came forth. It was beautiful. This writer is unable to formulate words to describe the distinct beauty of this event.

The climax of this day was when Crystal Morris sat facing the saints, surrounded by the elders. Brother Cleveland Baldwin stepped forth, placed his hands upon her head, humbly asking God to acknowledge and seal the work of His servants by writing the name of Crystal Morris in the Lamb's Book of Life, to remain there throughout eternity . . . requesting the bestowal of the Holy Ghost.

Rejoicing tears flowed down the cheeks of the saints as they sang the words, "Ready to do His will."

Crystal Morris was born in Ethiopia. She was raised on army bases at Fort Monmouth in Red Bank, New Jersey, in Maryland, and then at Port St. Lucie, Florida. It was there that she met The Church of Jesus Christ and attended meetings. Our sister now resides in a little town near Macon, Georgia. She and her

husband Corey Morris travel to Quincy to attend meetings.

A Prayer

By Hans H. Hansen

What is a prayer to me, you ask? A prayer, I know, is not a game, nor just a way with me. And surely not just a waste of time to me. But a prayer is more to me—much more to me. A prayer is my heartbeat, my pulse, and even the lifeblood that runs through my veins. A prayer will change my sadness into joy, and bring to me a ray of hope. A prayer is my open door to God divine. I talk to Him, and He talks back to me. A prayer is a way for me to thank Him for all He gave to me, and even more. No, a prayer is not a game, it is real, and surely, it is not just a habit that I have formed. Oh, no, a prayer is more. It is a telephone, a telegram, a letter to my Lord.

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* WEDDINGS *

GIOVANNONE - KLINE

Charles D. Giovannone and Susan Kline were married on November 27, 1993 in Vero Beach, Florida.

Brother Frank Rogolino performed the wedding ceremony, and Brother Norman Campitelle gave the sermon. Organist was Ronald Tovey, and musical selections were provided by Bill Kline.

The couple attend the Fort Pierce Branch and reside in Vero Beach. (We were blessed when they both asked for their baptism eight days after the wedding!) May God's blessings follow them throughout their lives.

PERSON - LOCCI

Mr. Brian Person and Miss Eleonore Locci were joined in marriage on December 29, 1993 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Rochester, New York.

Brother Frank Natoli officiated at the ceremony.

The newlyweds are residing at Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, where Brian is stationed with the U.S. Marine Corps. May the Lord bless and watch over them in their new life together.

New Arrivals

Ryan Scott Gibson Jr. born to Ryan Scott and Karen Lynn Gibson of Smock, Pennsylvania. Grandparents are Sister Angeline Gibson of Grindstone, PA, a member of the Vanderbilt Branch, and the late Brother Charles Gibson; and Stanley and Emmagene Hyatt of Fairchance, PA.

Cory Raymond Meeks, born to Carl Raymond and Maryann Meeks of Grindstone, PA. Grandparents are Vivian Marlene Meeks of Republic, PA, and the late Orville Meeks; and the late Joseph and Theresa Hisnanick.

Children Blessed

Brother Dennis Moraco blessed Alexander Michael Junco, son of Luis and Carol Junco, on November 14, 1993 at Miami, Florida.

On December 26, 1993, Anthony Navarro was blessed by Brother Jim Huttenberger in Freehold, New Jersey.

Robert Andrew Schafer, son of Robert and Kimberly Schafer, was blessed on February 27, 1994 at the Youngstown, Ohio Branch by Brother Donald Pandone.

BAPTISM

Brother Andrew Maletta of the Herndon, Virginia Branch was baptized on April 25, 1993, by Brother Chatman Young. He was confirmed by Brother George Timms.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

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

JOSEPH CONSTANTINE

After a battle with cancer, Brother Joseph Constantine was called to his reward on October 21, 1993. He was baptized in Youngstown, Ohio 47 years ago, and was ordained a teacher in 1976. The Constantines were the first family from the Church to move to Cape Coral, Florida, initially driving many miles every Sunday to meet with our brothers and sisters.

Brother James Sheffler, Cape Coral's original elder, officiated at the funeral.

Brother Joseph leaves behind his loving wife of 58 years, Sister Bertha; one son and one daughter, Sister Jaqueline Hickman; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Our brother's testimony was always quickly given, and he was ever the peacemaker. He will long be remembered for his humble manner and quiet ways. We all miss Brother Jack's smiling face, and pray that The Lord will be our comfort at this time.

ETHEL MAE LOWE

On Sunday, January 30, 1994, the Lord took home our friend Mrs. Lowe. The Lord blessed her with a long and fulfilling life. She was the mother of Brother Duane Lowe of the Tampa, FL Branch.

She is survived by three sons, two daughters-in-law, one brother, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. Mrs. Lowe loved The Church of Jesus Christ and the brothers and sisters. At one time she served as the Tampa Branch pianist. She will be missed by all who knew her, and we ask for your prayers on behalf of her family.

GEORGE KOVACIC

George Kovacic, from Erie, Pennsylvania, passed from this life on February 8, 1994. George was born on October 30, 1926, and consistently supported The Church of Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Sister Phyllis J. Kovacic; two brothers; two sons, Brother George Alan and Brother Mark; two daughters, Karen and Sharon; and three grandchildren. Services were held by Brothers Joel Gehly and Harold Burge. May the Lord comfort his family in their loss.

The Gospel News

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

May, 1994

Volume 50, No. 5

25 Years in Florida

By James H. "Bert" Sheffler

The year 1993 marked the 25th anniversary of the Florida (now the Southeast) District.

In 1965, when I came to Florida, West Palm Beach had already been established as a Branch of the Church in 1960. Brothers Frank Sirangelo and Ernest Schultz had begun holding meetings there as early as 1946, as well as in Tampa, Hialeah, and St. Petersburg.

Brother Patsy Rogolino had started holding meetings in Ft. Pierce in 1959, and donated land to build the Church there in 1964. Brother Alvin Swanson had started holding meetings in Cape Coral in 1964 and in Miami in 1965.

This was the extent of the Branches and Missions in Florida 25 years ago. The state of Florida was under the Atlantic Coast District. About one year before we became a separate district in 1968, Apostles Rocco Biscotti, V. James Lovalvo, and Nicholas Pietrangelo were given charge of the state of Florida. It was their job to organize us as a district.

I remember the week they came, how happy and hopeful we were for the future. The following were made officers of the new

district: President, Brother Alvin Swanson; 1st Counselor, Brother Ernest Schultz; 2nd Counselor, Brother Dominic Giovannone; Secretary, Brother James H. Sheffler.

Brother Swanson was District President for about five years. Each year, he would take off work and visit every member in the district. We were few in number in those days, and it has been wonderful to see how we have grown.

I recall a few experiences that took place in the early days of our district. One time, at a conference held in Ft. Pierce, all nine of the district's elders were present at the Sunday service. Brother Swanson was standing at the rostrum speaking, when Sister Rose Rogolino stood and spoke in the gift of tongues. Sister Mary Glover then stood and gave the interpretation, saying that the one speaking (Brother Swanson) would go to the isles of the sea, and the two young brothers (Frank Rogolino and James Sheffler) would be left to carry on the work here in the district. The two "young brothers" are now the only two elders remaining from the original Florida elders.

At another conference held in Ft. Pierce, where there were seven elders on the rostrum, the first speaker used the Lord's Prayer to open: "Our Father which art in

heaven, hallowed be Thy name."

Under the Spirit of God, the prayer was divided into seven parts, with each brother speaking on one portion: "Thy Kingdom come;" "Thy Will be done in earth, as it is in heaven;" "Give us this day our daily bread;" "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;" "And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;" "For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever."

When Brother V. James and Sister Mary Lovalvo came to live in Florida, Brother Jim held elders' seminars on the last Saturday of every month.

Looking back to the time in 1946 when there was only a small work in West Palm Beach, I remember Sister Julia Faragasso telling us of an experience she had at that time. She came to Florida and Brother Frank Sirangelo took them to see Miami Beach. She knelt on the beach and let the sand run through her fingers. As she did, she heard a voice tell her that someday, the saints here would be as numerous as the sands of the sea. Sister Faragasso told us that some time later she had a dream where she saw the state of Florida and there were lights lit up all over where the Gospel would be preached.

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Apostle's Column

Taking out of Context

By V. James Lovalvo

Critics of the Restored Gospel and the Book of Mormon take delight in accusing their adherents of "taking out of context" certain scriptures to justify their belief. This is nothing new, as from ages past, the followers of Jesus Christ have been the targets of scoffers and unbelievers. The High Priests and the Sanhedrin condemned Jesus to death because they thought that He blasphemed in calling Himself the Son of God. Paul, the apostle, taught by Gamaliel in all the phases of the Law, persecuted the saints, thinking that he was doing the will of God.



Apostle V. James Lovalvo

History is replete with one group of people persecuting another group because of the differences in their beliefs. The Reformation period speaks loud and clear concerning one faction accusing another of deception and lies. Heinrich Zwingli and his group were bitter enemies of the Mennonites and the Catholics. Martin Luther opposed the Catholic Church, and in turn was opposed by Menno Simons.

In these days of the Restoration, opposition and criticism have raised their ugly heads again. Joseph Smith was persecuted and criticized unmercifully because he said that he had seen a celestial vision. Later on, the Book of Mormon, which he had translated by the gift and power of God, was condemned as the work of a liar, a thief, and a plagiarist. Up to this day, the same criticism exists, with the added hue and cry that the scriptures used to justify the Restoration of the Gospel and the Book of Mormon are "taken out of context."

In this article, it is apropos to refute the critics' contention with basic truths found in the Holy Word of God, the Bible. But first, some of the tenets that are germane to the defense of the Apostasy, Restoration, and Book of Mormon are collated:

We in The Church of Jesus Christ believe that the Angel of Revelation 14:6-7 refers to Moroni, the son of Mormon (in the Book of Mormon). The passage states:

And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

We believe that the book spoken of in Isaiah 29:11-12 refers to the Book of Mormon, which would come forth in the latter days. The scripture reads:

And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed: And the book is delivered to him that is not

learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

We believe that the two sticks mentioned in Ezekiel 37:16-20 refer to the Bible and Book of Mormon. The scripture states:

Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and [for] all the house of Israel his companions: And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand. And when the children of thy people shall speak unto thee, saying, Wilt thou not shew us what thou meanest by these? Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand. And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

We believe that Psalm 85:11 refers to the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. The scripture states: "Truth shall spring out of the earth; and righteousness shall look down from heaven."

We believe that an apostasy, from the church and in the church, took place in the early centuries of Christianity. Following are some passages of scripture that we use to substantiate our belief:

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is wor-

shipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. (II Thessalonians 2:3-4)

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. (I Timothy 4:1-3)

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. (II Timothy 3:1-5)

And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars: And she being with child cried, travailling in birth, and pained to be delivered. And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as

soon as it was born. And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days. (Revelation 12:1-6)

(Note: For a detailed explanation of the above passages of scripture, read the author's book, *A Dissertation on the Faith and Doctrine of The Church of Jesus Christ.*)

"Taking out of context" is not only proper (if cited by the direction of the Holy Spirit), but is also an important vehicle in proving a prevailing event. On the other hand, to establish a self-serving ideology (or philosophy) without scriptural substantiation is a dangerous and foolhardy practice. One example: Those who use John 3:16 out of context to create a basic philosophy and church principle on the premise of "only believing in Christ to be saved, without the necessity of baptism," should look well into the words that Jesus quoted, saying, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. . . ." (Mark 16:16 et al.). Many more examples can be given, but the one will suffice for the moment.

Those who denounce the Apostasy and Restoration adherents of "taking out of context" should start their criticisms with Jesus Christ and the writers of the New Testament. Following are a few of the passages of scripture "taken out of context" by Our Lord Himself:

And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth

man live. (Deuteronomy 8:3, quoted in Matthew 4:4)

Ye shall not tempt the Lord your God, as ye tempted him in Massah. (Deuteronomy 6:18, quoted in Matthew 4:7)

Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. (Deuter-

(Continued on Page 10)

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Friends, and Children,

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and calls during my recent illness and surgery. Your love, concern, and encouragement were so comforting and uplifting.

Please continue to pray for me during my recovery phase, which has been progressing satisfactorily.

My prayer is that God will bless you abundantly.

Brother Carl J. Frammolino

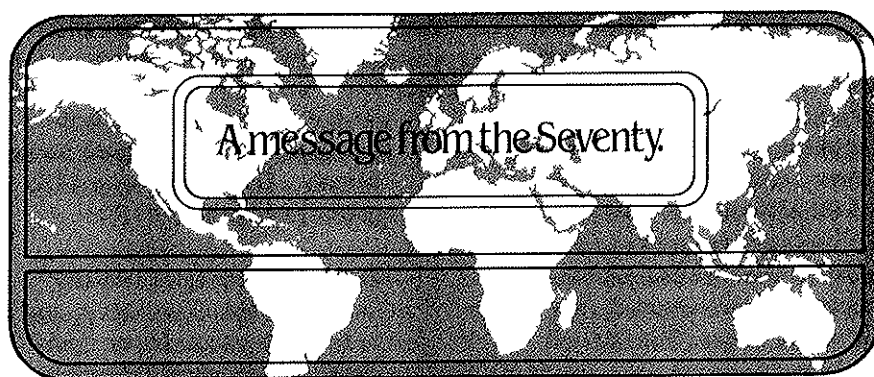
Announcement

For June, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	3.75%
2 years	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
5 years	5.25%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



Significant Matters Discussed at Evangelist Conference

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

A new missionary program for the young, an update on the adopted General Church Regionalization plan, activities under the Missionary Operating Committee, acknowledgments of two retired and two other departed brothers of the Quorum of Seventy, and the ordination of a new evangelist were among the major items reported at the General Church Evangelist Conference on Thursday, April 14, at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA.

All of these matters were significant. Together, they constituted an extremely busy agenda.

The missionary program, "Youth in Action," was presented to the Seventies by Brother Brian Martorana, General Missionary Benevolent Association president. He had been asked to attend to describe the endeavor. After he had completed his outline, the brothers enthusiastically approved the GMBA-sponsored project, which will allow volunteers to be sent to Church locations to help. The resident elder at each place will be directing the activities, which are intended to give young people training and to expose them to missionary work.

REGIONALIZATION

The regionalization undertaking was accepted by the General Church Conference in April, 1993, and is

scheduled for implementation in April, 1995. It involves realigning locations primarily under the districts nearest to them in miles, thus reducing travel time and costs to service them. Obviously, not all places will be affected by this change, and many will stay under their present districts. For those that will be impacted, however, the intention is to make an orderly transition so that the spiritual needs of every member will continue to be met. The former and new districts involved will be working in harmony to achieve this.

The district (region) presidents and evangelist chairmen met with the Development Committee at this April General Church Conference. Discussion on the places being serviced by the districts (regions) was conducted so that more complete plans could be made.

The MOC report, given by Chairman Thomas M. Liberto, covered missionary work around the world. It consisted of information from the Americas Missionary Operating Committee (AMOC) and the Foreign Missionary Operating Committee (FMOC).

AMOC

Under the AMOC, the districts reported on missions they are currently servicing, as follows:

Atlantic Coast: Cottageville,

South Carolina; Brunswick, Maine; New York City's Bowery; Dedham, Massachusetts; Spartanburg, South Carolina; and Freehold, New Jersey.

Guatemala Subcommittee: Guatemala City, Guatemala; and hopes for the Quetzaltenango, Guatemala area.

Michigan-Ontario: Muncey and Six Nations Indian Reservations, Ontario, Canada; and Detroit's Mexicotown.

Ohio: Omaha, Nebraska - Bedford, Iowa; Cincinnati, Columbus, and Kent, Ohio; Elizabethtown, Kentucky; Independence, Missouri; Lockport and Rochester, New York; and South Bend, Indiana.

Pacific Coast (all in Mexico): Tijuana and Mexicali, Baja California; San Isidro and Ahome, Sinaloa; Gomez Palacios, Durango/ Cuahatemoc, Chihuahua; Ciudad Netzahuacoyoti, Mexico City; Pedernales, Michoacan; and Oaxaca.

Pennsylvania: Elkins, West Virginia and Butler, Pennsylvania.

Southeast: Big Cypress and Homestead, Florida.

Southwest: San Carlos, Arizona.

FMOC

Under the FMOC, status reports were given on Africa, India, and Italy. In the past, comprehensive articles about the Church's progress in these parts of the world have been published in *The Gospel News*. Many locations are being maintained overseas by brothers who reside in those nations. More news will be available in forthcoming articles.

Also, under the MOC, the General Church Correspondent, Brother Richard Lawson, indicated that he had written 24 letters to interested parties from July 1 through December 31, 1993. Three of these were written to people in England, India, and Germany.

The Media Committee reported that there is currently one radio broadcast being aired. It is a 15-minute segment on Sunday mornings in Bath, Maine.

(Continued on Page 10)

The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

When Jesus Christ set up His Church, He commanded that certain ordinances, such as communion and feet washing, be performed by those who followed Him. We read that the Lord's disciples did not entirely understand the meaning behind these things when Jesus first administered them. When He told them, "*Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life,*" the scriptures tell us that many of them went back, and walked no more with Him (John 6:54, 66). Likewise when Jesus washed the disciples' feet, He said to them, "*What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter*" (John 13:7).

While Jesus was still abiding on the face of the earth, these ordinances had no meaning for His followers. But after His death and resurrection, when the Holy Ghost entered into His disciples, they were able to understand what it was that Jesus had done for them, what the meaning was behind these sacraments. Only then, after they knew what these things meant, were they able to benefit spiritually by observing them.

Today, we have the word of God and His Holy Spirit to guide us to an understanding of these things. As we continue to grow spiritually, the precious things that the Lord set up in His Church should become more and more meaningful to us.

It is not difficult, however, for these things to lose their significance in our lives. The Lord's Supper can become nothing more than taking a piece of bread and a sip of wine, unless we make a conscious effort to ponder upon what we are doing and why we are doing it. The blessed ordinance of feet washing can become a bothersome experience, even something to avoid, if we don't allow ourselves to become involved, with fullness of heart and mind, in what it taking place. We must each come to understand why Jesus instituted these things when He established His Church. If we do not, we might find ourselves just "going through the motions," not reaping the full spiritual benefit offered to us.

Along with the more sacred ordinances of the Church, such things as participating in testimony, attending church services, and even giving of our substance to the Lord can be reduced to routine, habitual acts that involve no mental or spiritual preparation whatsoever, unless we make a conscious effort in all that we do to perform it unto the Lord, with full purpose of heart.

How can we work as individuals to make these things a more real part of our lives? We can prepare ourselves spiritually each day to be vessels of God's Holy Spirit. We can search the scriptures prayerfully, desiring to gain a deeper understanding of *why* we do the things that we do in the Church. As we work thus to prepare ourselves for the Lord's blessings, we will find them more abundant as we meet together, and more importantly, we will come closer to being the holy people that the Lord would have all mankind to be.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

How many times has someone asked you to help them do something you've never done before, or do something by yourself, and you were too scared you'd make a mistake to say, "Yes, I'll try," or "Yes, I'll do it"? It's hard sometimes to have that courage, even when it is something really good, like singing a song for the Lord, or telling your best friend that what they're doing is wrong in God's eyes. But courage comes from God. Courage comes from faith that God is there, and God is watching and that He is so happy when we let ourselves change and grow and not be afraid to stand up for what is right and try to work for Him. It's also realizing that God is in charge of the new thing you are trying to do. You can never fail if God's in charge.

In the far-away Bible days, a great man named Moses fought for courage to let God use him to do a big job, and Moses was a grown-up, an 80-year-old man, at the time he was afraid.

Moses was born as a member of the Israelite nation. He'd been adopted by a daughter of the Pharaoh when he was just a tiny baby, but he knew he was not a member of the ruling Egyptians, but rather a relative to the poor Israelite slaves working for the people of Egypt. After he killed an Egyptian guard who'd been whipping an Israelite, Moses had to flee the country. He'd traveled far across the desert, and then lived many years with the family of a shepherd there, whose daughter he married.

Over 80 years had passed since the baby Moses had been adopted by Pharaoh's daughter. All of these

years the Egyptians only increased the murders and tortures towards the Israelite people. Finally these people began to cry unto God to deliver them, and God heard their cries. As Moses was out walking his sheep to good pastures, he saw a fire burning on a bush, but the bush was not being burned up. He stopped in amazement and the Lord spoke to him:

"Moses, take off your shoes, this is holy ground. I am the God of your father and grandfathers, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.

Moses hid his face and was afraid to look upon the Lord. The Lord continued, "I have seen the terrible things done to my people in Egypt. I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians and bring them to a rich land of their own. Come now, I will send *you* to Pharaoh so you may bring My people, the Children of Israel, out of Egypt."

Even though he was actually hearing God's voice, the human part of Moses feared. He said, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring these people out of Egypt?"

God replied, "Certainly I will be with you; and this is a sign that I've sent you: When you bring the people from Egypt, you'll serve God on this very same mountain."

"But Lord," argued Moses, "these people don't know about serving You. When I tell them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me unto you,' and they say, 'Who is this God? What is His name?' what shall I tell them?"

Moses doubted and feared and anticipated trouble as much as any of us do when we are faced with a new job to do for the Lord. He said to

the Lord, "They won't believe me or listen to me; they'll say, 'The Lord hasn't appeared to you!'"

So the Lord gave Moses two amazing signs. With the first he threw his rod down and it became a powerful serpent until he picked it up by the tail and it became a stick again. The second sign was the change in Moses' skin when he put his hand inside his shirt and took it out. When he did this, his hand became covered with the decaying, horrible disease of leprosy. Putting it back inside his shirt and taking it out again made his hand whole again.

"If they won't believe these signs, pour river water on the ground and it will turn to blood. Then they'll believe," said God.

Still Moses feared and doubted and tried to get God to pick someone else to do this new, unheard-of job. This adult man told God, "Lord, I'm not a good speaker. I've never been a good speaker. I'm slow of speech and slow of tongue."

"Who made your mouth?" the Lord asked. "Go, and I'll be with your mouth and teach you what to say."

Yet Moses still feared and told God to send anyone but him. Finally, the Bible tells us, the Lord was angry and He told Moses that He'd send Moses' brother, Aaron, to help him. Aaron was good in speech. The Lord instructed Moses, "I will speak unto you and you will tell Aaron and he will be a spokesman for you to the people of Israel. But you take this rod in your hands, with which you will perform signs."

So Moses put aside his great fears of what people would think, and what if no one believed him, and step by step, he followed God's instructions for a great plan to establish a brand new nation, free from slavery and free to serve God. A man too scared to say 'yes' at first let God change him to be a leader of a mighty nation. The Pharaoh did finally let the people go and many hard-earned lessons later, a new generation of believers served God in truth—thanks to one man who let God overcome his fears and use him.



\$\$ MONEY \$\$

By John Griffith

It has been said that money is the root of all evil. I don't know. It could be quite enjoyable. We who have been around for a while understand how money, if properly managed, can complement our lives. Yet, if we focus too hard and too long on it, it can destroy, or, should I say, *we* can destroy ourselves with it. God allows us natural riches in life which help us enjoy living. Our attitude and/or usage of them either work for us or against us. One thing is certain, we as disciples of Christ must keep focused on Him who gives rather than the gift we receive.

"But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (I Timothy 6:9-10)

But wait, money isn't evil, it's the *love* of money. Our problem isn't in our wallets, it's in our hearts and minds; it's attitude. In Matthew 19, we read of a rich young ruler who questioned Christ on what he should do to inherit life. This young man stated that he kept all of the basic commandments from his youth. Christ then said,

"If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me." (verse 21)

If this individual truly wanted the kingdom of heaven, surely he would have done just that. But it was a great price for him, as his heart's aim was on his riches and not on the kingdom Christ represented, and

Jesus knew that. So what is Christ saying to us? Should I sell all that I have? No. I am responsible to care for myself and my family, so as not to be a burden on others. I should, however, be willing to leave all tangible substance for Christ's sake. I should be more in love with God's kingdom than the natural blessings He has allowed us to enjoy. In this, I keep God first and all other things second.

"No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Luke 16:13)

Mammon isn't just money; it can be any physical possession or worldly activity. The preceding verse brings to mind those whom we have all come across, who have the attitude that the Church makes us give up too much. Who, then, am I serving? The Church gives life to us, it gives eternal hope and joy, it gives us salvation through Christ. In my weakest moment, I should not entertain the thought that I am "missing" something. Jesus died on the cross for you and me; let's not insult Him!

Money is used to test our love for God. We must use our resources wisely. We must recognize that money can be used for good or evil purposes, therefore, choose good. Money has power, therefore, use that power to the honor of God. Finally, we must use our possessions to foster faith and obedience to God, who gave it to us. If we manage our finances properly, we can use our blessings to the good of others. We can display honesty in our transactions in money matters, and our integrity will assist us in making those greater, future business decisions.

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and

the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." (I John 2:15-17)

Manage your possessions wisely, or they will manage *you*. Don't become a slave to the natural aspect of life. Do you think or worry about money matters frequently? Is it hard for you to give money away? Do you find yourself too far in debt? Do you spend a great deal of time trying to make more money? Do you care too much for what you have attained naturally? Do you spend time thinking about what you *haven't* attained naturally? If so, begin steering your life toward the spiritual blessings God has for you. Don't make the wrong choice, as the rich young ruler made as he walked away from Christ, the Giver of eternal life.

"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." (I Timothy 6:6-8)

Give it to the Lord, all your problems and donations, too. Is it possible that our donations to Church indicate to some extent our priorities in life? Part of our adopted money management system should include giving to support the Church's work of bringing salvation to others.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver." (II Corinthians 9:6-7)

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Counting our many blessings

By Debbie Kall

As we name them one by one, we can see that the Lord has truly blessed our Cleveland, Ohio Branch, from the time of our Sister Peggy Mance's baptism. Through her struggle with cancer, she touched the hearts of many in her path of life, even though it was short in the eyes of man.

Peggy called for her baptism on January 24, 1993. Her uncle, Brother Vince Gibson, brought her into the waters of regeneration. Sister Peggy was confirmed by Brother Al Mayher, another uncle. A great spirit was present throughout our meeting. Though the Lord called her home on August 4, 1993, she inspired many whom she met on her way. Brother Mayher spoke from Isaiah 40:6-8 as many came to pay their respects to the family.

Before Peggy's passing, many more were baptized. A friend of Peggy's, Julia Moore, was baptized on April 4, 1993 by Brother Al Mayher. Also her sister, Dianna Gibson, on April 25, 1993, by Brother Vince Gibson, and her stepbrother, Dwane Werley, on May 9, 1993.

We also rejoiced over the baptism of Dennis Bartuccio, son of Sister Philomena Bartuccio of Cape Coral, Florida. He was baptized while visiting Florida, attending a family wedding. He gave his testimony as follows:

"I knew the Church all my life, blessed as a child and attending through my late teens. When I was nineteen, I had a powerful experience. During a violent allergic reaction to an anesthetic, I earnestly prayed, and the Spirit of the Lord calmed me and separated me from my physical body. At the time I had a great desire for baptism, but I re-

pressed my feelings.

"In 1980, at my father, Brother Ross Bartuccio's funeral, the Spirit of God called me again. As time passed, however, it was easy to slip back into my daily routine. Many years went by, and I heard about different family members joining the Church. At the blessing of my brother Fred's grandson, my sister, Sister Geri Gawronski, introduced me to *The Songs of Zion*. I read how Sister Buffington was thinking about the children of the saints and wondered why they put off joining the Church. I thought to myself, 'She is talking about me.'

"As I continued to attend church over the next few months, I felt the Spirit of God each time I was there. In one particularly spirit-filled meeting, I thought I heard a familiar voice singing. It was my departed sister, Albina Kukal. I was ready to ask for my baptism right then and there, but I wanted my wife and two children to be present. I couldn't wait to go home and tell them, and ask them to come to church with me next Sunday.

"We had planned to attend my nephew Larry Gawronski's wedding in Florida a few weeks later. My wife suggested that my mother and sisters would love to be present at my baptism, and asked if I wouldn't mind waiting until then.

"So as not to take any spotlight away from the wedding on Saturday, I had to keep my plans to myself. I did share it with my brother-in-law, Brother Bill Gawronski, and Brother Ken Staley, whom I had met for the first time. We decided that it was a good idea to just keep it amongst ourselves until the Sunday service. Brother Ken would speak with the other elders.

"The wedding happened on Saturday, and on Sunday, I stood up and told my story. We went to Bimini Basin (where I first learned to ski) and Brother Ken baptized me."

God Brings the Children Home

Greetings in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Spartanburg, SC Mission had the privilege of witnessing another soul come unto the Lord. On December 12, 1993, Maria Peterkin surrendered her life to God at the water's edge. Sister Maria was baptized by Brother Harold Littlejohn, and Brother Darrell Rossi laid hands on her for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit. Sister Maria is the daughter of the later Brother Nathan Peterkin and Sister Carmela Peterkin of the Spartanburg Mission. Although having been raised around the Church as a child, Sister Maria refused the call of God early on in her life. She testified that she has since suffered many hardships after rejecting God's call. So when God called again, she said that she was not going to let this opportunity pass her by a second time.

Sister Maria lives in Austell, Georgia, and she will be attending the Atlanta, GA Mission. Please pray for our newly-baptized sister, that God may give her strength and supply all of her needs. On the day of her baptism, her two year-old grandson, Corey, was blessed in the Church by Brother Darrell Rossi.

We then broke for a season of testimony. Sister Maria testified that her baptism was the happiest day of her life. Testimony was followed by our Lord's Supper and feet washing. It was a blessed and a full day. Praise God!

Much Love in Christ,
Sister Regina Alverson

More Blessings in Six Nations

On Sunday, September 12, 1993, our hearts were filled with great joy as a young man, Gordon Hill, made a covenant to serve God. He had had a few personal experiences prior to his baptism, one being

a dream in which he saw himself being baptized and Jesus telling him his sins were forgiven. Praise God!

We met at church and praised God through singing *The Songs of Zion* with the beautiful piano playing of Brother Eugene Amormino from the Detroit Inner City Branch. We felt very blessed as we sang these songs, as each hymn gives us a vision of God's love and glory.

At the water's edge, we sang two of Brother Gordon's favorite hymns, *Sing Hallelujah* and *My Lord Can*. Brother Eugene baptized Gordon in the Grand River on the Six Nations Reserve, and our hearts rejoiced to have a "new name written down in glory."

Brother Eugene spoke to us about the importance of putting God first in our lives. He illustrated to us Abraham, and how dearly he loved his son Isaac, but, nevertheless, he was faithful and obeyed God's commandment in preparing to offer Isaac as a sacrifice.

Can we do as Abraham? Can we trust God explicitly and mean it when we say, "*Thy will be done*"? God is the Giver of all things, and if He asks something of us, we must be willing to obey. God allowed Isaac to be spared because of Abraham's obedience, and then promised Abraham a great blessing (Genesis 22). Brother Eugene then explained how sacrifices were done away with, when God made the ultimate sacrifice and gave us His only begotten Son who died for our sins. Jesus endured all the pain inflicted upon Him (while He was here in the flesh) during the crucifixion, and then bore all our sins and died for us. Three days later Jesus rose from the grave, giving us the promise of eternal life! Hallelujah! All we need do is follow God's word, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and walk daily in it, and repent and be baptized in the same baptism Jesus had. He set the example for us to follow.

Now that Jesus is in heaven, He intercedes for us to our Heavenly Father. When we pray to God, we ask it in Jesus name, as we are unworthy to ask God anything

without going through His Son. Jesus also told us He would send a comforter to be with us. The comforter is the Holy Spirit. Brother Eugene laid hands on our new Brother Gordon for the reception of the Holy Ghost. This Spirit is within us after we are baptized, and we must acknowledge Him and He will guide us and work within us.

After the meeting, we had a luncheon to welcome our new brother in Christ. We were able to fellowship with our visiting friends from the area, as well as with Sister Anne Wright, her son Ken, and grandson Bryan from Windsor, Ontario. It's always a great blessing for us to have visitors in our midst.

Please remember our young Brother Gordon in your prayers as he endeavors to serve God in his daily life, that he may be a testimony to all his family and friends.

May God bless you all is our prayer.

Sister Patti (Wright) Saliga

Ft. Pierce, FL

By Florence Catena

On December 5, 1993, our morning service commenced with beautiful voices singing Christmas hymns. Wonderful sermons were delivered by Brothers Frank Rogolino and Norman Campitelle. Brother Sam Costarella felt to pay tribute to Brother Paul D'Amico, whose demise saddened many.

Our fellowship meeting brightened our day when Susan Marie Giovannone gave a touching testimony, followed with a request to be baptized! Then, much to our joy, Charles Douglas Giovannone also surrendered himself to God. (They were just married in a beautiful service on November 27.) We then sang *Ring the Bells of Heaven*.

A great blessing was felt as the brothers and sisters gathered at the water's edge to witness Brother Norman Campitelle baptizing Brother Doug and Sister Susan. Upon

returning to church, our new converts were confirmed by Brothers Rogolino and Costarella.

Praise God for the Youth who are obeying the Gospel!

New name in Tampa, FL

By Linda D. Walton

In September, 1993, Wilhelm and Judy Steding traveled to visit the brothers and sisters in Guatemala, Central America. On September 26, they journeyed about 30 miles from the crowded city to a beautiful lake in the country, where Wilhelm was baptized by Brother Luis Marroquin.

As confirmation to the Lord's calling of Brother Wilhelm into His Church, the Lord gave a sister a vision. While the elders laid hands on Brother Wilhelm for the reception of the Holy Ghost, the sister saw a crown of gold being placed on his head. Praise God!

To celebrate this beautiful spiritual happening, On October 14 our new brother invited the Tampa Branch to his home to view the videotape of his baptism. This day was also our brother's natural birthday. "We celebrated with good food and good friends," to quote our brother's wife, Judy.

Brother Wilhelm has traveled to Guatemala on several occasions and has been deeply moved by the love and humility of the brothers and sisters in that part of the vineyard. The members of the Tampa Branch have been blessed in witnessing a transformation take place in our brother's life. We, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, know that a work performed by the Lord is nothing short of perfection.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

McGuire, Harry and Marie
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FLORIDA continued . . .

Over the years, we have grown with Branches and Missions in Lake Worth (formerly West Palm Beach), Ft. Pierce, Miami, Hollywood, Cape Coral, Tampa, Palm Harbor, Quincy, and work established in Homestead, New Orleans, Orlando, and the Indian Reservations.

We look forward to the day when Sister Faragasso's dream will come about—that throughout the state, the Gospel's light will be shining in many cities.

CONTEXT continued . . .

onomy 10:20, quoted in Matthew 4:10)

Now therefore what is under thine hand? Give me five loaves of bread in mine hand, or what there is present. And the priest answered David, and said, There is no common bread under mine hand, but there is hallowed bread; if the young men have kept themselves at least from women. And David answered the priest, and said unto him, Of a truth women have been kept from us about these three days, since I came out, and the vessels of the young men are holy, and the bread is in a manner common, yea, though it were sanctified this day in the vessel. So the priest gave him hallowed bread: for there was no bread there but the shewbread, that was taken from before the Lord, to put hot bread in the day when it was taken away. (I Samuel 21:3-6, alluded to in Matthew 12:3)

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings. (Hosea 6:6, quoted in Matthew 12:7)

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom

my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth. (Isaiah 42:1-3, quoted in Matthew 12:17)

And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed. (Isaiah 6:9-10, quoted in Matthew 13:14)

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. (Psalm 118:22-23, quoted in Matthew 21:42)

The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. (Psalm 110:1, quoted in Matthew 22:43)

Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the Lord: we have blessed you out of the house of the Lord. (Psalm 118:26, quoted in Matthew 23:39)

The above are just a few passages taken from this author's vast collection of scripture "taken out of context."

The Church of Jesus Christ has used Old Testament scripture to substantiate its Faith and Doctrine by the direction of God's Holy Spirit. Let the opponents of the Apostasy and Restoration and the Book of Mormon deride and/or condemn their adherents, the fact is self-evident: If God is for us, who can be against us?

MESSAGE continued . . .**EVANGELISTS ACKNOWLEDGED**

The two evangelists who have retired from the Quorum because of advanced years and illness are James Campbell and Meredith R. Griffith.

Brother Campbell, of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch, had been ordained an evangelist in October, 1959. His faithfulness to the Quorum of Seventy and his exemplary labors in the Pennsylvania District have been highly noteworthy. He also was very active as a Librarian at the General Church level.

Brother Griffith has been an evangelist since April, 1969. Also from Monongahela, he had served as Chairman of the General Board of Missions for many years. He was very active in promoting the missionary work of the Church, and his pronouncements to the General Conference on spreading the Gospel are memorable.

The passing of Brothers Idris Martin and Peter H. Capone were also reported. A member of the Monongahela Branch, Brother Martin had been an evangelist since June, 1957, and had served valiantly even though ill for some time. A stalwart in the Pennsylvania District, he was very well known for his love of history and its impact on the Gospel, having served in the Church's historical endeavors.

Brother Capone departed from this life on Sunday, November 7, 1993 immediately after baptizing his granddaughter, as already reported in *The Gospel News*. An evangelist since November, 1989, he had served actively in the Mission-Ontario mission fields, most recently at the Muncey, Ontario Indian Reservation. His dedication and perseverance, as was the case with the other three brothers, will be greatly missed as was sadly noted at the conference.

Plaques are presented to long-time and retired evangelists, and to the families of departed members by the Quorum of Seventy in their districts.

NEWLY ORDAINED

The newly-ordained evangelist is Brother George Frank Arthur of Nigeria, Africa. He was ordained this past February 20, when Evangelists Joseph Ross and Joseph Perri were in Africa on their recent visit. Brother Arthur's feet were washed by Evangelist Edem A. Ebong of Nigeria, and he was ordained an evangelist by Brother Perri. Brother Ross had prayed for the Lord's direction and blessing just prior to the ordination.

The other evangelist there is Brother E. A. U. Arthur, who is president of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria and Paramount Ruler of over five million Nigerian people. He is 112 years old.

DISTRICT EVANGELIST CHAIRMEN

The current Quorum of Seventy District Chairmen were announced. They are Atlantic Coast, Matthew Rogolino; Michigan-Ontario, Nephi

DeMercurio; Ohio, Russell Martorana; Pacific Coast, Paul Liberto; Pennsylvania, Richard Scaglione; Southeast, John Griffith; and Southwest, Dwayne Jordan.

MONEY continued . . .

It is suggested that all saints establish a family budget, and consider the following budgetary items, as provided by Christian Financial Concepts:

Tithe to Church	—10% of net income
Housing	—38%
Food	—12%
Automobiles	—15%
School/Child	— 8%
Insurance	— 5%
Debts	— 5%
Recreation	— 5%
Clothing	— 5%
Medical Expense	— 5%
Savings	— 5%
Investments	— 5%
Miscellaneous	— 5%

Obviously, percentages will vary according to household priorities. The percentages suggested are maximums. Each household should adjust them to total 100% of net income.

"Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established." (Proverbs 15:22)

However we regulate the affairs of life, we pray God's blessing upon us, that we might find the riches of God's outpouring to the believer such as was received by the Apostle Paul of old.

"I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:12-13)

OBITUARIES

FRANK DeMERCURIO

Frank DeMercurio passed away on July 10, 1993. His parents were Sister Antonia (Jennie) and the late Brother Giuseppe DeMercurio of Branch #3 in Detroit, Michigan, where Frank attended all his life.

He is survived by his mother; brothers Victor, Vincent (Jim), Joe, Brother Nephi; a sister, Sister Angeline Trovarelli, also of Branch #3; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and a grandnephew.

Even though his illness was serious, Frank's battle with cancer was a courageous one. Frank grew up surrounded by the love of the brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ. He knew all about God and His love. Because of this love, when his illness was so bad and his mind was failing, his knowledge and his love for God were still there. He asked God into his heart shortly before leaving this world behind.

ANTONIO MOLISANI

Brother Antonio Molisani of Detroit Branch 1 passed on to his eternal reward on January 13, 1994. He was born on March 4, 1885, and was baptized into the Church in 1921, one of the charter members of the Church in

Detroit, Michigan.

Services were conducted by his grandson, Brother Ken Lombardo of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch, assisted by Brother Peter Scolaro. Another grandson, Thomas Lombardo, delivered the eulogy.

Our brother is survived by five children, Sister Mary Andruciolli, Sister Lydia Lombardo, Brother Salvatore (Sam) Molisani, Achille (Augie) Molisani, and Sister Rosalinda Dix; along with eight grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren. His remarkable testimony and consistent life were an inspiration and an example to generations of saints, family, friends, and neighbors. He will be greatly missed by all.

LENA MISKOV

Sister Lena Miskov of the Lorain, Ohio Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ passed from this life on March 28, 1994 at the age of 68.

Her funeral was conducted by Brothers Mark Naro and Joseph Calabrese.

Our sister is survived by her husband of 46 years, Glen, two sons, five grandchildren, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews. Those who knew her will miss her dearly.

Children Blessed

Vincent Joseph Palermo, son of Sam and Dena Palermo, was blessed on June 13, 1993 at Cape Coral, Florida by Brother Ken Staley.

Kaleb Ross Martorana, born October 26, 1993, was blessed on December 12, 1993 in Niles, Ohio by his father, Brother Brian Martorana.

Gabriella Anna Cihomsky, daughter of John and Theresa Cihomsky, was blessed on January 16, 1994, at the San Diego Branch, by her grandfather, Brother Walter Cihomsky.

On February 20, 1994, Brother Ike J. Smith asked the blessing over Nora Ellie Perales and Yecenia Martinez at the Tampa, Florida Branch.

Brother Larry Champine blessed Katie Lynn Nichols, daughter of Brother Paul and Cheryl Nichols, on March 6, 1994 at Branch #1 in Roseville, Michigan.

BAPTISM

Jennifer Calabrese became Sister Jennifer of the Lorain, Ohio Branch on March 20, 1994, when she was baptized by Brother Russell Martorana. Hands were laid on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

JUNE 25 THROUGH JULY 1

ANTIOCHIAN '94

"come plant your feet on higher ground"

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
-Lehl & Nephil

"THE BEST WEEK
YOU'LL EVER SPEND!"
-Peter & John

L I G O N I E R P E N N S Y L V A N I A

GMBA Presents "ANTIOCHIAN '94" Featuring "COME PLANT YOUR FEET ON HIGHER GROUND" Executive Producer GMBA Directed By RONALD GIOVANNONE Assistant Director TOM LIBERTO Registration KAREN & MIKE PANDONE Accommodations JERRY MORLE Seminars Director PAUL A. PALMIERI Sports Director TOM D'ORAZIO Adult Crafts LETTI BECKER Children Seminars CAROLYN PARRAVANO Children Sports CINDY PARRAVANO Children Crafts SHANNON LAMBERT Featuring "THE GMBA CHOIR" Directed by KEN LOMBARDO Also Featuring "GMBA Late Night" Starring LARRY ALI Canteen Provided by FRED D'ANTONIO

SFW SPIRIT FILLED WEEK

LADIES

Are you tired of the same old routine, day in, day out?

How about a long weekend with the Lord and your Sisters in Christ?

Mark your calendar for June 1, 2, 3 and 4, 1995. The General Ladies' Uplift Circle has a planned weekend just for you.

Watch for details in future issues of the Gospel News.

The Gospel News

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA.

June, 1994

Volume 50, No. 6

Memories of Blessings

By Brother Wayne Martorana

A short time ago, I received a telephone call. Through the conversation, I was asked, "How long have you been working with the NAICC? The question evoked a few thoughts, and many wonderful memories of the goodness of God, which I would like to share. NAICC stands for "North American Indian Cultural Center," an Akron, Ohio-based organization for the benevolence and welfare of Native American people. The organization services all 88 Ohio counties.

During the mid-1970s, while I was still in college, Brother Vince Gibson contacted a few brothers and informed them that there would be a work beginning with the Native Americans in Akron. Brother Vince already had a successful affiliation with a Native American organization in Cleveland, Ohio. Upon this notice, Brothers Richard Santilli, Jon Genaro and myself frequently visited the Akron Center bringing food, clothing, emotional support and a message of the Gospel for their people to all that would hear. Our visits were the beginning of a beautiful, long-lasting relationship with the founders of NAICC, Bob and Mary

Hosick. Bob and Mary were both Native Americans with a deep love and concern for their people. This love for Native Americans was the common thread which bound us together for several years.

We spent numerous hours in the Hosick home enjoying sweet fellowship and many discussions about the Book of Mormon. The Hosicks accepted the Book of Mormon as a history of their people. As we would share with them the prophecies, the Choice Seer's coming, and the future gathering of their people, Bob would often relate Native American legends which coincided with the scripture and kept those same hopes alive among their people. Bob and Mary acknowledged the "Great Spirit," the Church, and the prayers of the saints for much of the success and growth of the NAICC, which occurred in a relatively short period of time.

For several months, the NAICC was confined to Akron and the surrounding area. However, they now service the statewide region. This growth was important because it enabled the needs of Native Americans to be met throughout the state, rather than just in a small locality. The Hosicks tied the growth of this not-for-profit organization to their acquaintance and relationship with The Church of Jesus Christ. The Hosicks would

often say, "There is just something special about your Church people." We know that difference was only made possible by the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.

The Hosicks were never baptized into the Church, but that did not diminish our love and respect for one another. Bob and Mary were a team who had great concern for their people in particular and mankind in general. As a result, they would often open their home on the spur of the moment to those in need of lodging. They freely shared their substance, made frequent personal sacrifices, and would often respond to a 3:00 a.m. call of a young person in distress. The Hosicks also placed several runaway children in foster homes and found employment for those moving between Native American reservations and urban life. As an aside, God has since called Bob and Mary to their reward, within a few years of each other.

The Lord worked in various ways to reward our labors. We would like to share a few of those blessings. During 1979, at one of our visits to the Akron Center, much to my surprise, a recruiter from a company near my home was in attendance. He was searching for Native Americans with a particular job qualification. After the meeting,

(Continued on Page 7)

Apostles' Insights

By Russell Cadman

"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people. Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Revelation 14:6-7)

These verses, being fulfilled in the coming forth of the Restoration of the Gospel, opened up a dispensation of time that has hardly been equalled in history. We don't want to take away from the great events of the past, such as God's bringing the Children of Israel out of bondage, or the birth of Christ and His ministry,



Apostle Russell Cadman

but because of the wickedness of man and his rejection of the things of God, these periods of time and the glory of them were soon taken from mankind.

The angel's restoring of the Gospel has brought back the Church that is to remain on the earth to usher in the glory of Zion, and eventually the coming of the thousand-year reign of Christ on this earth. This is perhaps a period of time of nearly two thousand years in duration.

The period of time from Creation until God destroyed mankind from the earth (with the exception of Noah and his family) was one thousand six hundred fifty-six years. The church that Christ established in Jerusalem and the authority thereof were taken from the earth after five hundred sixty years. As we understand the scriptures, the church on this land endured for about four hundred twenty years.

We see, by the promises of God unto our people, that we have not only a glorious period of time given to us in the Restoration, but also a very long period of time in the future, in which only success will come to us, and not failures, as in the past.

I would like to write of some scripture that is very seldom referred to and that has a direct bearing on the events leading up to the people of Lehi and of Mulek coming to North and South America, and eventually to the Restoration of the Gospel.

In Genesis Chapter 48, Jacob asked God to bless the two sons of Joseph, Ephraim and Manasseh. Jacob told Joseph that Manasseh would become a people, but that Ephraim would become a multitude of nations. We understand by the Book of Mormon that they became this multitude of nations on North and South America, where the Gentiles at the time of Columbus found them as roving nations, or "tribes."

In the 49th Chapter of Genesis, Jacob tells his sons what will befall them in the last days. In verses 22-26, he tells Joseph that his descendants (branches) are to cross the sea (run over the wall) and come to the American continent, the land blessed

of God above all other lands after the waters of the great flood receded in Noah's day.

The 33rd Chapter of Deuteronomy tells of Moses blessing the Children of Israel before his death. Verses 13-17 pronounce a blessing upon Joseph's land and describe the great productivity of that land—America.

Psalms 85, verses 11-12, tells us that "truth shall spring out of the earth." The psalm speaks of the coming forth of the gold plates which, after translation, has given us the Book of Mormon. It refers to the good, or righteousness, and how the land brings forth in the Restoration, speaking of the blessings of this land of America.

Finally, in Hosea 8:12, we are told that God has written unto Ephraim the great things of His law (the Book of Mormon), but they were counted as a strange thing. When we consider how great is the message and the Law of God contained therein, we marvel that this world has thought of it as a very strange thing and has rejected the Restored Gospel. The Book of Mormon contains the pure Gospel of Christ, not tampered with by man; and tells of this great nation, the United States, that God would raise up on this land. It tells how this is the land of Restored Israel, where the great Kingdom of Zion will completely cover North and South America. There will be brought about a condition of glory that has never been on the earth for such a long period of time. It speaks of the building of a new Jerusalem on this land, and the rebuilding of the old Jerusalem in Israel, and the promise of Christ coming to Zion. Space does not permit me to continue writing of the great things which God has caused to be written in the Book of Mormon.

A Tribute to My Father

Six weeks before his 109th birthday, the Lord called my father, Brother Antonio Molisani, home. We miss him terribly, but we are assured he is resting in the Paradise of God. He left a legacy that cannot be measured in money. He made his commitment to serve the Lord in 1921, and remained faithful until the day he died. Many people would ask him what he attributed his longevity to, and he would always point his finger heavenward and say, "Only God He knows."

I often look back on my childhood and remember fondly his perseverance in serving the Lord even in the midst of adversity. Life was a continual struggle. We went through the terrible Depression, which lasted several years. My father was out of work, and consequently, we lost our home. My parents never seemed distraught over their circumstances. My mother would always say, "The Lord will provide," and He did. Whatever hardship they endured only produced more inner strength. Even though our family experienced many setbacks, we were blessed with many miracles and healings. The elders were always called, and my parents knew without a doubt that the Lord would answer their prayers. Money was as scarce as hen's teeth, and going to the doctor in those days was unheard of, so their only recourse was to call upon God. My father's favorite expression was, "Sifu no godda God in your life, you no godda noting."

The best way to describe my parents is that they were like diamonds in the rough. In their own unpolished way, they tried to teach us values—high moral standards, honesty, respect for all men—but most important, they gave us sound christian training.

My father was a disciplinarian. He had eyes that could see around corners. He knew what we were doing or where we were every single

minute. If everyone had parents like ours, there would be no need for juvenile courts. The words "delinquency, drugs, and dope" were unheard of. In our day, "drugs" meant aspirin or cough syrup. My father's philosophy was, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." The honor brought to him by his children was the standard he used for measuring his success.

By today's standards, we were raised all wrong. Today, some would accuse my father of child abuse. Some children may grow up to be good, upright citizens *in spite of* their parents, but we are what we are *because of* our parents. They depended upon God, knowing that they themselves were uneducated and unpolished, and needed a Higher Authority for guidance in rearing their children.

I could write volumes on my father—we lived together for 68 years. His life was truly a rags-to-riches saga. He was abandoned at birth by his parents and raised by a cruel foster family. He lived in the barn, and slept on the hay loft. His food was brought out to him because he was not allowed in the house. He was abused and mistreated. The family used him as slave labor, only to tend sheep. At age 16 a good samaritan befriended him, and gave him money to buy his first pair of shoes and the fare to board a boat to America. Arriving on these shores, distraught and lonely, not knowing the language, having no parents, friends, or relatives, no schooling or any skills, he eked out a living by pulling horses for 50 cents a day. At this point in his life, he was an atheist. He reasoned that if there were a God in heaven, why was his life so miserable? Many times he cursed the day he was born.

But God had a plan. He never realized it until 1921, when he met with The Church of Jesus Christ. It was then that he finally found a family—his spiritual family—who truly loved him. They were the Frammolino and Gianzante families. My father was the sixth member of the Church in Detroit, which until

that time consisted only of these two couples and one of their daughters. The Lord blessed and multiplied this group. Today, there are many branches in Michigan and Ontario as a result of this little group.

In retrospect, after my father committed his life to Christ, he would have flashbacks of the many times he had cursed God for his misfortune, not knowing that all the while the Lord was actually looking after him.

It was this tenacity that I saw in him and my mother, putting Christ first in their lives, that taught me and brought me through the many crises in my own life. I can truly say, even as Nephi said, that I was "born of goodly parents," and I thank God for having them.

Lydia Lombardo

Announcement

For June, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

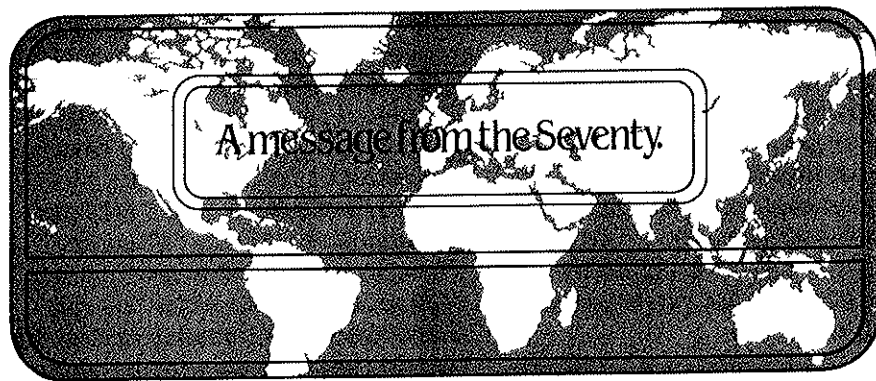
1 year	4.00%
2 years	4.50%
3 years	4.75%
4 years	5.00%
5 years	5.50%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Evangelists Visit Five Nations in 50 Days

*By Carl J. Frammolino,
Evangelist Editor*

Evangelists Joseph Ross and Joseph Perri visited five nations in 50 days during February and March of 1994. They traveled to the Netherlands, Nigeria, Ghana, Germany, and Italy, where they were joined by Brother Michael LaSala.

A summary of their report is presented as follows.

On their flight to Lagos, Nigeria, the brothers had a stopover in the Netherlands, during which they met for three and a half hours with Brother Jan Schut in Amsterdam. On their return from Africa, they spent more time in the Netherlands.

NIGERIA

The brothers arrived in Lagos on Thursday evening, February 10. The next day, they visited with Brother Adrian Etim, Lagos District Superintendent, and had a lengthy discussion about the present status, needs, and expected future growth of the Church there.

The Church in Nigeria is spread over a large metropolitan area, and additional elders are needed. The importance of erecting a mission home on the property at Ikotun adjacent to our new church building was also expressed.

Saturday afternoon, they met with four officers representing a group of over 300 people in Ilorin, Kwara State (about five and a half

hours by motor vehicle from Lagos) who want to become affiliated with our Church. A thorough discussion followed, covering our faith and doctrine, beliefs, and ordinances. Their church structure, beliefs, and requirements for affiliating with us were also reviewed. Their beliefs were found to be very similar to ours, so plans were made to meet again when the brothers returned to Lagos en route to Ghana.

Sunday, Brothers Ross and Perri worshipped at a joint meeting with the members of the Lagos District at the church in Ikotun. After the services, everyone was served food prepared by the sisters.

Monday morning, they departed for Port Harcourt, where they were greeted by a large delegation of our people who had traveled four hours to welcome them. They then drove four hours to Abak and our mission house there. They first visited Brother E. U. A. Arthur, Nigerian Church President, who is 112 years old. Many elders were also waiting there to greet them.

Over the next two weeks, the brothers held church services at 45 of the 62 Nigerian church locations, visited the International Medical Assistance Clinic and the Secondary School three times, met with seven districts for church services, visited Brother Arthur three times, and went to see some afflicted members in

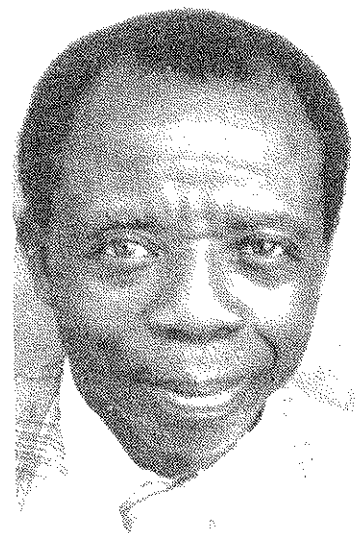
between. It was a very busy schedule.

A special assembly was held at The Church of Jesus Christ Secondary School in their honor, and they met with one thousand students, 40 teachers, and the administrative staff. After a prepared program, requests were made to them for a security fence, sports and home economics equipment, school machine shop electrification, communications and language arts teaching aids, typewriters, used musical instruments, and a student center for boarding students.

At church locations, they were greeted warmly by each person in attendance, and they heard how God has blessed and healed them.

Countless requests were made to the brothers throughout their travels. It is impossible to satisfy all these needs, and it is particularly sad, as they stated, "There is one heartbreaking request we get over and over, and this is that members need financial assistance to travel to and from church services. They do not have the means. Some live far from the church and cannot attend due to lack

(Continued on Page 12)



Bro. George F. Arthur of Nigeria, the Church's newest evangelist.

The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

One of the greatest challenges we face in maintaining our identity as Saints of the Most High God is dealing with the fact that we are called to live *in* the world, while not belonging *to* it. As we dwell here on earth, we are faced daily with the task of keeping the fire of God's Holy Spirit burning within us, while being surrounded by situations and influences which, if we yield to them, quickly douse the Spirit's flame.

In the face of such adversity, our natural defense is to distance ourselves from the conflict, and avoid the pain of engaging in the spiritual warfare which we, as soldiers of the Cross, have all been called—and equipped—to fight. In an effort to shelter ourselves from the world, we may find ourselves associating only with a small group of saints and friends, to the exclusion of all others—including visitors at Church, neighbors, and co-workers. However appealing it may be to the flesh (it certainly requires no workings of the Spirit within us), "avoidance" is not the life to which God has called us. Rather, He dispersed His disciples abroad to preach the Gospel to all of mankind, requiring them to charge the enemy head-on, and to depend upon His Spirit for strength and guidance.

Of course, we don't need to physically sequester ourselves from the world in order to keep God's will for mankind from being carried out through our lives. While it is good to learn everything we can from those who have gone before us, to blindly base our faith solely on what we were taught, and close our minds and hearts to greater understanding, will not provide us with the spiritual foundation we need to weather life's storms. Rather, we must continually seek the Truth, and build our faith one step at a time on our own experience. We each have a life to be lived, *in the world*, where our lights can shine forth in the darkness of sin and godlessness and bring lost souls to Christ.

Living in the world is risky business; it has been since the fall of man. There is certainly enough evil and falsehood out there for us to be swayed and deceived, unless our hearts and minds are firmly grounded in God's word and His Holy Spirit. But there can be no continual revelation from the throne of God, and, on a more prosaic level, no spiritual or emotional growth taking place in our lives, if we shut out all real thinking for the sake of not being deceived.

Avoidance—of the world, of analytical thinking, of living—places severe restrictions on our lives, restrictions which the Lord never intended to have a hold on us. The more abundant life that Jesus promised is the exact opposite—it is a life filled with anticipation and awareness at every turn, seasoned with both joy and sorrow, to be sure, but marked by an ever-deepening appreciation of God's infinite love for us, resulting in ever-increasing love and obedience toward Him, and an ever-growing burden to bring His salvation to mankind.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Do you ever have times when you want to do something very much, but are afraid? Do you ever have a really great idea, but are afraid to say it out loud? Are you worried to try something new because you can't do it perfectly?

Did you know that this isn't the way that God wants us to be? He wants us to trust in Him and use all of our talents.

Jesus told a story about a powerful man who had to go traveling to a far country. He called his servants to him before he left and asked them to care for his valuables while he was gone. He gave one servant five talents. (A talent was an amount of money in long-ago days. It was worth a certain amount of gold or silver.)

He gave a second servant two talents to care for. He gave his third servant one talent to care for.

Now, the man with the five talents went and put them to good use. Soon he had twice as many. So did the man who cared for two talents. But the man with one talent was afraid. He was even afraid to partially use his talent by working with someone else, sharing the responsibility, "lending" it. He buried it, hidden beneath the dirt.

When the powerful man came back, he called each of his servants. Great was the joy of the two servants who had used their talents and increased them. They had learned, and worked, and tried. They were made rulers over many things.

But the servant who believed the worst, and let his fears keep him



from trying, was in for a terrible disappointment. The powerful man took his one talent and gave it to the first servant who had doubled his five to ten. (Now that man could work with eleven talents!) But the man who had wasted his talent now had nothing. He was cast into outer darkness.

We have talents, too. We're supposed to use them and encourage others to use theirs, too. For example, if God gives you the gift of being able to sing, you should sing. Maybe you can learn to read music, too, and play a beautiful instrument. God could also use your talent to translate music into notes written on paper.

If you like to draw, or write, you could start a branch newsletter and share special dates and meetings with others. Then members can be reminded to send cards to others.

If you can say "hello" to a stranger who visits, you can make them feel less shy and more welcome. They might come back just because you cared. You have power. If you are willing to pray and ask the Lord to use you, you can reach out to others and share that love and light that the Love of Jesus has given you.

Remember what the Apostle Paul said in a letter to his friend, Timothy (II Timothy 1:7), "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

Start practicing and quit hiding. The Lord wants to give you even more.

With care,
Your friend, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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P	C	A	N	D	N	O	C	E	S	T

New Publication

The publication *Fasting and Praying* by Apostles Joseph Lovalvo, Robert Watson, and V. James Lovalvo is now available at the Print house. To order, write or call: Print House
8282 Boettner Rd.
P.O. Box 30
Bridgewater, MI 48115
(313) 429-5080

BLESSINGS continued . . .

I expressed my interest and qualifications. This was an answered prayer, because it was six months before I was to get married, and I had been asking God to provide me with a better job. Within one month, I changed jobs. Fifteen years later, I am still working for that company, my introduction to which God had so mysteriously arranged and provided that night.

Shortly after I was called as a minister, a special request came to one of our district conferences. The request was for the anointing of a woman, Marge Brown, who was critically ill in an Akron hospital. I later discovered that Marge was raised in the Church, but had not yet made a commitment to Christ. Because of my desire and familiarity with Akron, I volunteered. Although Marge was not expected to live, after prayer and anointing, and the prayers of the saints, God raised her up and within two weeks she returned home.

A short time later we held a few meetings in her home, per her request.

Due to work schedules, Marge was not able to attend Sunday services at the time. However, we could see and feel God's Spirit working with her. Several months later, we received a call that Marge was ready for baptism. There were also some surrounding circumstances. Marge was being treated for hypothermia, a condition whereby her body could not retain its normal temperature. She explained her desire to be baptized to the doctor, including how the ordinance is performed. He strongly cautioned against it because of her present condition. After much prayer, Marge's faith and desire prevailed. She was baptized in the winter, in water that was 35 degrees Fahrenheit. Sister Marge suffered no ill effects and is currently a faithful member of the Kent, Ohio Mission.

On another occasion, upon returning home from a NAICC meeting in Akron (a 55-mile trip), I

felt God's Spirit prompting me to stop at a particular home of a brother and sister. I resisted at first, because it was 10:30 p.m., later than I would normally stop to visit. With that same Spirit prevailing, I set aside my thoughts and stepped out in faith. Upon knocking at the door, I was greeted with, "Thank God you are here!" I learned that both had been sick in bed all day. With no minister in their vicinity, they had prayed that God would send someone to anoint them. God indeed had accomplished His purpose, as both the brother and the sister revived within a short time. As I returned home, I reflected on the scripture that tells how God never gives us a work to do unless He prepares a way that we may accomplish it.

In conclusion, God's direction truly has been wonderful, His Spirit supreme, and His grace bountiful. For the small labors we supply, God has always multiplied our blessings many times. May God bless your efforts as well.

Branch and Mission News

50th Spiritual Birthday

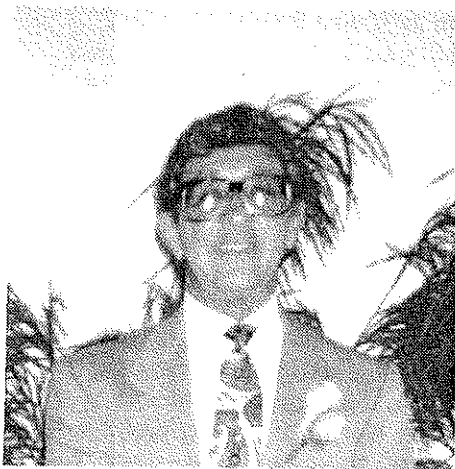
By Sis. Patti Saragosa

On November 7, 1993, the brothers and sisters at Branch #1 in Roseville, Michigan celebrated Brother Frank Conti's 50th spiritual birthday.

Presiding Elder Peter Scolaro asked Brother Frank to come forward to receive a special boutonniere, which was pinned on by Brother Frank's wife, Sister Virginia.

Afterwards, Brother Frank testified, "I thank God for being raised in the Church. From the age of six or seven, I can remember my parents bringing me to church. My father was a deacon and my mother was a deaconess. I remember quite well that morning at the old "Devine" branch. I had no intention

of getting baptized that day, but in our afternoon service, as the hymn *What a Friend* was played, it seemed to take on new meaning for me and as soon as the song ended, I jumped up and asked for my baptism. God has blessed me



Bro. Frank Conti

so much with a wonderful life and family, I can't thank Him enough for all that He's done for and given to me."

Brother Richard Thomas spoke that morning on the "steps" that must be taken in order to enter the Kingdom of God. We must allow God to take control of our lives, and take comfort in the fact that all of God's promises are readily available to us when we need them.

Brother Peter Scolaro's closing remarks were focused on II Corinthians 4, where the Apostle Paul states, "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." Brother Peter also remarked that today was Brother Tony Scolaro's 75th birthday.

What a good day it was to celebrate one brother's spiritual birthday and another's natural birthday. It was surely a good witness to all that God blesses us both spiritually and naturally when we trust in Him and give Him control of our lives.

Baptisms at Detroit Branch #1

By Patti Saragosa

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve . . . but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Surely the young people of our branch have hearkened to God's word and like Joshua of old, have made that wise decision to serve the Lord.

On January 9, 1994, our three new "Joshuas" were: Richard D. Thomas, Kimberly Perkins, and Brad Everett. Our morning service was opened by Brother Richard A. Thomas after we sang *He Touched Me*. Brother Richard spoke from 1 Samuel, chapters 1 and 2, concerning the birth of Samuel and how Samuel "grew up in the Lord."

Brother Richard said that even though Samuel was raised in the house of the Lord, he did not know who the Lord was. The Lord called Samuel three times, and Samuel did not know it was the Lord speaking. Brother Richard pointed out how similar this is to many of those who have "grown up in the Church," but have not yet asked for their baptism. Brother Richard then proclaimed, "Like Samuel, maybe the Lord is calling you today, and you might not realize Who it is that is calling. There will come a time when we will all have to stand before God and give an account for all the choices we have made. Regardless of the many experiences we may have had, and whether or not we know the word of God, the Bible and the Book of Mormon, unless one makes a commitment to God, one does not know God!"

Brother Peter Scolaro spoke next, relating to the congregation the different reactions of Eli and Samuel to the voice of the Lord. Eli finally perceived that it was the Lord who was calling young Samuel, and he told him to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." From then on it was up to Samuel, it was his

choice whether to listen or not. Samuel responded to the voice of the Lord, as should we.

During testimony Richard, the son of Brother Richard and Sister Lorraine Thomas, stood up and asked for his baptism, followed by Kimberly, the daughter of Sister Kathie and Larry Perkins. Brad, the son of Brother Tom and Sister Cindy Everett, asked for his baptism after the morning meeting.

A group of brothers then left the building early for the baptismal site on Lake St. Clair. These faithful brothers were out in weather that was seven degrees below zero, and had to cut through fourteen inches of ice! Richard was baptized by his father, Brother Richard Thomas. Brother Larry Champine baptized both Kimberly and Brad.

In our afternoon service, Richard was confirmed by his uncle, Brother Sam DiFalco, from the Sterling Heights Branch. Kimberly was confirmed by her grandfather, Brother Tony Scolaro, and Brad was confirmed by Brother Lou Pietrangelo. We thank God for three new young members in our branch.

Joyous Event in Spartanburg, SC

By Connie Marcantonio

On Sunday, January 23, 1994, the Spartanburg, SC Mission witnessed a new birth into God's kingdom as Henry Fowler rendered obedience to the Gospel. Our new brother was baptized on this cold January day by Brother Darrell Rossi, this being Brother Darrell's second baptism since his ordination into the priesthood last August.

As our two brothers braved the cold waters on this joyous occasion, it was truly a blessing to see our brother obey the calling in his life. However, as Brother Fowler later testified, as he entered the water, it did not feel cold, but felt very warm instead. It doesn't matter what month it is, or how cold it is, when God calls we must obey. If we don't

obey, and miss God the first time, we might not have that second chance.

After we left the waters of regeneration, we went back to the church where Brothers Darrell Rossi and Harold Littlejohn laid hands on Brother Fowler for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

We can be assured that as we rejoiced with our new brother this day, the angels, and all of Heaven, were also rejoicing as a new soul came into the kingdom of God, and a new name was written into the Lamb's Book of Life.

Blessings in Youngstown, Ohio

By Betty Gennaro

The saints of the Youngstown Branch 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 His presence and following His Spirit, the congregation arose and formed the 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. We can build up our spiritual strength in fasting and prayer, studying, partaking of the Holy Communion, and the ordinance of feet washing.

Brother Mike 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 Him say, "Welcome, my good and faithful servant."

The afternoon service brought forth humble testimonies of thanks to God. His blessings continued during

the ordinance of feet washing, as we sang *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 this morning.

On Sunday, May 2, 1993, the service was opened with the hymn *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.

We sang *I Surrender All* as Sister Donna Keener came forth to have hands laid on her for reinstatement. Brother Ralph Berardino offered a beautiful prayer renewing her into fellowship. A spirit of love and unity prevailed throughout the service. We enjoyed a beautiful day with the Lord.

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, Brother Don, during the previous 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 took David into the water, immersed him, and raised him up as our new brother in Christ.

Our service was opened by Brother Philip Jackson, then 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 on 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 direction, 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 my 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 came from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Ohio to witness this joyful day.

Notes from Rochester, NY

By Carmella D'Amico

On September 26, 1993, we were visited by the families of Brothers Frank Natoli, Wayne Martorana, and Bob Batson. They all came to the Rochester Mission that day for the ordination of Brother Andrew Locci as a teacher in the Church.

Brother Batson chose for his text Judges 6, the calling of Gideon to deliver the Israelites from the hands of the enemy. He exhorted to us that if we give our best to God, He will use us as He used Gideon, to do things that we could not possibly do by ourselves. Brother Natoli continued on the same subject, explaining how the angel told Gideon, "Surely I'll be with you." If God is with us, who can be against us?

Sister Kathy sang a solo, *For Those Tears I Died*, and sacrament was served. The children sang a song for us, and some gave their testimonies. Brother Wayne read the duties of a teacher. Brother Bob washed Brother Andrew's feet, and Brother Wayne ordained him. We sang the hymn *Ready*.

Many wonderful testimonies were given to confirm our brother's calling. A good spirit prevailed all through the service. A delicious lunch was served by the sisters and enjoyed by all.

Ordinations in Warren, OH

On December 5, 1993, the Warren, Ohio Branch and visitors from Youngstown, Niles, and Saline, MI witnessed the ordinations of Sisters Sandy D'Orazio and Lorie Prokup into the office of a deaconess.

Brother Wayne Martorana opened the meeting that day with the statement that when we are together, united in one mind, one spirit, and one accord, that the Lord said that He would be there. Brother Wayne said how he wanted us to hear the words of God, not his words. He explained how this was not only an important day for our sisters, but also for the branch, the district, and the Church, because two more souls have heard and accepted a call unto greater responsibility from God. The Lord is always calling unto the children of men, whether He is calling to repentance or to a greater work for Him. We must be submissive and obedient to these callings of God.

Jesus once said that if there are any great among you, let him be the servant of all. That is how the Lord deems greatness; by us submitting ourselves and our will unto the will of God. We all must continue to say, "Lord, I am willing to do the work, the labor, the task that you have for me." We all need to be servants unto the Lord.

Brother Wayne opened with Jeremiah, expounding on the calling to a greater level of service, relating the account of God calling Jeremiah as a prophet. God told Jeremiah that "before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee . . . for thou shalt go to all that I send thee . . . and the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth."

Brother Wayne explained that God knew that this day would come in the lives of our sisters. He saw them as they made their initial commitment to love and serve Him. He saw how they surrendered and

(Continued on Page 10)

WARREN, OH continued . . .

gave up the things of this world, so that they might take on the things of righteousness in the kingdom of God, as many of us had.

The Lord wants us to understand that this is not our work, that this is not our Church. We have only been called to be used as instruments. Whatever our weakness or deficiency is, if we would place it in the hands of God, He will help us to overcome it. God works with us, He inspires us, He gives us His Spirit. In the case of Jeremiah, God told him that He would give him the words to speak. That's how it will be for our sisters as they seek to be about the work and business of the Lord. Let us not depend on our own thoughts and desires, but through being constantly in prayer, let Him lead, guide, direct, and inspire us to where there is a need for a visit, for encouragement. As God touched the lips of Jeremiah, He will do the same with us.

Brother Jerry Giovannone followed, reiterating the words that Jeremiah spoke, and how Joshua didn't want to leave his people. God told him to be of courage, and He would be with him wherever he went. Brother Jerry spoke on how we depend upon the Spirit of God for strength and courage in all that we do. When God calls us, whether it's to be baptized or for an ordained office, we need to heed the call.

After the speakers, our attention was turned to the ordinations. Sister Sandy had her feet washed by her mother, Sister Annabelle Santilli, and Sister Tina Martorana washed Sister Lorie's feet. While the sisters were in the back of church preparing to be anointed deaconesses, Sister Annabelle spoke in the Spirit, saying, "Thus saith the Lord, I will bless you both and take care of you as long as you do My will. There are great things that My Church will do. Thus saith the Lord." Sister Lorie was ordained into the office of deaconess by her father, Brother Bob Ciarocchi, and Sister Sandy by her father, Brother Richard Santilli.

Many testimonies were given of the blessing that was felt in our midst this day. May God bless our newly-ordained sisters and lead, guide, and direct them with His Holy Spirit.

A Call to Service in Hollywood, Florida

By Ilene Coppa

On March 20, 1994, we woke up to a beautiful, sunny day. We looked forward to a wonderful feast at our Lord's table.

It had been several years since the Hollywood, Florida Branch called workers into ordained offices. After much prayer and consideration, four of our brothers in Christ were now called to a greater responsibility, taking upon themselves the offices of deacon, teacher, and elder.

We assembled ourselves early in eager anticipation of the Lord's blessings. Our visitors this day included many from Michigan, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and various branches and missions in Florida.

I mentioned to Brother Joseph Bittinger that we numbered 120 souls, whereupon he replied, "The same number as were in the upper room when Christ sent His Spirit down." We enjoyed community singing led by Brother Ken Staley, accompanied by Sister Tammy Morle. How wonderful to praise God in song!

Presiding Elder Dennis Moraco welcomed everyone present, and acknowledged the presence of our Brother Apostle Joseph Bittinger. After several more musical selections and the setting of the Communion table, Brother Bittinger opened the service in prayer. He stated, "You are the God of the universe, our coming King. Feed us, as we have need of Your Spirit."

Brother Dennis spoke of the various ordained offices, explaining that Brother Alex Marchando was being called to the office of deacon, Brothers John Catone and Roger Kirschenpfad were called to the office of teacher, and Brother Paul DiNardo

was called to the office of elder.

Brother Silverio Coppa spoke of Brother Alex's calling. He referred to the fact that Brother Alex was baptized into the family of God in the year 1924. Brother Silverio likened Alex's calling to that of Samuel, when he was in the temple with Eli. How without hesitation, Samuel responded to the voice of the Lord, to serve Him with a grateful heart.

Brother Joseph Catone Sr. then stepped to the podium to tell of the calling of Brothers John Catone and Roger Kirschenpfad, his son and son-in-law, respectively.

Brother Silverio spoke of Brother Paul DiNardo's calling. In so doing, Brother Silverio referred to his own calling, and spoke of the warmth of the office, of the love of God written on our hearts, which makes it possible to love mankind, and to accomplish our work in the vineyard of the Lord.

The candidates' lives in the Gospel were reviewed. Brother Moraco reminisced that as a young person, he would never have succeeded without the nurturing of the older brothers and sisters throughout the years.

Brother George Benyola of Lake Worth ministered to our brother candidates by placing the vessels of water for the washing of their feet. Brother Nick Ritz of Miami rose to wash Brother Alex's feet. He is Brother Alex's brother-in-law. During the feet washing, Sister Pauline Ritz saw their departed father at Alex's side. Both brother and sister were visibly blessed, along with the rest of the congregation gathered in our Father's house.

Brother Miguel Bicelis then washed Brother John Catone's feet, and Brother Skip Swanson knelt before Brother Roger Kirschenpfad to wash his feet. Finally, Brother George Kovacic reached for the towel, girded himself with it, and washed Brother Paul DiNardo's feet. The prayers that were offered could be heard by all present. They were truly inspired, filled with love for the individual brother, for all of the saints, and for The Church of Jesus Christ.

After we sang *Ye Who Are Called to Labor*, Brother Louis Vitto took the podium, and spoke on how the Spirit of God gives us the faith to accept the responsibility of His offices. Brother Dennis Moraco then directed the ministry to kneel around the candidates. Brother John D'Orazio offered a prayer, calling upon God to select the brothers who would ordain our candidates.

Brother Mark Kovacic ordained Brother Alex Marchando, Brother Joseph Catone Sr. anointed his son, Brother John Catone, Brother

Silverio Coppa laid his hands upon Brother Roger Kirschenpfad's head, and Brother Ken Staley ordained Brother Paul DiNardo an elder, after relating his own experience confirming Brother Paul's calling.

Each of our newly ordained brothers were given the opportunity to express themselves. They related their own experiences concerning their callings, and expressed how they felt this day. We were deeply touched by their sincere expressions.

During the observance of Communion, we sang *There's Some-*

thing about That Name.

As the ordinations took place, angels were seen encircling the elders. A personage was seen covering Brother Paul with a pure white robe as he was being ordained. When the first brother had his feet washed, the room filled up with the heavenly army of God. Each candidate was handed three swords; they were told to sheathe them for now. Brother Paul was given a sword and told to "Stand and be ready to do battle in the name of the Lord this day."

In another experience, many angels were seen throughout the auditorium during the washing of feet. An exquisite, bright white light shone and covered the entire priesthood. The angel of the Lord knelt with each brother who washed feet, while another sat next to each candidate.

Our hearts were lifted; tears of joy flowed freely. We are moving forward in the Lord's service. Ever grateful, we stand in awe and wonder. Thank you, Lord!

1993 Financial Results

Dear Readers:

The 1993 financial results are shown below.

DISTRICT	DISTRICT TOTALS		AVERAGE YEARLY DONATION PER MEMBER	
	1993	1992	1993	1992
ATLANTIC COAST	\$ 80,186	\$ 63,720	\$215	\$173
MICHIGAN/ONT.	121,859	124,708	238	239
OHIO	44,351	48,543	106	115
PACIFIC COAST	73,355	60,025	170	136
PENNSYLVANIA	116,645	119,044	244	248
SOUTHEAST	40,540	36,834	177	155
SOUTHWEST	27,680	19,736	152	93
TOTALS	\$504,616	\$474,610	\$186	\$166

Our total donations for 1993 were \$504,616.00, as compared to 1992's total of \$472,610.00. This means we were \$32,006.00 ahead of the previous year. We commend you for that great increase.

Since the Spending Plan for 1993 was \$566,853.00, we fell short of our goal by \$62,237.00. Translated into the real world of the Church, this means that some programs are not funded, or are not funded fully. It can also mean that a missionary effort is cut short, or a trip is not taken at all. While this may not seem too important, it very simply means that the Church is not fulfilling the Commission given by Christ, as found in Matthew 28:19-20.

The above figures, however, clearly answer the question raised in our previous bulletin, which showed the third quarter 1993 figures. The question was, "Can we improve our results?" The answer is obvious, since we *did* improve. It appears that we have answered the greater question, which is, "Can we do better, and can we do it on a consistent basis?"

May God bless each of us with the determination to be consistent saints in our giving, but even more importantly, in our daily service to Him!

General Church Finance Committee

O for a Heart to Sing God's Praise

'Tis good to read *The Gospel News*
When things look dismal and gray,
'Tis good to hear from east and west
And know many watch and pray.

O joy for blessings and for more
Baptisms to one God!
For so the word is yet obeyed,
"Go ye into all the world."

The brothers Cadman, Will and Al
From heaven rejoice and smile
To see the work of God go on
And welcome the British Isle.

Let God be praised, let God be praised
In Jesus' Holy Name!
He blesses us more than we deserve,
And giveth, and giveth again.

Sister Madeline Robinson
Clairton, PA Branch

MESSAGE continued . . .

of funds. . . . We assisted with our limited resources."

They also reported, "Everywhere we went, we were thanked for the 40 Naira Relief Aid given to each member at Christmas. They were grateful for this \$1.50 given at a time when it was greatly needed and appreciated. The reader cannot fully understand the appreciation and thanks that were extended by these people to the Parent Church."

It was noted that, if loans could be made, projects, such as a poultry farm, weaving industry, a fish hatchery, rice and garrie grinding mills, and palm oil extraction could provide gainful employment for some of our members.

The feeding of 55 orphans, which was begun by the Carr family, is being continued. Unfortunately, however, because of inflation and other economic conditions, the number of meals has had to be reduced. Funds come from private donations only.

On Sunday, February 20, over 1,300 people met at the Church Centre in Atai Otoro to witness the ordination of Elder George Frank Arthur as an evangelist. Brother Ross explained the procedure and the calling of an evangelist. As reported last month, his feet were washed by Evangelist Edem Ebong, and he was ordained by Brother Perri. There was local television, radio, and newspaper coverage of the event.

After the services the next Sunday, the brothers departed for Port Harcourt, and on Monday they traveled to Lagos, where they met with the officers of the church group with whom they had spoken after first arriving. They were informed that the people had fully accepted our Church, with our beliefs and ordinances. Then they formed a circle, held hands, and Brother Ross offered a prayer of thanksgiving. They stated, "We all embraced in love and parted, everyone with tears of joy. It was glorious indeed!"

That evening, the brothers met with the officers of the Lagos District. They discussed their needs, how the Church could be further expanded, the importance of

missionary efforts, and the labor and involvement required by each on a daily basis. As in all mission fields, they also requested more Bibles and Books of Mormon, always in short supply.

(Next month's column will cover the brothers' travels in Ghana, the Netherlands, Germany, and Italy.)

* WEDDINGS *

PERSHIN - REDDING

Brother Frank William Pershin and Sister Jill Ann Redding were united in marriage on August 28, 1993 in Anaheim, California.

The ceremony was performed by Brothers Rusty Heaps and John DiBattista. Music was beautifully presented by Brother Tony and Sister Lucy DeCaro and Sister Lori Capone.

May God's richest blessings be theirs always.

CORDOVA - KNOWLES

Brother Anthony Cordova and Christina Knowles were joined in holy wedlock on January 14, 1994 in Anaheim, California.

The service was performed by Brothers Walt Jankowski and Paul Gray. Inspirational music was rendered by Steve Real and Sister Lori Capone.

We pray that God will richly bless their life together.

Children Blessed

Caleb John Krywenko, son of Brother Alexander and Sister Ruth Krywenko, was blessed on October 17, 1993 by Brother Otto Henderson in Anaheim, California.

On November 21, 1993, Brother Paul Gray blessed his newborn daughter, Kelsey Colleen Gray, in Anaheim, California.

Baptisms

July 7, 1993, at Paonia, Colorado, Brother Lincoln Fox made a decision to serve the Lord. He was baptized by Brother John DiBattista of Anaheim, California, and was later confirmed by the laying on of hands by Brother John.

Brother Charles Stevens was baptized on August 11, 1993 by Brother John DiBattista in the Colorado Lagoon. Brother Paul Gray laid hands on him for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

On August 18, 1993, Brother John DiBattista baptized Brother John Buck in the Colorado Lagoon. He was confirmed by Brother Paul Gray.

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Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

July, 1994

Volume 50, No. 7

GMBA Singles Retreat '94

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

The above verse was the primary focus of this year's Singles' Retreat Weekend (March 25-27) held at the Big Prairie Campground located in Big Prairie, Ohio. The weekend's "truly inspired" theme, given to Sis. Tonia Davis (retreat director), was simply **"Wait Upon the Lord."** What a great message this would prove to be as each person came looking for God's direction concerning both natural and spiritual aspects of their lives. There had been much preparation towards the anticipated event, as many individuals made the effort to fast and pray that God's blessings and Spirit would fill us in such a way that we would not be able to contain it . . . and He heard our prayers!

Friday evening the singles arrived one after another, being welcomed by many people they hadn't seen in a while. After pizza was served and everyone had eaten, the night's events would prove to be interesting since our beloved

Brother Doug Obradovich was with us. Later on Friday night/Saturday morning, a small group gathered themselves to talk about the good things of God. This get-together slowly turned into a prayer service, as many thoughts, desires, and requests were shared. At this time, Winston Licata of Cincinnati Branch asked for prayer. Feeling unsure he could *totally* give his life to God, he expressed his desire of strength from God. GMBA Vice President Brother Chuck Maddox laid hands on him in prayer. As everyone prayed for Winston, Brother Duane Werley saw a large hand descend from heaven and rest on Winston's head, and heard a voice saying, **"Yes, I will answer your prayers, My son."** This beautiful experience would be fulfilled later the next day.

The following morning after breakfast, many anticipated a good day as everyone began praising God in song. They sounded like angels! As the group sang *Good Morning, God!*, much excitement could be felt, and it was apparent that the Lord's blessings would be showered down upon us! Brother Brian Martorana, GMBA President, started the day off by having Sister Tonia show everyone the T-shirt she was wearing, which conveyed the

retreat's theme (Isaiah 40:31). We all recited this verse, after which Sister Terri Bravo shared some information she had gained by researching the ways of eagles. She said that eagles often go many days without food, and as a result their energy reserves grow very sparse at times. During these periods, the eagle will rely on the currents of the wind to carry them and help them soar to great heights without having to use their wings. Sister Terri beautifully likened our spiritual lives to the eagles, relating how we must rely on God's Spirit to lift us above and beyond the problems of this temporal life. Following morning chapel, we all went to our respective seminars and continued to enjoy God's Spirit and message. Those singles who attended the seminar group for ages 20-25 enjoyed the privilege of having two of the newest members of the priesthood as seminar leaders, Brothers Jeffrey Giannetti and Ron Giovannone. After the seminars ended, the day's activities consisted of indoor and outdoor recreation.

Our Saturday night chapel service was opened by singing *Wave the Flags of Zion*. After prayer, Brother Brian Martorana took the lead as he addressed the congregation using Genesis 12 as a basis for his

(Continued on Page 9)

Apostles' Insights

In Retrospect: Forty Years in Nigeria

By Brother Joseph Bittinger

July 27, 1994 marks the 40th anniversary of the pioneer trip made to Nigeria, West Africa by the late Brother William H. Cadman and myself, Brother Joseph Bittinger in 1954.

This was Brother Cadman's first and only trip to Nigeria. I am sorry to say that he died on April 15, 1963, before he was able to fulfill the second trip he had planned. He loved being involved in the missionary work of the Church, be it in Africa or with the Seed of Joseph.

This is my first article in a series by each brother in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. I want to use this opportunity to thank and honor all those good people in the ministry, as well as all the other brothers and sisters and their families that have been involved in the African work. For the sacrifices that you have made, in the giving of yourselves and of your finances, we thank you. This includes all the families of those, living or dead, through whose combined labor of love, dedication, and commitment, the African missionary work has been a success. Thousands have found Jesus Christ as their Savior, and have the joy of Salvation in their hearts and souls. Thank God for His watching over all and protecting them from the many potential dangers that exist in carrying out the work.

The Lord heard the many prayers that were offered to Him; by manifesting His Spirit and power in miraculous ways in confirmation of the preaching of the Gospel by the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. I feel certain that if Brother W. H. Cadman could be with us

today, he would be very happy and thankful to God for all the missionaries involved. May God bless you all one hundred fold in Jesus' holy name.

Brother Cadman was a man of dignity, yet he could condescend to meet and speak with the poorest of mankind, the outcast and the down-trodden. He could be very content in the humblest of surroundings, among all nationalities or races of people.

I am certain that many who read this know of Brother Cadman's wonderful attributes. His life and activities have been an outstanding example of Christian living, standing out as monuments to us and our children, and to thousands in other lands. His presence is greatly missed by all of us, but his influence will live on, and will be felt in the Church for generations to come. He was very firm and unyielding in his convictions, never allowing mercy or sympathy to rob justice, but always among the first to show mercy and love where and when they were due.

The following is a reprint from the 1963 *Gospel News* special edition in memoriam of Brother Wm. H. Cadman entitled, 1954 in Retrospect:

In answer to a rather mysterious request for the Church to send missionaries to Eastern Nigeria, West Africa, to preach the Gospel and establish the Church there among the Annang people, the Church chose Brother William H. Cadman as their emissary, although he was past 77 years of age. I was selected to accompany him on this adventure. He was very desirous to make this trip, fully realizing the uncertainty it involved, the various potential dangers that existed, the long trip by airplane, one of the most hostile climates in Africa (for those unaccustomed), etc.

The answering of this Macedonian call would have challenged a much younger man, but Brother Cadman proved to be a dedicated and humble servant of

God, willing to give his life, if necessary, in carrying out what he considered his duty, that men may have the opportunity of hearing the Restored Gospel preached to them.

On July 28, 1954, we arrived in London, England. We had a day to spend before our departure for Lagos. Brother Cadman suggested we spend the day sight-seeing historic places he had visited 50 years earlier, as a young man. He really enjoyed himself, and pointed out to me many things of interest in this great city. Finally, we arrived in Lagos, capital of Nigeria. This was a very strange but fascinating city to us, a contrast indeed to our American cities. Poverty was very evident, living conditions pitiful for thousands of people, masses of people were unemployed, just idling their time away on the streets, hoping to make a few pennies in some way. Beggars were many and most of them were crippled or deformed terribly, a heart-rending sight for us. But the people were generally very polite and courteous, asking us many questions on a multitude of subjects.

We still had 600 miles to go before reaching our destination. In a few days, we took a plane to the city of Calabar, Eastern Region. Here we were met by two men who escorted us, by taxi, to a large ferry boat. After traveling 18 miles up the Cross River, to Oron, a truck took us about another 40 miles to our destination near Abak.

Here we were shown a mud house that was to be our home and headquarters during our stay. It had a thatched roof and a sand or mud floor, and small window holes with shutters on them but no glass in them. The shutters had to be closed at night as protection against thieves, large snakes, and other predatory creatures. We gave these things very little thought or consideration, as we had given ourselves into complete trust in God. The fulfilling of our mission occupied our minds both day and night.

This proved to be a test of stamina, as there were 52 missions

scattered over a large area, waiting for us to visit them and preach the Gospel to them. We did not have any means of transportation on our own, we had to rely on taxis to get us around. These vehicles could be anything from the smallest compact car to an old army weapons carrier, their mechanical condition was untrustworthy, their drivers no more dependable. In some areas, roads were practically non-existent.

At times we were obliged to walk several miles in order to get to certain missions, quite often in pouring rain. It was not uncommon for the taxi to run out of gas ten miles or more from the nearest station, day or night.

After preaching to the people for several days, many of them desired baptism. I baptized 15 men, mostly prospects for the ministry. Brother Cadman did not desire to baptize any of the candidates, but he was in the height of his glory in preaching the Gospel to the multitudes, in offering prayers for their sick and afflicted. There were days when we tired out, weary from the great numbers requiring prayers and the laying on of hands. There were times when we met people walking along the road and they would desire us to pray for them; their reasons for prayer were various. They would kneel down beside the road and we would invoke God's blessing on them, perhaps as many as ten to fifteen persons kneeling and waiting on their turn for prayer.

I became sick and was taken to the hospital after midnight, leaving Brother Cadman alone in this strange land. But early in the morning, before daylight, he heard singing down in the church building. The people had gathered and were praying for Brother Bittinger, that he would get well and return to help Brother Cadman establish the Church for them. This gave Brother Cadman great courage at a time when he needed it most. He went ahead and ordained a few elders and teachers to help with the work. After two days I returned from the hospital, and we continued with our

work. Our experiences were many, and it is very difficult to express them in writing.

Getting proper food was difficult. Brother Cadman got so tired of bananas that he could not eat them anymore, so I ate his as well as my own. I saw him eat dry bread that he would not have eaten under normal circumstances. We were thirsty when no water was to be had, after spending hours in the terrific heat. I mention these things now that he is gone to be with the Lord. While we were there he said to me, "Brother Joe, if it is God's will that I die in Africa, then I want to die with my boots on." No man ever spoke with more sincerity than he. Now that ten years has passed since we were there, time and events have proved to me that God was truly with us, far beyond what we realized at that time.

After what we considered very successful accomplishments in the area of Abak, we moved to the city of Calabar, where we were also preaching and having success in bringing people into the Church. We were preparing for our return home in a few days when thieves entered Brother Cadman's room while he was sleeping and carried away practically everything he had with him, including the clothing he had been wearing, all his money, and other valuables. This shameful depredation was a severe blow to him, causing him to shed considerable tears. I believe the thing that hurt him most was the loss of a pin or brooch he had bought in the airport at Rome, for his wife, Sister Sadie. He greatly admired this little anticipated gift. I lost most of my clothing too; they took all the best of mine, leaving only what I had thought I myself would leave behind when we returned home, but we had to use them to travel. But we were consoled by the many people who came to express their sympathy to us, and especially to comfort Brother Cadman for being compelled to bear such a shameful and humiliating reproach. A number of these people offered up very nice prayers to God

in his behalf.

We had experienced great joy and satisfaction, but not without some sorrow and disappointment. It has since proven that this was and is a great work of God, and the evil one would not permit it to develop without a trial of our faith, even a trial of faith for the whole Church here in America. I believe individually and collectively, with the help of God, we shall prove equal to the task before us in Nigeria, and all other mission fields, that Brother Cadman was so much interested in and concerned about. The work in the mission fields was dear to his heart.

So long as I shall be permitted to retain any position of responsibility in the Church, I shall strive with all my strength to do my part in carrying on in the future as in the past. The departure of our brother has indeed increased the responsibility of us all in the ministry, that the Church might attain to the greater blessings that are in the future, which Brother Cadman spoke about and longed for, laboring to advance the Church toward this goal, to the very end of his life.

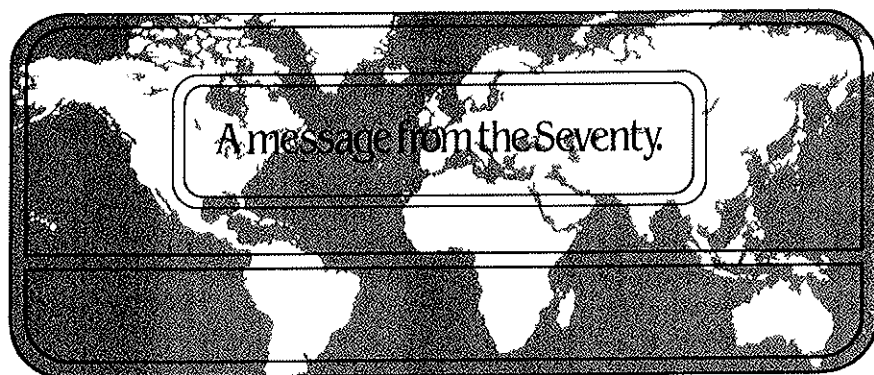
I have lost a very dear friend and brother in Christ, I loved, honored, and respected him as my own father. I shall never betray the trust and respect he had for me, with God's help I expect to meet him in that eternal morning, with that

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Notice

Anyone desiring information and/or registration forms for the 1994 Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout may contact this year's Camp Director as follows:

Brother Tom Stroko
P.O. Box 166
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Tel. 412/437-9761



Evangelists Travel to Africa and Europe

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

(Continued from last month's column.)

GHANA

On Tuesday morning, February 22, Brothers Joseph Perri and Joseph Ross traveled from Lagos, Nigeria to Accra, Ghana, where they settled in the mission home there for their stay. They were greeted warmly by Brother Ford Boadu and his family, along with some other brothers and sisters.

Brother Ford related how God had spared his life and that of his daughter a few days prior. Winds had been so strong that they lifted the roof from the neighbor's house and deposited it on the mission home property. The miracle was that the two had been standing on the spot just seconds before the roof landed there. Of course, they both might have been killed or seriously injured had they not moved away at that moment.

The next day, the brothers held an elders' meeting at the mission home, compiled a visitation schedule, and discussed some needs. It was noted that the activities of the four ministers there in spreading the Gospel are most commendable. Led by Evangelist Boadu, these brothers go out three evenings a week, visiting and preaching in different villages. This is in addition to holding three church services weekly.

The closest village is Apromase,

one and one half hours away by automobile. At Odomasi, we have a primary school with 120 children. It was started by the brothers living there, and was dedicated to our late Brother John Ross, former African Committee Coordinator.

On Sunday, February 27, 160 adults and children gathered at the Church Centre, filling the building to capacity. A good spirit prevailed in the meeting. After preaching and communion, a lengthy testimony service period followed, in which experiences of healings, dreams, driving of serpents from a member's land, dramatic changing of lives, and other effects of the Restored Gospel on the sincere in heart were enumerated.

Then a chain reaction started when a man asked for his baptism; eight more followed, including Brother Boadu's 76-year-old mother. Later, the baptisms were performed, and Brother Boadu baptized his mother, who had attended church for many years. The new members were confirmed in that night's meeting.

The next day, they gathered at Anyinamaso to dedicate a parcel of land purchased by the Ghanaian Church for the erection of a church building. This was a first in Ghana, as they formed a large circle, held hands, and offered the prayer to bless this ground for the harvesting of souls.

During the week, they went on five evening crusades, which are

usually held in village town centers. Almost every time, 20 to 32 young people would accompany them. The Church in Ghana is primarily composed of young couples, with a few middle-aged members.

As described after their trip last year, the crusade procedure involves giving advance notice of the meeting, setting up a portable generator to power a television, a video cassette player, one or two lights, and a P.A. system at about 7:30 p.m., and conducting singing to help bring out 700 to 1,000 people.

After an opening prayer, a religious video tape is played for about 45 minutes. Then the tape is stopped and preaching takes place for about 30 to 45 minutes on the topic shown on the video, the way God works, and the beauty of the Restored Gospel. All are attentive. They are told about God's love and the Plan of Salvation. They are also asked to attend services at the Church Centre to learn more about these things. The tape is then played for about another 40 minutes, after which it is turned off and everyone is invited back the next evening to watch the conclusion. The crusade method is a very effective way to spread the Gospel.

AMSTERDAM/FRANKFURT

Brothers Ross and Perri were accompanied by Brother Boadu to Accra, from where the two departed for Amsterdam on Friday, March 11. Brother Jan Schut and a friend, Henricus, who has been attending church, picked them up early and drove them 120 miles to Enschede, where they had fellowship with their families over the weekend. Sunday night, a well-attended meeting was held.

Henricus graciously offered to drive the two brothers to Frankfurt, Germany, to visit Brother Giovanni and Sister Marino, who reside there. Brother Schut accompanied them, and was able to meet the Marinos for the first time. An enjoyable time ensued, with discussion about the things of

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

We do well to heed the scriptures, the preaching, and the strivings of the Spirit within us that exhort the saints of God to live unblemished, righteous lives in His sight. As individuals and as a Church, we understand that God's Spirit and power can only dwell in us and work through us to the extent that our hearts, minds, and lives exhibit a desire to possess these heavenly gifts. And we have learned—from the word of God and from experiencing it in our own lives—that as human beings, we fight not only against the inclination of our own flesh but also against a powerful enemy to keep ourselves moving forward and upward on the path that leads ultimately to the paradise of God.

If not viewed from the right perspective, this knowledge can rob us of the hope and joy of salvation. We may have learned, when asked, "Are you saved?" to respond with, "Not until I die faithful," or "Only if I endure to the end." These answers, while not entirely incorrect, sound as if we've got a dreadful, toilsome job to do with no one to help us, and we don't believe we are likely to succeed at it. This negative, pessimistic attitude conveys more doubt and fear than faith or understanding of the Gospel of Christ, and does nothing to entice people to hear more about the Restored Gospel.

Both Bible and Book of Mormon spell out very clearly how Jesus Christ came down to earth to take upon Himself the sins of the world, paying the price for our salvation, dying on Calvary's cross that we might live. When we repent of our sins and turn to the Lord, we are redeemed from the fall of man through Christ's supreme sacrifice (Enos vv. 4 & 5). We become new creatures in Christ; the old man is put away (II Corinthians 5:17). As a saint of the Most High God, our life is marked by the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22 & 23) in ever-increasing abundance.

When we tell ourselves that we're not saved, we hinder ourselves from experiencing the joy of salvation—the very hope that is sometimes the only thing we have to hold on to as we face life's storms. Making our salvation contingent upon the life we lead turns the Gospel inside out, and sets at naught the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary. Rather, we should live our lives in the light of the knowledge and understanding we have of our salvation through Christ. Each day of our lives should reflect anew the sublime gratitude and joy we find in God's redeeming love for us and all mankind.

Should we tell people that we're saved? I would hope that each one of us who is a true follower of the Lamb could say that if the Lord took us home today, we would be heaven-bound, and that we have faith that He'll *keep* us in that state all our lives (II Timothy 1:12). With this kind of attitude, rather than one that robs us of enjoying an abundant life with Christ, we'll have much more success in leading those who see our lives to proclaim, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37)

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Friends,

Have you ever been wrestling with a serious problem that you didn't know how to solve? Have you ever done the very best that you could and had everything still turn out wrong? This happens a lot to people, and often we give up trying when the solution is very near.

For example, last weekend I was at a church gathering, watching a very smart two-year-old whose mom was busy helping set tables. She had a job to do, and he kept getting in her way. Finally, I offered to hold him.

He didn't like it one bit. Every time his mom left the room to go get something, he'd get upset. He'd start calling "Mama! Mama!" anxiously.

I would soothe him and tell him that she would be right back. He would calm down a tiny bit, then start whimpering again when she left the room. It didn't matter how many times she came back, each time she went out of sight, he felt overwhelmed and fell apart.

Finally, I set him down beside me. But all of a sudden, I noticed he'd slipped off the big chair and was not in the busy room.

"Where is he?" I asked myself. I hurried to the kitchen and saw his mama. He wasn't there, either. Together, she and I started hunting in the hallways of the building. He was off by himself, determined to find his mom. We heard him wandering far away, crying out, "Mama," in a small voice.

She picked him up quickly and told him, "Son, mama told you she'd be right back. Now she is. Why

didn't you trust me?" He just cried and looked relieved.

It made me realize that I often do this with Jesus. I get worried when I can't hear his voice. Instead of trusting and waiting, I squirm around, trying to get out of loving arms that hold me safe.

Then, I determinedly trot down the hall, sometimes in the wrong direction. I try to do it myself, without asking Jesus, and I get lost.

But Jesus loves me. Since I'm one of His dear little children, He comes to find me. And as I wander, calling His name for help, He finds me. He'll find you, too. He does every time. Even when we make bad choices and walk in the wrong direction. Even when we decide not to wait and trust, and instead do it our own way. All we have to do is call on our Jesus. He cares for us.

Read the story of The Prodigal Son in the Bible.

Your Friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

LIKE	US
REBELLIOUS	BACK
CHILDREN	HOME
WE	HE
WANDER	IS
AWAY	PATIENT
(LIKE)	AND
A	KIND
FAITHFUL	CALL
PARENT	FOR
HE	JESUS
BRINGS	



C	F	P	A	T	I	E	N	T	F
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S	Y	A	W	A	I	E	U	T	A
U	B	A	C	K	W	L	N	L	C
S	U	O	I	L	L	E	B	E	R

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Announcement

For June, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	4.75%
2 years	5.00%
3 years	5.25%
4 years	5.50%
5 years	5.75%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.

Our Women Today

Pacific Coast Area Ladies' Retreat

By Linda Reynolds

Our Area Ladies' Retreat was held in Ventura, California at the Doubletree Hotel on March 11-13, 1994. There were women there from Simi Valley Branch, Bell, Modesto, Lindsay, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Riverside, San Diego, and Tijuana. Out-of-state visitors came from New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Colorado, and we were especially honored to have General Ladies' Uplift Circle President Sister Arline Whitton from Michigan.

The weekend officially began with a Friday evening "Welcome," hosted by the Simi Valley Branch. We all sat in a big circle, and a ball of yarn was thrown back and forth across the circle with the sister throwing the yarn hanging on to an end of the string. As each sister would receive the ball of yarn, she would state her name and tell which branch she attended, and then say a little about herself. When all had done this, a beautiful web had formed, linking each sister to an-

other, signifying that no matter where we come from, we are all connected to each other.

After this, we drew names and sisters went off two by two to learn all about each other. When we came back together, we went around the circle, each taking a turn to tell what we had learned about each other.

On Saturday, we began by singing many songs. We were truly amazed at the beautiful harmony that we heard as we sang *The Songs of Zion*. Sister Sylvia Curry from Tse Bonito, New Mexico, sang a very appropriate selection, *Fill My Cup, Lord*.

Sister Elaine Jordan from the Tse Bonito Branch led the seminar with help from her daughter, Sister Wendy Heinz, and Sister Kim Alaburda. Elaine gave us "Ten Myths of Why God Doesn't Answer Prayer," and let us into "Seven Steps for Strengthening Your Faith During Turbulent Times." She spoke to us for an hour, giving us many examples. Elaine spoke about many of her own personal experiences. The seven steps are:

1. Approach God with praise
2. Pray specifically and intensely
3. Find Holy places in which to pray
4. Confess your sins
5. Read healing scripture and sing songs
6. Pray with others
7. Believe in God no matter what the outcome

Sister Elaine told us that there can be no evil while we are praying. She encouraged us to pray an "intense" prayer. She ended by saying, "By praying, we don't change God, we change ourselves." We then broke up into small groups and discussed the seven steps.

After a beautiful banquet dinner on Saturday evening, we had a talent show with many sisters coming forward in song or stories. We laughed and had good fellowship together.

On Sunday, Sister Lucy DeCaro and her daughter, Andrea, sang a few selections and different branches came forth with some musical selections.

Brother Dwayne Jordan was available to minister to us throughout the weekend, and he opened our Sunday meeting in prayer. He spoke to us briefly, encouraging us to let our light shine and give our testimony every day to whomever we meet. The meeting was then left open for testimonies and praise. There were many touching testimonies.

Our retreat ended at 1:00 p.m. that day, and with much regret we said good-bye to many who we would not see for some time. We thank Sisters Lydia Knowles, Deby Abel, and Lucy DeCaro for all their hard work to make this retreat such an uplifting success.

Note of Thanks

"Blest be the tie that binds."

I have always been touched by these six words, and after the passing away of my husband, George, I believe them more strongly.

Our family would like to express our "loving thanks" for all the letters, cards, and calls we received. There are few words to express the comfort they brought. God knows, and I thank Him for having each one of you.

Love in Christ,
Sister Phyllis (Dolly) Kovacic

An Experience

In the winter of 1992-93, our Sister Marie Perrello of the Maine Mission took very ill. She was hospitalized, and her gall bladder was removed. The doctors said, "This will make medical history, for it contained well over a hundred stones." She recovered from this illness. We thanked the Lord for continually watching over her and carrying her through this illness.

Throughout the next year, her health deteriorated progressively. The doctor told her that there were probably a few more loose gallstones,

which just had to pass. Our sister didn't let this affliction weigh her down in her service to the Lord. She faithfully toiled on.

In March of 1994, our sister took seriously ill and was rushed to the hospital. At first, the staff was unsure what was causing the illness. She was transferred to Maine Medical, and through the direction of the Lord, it was revealed that a few of those loose gallstones were blocking her pancreas, as well as causing her liver to disfunction. The Mission, family, friends, as well as many of the brothers and sisters, united in

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

The Wonderful Story of Sister Josephine Hicks

(How the Work in Spartanburg, SC Got Started)

It was sometime in 1958 that Brother Cleveland Baldwin and myself were invited to visit a little church at 1111 Heck Avenue in Neptune, New Jersey, near Asbury Park. When we arrived there, we saw a sign which read, "The House of Prayer." Inside, we met an elderly, gray-haired woman who opened her heart to us. She had been looking for the true people of God, she said, because she had seen how false so many of the churches were.

From the moment we met her, we knew that one day she would come to our church. There is something about the way God works that is wonderful. This woman, Josephine Hicks, was teaching a lesson from I Peter 5:6, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time."* It was a lesson that we will never forget.

After she heard our testimony, she gave her heart to us. Shortly after that, she was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. The sign in front of her building was changed to read, "The Church of Jesus Christ." She gave her church to us as well.

Josephine Hicks was a widow with no children, and she was special to me. She was a cook at one of Asbury Park's affluent hotels. There was nobody who could make roast duck like she could.

As time passed and she got up in years, she said in her testimony one day that the Lord told her she must go to Spartanburg, South Carolina and bring the Gospel there. The only thing that was stopping her, she said, was that the elders would not go with her, or let her go alone.

Brother Nathan Peterkin listened

to what she said, and discerned that the Lord was sending out a call. He wrestled with the idea for some time, recognizing that it was a call to him personally from God. He likened himself to Jonah of old, running away to other places, knowing he had to go to Spartanburg. Finally he heeded the Lord's call, and the rest is history.

It was sometime in 1972 that Sister Hicks spoke those words, and in 1993, I had the privilege of attending the dedication of The Church of Jesus Christ in Spartanburg, SC. My prayer is that God would bless that mission, that they might prosper in the Lord.

Brother Matthew Rogolino

Greetings from Bell, CA Branch

By Virginia Suprenant

Sunday, February 13, 1994, the brothers and sisters of the Bell, California Branch were blessed to have several visitors. Visiting were Brother Walt, Sister Carrie, and Karen Jankowski from Colorado; Brother Joe and Sister Lori Capone from Anaheim; and a neighbor-friend of Brother Santos Zamora, Chris Maytorena. Chris is special because he is blind but the Lord has blessed him with the gift of playing the piano and singing songs of praise. Sister Lori Capone, who is also gifted in song, sang two opening solos.

Brother Walt spoke on the Peace and Love that we must have for one another. He gave us his testimony of how he came into the Church. It was the love that the brothers and sisters showed him that touched his heart. He thanked God that he can put all the problems of the world aside and find Peace within The Church of Jesus Christ. Our brother admonished us to bring Jesus into our lives

so that we can walk the walk and talk the talk, as Jesus would walk and talk. As Christians, we should not be like a thermometer, going up and down according to the environment, but rather, we should be more like a thermostat, always in control of ourselves and not affected by what we see and hear outside. As disciples of Christ, we should always be good examples.

Brother Walt then spoke of "Guerilla Love." We need to practice more guerilla love towards one another, and not guerilla warfare. This means to go above and beyond what is "normal" in being kind to one another. He told a story of a man who daily crossed a toll bridge and paid for the next 10 cars coming behind him. This is an example of being a disciple for Christ. The man did not expect to get any reward, only the satisfaction that he made someone happy. Brother Walt closed by saying that choosing to follow Christ means that life will not be easy, and at times it is going to be difficult. We need to continuously study the Bible and Book of Mormon and follow God's commandment to "Love one another as I have loved you."

Brother Jim Scalise followed by saying, "Christ had so much kindness in his heart, but still He was crucified." He then called on Chris, the blind visitor, who brings a blessing with him each time he visits. Chris played *Love Lifted Me* on the piano, and the congregation joined him in song. He then sang *The Way of Suffering*. The song spoke of Christ's last walk, carrying His cross to His crucifixion. He also testified that since God led him to this Church through his neighbor, he has been accepted to the Federal Housing program, which he applied for a long time ago and was encountering all sorts of difficulty in being accepted.

As this young man gave his testimony, we were all touched. What an inspiration to see this unsighted person perform so well and be filled with praise unto God! As I looked around I could see that we all felt a warm spirit from his songs and testimony. It never ceases to amaze

me how God interconnects the words of our elders with what is to follow in the remainder of the service, even with newcomers. We were all uplifted and thanked the Lord for sending us His servants to feed us this day.

A Year of Blessings

By Regina Alverson

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ. The year 1993 held many blessings for the Spartanburg, SC Mission. Early in the year God called Sister Rene Littlejohn, at the tender age of 15, into His Beautiful Gospel. During the baptism, a visitor witnessed that the water immediately surrounding Sister Rene and Brother Harold was crystal clear, while the rest of the water remained dark and muddy. We thank God for this beautiful experience. We then gathered back at the mission to witness Brother Harold lay hands on Sister Rene for the reception of the Holy Spirit.

In August of 1993, Brother Darrell Rossi was called into the office of an elder. He was ordained at the Atlantic Coast District Conference, along with Brother Bob Pizzaia of the Edison, New Jersey Branch. Brother Harold Littlejohn washed Brother Darrell's feet, and Brother Ken Lombardo ordained him into this office. We truly thank God for calling Brother Darrell to help labor along with Brother Harold in this part of the vineyard.

Two weeks later, the Lord called Brother Cletis Hill to labor in the office of a deacon. This was the first such ordination for the Spartanburg Mission. Our brother's feet were washed by Brother Darrell Rossi, and he was ordained by Brother Harold Littlejohn. Brother Cletis was blessed to have his mother, uncle, three sisters, a nephew and two nieces (none are members of the Church) in our midst to witness his ordination. May God bless our brother as he takes on new responsibilities, and provide for all of his

spiritual and natural needs.

The blessings of God continue. In September, God called Connie Marcantonio, formerly of Aliquippa, PA, into His Church. Sister Connie was baptized by Brother Darrell Rossi, and hands were laid on her for the bestowal of the Holy Spirit by visiting Brother English Webb. Sister Connie is a cousin to several of the members of the Church in Aliquippa. Despite her family ties to the Church, she never knew much about the Church until recently.

We look forward to the continued blessings of our Lord, and we invite all to come and visit us.

RETREAT '94 continued . . .

message. Here the Lord tells Abraham to leave his homeland Haran for a land that would be given to him, Canaan. Brother Brian expressed that Abraham had a choice whether or not to obey God's request and will. As a result of Abraham's obedience, God blessed him and his seed abundantly. Brother Brian then used the greatest example of one following the will of God, Jesus Christ. He spoke of the time Christ prayed in the garden, knowing the pain He would soon face. Nonetheless, Christ obeyed the Father, putting His own will aside. Brother Brian exclaimed that we, too, must be obedient to God's call, saying, "Let Him take charge and lead me."

After an extended season of special musical selections and testimonies by the 26 and above seminar group, we closed the meeting in prayer. But minutes after the meeting had "supposedly" ended, we all rejoiced to hear that Winston (mentioned earlier) was now ready and willing to give his life to Jesus Christ! A celebration began as we sang *The Standard of Liberty*. God's Spirit once again consumed us as many felt to be anointed, knowing we were in the presence of the Lord. Various requests were made, including Winston's brother, Angelo, who sought direction concerning God's will in his life. Not long after this,

Angelo likewise made God his choice! And what a beautiful sight it was to see two natural brothers embrace as they had now, together, become spiritual brothers! Both of them desired to be baptized the following weekend, Easter Sunday. Brother Jeff Giannetti then expressed that the blessings we were receiving were a result of the singles' efforts and determination to have a good weekend. He continued to exhort the young people, saying, "Don't lose the zeal! Don't lose the fire!" Soon after, we once again closed the meeting in prayer.

Just when we thought God couldn't actually bless us more than He already had, He did it again! God's Spirit took control of the Sunday service. At the beginning of the meeting, we watched our sisters set the communion table. What a moving experience it was to meditate on the Lord's sacrifice while they did this. After opening prayer, Sister Iva Fedorka sang *Now I Belong to Jesus*, which was very fitting for our two new brothers.

Afterwards, Brother Gary Ciccati was prompted to begin the day's message using Mark 10:17-22. These verses speak of the rich young ruler who knelt at the feet of Jesus, asking the Lord what he needed to do to inherit eternal life. Jesus told him that he needed to continually remember the commandments of God. The young ruler replied, "All these have I observed from my youth." But Jesus, beholding him, said, "One thing thou lackest: Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." As Brother Gary read these words, he expressed that Jesus saw to the very core of this man, yet Jesus still loved him despite his faults. Continuing, he said that Jesus will likewise show us what we are lacking, since, like the young ruler, He can see into the very core of our hearts.

"God will show you if you're prideful, hateful, full of jealousy, or anything else that would hinder you

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RETREAT '94 continued . . .

spiritually. Brother Gary also used Ether 12:27 in his message, "And if men come to me I will show unto them their weakness. I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then I will make weak things become strong unto them." Brother Gary ended his message by saying that if we are in Christ, even in times of weakness we are made strong. Brother Jeff Giannetti continued the message, saying that man wants to do and solve things on his own, but in reality he needs the Lord's direction. He then asked everyone a question: "What one thing is so important that it would actually stand between you and Christ? Or is there absolutely nothing that could stand between you and the Lord?!" Brother Jeff concluded by encouraging all to make it a goal to do mighty things for Jesus. We then sang *There Is Power in the Blood*.

After this hymn, Brother Chuck Maddox spoke, using the example set by Peter and John, who healed the lame man. For forty years this man sat at the gate until one day Christ's disciples passed by and changed his life forever. As a result of this, the priests and Sadducees tried to stop Peter and John from preaching of Christ, but they both were able to stand firm in their calling. Brother Chuck pointed out that likewise, Satan is desirous to silence our testimonies of Christ, but if we, like Peter and John, can stand in His name, many will go away rejoicing, as did the once lame man. Our brother continued to express that "Jesus didn't call us to be exactly like Himself, but to be our own self with His Spirit. Go with God—there will be results!

After the morning speakers, the group aged 15-19 years sang a hymn and gave their testimonies. After this, a powerful and loving spirit was felt as we sang two more hymns while communion was being adminis-

tered. During this ordinance, Sister Shannon Lambert had a desire to see the two brothers who were administering communion switch sides after passing the bread as they prepared to pass the wine. The Lord answered her simple request, which proved to be a blessing and a confirmation that our spirits were united as one.

For our closing hymn, the 20-25 age group sang *Set Her Free* as everyone joined hands to form a circle of love. Brother Joel Calabrese, who had traveled with his family to spend the day with us, closed the meeting in prayer.

As the weekend came to an end, we were all refreshed by God's Spirit and love. Words cannot sufficiently express the many blessings we received through our short gathering in Ohio. There had been much said throughout the weekend about the retreat's message, "Wait Upon the Lord," a command which we have to digest and put into action in our daily lives. God, in His own perfect way, sent us away with an incredible experience. It so happened as we started traveling home for only a few short minutes, a group of us witnessed the beauty of an eagle soaring through the sky. Wow!!! God had certainly sent each of us away "mounting up with wings as eagles."

GMBA Editor,
Patrick Monaghan (Gal. 2:20)

INSIGHTS continued . . .

innumerable host of the saints, when I have finished my mission here on this earth. I praise God for the life and testimony of our deceased brother, which has been such a wonderful inspiration to me. May God richly bless all of his daughters and their families, who have lost one so near, and so dear, to them all.

After having followed this missionary endeavor for 40 years, I feel like Ammon, who said, "Blessed be the name of our God; let us sing to his praise, yea, let us give thanks

to His holy name, for He doth work righteousness forever." Let us glory in the Lord, yea, we will praise our God forever. Amen (Alma 26:1-16).

MESSAGE continued . . .

God and the relating of some experiences. It is hoped that Brother Mario will be able to visit our people in the Netherlands and hold services whenever possible. The next day, Jan and Henricus drove back to the Netherlands.

ITALY

Brothers Ross and Perri flew back to Amsterdam on Thursday, March 17, and met Brother Mike LaSala there. The three of them flew to Milan later that day, and were met there by Brother Rosario Scravegliare. They spend some time reviewing the affairs of the Church in Italy.

That Saturday, they flew to Sardegna and were greeted by Brother Nino Romano, who drove them to Cala Gonone, about 70 miles away. They stayed with Brother Stefano and Sister Immacolata Romano for the next three days.

The brothers held services on Saturday afternoon and Sunday. There were 34 adults attending the Sunday meeting. They also visited the homes of the saints and their friends during their stay.

On Tuesday, they traveled to Reggio Calabria and on to Patti to visit Brother Joseph LoRizzo, our 73-year-old evangelist. They discussed his ability to visit the brothers and sisters in different parts of Italy. His mobility has been somewhat limited because of advanced age, but his desire is to be of service.

The next day, the three brothers departed for Naples, Batipaglia, and Buccino, visiting members at each of these locations. Then they traveled to Marina Schiavonea, Brother Marino's home town, arriving at the home of his mother, Sister Carmelina, and her husband, Louis. The next morning, they left for San

Demetrio, 18 miles away. There they visited Brother Salvatore and Sister Maria Oliva. Brother Oliva, an elder who is 89 years old, accompanied them as they visited brothers, sisters, and their family members there.

On Sunday, March 27, the brothers held services, and on Monday, they left for Bovalino and Cannitello to see some other members. It was very edifying to be able to fellowship and serve communion to our people who are widely scattered and for the most part very aged.

They returned to Reggio Calabria and then flew to Milan, where they were able to spend more time with Brother Scavegliare and his wife, Roseann, who had recently undergone surgery.

The brothers returned to the United States on Thursday, March 31, grateful for God's protection during their many travels.

EXPERIENCE continued . . .
prayer and fasting that the Lord would once again perform a miracle and heal her.

While her husband Dominick and son Brother Don were visiting her in the hospital, Sister Marie had a vision of her mother, Sister Elizabeth Onorato, who is now gone to be with our Savior. She held her daughter's hand and smiled. This experience uplifted Sister Marie and gave her strength. It confirmed to many of us that this was not yet her time to go.

Our sister's condition grew worse, causing many hearts to turn to the Lord. Once again, our prayers were answered and through the grace of God, our sister began to quickly recuperate once the stones were successfully flushed out of her system. During her recovery she was also visited in a vision by two beautiful girls with golden hair, dressed in pure white. They were praying for

her. Truly they are angels sent by God.

As weak as our sister was, she was able to lift up the spirits of her neighbors in the hospital by sharing her testimony and telling of the pure love of God. Sister Marie was released two to three weeks earlier than was expected. The doctors were amazed by her quick healing. Our sister would like to extend her sincere gratitude unto all those who offered prayers on her behalf, and for the many thoughtful cards and gifts. In her own words, "One of the greatest blessings we have is to care for and love one another through prayers."

Her heart was truly touched, and we are thankful that her heart belongs to God. He has allowed her to be with us a while longer through His grace. This sustains us.

God Bless all of you,
The Maine Mission
Sister Cindy Onorato

* WEDDINGS *

STROPKI - SCHOOP

Mr. William Joseph Stropki and Miss Kathleen Elliott Schoop were married on July 10, 1993 at the Perry Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

The late Brother Elmer Santilli officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by the bride's aunt and uncle, Sister Garnet and Brother Alton Kuhn.

The newlyweds are residing in Concord, Ohio. We pray for God's blessings to follow them all of their days.

CASTRO - BAGLIERI

Mr. Michael A. Castro and Miss Lori A. Baglieri were united in matrimony on September 11, 1993 in Niles, Ohio.

Brother Russell Martorana performed the ceremony, assisted by Brother Wayne Martorana. Musical selections were also provided by Brother Wayne.

SAMS - VAUGHN

Mr. James E. Sams and Miss Rosemary Vaughn were joined in marriage on October 23, 1993 in Niles, Ohio.

The ceremony was performed by Brother Russell Martorana, with the assistance of Brother Wayne Martorana. Brother Wayne also provided musical selections.

VICINI - FREBERG

Mr. Donald Vicini and Sister Christine Freberg were united in holy matrimony on May 14, 1994 in Houston, Texas.

The service was officiated by Brother Dominick Rose, the bride's grandfather.

May the Lord bless them as they journey through life together, following the example of love set by Jesus Christ.

New Arrival

Danielle Elizabeth to Brother Gary and Sister Maureen Calabro of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

Children Blessed

John Jerome Collison Jr. was blessed on March 6, 1993 by his grandfather, Brother Don Collison, in Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

Amelia Leslie Lobzun was blessed on December 5,

(Continued on Page 12)

CHILDREN BLESSED continued . . .

1993 in the Windsor Branch by her grandfather, Brother Dick Lobzun.

Brother Bob Stanek blessed Joshua Samuel Peltier on December 26, 1993 at the Meaford, Ontario Mission.

Sarah Louise Muir was blessed by her grandfather, Brother Don Collison, in the Windsor Branch on January 2, 1994.

Lindsay Marie Wandelosky, great-granddaughter of Sister Carmella Santarcangelo of Modesto, California, was blessed by Brother Dick Lobzun on January 23, 1994 at the Windsor, Ontario Branch. On the same day, her first cousin, Anthony John Rinaldi, was blessed at the Windsor Branch by Brother Louis Vitto.

Ryan Scott Gibson Jr. was blessed on April 10, 1994 by Brother James L. King at the Vanderbilt, PA Branch. He resides in Uniontown, PA with his parents, Ryan Scott Sr. and Karen Lynn Gibson.

On May 8, 1994, Edward James Devore, son of Edward and Beth Devore, was blessed at the Roscoe, PA Branch by Brother James Abbott.

Brother Vince Gibson blessed his granddaughter, Miranda Ann Bealko, daughter of William and Colleen Bealko, on May 15, 1994 at the Perry, Ohio Mission.

OBITUARIES

BARBARA HEAPS

Our dearly beloved Sister Barbara Heaps went home to Glory on February 20, 1994 in Kennesaw, Georgia. A faithful member of the Anaheim, California Branch from its beginnings in 1960, she had grown to know and love many of the saints throughout the U.S.A. as she travelled with her husband, Brother Rusty.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

A memorial service was held at the Forest Lawn Chapel, and was conducted by Brothers Thomas Liberto, Paul Liberto, and Walt Jankowski. Music was offered by Brother Bob Sullivan, Lori Capone, and Diane Surdock.

Sister Barbara will be missed by her husband, Brother George "Rusty" Heaps; her children, Sister Shari Ciotti of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Sister Tina Sechrist of Newport Beach, California; and Mrs. Rene Woodburn of Harrison Township, Michigan; Brother William "Rusty" Heaps of Phoenix, Arizona; and their families. She leaves six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She will be remembered and missed by many others who loved her dearly.

NANCY SURACE

Sister Nancy Surace, a dedicated member of the Monongahela, PA Branch, passed on to her eternal reward on March 19, 1994.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Richard Scaglione, with Brother Alexander Cherry assisting.

Left to mourn are one sister, Rose Colagiovanni; one brother, Paul Surace; and many nieces and nephews; along with her brothers and sisters in Christ.

We pray that God will comfort all who mourn the loss of our sister.

RICHARD KING

Brother Richard A. King of Grindstone, PA passed away on March 24, 1994 at the age of 51. He was born on June 21, 1942, and was baptized into the Church on March 30, 1958 by Brother Jake Wells.

The funeral was conducted by Brothers James L. King and Richard Lowther.

Brother Richard is survived by his wife, Sister Pamela (Rimmel) King of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch, many friends and relatives, and all the brothers and sisters of the Church. Our brother was a student at California University of Pennsylvania, and would have graduated with a degree in sociology in May of 1994. May the Lord bless and comfort our dear sister and the other loved ones he left behind.

ADELINE McLELLAN

Sister Adeline McLellan, a member of the Dallas, Texas Mission, passed from this life on March 25, 1994 in Amery, Wisconsin. She had struggled with several types of cancer for many years, but the Lord finally took her gently to her home of peace.

Sister Adeline's spunky spirit is greatly missed, but we are grateful to the Savior for rescuing her with His everlasting mercy.

The Gospel News

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

August, 1994

Volume 50, No. 8

Deliverance from Time to Time

By Bertha Jean Bilsky

*Oh, praise the Lord, He looks to earth,
Touching the smallest, lending worth,
While sparing life and giving birth,
And deliverance from time to time.*

*The Father sees the things we bear,
And hears the heartbreak in the prayer,
And sends assurance He is there
With deliverance from time to time.*

*Oh praise God's name, there's none
so great!
He runs to rescue while we wait.
He never comes a day too late
With deliverance from time to time.*

(#45 in *The Songs of Zion*)

On April 10, the Roscoe Branch was blessed to have Brother Bob and Sister Arlene Buffington from Imperial with us for a day. Brother Bob opened the morning service, speaking from Isaiah 61, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Our brother expounded upon God's word and told

many beautiful experiences which were very uplifting to all present. Our brother and sister drove many miles on a very rainy day to visit us, and truly brought us "showers of blessings."

On May 7, Mother's Day, we felt great joy to have Ed and Beth Devore bring their new baby Edwards James to be blessed. Just a couple of months earlier, we had gone into prayer for Beth, who was having a difficult time with her pregnancy. "... [T]ouching the smallest, lending worth; while sparing life, and giving birth..."

After Brother James Abbott asked God's blessing upon the baby, he opened the service speaking from Alma 56 concerning the 2000 young striplings. He spoke on how the faith that their mothers had taught them enabled them to conquer the enemy in battle and how not one tasted of death. At the end of the meeting a young man, John Bilsky, asked to be anointed before he went in for a heart catheterization, as earlier tests had shown some serious problems. A wonderful spirit prevailed as he was anointed.

That afternoon, we had our feet washing service and as usual, God

enveloped us in His love. Brother Ray Ambrose Jr. asked during his testimony if anyone had touched him or spoken to him while he was having his feet washed. No one responded to the question, and Brother Ray related how someone had touched him on the head and said, "God bless you, Brother Ray, I love you." He felt that it was the Spirit of the Lord that touched him. We were all greatly blessed by this experience. "And sends assurance He is there..."

Brother Matthew Laktash also testified of feeling a hand on his shoulder throughout the opening prayer. He had been greatly concerned throughout the week over a forthcoming medical test he had to undergo. He told of a dream where he saw a sparrow in a large room, and Lord had reminded him how He takes care of even the sparrow, and how much more He would take care of him.

Since this meeting, John Bilsky had his catheterization, and we were overjoyed when the doctor met with us and told us that after looking at John's heart from all angles, he could find no blockages or anything wrong, and that John was fine and would not be limited in any activity. Brother Matthew's tests went equally well, and we can surely say God does take

(Continued on Page 3)

Apostles' Insights

The Minister's Perspective

By Nicholas Pietrangelo

Ministers are expected to give leadership in a variety of ways. They are expected to give Christian leadership to the congregation they serve. In the familiar words of the Old Testament, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." Ministers are expected to offer moral and spiritual leadership to the Church community.

Ministers are also expected to provide helpful leadership to their denomination and its worldwide missions. In addition, ministers encounter a host of other individual expectations about their life and work, their dress and speech, their family and friends. Many of these expectations held by individuals are diverse and contradictory, so that if a minister sought to satisfy them all, he would be pulled apart in the process. Thus, the minister, if he is wise, doesn't make it his aim to please everybody; but to satisfy as fully as is possible the essential claim which he experiences in God's calling. The minister does not have many masters, but he does acknowledge one Lord. He stands in relation to Christ as a man under orders. As the Apostle said, "I make it my ambition to please Him."

To give leadership implies some goals. Every minister has some key objectives in mind for himself and for his congregation. They are important because they help to establish direction and purpose which can measure progress, and because measurable goals can develop the deepest kind of united motivation, which helps to build unity and fellowship. Your branch ministry has a number of objectives which are important to them as persons. They are developing "team

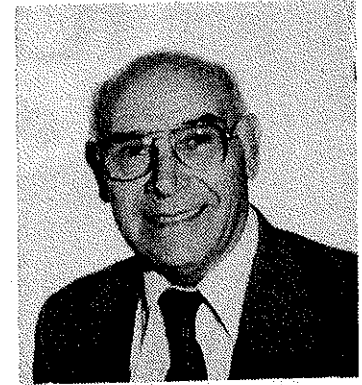
objectives" because they want a "team ministry." Increasingly, our objectives must become corporate objectives which are thought out and claimed by the Church in general, so that our common labors can move us forward in response to God's call to meet human needs as we serve the present age with Grace and Gospel.

Meanwhile, one fact should be clear: The ministers of a Church are not here to "get their own way." They don't profess to have all of the right answers—as though God had lodged all of His wisdom in them. One of their essential goals is to help build the congregation into a fellowship of love and acceptance, so that there is room for everyone who brings into the Church his or her own unique and unrepeatable diversity. A Church which only sounds one note diminishes the range of the Gospel, and makes its sound dully repetitious.

The Body of Christ—like the human body—has many members with differing gifts and functions. The Body has no redundant spare parts, so that each is needed. When some members are idle or cut off, the whole body suffers. Hence, our first objective is to build up the Body of Christ in love, so that no one suffers a sense of rejection, as though he or she could be spared. This means that the Body needs the animating presence of the Spirit of Christ to provide life and vitality. The Body also needs the continuing work of Christ's Cross to overcome hostility, anger, and division by God's reconciling action.

Can this be our essential objective and covenant: to make a place for every one of God's children to be accepted in love, strengthened for service, and sustained in fellowship and hope? To make that come true, you who read this, you are needed—and, together, we must make room for others to find a real place with us as Christ's Living Body in the world today.

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Can you think of yourself as such a one who dares to face the impossible and win?

"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled, or where the doer of deeds should have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who, at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."

—Theodore Roosevelt

Theodore Roosevelt was born in New York City on October 17, 1858. He was a delicate boy, so sickly that he did not attend school during childhood years but was taught at home by private tutors. He was determined to overcome his physical weaknesses and strengthen himself for a strenuous life. He succeeded so well that his endurance later became almost legendary. It pays to read his historic life.

(Continued on Page 3)

Note of Thanks

I wish to express our gratitude for your interest and support during my illness.

My family and I have been comforted and encouraged by your prayers, phone calls and cards.

God did answer our prayers. My surgery was successful and my prognosis is very good.

May God bless each of you.

Brother Guido Marinetti
Tucson, Arizona

* * * * *

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends
of The Church of Jesus Christ:

We extend our warmest thanks to all the branches and missions of the Church throughout the United States, for all the beautiful cards, the many phone calls, and for all the prayers that were offered in behalf of Brother Elmer Santilli during his long illness.

Brother Elmer passed away on April 24, 1994 at the Willoughby Manor Care Nursing Home, where he had been confined for six months. Our family truly appreciates the love and support that has been shown to us during our time of great sorrow.

God bless all of you is our prayer.

Love from all of us,
Sister Betty, Sam and Matt Santilli,
Brother Mario and Sister Erma Milano
Perry, Ohio Branch

New Meeting Place

The Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch is temporarily meeting at the Rock Ridge Community Hall in Vero Beach, Florida. Days and meeting hours are the same. For further information, contact Brother Frank Rogolino at 407/284-6465.

DELIVERANCE continued . . .

care of His children. "He runs to rescue while we wait. He never comes a day too late. . . ."

On May 15, we were privileged to have Brother Art and Sister Martha Gehly with us from Fredonia. Brother Art spoke on how we should see God as a loving God, and how because of grace, fear is taken away from us and turned into a tremendous world of hope. He talked of the difference between commitment and covenant, and how when we make a covenant with God we make an agreement together (if we love and serve Him, He will bless us). He spoke on how the soul never dies, that it lives for eternity, either to everlasting life or everlasting death—being apart from God.

Brother Art told us that Christ died that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. He said that a covenant is more than a commitment, it is a promise. He admonished us to serve God in patience. He read from Revelation 21, speaking on the joy awaiting us if we keep our covenant with God. There are millions of people living an existence without hope, he said, and the fruit from our lives could well help someone else to realize the hope they can have in Jesus Christ. Our brother spoke many beautiful words of eternal life. We thank God for His tender mercies and many blessings, one of which is the recent visits from our brothers and sisters and the joy we felt in fellowshiping with them.

We feel to end with the thought, how can we ever doubt the Lord? Brothers and Sisters, let us take our cares and concerns to the Lord and be like those 2000 young striplings who believed the teachings of their mothers, "that if they did not doubt, God would deliver them." Hasn't He delivered us all "from time to time"?

GREETINGS continued . . .

We, as God's children, need not fear, no matter what the challenge. Jesus, our Savior, often

challenged his disciples with words such as, "Be of good cheer; it is I: be not afraid." Daring Peter answered Him and said, "If it be You, bid me come to You on the water." Jesus said, "Come." But shortly after, Peter became afraid and cried as he began to sink, "Lord, save me." Jesus stretched His hand and caught him, saying unto him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:27-31) Peter dared to risk his life, yet doubted. Are we likewise, at times daring, but yet fearing? By the grace of God, we shall prevail.

Paul of Tarsus was told not to go to Jerusalem; there he would face great tribulation. Paul answered, "What mean you to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

We lay claim to being the Saints of Latter Days. Why, then, not meet that challenge? Indeed we need to meet the challenge by the help and the grace of Jesus Christ.

No matter what we must face, we can prevail. We must endure not only for our sakes, but more for the sakes of our children and those who follow us. How about you, readers?

Mark Randy

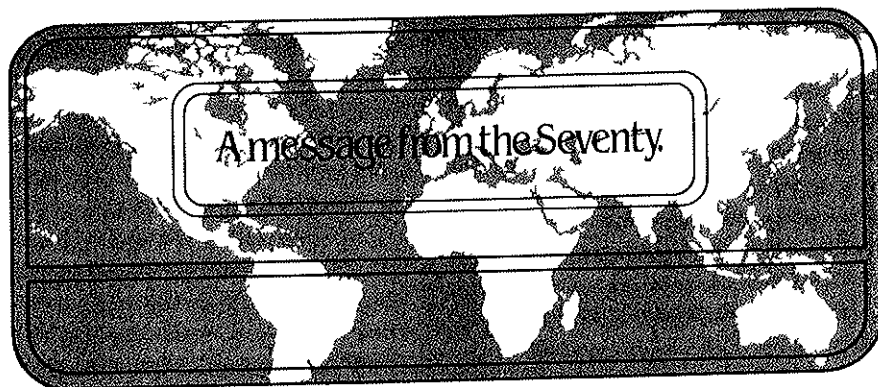
Announcement

For September, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.00%
2 years	5.25%
3 years	5.50%
4 years	5.75%
5 years	6.00%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



GMBA Youth in Action Program

By Jerry Valenti, Chairman, GMBA Youth in Action Program Committee

The General Missionary Benevolent Association has started a Church-sanctioned program which will give young people the opportunity to play a key role in missionary work. The new venture is called "Youth in Action," and is designed to utilize the energy, enthusiasm, and availability of the Church's young people (ages 15-25) to provide assistance in the building up of small branches and missions.

Essentially, volunteers from throughout the Church are being asked to dedicate a part of their school vacation time to perform well-defined outreach tasks at designated locations. It is expected that benefits from these assignments will be realized by both the participants, who will grow spiritually, and the missionary site, which, with God's help, will increase in numbers through the concentrated efforts.

Preparatory materials, including recommended reading from the scriptures and church literature, and orientation about the places will be provided. Also, insights into the expectations and aspirations of missionary endeavors will be detailed.

Missions or branches that want to be considered for this program are to be recommended by their respective District Missionary Operating Committees. To qualify, a location must have at least one resident elder, an established congregation with at

least eight to ten members, a regular meeting schedule with at least one weekly meeting, and a strong desire among the local ministry to use this program to aggressively pursue the spreading of the Gospel in their locale. The number of sites to be included in any given year will depend upon the requests received and the availability of the volunteers.

At this writing, two places are being explored for 1994. More information will be available about them in the near future.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

The Youth in Action Program Committee is responsible for administering the program. Among their duties will be to select the workers and the missionary sites, work with the resident elder(s) in the plan, monitor the progress of each tour, and be available to assist the young people, as required.

Other committee members are Brothers Jeffrey Giannetti, Paul Aaron Palmieri, Ron Giovannone, Jerry Morle, and Mario Zaccagnini. The group has formulated the program over the past year. Joining us in this undertaking are the president, vice-president, and chaplain of the GMBA; one representative of the Americas Missionary Operating Committee; and seven Area Coordinators, who will be appointed by each of their own respective Area

MBA Presidents. The coordinators will play a major role, as they will be the local contact for those assigned.

Obviously, monetary costs will be involved. The committee will try to minimize expenditures by teaming up people to travel together in a single vehicle, and arranging for housing among the members of the mission. Participants are being asked to pay for their own expenses, if possible. If unable to do so in part or in whole, several means may be open. The local MBA and/or area MBA may be willing to donate to the cause, especially if the young person gives a short presentation, describing the assignment and its goals. Fundraisers would be helpful, either individually or in conjunction with the MBA.

AGENDA TO BE FORMULATED

What will the young people do at the missionary location? An agenda will be formulated upon arrival, with specific goals established. As Youth in Action evolves, data from previous trips will be available for review during the goal formulation phase, and will be a big help in setting expectations for young missionaries as well as creating excitement for each coming tour.

The actual activities performed will depend on the needs of each individual branch or mission. Several outreach endeavors have been described in the Youth in Action booklet. Among the suggested possibilities are a Telephone Outreach, door-to-door contact, advertising, voice mail, singspirations, concerts, and revival meetings. Participants will be required to maintain detailed records of their labors so that it can be determined, over time, which efforts are the most effective in actually drawing people to the Church.

Upon completing an assignment, young missionaries will be included in a review session, where goals and results will be evaluated, and recommendations made for future assignments. They will also be asked to

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As if keeping God's commandments were not enough, His saints have been given the enormous task of spreading the Restored Gospel as well. Two articles in this issue, both on Page 2, deal with different traits—leadership and courage—that we must cultivate if we hope to tackle and carry out this awesome responsibility. While the article on leadership addresses the ministry of the Church, it quickly becomes evident that we are all ministers to the people we encounter each day of our lives—at home, at work, or wherever we spend our time. Our service to God can be more fruitful if we approach our daily interactions with others in the same manner that ministers are directed to present themselves to their congregations.

For us to be made "all things to all men, that [we] might by all means save some" (I Corinthians 9:22), requires no advanced education or specialized training. We need only be filled, motivated, and controlled by the Spirit of God. In fact, no other method can convey God's love to others with any degree of credibility. For God's Spirit to dwell in us, we must live blamelessly, while avoiding the long-faced piousness of the Pharisees, who never converted a soul. Like Christ, we must remain warmly, touchably, and vulnerably *human*, while leading lives that are pure and holy. Our temporal lives should be visibly touched by God's divine nature; people should be able to sense that we're different without thinking we're weird.

By His example, Christ taught us to be servants to all. In so doing, we become leaders. Most of the people that surround us do not appear to be seeking our leadership. Over a period of time, however, as they see us quietly yet firmly taking a stand on ethical and moral issues, we will win some of them over to the point where they will begin to look to us as role models. The inner peace, the self-control, the quiet strength, and the sense of purpose that we possess when the Holy Spirit dwells within us sets us on an entirely different plane from those who wander aimlessly through life, peering out at the world from behind a tough-looking, man-made exterior.

The writings of the Apostle Paul offer much instruction to those followers of Christ who would effectively and courageously lead. While he constantly entreated others to lead by example, Paul likewise led most successfully by the outstanding example that he set, to the point where he could tell others, *with liberty*, to do "even as we do toward you" (I Thessalonians 3:12).

What are our lives like outside (and inside) the four walls of the Church? Do we have the courage to take a stand on moral issues? Do we trust God for the consequences when standing up for what we believe threatens our social status, or even the means by which we provide for our families? Do we understand the differences between suffering for Christ's sake and suffering because of our own lack of wisdom, or for a fault which the Lord wants us to surmount? As we seek to spread the Gospel, it becomes more and more evident that our success is less a product of what we *do* than who we *are*. When we become true saints of the Most High God, we'll do whatever it takes.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



Faith During Hard Times

Dear Friends,

Did you know that when you get baptized you become a soldier for Jesus? Did you know that then you will stand for something and others will be watching you to learn from you? As you learn to pray and trust God, He will teach you many things. He'll give you a special guide, called the Holy Ghost, to guide you. He will teach you to trust Him. He will give you faith so that when things appear to be going wrong, you'll not get discouraged and give up.

The Book of Mormon gives us a perfect example when it tells us about Nephi's journey to this good land of promise. Everything was going well upon the huge, wide ocean. Enough food was packed, and the weather was beautiful. But Nephi's older brothers, Laman and Lemuel, forgot God.

They began to act rude with the others on the ship. They, their wives, and some of the others began to dance, sing rude songs, and act wild with each other. Nephi began to fear that the Lord would be angry with them for their sinning and allow them to sink into the sea.

When Nephi told them to stop, and reminded them that this wasn't the right way to act, they were furious. They yelled at him that he was their "younger" brother and had no right to correct them! And then they tied him up so tightly that the ropes cut into his wrists and ankles. And they laughed and acted wilder. Their parents were horrified

and heartsick. They told Laman and Lemuel to stop, but were ignored. It made them so ill they had to be put to bed. Nephi's wife, his little children, and their two youngest brothers begged Laman and Lemuel to let Nephi go. The brothers refused hatefully, unmoved by their tears.

Then Nephi, tied and beaten, began to praise God. Nephi remembered how God had brought them from Jerusalem. He knew how God had delivered the plates, which contained the ancient history of his people, from Laban. He remembered their journey in the wilderness and the many times God delivered them. He remembered and praised God.

And God, who was watching over all, took over. He sent a terrible storm to crash upon their ship. Huge waves and treacherous winds smashed into them. And Nephi, tied and wounded, kept praising God.

Their special compass, called the Liahona, stopped working in the dark, vicious storm. For three days their ship was driven back on the waters. By the fourth day, the ship was about to sink from the storm.

Finally, Nephi's brothers realized they were about to perish without God. They came to Nephi and loosed the cords upon his wrists and ankles. He writes, "[B]ehold, they had swollen exceedingly . . . and great was the soreness thereof. . . but I did look unto my God, and I did praise him all the day long; and I did not murmur [complain] against God because of my affliction [pain]."

After Nephi was loosened, he picked up the compass and God allowed it to work again. Nephi prayed unto the Lord, and after he prayed, the winds stopped, the storm stopped, and there was a great calm. Nephi guided the ship and they sailed on to the promised land.

(Continued on Page 7)

WORD SEARCH

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TO	AND
THE	LEMUEL
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Our Women Today

A Morning of Praise

By Terri Bravo

There are times in our lives that are etched in our minds as treasured memories. "A Morning of Praise," held on April 23, 1994, by the Edison, New Jersey Ladies' Uplift Circle, was one of these times.

Approximately six months prior to this date, our teacher, Sister Betty D'Orazio, was inspired to study the word "praise" in both the Bible and Book of Mormon. She was very blessed, and wanted to share the blessings with the sisters of the Ladies' Circle.

She asked each of us to bring a basket filled with praises to the Lord. The baskets could include a scripture of praise, a testimony of praise, and/or a hymn of praise. We would then present our baskets before our circle and before the Lord.

Even before our meeting opened, we felt the Lord's presence. One of our sisters was inspired to write the following:

We are here to praise the Lord
in song and in prayer! In
praise to His Name, we bring

our baskets filled with praise!
We have many reasons to offer
praise. As we open our baskets
of praise, we will share with
one another our praises before
Your Throne, dear Lord.
Please find these praises accept-
able offerings unto Your Name.
Praise God from whom all
blessings flow!

Each basket presented was made with love and care. They were each an individual expression of the sisters' feelings for the Lord. We didn't rush our time together, but rather, savored our moments together.

The most precious moments came when we spontaneously expressed our love toward a sister in need. We experienced the true love of Jesus Christ.

Brother Arthur Searcy, our visiting elder, encouraged us to continue magnifying the Lord. He read from Psalm 103. "Wouldn't it be beautiful," he said, "if the Lord would take your baskets up to heaven?" We all agreed with him!

As we closed our time of praise, we all knew we had experienced something very, very special. Our baskets graced the top of the Communion table—the same table which is faithfully set, every Sunday, from a basket filled with the Lord's best: Himself. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

General Ladies' Circle Conference

DATE:

Saturday, October 8, 1994

PLACE:

The Greensburg Church Building

TIME:

10:00 a.m.

Women, we invite you to join us in a day of fellowship and praise!

We will provide you with an update on our General Circle's June 1995 retreat in Dallas, Texas.

Mothers, day care will be provided.

MESSAGE continued . . .

share their information with the GMBA Conference, allowing those present to share in the blessings from their experience.

(Everyone's prayers are requested, so that God's direction and strength will allow this program to achieve the goal of leading more souls to salvation.) -- Evangelist Editor's Note

CHILDREN'S continued . . .

God sees everything we're going through. Even when we're suffering or hurt or learning a painful lesson, He is there. He brought Nephi through the pain of body and heart as they crossed the wild seas. He can bring you through the dangerous and hard times in your life. Nephi's torn wrists and ankles healed, and he could walk again. God can heal our troubled parts.

Just praise Him, trust that He is watching over you and *know* that He has you in the palm of His hand. He cares for you.

(1 Nephi 18)

Sister Jan



Sisters of the Edison, NJ Circle present their baskets of praise.

Branch and Mission News

Baptism at Branch #1, Michigan

By Stephanie Rado

February 27, 1994 turned from an ordinary day into an extraordinary one by the request of Brandon Lordy to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. Brandon, the son of Sister Angela and stepson of Brother Dennis Colpitts, had requested his baptism earlier in the week.

Our morning service began with a quartet of brothers, Larry Champine, Wayne Conti, Peter Scolaro, and Eugene Amormino, singing the beautiful hymn, *Lovest Thou Me?*

Brother Eugene opened the service by saying, "Today is Brother Brandon's D-Day!" He elaborated that D-Day relates to the three D's, which are: Deception, Deliverance, and Desire. He used the example of the Prodigal Son, reading from Luke 15:13, to illustrate the first D, Deception. When the prodigal son realized that he had been deceived by the charms and the riches of this world, he finally came to his senses, repented, and went home to his father. A few weeks ago, Brandon realized that the world is full of deception, and the more he tried to make things "right," the more things went wrong. Brother Eugene stated that we are not in control, God is. We do not have the power to be in control; we need something greater than ourselves.

Which brings us to the second D, Deliverance. Brandon made a very important decision; a choice, and that choice was to be baptized. When we are baptized we are delivered from all our sins, as Jesus told Nicodemus, "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

For the last D, Desire, Brother

Eugene used a portion of scripture found in Alma 32:27, "... even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words." Brother Eugene exclaimed, "Desire to believe and let this desire work within you. You have to have a desire to make a change. Put Jesus in control. When Jesus knocks on the outside of the door, the doorknob is on the inside; you have to open the door to let Jesus in."

Brother Peter Scolaro, our presiding elder, spoke a few words from Alma and admonished us not to ignore the "signals" given to us by going the wrong way.

After our morning service was dismissed, we all went to the baptismal site, where the brothers spent over one hour cutting through 30 inches of ice. Once the ice was broken, Brandon was baptized by Brother Eugene Amormino.

Our afternoon service began with Brother Richard Thomas speaking of the burden that is lifted when one is baptized, and how you face the world in a new light. He spoke of the personal relationship you build with Jesus Christ. Brother Richard then quoted from II Nephi 31:12, "He that is baptized in my name, to him will the Father give the Holy Ghost, like unto me; wherefore, follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do."

The congregation sang *Holy Spirit, Thou Art Welcome* and Brandon was led up front where he was confirmed by Brother Jerry Benyola. Our new brother was then asked to say a few words. In his testimony he stated, "This is the first Sunday I wasn't looking at the clock; time didn't matter, I could stay here for days on end. I would like the young people to sing that song, *People Need the Lord*." As the young people were led by Sister Kathie Perkins, we found a satisfying end to our wonderful day.

Ordination in Yucaipa, CA

On Sunday, January 2, 1994, our Brother Sal Azzinaro was ordained a teacher. Several visitors from throughout the Pacific Coast District were present for this wonderful day with our brother.

Brother Randy Lee took part in washing our Brother Sal's feet, and Brother Rudy Carillo ordained him. After a prayer by Brother Tom Liberto, the branch sang *If You Would Labor in Zion*.

Twelve elders were present at this blessed meeting, and the church was filled with a glorious spirit. Each cup was filled, and tears were plentiful as we all shared in the joy that our brother Sal was filled with on this day.

Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

Once again, we gathered at the lake on March 27, 1994, to witness another soul give herself to God. Nyema Brown asked for her baptism the week before, and joins two other young sisters recently baptized in our branch.

Brother Jim Crudup baptized Nyema, and she was confirmed by our visiting Brother Sam Dell from the New Brunswick Branch. During the confirmation a sister had a vision of all the brothers and sisters on their knees praying for Nyema and saw a light around her and beaming especially brightly from her face.

Many experiences were brought forth this day concerning Nyema's calling. The evening before she asked for her baptism, we had held our monthly young people's meeting, during which many young people had a desire to be prayed for. What a joy to see the tears streaming down their faces as God began to move in their hearts! Sister Nyema was among those who stepped forward to be prayed for as she struggled with this decision. Praise God, she made the right decision.

During the service, our three new sisters sang *Wave the Flags of Zion* from *The Songs of Zion*. What a blessing it was to see three races—African, Caucasian, and Hispanic (Seed of Joseph)—singing praises to the same God! In the world these races are in conflict, but praise God, in His Church, there is equality.

On April 2, 1994, we held our Springtime Singspiration. Many different groups came up to sing. Different age groups, naturally and spiritually, sang hymns in English and Spanish. We played a little Bible and Book of Mormon trivia, and it was amazing to see how many answers the young people knew! We shared experiences from long ago and not so long ago concerning our branch, and how God has blessed us. While holding hands in a circle during closing prayer, two sisters had visions. One sister saw a light above us, and two large white hands rested upon our heads. One of our newer young sisters, Janet Murillo, saw an angel go around the circle and pour a golden liquid on each of our heads.

The next day, as we gathered on the Sabbath, it was good to see our Brother Bob Venuto in our midst. He had recently undergone additional surgery as a result of his auto accident. Even his *doctor* said that he wanted to pray before conducting the surgery! While in the hospital, Brother Bob felt bad that he couldn't be at our February 20 District Conference. He asked God to fill the void he felt. He then had a vision in which he saw two personages with their arms outstretched to a multitude of kneeling people in the prime of their life. Brother Bob remarked how brilliant this vision was. He was given to understand that he was witnessing that Conference of all Conferences, when we see God and His Son Jesus. Praise God for all His marvelous blessings!

Ordinations in Warren, OH

On Sunday, March 6, 1994, saints from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, and Pennsylvania gathered to see

Brothers Ralph Cartino and Ron Giovannone from the Warren, Ohio Branch be ordained as elders in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Speaking under the power of God, Brother Richard Thomas from Detroit opened the meeting with III Nephi 12:1-2, where Jesus spoke to the multitude when He chose the twelve disciples. He told how it is a divine call to be called into the royal priesthood of Jesus Christ. It is not a call by man. As the Apostle Paul said, "It didn't come to you by word, but it came to you by power and in the Holy Ghost with much authority." Paul said, "I was made a minister according to the gift of the grace of God which was given unto me. That He may make all men know of the mysteries of God." You need to have boldness, faith, and confidence that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may be preached among the children of men, that we might raise the last warning voice unto the nations.

Brother Richard said that as God has called our brothers and has separated them unto the ministry, God has given them something very rich in their lives that they might hold on to. These brothers must empty themselves of all things that are not spiritual, and fill themselves with the things of God, that the Spirit of God might overflow from them and they might be a vessel that God might be able to operate through by pouring His Spirit upon them. These brothers have to be rooted and grounded in the things of God, that they might be used of God, that nothing might move them.

Brother Mitch Edwards from South Bend followed, speaking on when Christ asked Peter, "Lovest thou Me more than these?" Christ told Peter to feed His sheep. Our brothers will need to set all things aside and concentrate on what God has called them into the ministry to do. Being a member of the royal priesthood is a challenge, a challenge of God. He said that not only the priesthood, but all the saints of God need to let the Spirit of God grow and work within us. Brother Mitch

told of a message that God gave him once and His words were, "Preach what I give you to preach or find yourself in need of repentance." He told our brothers to preach what God gives them to preach, to preach unto the honor and glory of God, and to preach the written word of God and not lean upon flesh.

Brother Chuck Jumper from Aliquippa followed, speaking on the Holy Ghost that will be given to our brothers. That God will work through them and they will administer to others. The gift that God has prepared for His ministry is now upon these brothers, and they must work with all their might. He told the congregation to hold up the ministry, that they would be able to be the servants that we desire them to be. "They'll take your name to God, they'll take your afflictions to the throne of God and when they call out for you, God will be there for you." Brother Chuck asked that we pray for our brethren in the priesthood and support them, that we might hold one another's hand and be united so that nothing will stand in the way, that we may sit in heavenly places when our brothers speak and pray for us.

After we sang *When I'm Humbled Down*, a hymn written by Sister Cathy Genaro, the ministry of the Warren Branch told the experiences confirming our brothers' callings. Brother Bob Ciarocchi then turned the meeting over to the ordinations. Brother Frank Giovannone washed his nephew

(Continued on Page 10)



Warren, Ohio's newly-ordained elders and deaconesses.

ORDINATIONS continued . . .

Ron's feet, and Brother Richard Santilli washed Brother Ralph's feet. After the ministry formed a circle around the brothers, Brother Paul Palmieri offered a prayer to God that He might set our brothers apart and give them the power that they will need to be ministers of the Most High God. Brother Ron's father, Brother Jerry Giovannone, ordained him. Brother Ralph was ordained by Brother Bob Ciarocchi.

Several manifestations of the Spirit came forth, the Word of the Lord and a vision, attesting to the

ordinations that were taking place this day. Our new elders passed the Lord's Supper along with two other brothers. As they did so this first time, the Spirit of God was truly felt by all. Brother Ralph was able to administer Communion to his family, and the countenance of God's love was truly upon him.

Brother Paul Palmieri spoke a few words to the wives of the brothers. He said how they need to be a blessing unto their husbands, and to help them and pray with them. Brother Paul told our brothers that the most important job they have is working with those outside the walls

of the Church.

After the meeting, the sisters of the Warren Branch had a spaghetti dinner ready for all, honoring our two new elders and Sisters Sandy D'Orazio and Lorie Prokup, who had been ordained deaconesses a couple of months prior.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

Carrie Giovannone Raub
6590 Country Ridge Rd.
Austintown, OH 44515
Tel. (216) 792-5213

Ordination

Brother Arthur Cotton of the Lorain, Ohio Branch was ordained a deacon on May 1, 1994. He was baptized on March 29, 1992. Brother Art's feet were washed by Brother Leonard Nardozzi, and Brother Joseph Calabrese performed the ordination.

* WEDDINGS *

ROMANO - RUSSELL

Brother Dean Carl Romano and Denise Rene Russell were married on March 22, 1994 in Ft. Pierce, Florida.

Brother Norman Campitelle officiated at the ceremony, assisted by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo. Musical selections were provided by organist John Engen.

The couple attends the Ft. Pierce Branch. They are residing in Stuart, Florida. We pray for God's richest blessings in their life together.

KRUMPE - TROVARELLI

Sister Joyce Ann Trovarelli became Mrs. Jonathan Krumpe on May 7, 1994. Jonathan and Joyce were wed at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan, bringing joy to all who attended.

The bride's uncle, Brother Nephi DeMercurio, and the groom's uncle, Brother Howard Jackson, officiated at the ceremony.

Many agreed that these two were truly brought together by the hand of God. What a beautiful blessing we receive when we "wait upon the Lord"! Many friends and family members from Michigan and Ohio witnessed this beautiful covenant between Jonathan and Joyce and God. Jonathan's parents, Brother Chuck and Sister Betty

Krumpe, along with Joyce's parents, Brother Attilio and Sister Angeline Trovarelli, expressed much happiness. Our prayers of love and joy are with this couple as they begin a new life. They are residing in Sterling Heights, Michigan.

ZEMBA - McCRORY

Mr. Frank Zemba and Miss Deborah McCrory were united in holy matrimony on May 28, 1994 at the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. Deborah is the granddaughter of Sister Sue Marek.

The ceremony was performed by Brother John Kendall. Musical selections were provided by Brother Joseph and Sister Alice Saeli, and Shelley Markazene of the Greensburg Branch.

The newlyweds are residing in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. May God's blessings be with them.

Children Blessed

Alyssa Carol, born to Brother Chuck and Sister Dianne Maddox, was blessed by her father on January 16, 1994 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Brandon James, son of Frank and Shannon Hufnagle, was blessed by his uncle, Brother Jim Hufnagle, at the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

On March 27, 1994, Brother Frank Rogolino blessed his grandson, Logan David Rogolino, at the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch. Logan is the son of David and Betsy Rogolino.

On April 3, 1994, Brother Sam Costarella blessed Andrew Douglas Dahl at the Ft. Pierce, Florida Branch.

Brother Paul Ciotti Sr. blessed Alena Xuan, daughter of Anthony and Joyce Ricci, on May 29, 1994 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

OBITUARIES

KEITH HALE

Brother Keith Hale of the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch, departed from this life on February 2, 1994. He is the son of Lydia Hale and the late Brother Ed Hale. He was born January 6, 1956 in Duquesne, Pennsylvania and was baptized on July 3, 1992. He was 38 years old.

Brothers English Webb and David Nolfi performed the funeral service.

Our brother is survived by his mother; four sisters, including Sisters Leslie Hammerberg, Jodi Brieck, and Faith Lobzun; four brothers; two children; a fiancée; a grandmother; and many other relatives and friends. All who knew him will miss him.

PEARL ROBINSON

Sister Pearl Gillyard Robinson, 93, passed from this life on March 4, 1994. She was the widow of the late Evangelist Clarence Robinson of Clairton, Pennsylvania. She was born November 22, 1900 in St Paul, South Carolina, and was baptized in West Elizabeth, Pennsylvania on May 18, 1958. The Going Home service was rendered by Brothers English Webb, Chatman Young, and David Nolfi.

Our sister was the mother of nine children; Pastor Lee, the late Elder Harry, Nathaniel, Clarence Jr., Sister Irene Jones, Sister Mattie Robinson, Sister Rosa Williams, Sister Mary Stone and the late Sister Regina Harris. Also many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the brothers and sisters of the Clairton Mission. Her testimony of faith will be missed by all of us.

CAROLINE GERARDI

On March 10, 1994, at the age of 81, Sister Caroline Gerardi left this earth after a long illness and went to be with the Lord. She was born in Strongolia, Calabria, Italy on February 22, 1913, and was brought to America at the age of 6. Her family met the Church in Brooklyn, New York, where she was baptized by Brother Frank Serrangelo on July 24, 1938. She married Joseph Gerardi on November 8, 1936. He passed away on January 11, 1975. The couple moved to California late in 1951 and attended the San Fernando Valley Branch. Caroline was faithful in her belief and confidence in God. During her last few years, she spent many hours listening to tapes of hymns she loved, including *The Songs of Zion*, while she rested in a convalescent hospital.

The funeral service was conducted by Brothers Otto Henderson and Rudolph Meo.

Her family, who will miss her very much, consists of three brothers; two sisters, including Sister Betty

Azzinaro of the Simi Valley Branch; a son and daughter-in-law; three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

MARY FURNARI

Our dear Sister Mary Stella Furnari went home to be with the Lord on March 23, 1994. Sister Mary was born on December 8, 1934 to Brother Tom and Sister Catherine Amormino, and was baptized by Brother Silverio Coppa. She was a member of Detroit Branch #3 all her life, but she and her family lived in Cincinnati, Ohio from 1981 to 1997, where they started a mission.

Brothers Paul Whitton and Gary Coppa performed the funeral service.

Sister Mary is survived by her husband, Brother Joe, their daughter and son-in-law, Sister Kathy and Ron Peshl, and two grandsons. She was preceded in death by her son, John. Our prayers go out to the family, who we know misses her. We share their loss.

ELMER SANTILLI

Brother Elmer Santilli passed on to his eternal reward on April 24, 1994 after an extended illness leading to confinement in a nursing home for six months. He was born on February 1, 1936, in Youngstown, Ohio, the youngest of eight children born to Salvatore and Gemma Santilli. He used the 58 years allotted to him wisely to accomplish many great things.

After graduation from high school in 1954, Brother Elmer served his country as a medic in the United States Army. He married Betty Milano in 1962; their union was blessed with two sons, Sam in 1966 and Matt in 1973.

Brother Elmer was ordained an elder on April 12, 1964, and an evangelist on May 24, 1970. He gave of himself—in hours and dollars—to serve those in need. He put God above all else, and brought many souls into the Gospel, visiting branches and missions across the country to help spread God's word.

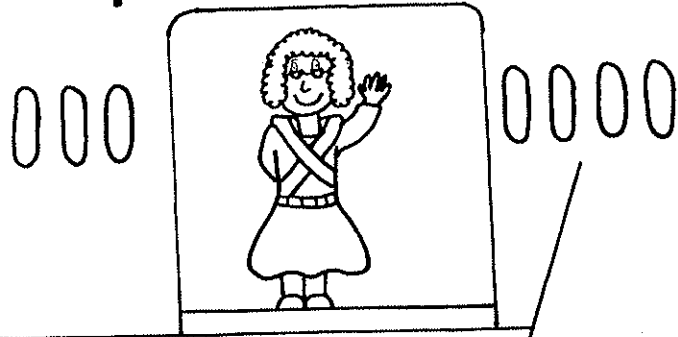
Brother Elmer was the editor of the Perry Newsletter for many years and continued to work, along with his wife, for a total of 23 years to make sure the newsletter reached the shut-ins and others unable to attend church. He was instrumental in organizing many activities for the young people, along with researching and compiling articles and pamphlets for the General Church.

As a graduate of Kent State University with a bachelor's and master's degree in education, he eventually became head of the business department at Chardon High School, where he served for 18 years. He provided a secure home and a loving atmosphere for his family and taught his children, by his example, good moral standards.

(Continued on Page 12)

OBITUARIES continued . . .

Drop In On The Fun...



General
Ladies'
Circle
Retreat



June 1-4
1995
DALLAS, Tx.

Though Brother Elmer's death came as a shock to us all, we are confident that he is in a better place. The family will carry on, but his love, leadership, and positive attitude will be missed by all who knew him. With all the good that Brother Elmer provided to this mixed-up world, the Lord, upon greeting him, doubtless used those words that Brother Elmer longed to hear and preached many times, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of thy Lord."

DONALD PETROSKY

Donald R. Petrosky of Wickhaven, Pennsylvania passed away on May 3, 1994 at the age of 45. He was the son of Sister Thelma Petrosky of Perropolis, a member of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch, and the late Charles W. Petrosky, who had just passed away on January 10 of this year.

Brother Robert Nicklow Sr. participated in the funeral services.

Donald is survived by his wife, Nancy; one son; a sister, Sister Charlotte Sapko of the Greensburg Branch; and twin brothers, Charles Jr. and Ronald. He will be sadly missed by his loving family and friends. May the Lord comfort and bless them in their time of loss.

RUTH BRAENDLE

Sister Ruth Gwendolyn Braendle passed away on May 8, 1994. She was born on March 29, 1904 in Thayer, Illinois. In time, she met and married Mr. Harvey Braendle. She was baptized by Brother Joseph Lovalvo on August 10, 1952 and confirmed by Brother Clifford Burgess. She and her husband were staunch members of Detroit Branch #1 for many years. Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Harvey, in 1975. She transferred her membership from Branch #1 to the Inner City Branch on October 10, 1979.

Brothers Eugene Amormino and Stephen Champine conducted the funeral.

To the many who knew Sister Ruth, it was obvious that her relationship with God was the very center of her life. Evidence of this fact was demonstrated by the way Sister Ruth often referred to "Her God," and "Her Jesus," in the first person possessive. It was this personal interaction with Jesus Christ that produced her strong faith and conviction to live for His honor and glory no matter what the circumstances or consequences. Her spirit-filled discipleship was a source of many blessings to the brothers and sisters of the Inner City Branch, as well as to all who knew her.

Sister Ruth is survived by two sisters and one brother. Also left to mourn are a host of brothers and sisters from The Church of Jesus Christ.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

September, 1994

Volume 50, No. 9

Tithe?! Who, Me?

Whenever the subject of tithing comes up, do you ever hear these questions or statements?:

"Tithing, oh, that was only done under the law."

"That was just for the House of Israel, and for the upkeep of the Tribe of Levi, the tabernacle, the temple, etc."

"The Book of Mormon doesn't say anything about tithing, does it?"

"Christ didn't speak about tithing, did He?"

"The statistics state that the national average for giving to God is about two to three percent of one's income; so hardly anyone is tithing."

"Does tithing mean ten percent of my take-home pay (net), or my gross income?"

"Am I to give ten percent of the profit (increase) I make on the sale of my house, car, boat, stocks, bonds, etc.?"

In responding to these questions, let us see what the word of God says:

Tithing was only done under the law. The first time we read of giving tithes is in Genesis 14:20, when Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, which was about 400 years before the law was given. Melchizedek (King of Salem) was

after the order of the Son of God. Please read Hebrews 7:2-6 and Alma 13. Jacob also covenants to pay tithes after his encounter with the Angel of the Lord at Bethel in Genesis 28:22. Abraham and Jacob did this prior to the existence of the House of Israel, or the giving of the law.

Are we governed by God's word? Murder was regarded as sin before the law was given, as well as adultery. Tithing was practiced by Abraham and Jacob prior to the law, and Moses wrote, "All the tithe is the Lord's: it is holy unto the Lord" (Leviticus 27:30-34).

It was only intended for the House of Israel, for the upkeep of the Tribe of Levi, the tabernacle, the temple, etc. When the law came to be, 11 tribes were to pay tithes to the Tribe of Levi for their sustenance, for the tabernacle or temple, and for those in the service of God's holy ordinances and sacrifices. When they gave their tithe, it was "holy unto the Lord," (Leviticus 27:30), so they did it unto the Lord and not unto the temple, tabernacle, or church. They also gave one tenth of the increase of their seed. Deuteronomy 14:22 states, "Even at the end of three years they brought in all the tithe of their increase." Verses 28 and 29 of the same chapter state, "So the people of Israel tithed their seed, corn, wine,

oil, flocks, oxen, sheep, honey, and field." This third year was called the year of tithing, and was for the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow. (Please read Deuteronomy 12:5-19 and 14:22-27.) Altogether, the Jews gave at least 23.33% of their income to cover these different tithes which were for the Levites and sacred feasts, and the strangers, fatherless, and widows.

The Book of Mormon doesn't say anything about tithing, does it? Jesus, when He made His appearance in this Promised Land, commanded that the words which were given by the Father to Malachi be written in the Book of Mormon, or on the gold plates. (See III Nephi 24:8-12 and compare to Malachi 3:8-12.) Jesus specified that the passage of scripture was given to the Nephites so that they would come forth "that they should be given to future generations" (III Nephi 26:2). Since He had already fulfilled all of the law of Moses, this affirms that tithing not only came prior to the law and was part of the law of the law of performances and ordinances, but also that the Lord expects His people to tithe in our day! Are we not part of the "future generations"? The word of the Lord warns us that if we withhold our tithes and offerings from Him, we have robbed Him.

(Continued on Page 3)

Apostles' Insights

The Foundational Principle of Truth

By Robert A. Watson

I am sure that no one will disagree with me that we, both as a Church and as individuals, need more Truth, Love, Mercy, Forgiveness, Gentleness, Kindness, and Longsuffering.

The above characteristics represent seven foundational principles that should govern our lives. They were seen written on a banner in a dream had by Brother Joe Lovalvo. He was also told in this dream that we need more of these characteristics in our lives.

If this is true, then we must begin immediately to weave these fundamental principles into a mosaic pattern, the fabric of which is so tightly woven that the weave will not tear apart, no matter how great the stress.



Apostle Robert A. Watson

We were not told in this dream that we were void of these principles, but rather, that we need more of them. This being true, then it is only logical that in order to reach a higher level of these principles, we must first attempt to measure our

present level.

The big question, then, is where, and how, do we begin what appears to be an impossible task?

It would be much easier to apply the measuring stick to the General Church at large, or at the corporate level, but since the scriptures say that we *"are the body of Christ, and members in particular"* (I Corinthians 12:27), it would then be more effective and honest to measure these qualities individually, using the measuring stick of the inerrant Word of God.

I am convinced that if we attempted this measurement at the General Church level, we would quickly resort to measuring District to District, Branch to Branch, Brother to Brother, and Sister to Sister.

The Apostle Paul warned us that this is an unwise methodology to use. Listen to his words: *"For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."* (II Corinthians 10:12).

In the interest of time and space for this particular article, I have first selected the principle of Truth, which I feel is the foundational principle of all of the seven mentioned in the dream. I will engage in the writing of the other principles at a later date.

As we begin this study with truth, it is important to know that God is a God of truth, as revealed to Moses, *"And the Lord passed by before him and proclaimed, 'The Lord, The Lord God merciful and gracious, longsuffering and abundant in goodness and truth'"* (Exodus 34:6). He is also a judge, as stated in Psalm 96:13: *"Before the Lord: for He cometh, for He cometh to judge the earth: and He shall judge the world with righteousness and the people with truth."*

In this study it is very important that we first turn inward, as stated by the Apostle Paul in Romans 7:22, *"For I delight in the Law*

of God after the inward man." This is also reinforced by David in Psalm 51:6, *"Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom."* We have just quoted the words of both Paul and David. Let us now listen to the words of Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As we turn within ourselves, we are pleased to find that as His followers, Christ abides within us, and the words He spoke in John 14:13 come to life: *"If a man loves me he will keep my works and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him and make our abode with him."* Jesus also tells us as He speaks to His Father, saying, *"Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy word is truth"* (John 17:17). He also verifies that the Kingdom of God is within us, and so we not only have the Kingdom within, but we also have the King abiding within us, that is, is we love the Lord and keep His commandments as He asks us to do. We now have laid the very foundation of truth based on literal truth, as spoken of in the scripture. Jesus summed it all up by saying, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me"* (John 14:6).

As we now live in the fulfillment of the above requirements, we are truly the sons and daughters of God. We, we have now reached our true identity—that being the Family of God. We are also blessed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit sent to guide us into all truth. John 16:13 states, *"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of Truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth."*

We must now translate the indwelling of Christ and the truth within us by walking in truth: *"I rejoiced greatly that I found of thy children walking in truth as we have received a commandment from the father"* (II John 4).

We must also as individuals translate the truth within us by promoting truth in doctrine, history, prophecy, social behavior, and

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Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Forgiveness is one of the greatest gifts of God. Jesus' mission was, and still is, to forgive those who repent of their sins.

Caring enough to forgive is a choice; quite often a tough and demanding character decision that requires humility, stamina, and wisdom. As fallible human beings, we may never reach the point where we will not need to be forgiven. We also need to know how to forgive others. "No relationship exists long without tensions; without conflicts."

Jesus came to teach of the noble force that motivated His followers to be like Him. He spoke more about forgiveness than any other subject. Thus, the question prompted by Peter, "Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times? Jesus said unto him, 'I say not unto you, till seven times: but, until seventy times seven.'" (Matthew 18:7)

How do we cope with the hurts and the heartaches that will arise out of what the offenders will do to us, either intentionally or unintentionally? This is one of the most difficult tasks. Often forgiveness is counterfeited. In some difficult cases time may be required to heal the hurts.

More scripture is dedicated to the process of offenses and forgiveness than any other subject.

One of the most testing cases is found in Genesis 50:15-21 regarding Joseph and his brothers. Paul, writing to the Ephesians (4:31-32),

says, "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, and anger; brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, *forgiving* each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

Jesus' warning to both the offender and non-forgiver, as recorded in Luke 17:1, reads, "It is impossible that offenses will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hung about his neck and he be cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones!"

"Take heed to yourselves: if thy brother trespasses against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him; and if he trespasses against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to you saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him." And the apostles said unto the Lord, "Increase our faith."

Don't we feel to say likewise: "Lord, increase our faith."? Even so, Lord Jesus, help us today; the days are far more evil.

May God bless the readers,

Mark Randy

make on the sale of my house, car, boat, stocks, bonds, etc.? The word "tithe" means ten percent, not two or three percent. In Proverbs 3:9-10 it reads that we should "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the *first fruits* of all thine *increase*. So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine." Giving our *first fruits* is what we would term today as taking out of our *gross income*. From our gross income, deductions such as Federal Income Tax, FICA, Medicare, state and local taxes, health insurance, 401K, IRA, etc. are deducted, depending on your arrangements with your employer/personnel office. As you will notice, these deductions benefit you—now and later in life. Would we be robbing God if we subtracted all these deductions and then tithed on our net income? What do you think? Do we fear "Caesar" more than God? Any increase we receive from financial transactions of any kind fall under the guidelines of tithing.

Therefore, it has been written concerning tithing, that:

(Continued on Page 9)

TITHE? continued . . .

Christ didn't speak about tithing, did He? In Matthew 23:23, Jesus reaffirmed the Pharisees' practice of tithing, while admonished them not to neglect "the weightier matters of the law; judgment, mercy, and faith: these things ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone." He did not remind them to tithe, because they were already doing it even to the extent of their "anise, mint, and cummin."

The statistics state that the national average for giving to God is about two to three percent of one's income; so hardly anyone is tithing. Does tithing mean ten percent of my take-home pay (net), or my gross income? Am I to give ten percent of the profit (increase) I

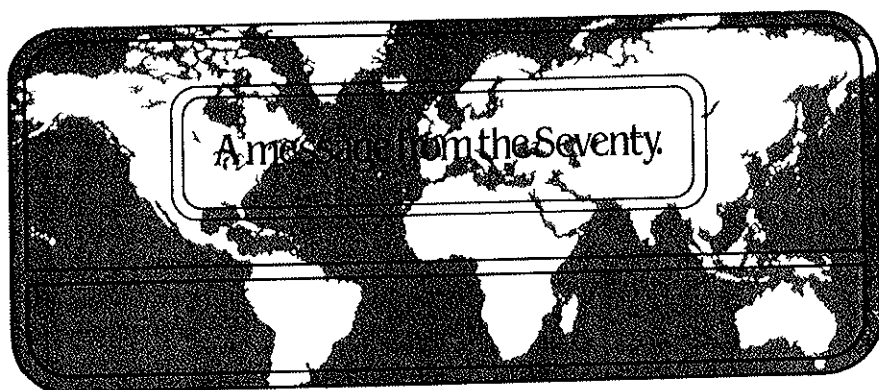
Announcement

For October, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.00%
2 years	5.50%
3 years	5.75%
4 years	6.00%
5 years	6.50%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



Youth in Action Program Begun in August

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The General Missionary Benevolent Association's "Youth in Action" program was begun successfully last month when young people of The Church of Jesus Christ traveled to two locations to devote part of their school vacation time to the new outreach undertaking.

Dallas, Texas and Harrison, Michigan were the sites visited. Many activities were included in the busy schedules, as the volunteers combined with the congregations in reaching out to people in their communities.

The Church-sanctioned program has been launched to assist small branches and missions in their quest to increase in numbers. The initial involvement was fulfilling for both the groups and those who came to give a helping hand.

EXCITEMENT

There was much excitement from the very onset and intense efforts were expended. Each day was planned with specific assignments, which differed at the two locations. Overall, these included door-to-door leaflet distribution, a car wash with signs and banners acquainting people with the Church, canvassing the neighborhoods to give personal testimonies to as many people as possible and to present invitations to attend, advertising for and holding a singspiration, an open house at the building, and social gatherings after

services.

The young people had been instructed, including some role-playing, about the ventures, and preparatory materials were also provided to them. Their desires to labor for the Lord were thus rewarded, and they were able to actively use their individual abilities to help the Church. Members of the missions provided them lodging and hospitality, and participated with them in outreach activities. The spiritual love that was shown reciprocally was very heartwarming.

Travelling to Dallas were Jason Monaghan of McKees Rocks, PA; Angelo Licata of Cincinnati, OH; Deanna Nuzzi of Niles, OH; Ralph Cartino Jr. of Warren, OH; and Zachary Jackson of Kinsman, OH. They were driven from Ohio by Brother Mike Nuzzi, also of Niles, who stayed almost the entire time and made valuable contributions to the overall operation. This group was joined later by Jennifer and Justin Paxon of Atlanta, GA; Christine Benyola of Tampa, FL; and Pamela and George Benyola Jr. of Lake Worth, FL. Committee members Jerry Valenti and Jeffrey Giannetti, along with GMBA President Brian Martorana went to Dallas for part of the time to assist. The presiding officer there is Brother Joseph Ignagni. Evangelist George Benyola, the mission's long-time resident elder, is also in Dallas.

Journeying to Harrison were

Joseph Giannetti of Aliquippa, PA; Linda Ali of Glassport, PA; Mitzi Yoder of Imperial, PA; Alissa Champine of Detroit Inner City, MI; Lynnette Buffa of Saline, MI; and Colleen Capone of Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, MI. Committee members Jerry Morle and Mario Zaccagnini; Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio; William Buffa; Joe, Virginia, and Gary Carlini; and Pete and Janet Oestreicher also visited. Brother Lyle Criscuolo is the presiding officer there.

The program in Dallas took place from August 6-18. Leaflets were distributed to over 6,000 people and personal invitations were given to over 800 individuals. One visited on Sunday, and others indicated an interest in coming in the future.

In Harrison, the program lasted from August 6-14. An interesting project at Harrison was a survey which was conducted of the people in the community. Five questions were asked:

1. Do you believe in God?
2. Do you attend church on a regular basis?
3. Do you own a Bible? If so, how often do you read it?
4. Have you heard of The Church of Jesus Christ located in Harrison?
5. Would you like a visit from one of our ministers? If yes, please give your name and phone number.

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Correction

There are two corrections in the mailing, *Everything Is Relative*, that went out recently from the Foreign Mission Operating Committee.

Brother Joel Calabrese's correct fax number is 419-281-5447 and the correct address for the Missionary Foundation Fund is:

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Pittsburgh, PA 15244

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

A letter arrived a little over a month ago from a sister who was concerned about the Church's chronic inability to fund the spreading of the Gospel through members' donations. She observed that many people are willing to contribute to the needs of their branch, while expressing dismay that a portion of their donation is forwarded to the General Church. "However," she added, "many people provide special donations if a request is made for a specific cause." She went on to suggest that a list of needs be printed each month in *The Gospel News* to obtain special donations.

Historically, special requests have always prompted people to dig into their pockets for a contribution. Unfortunately, this method of solicitation becomes a case of the squeakiest wheel—not necessarily the neediest or worthiest—getting the grease, with all opportunity for spiritually sound, responsible management of funds lost in the process.

Whether we're contributing to the needs of our own branch, or providing a special donation, we like to be able to choose where our money is going when we give it to the Church. If we're honest with ourselves, however, it's difficult to call it "giving" when we've retained the ability to dictate how our resources are spent. This brand of giving successfully keeps us from ever having to relinquish the *ownership* of our donations—we still get to control exactly where our money goes.

The article on Page 1 of this issue uses scripture to address that same chronic inability of the Church to fund the Great Work of the Lord. Like the rich young ruler who came to Christ, however, we feel very uncomfortable about this one thing that many of us yet lack. While giving to the Church is and always has been a private matter, our teaching on the topic has lacked the scriptural backing that this article provides.

The old slogan, "the Gospel is free" carried an entirely different meaning for the generation who walked a mile to church, who happily shared their meager supper with the family that lived upstairs, trusting in God to provide their next meal. Certainly they understood that everything they owned was the Lord's. Over the years, we have been blessed abundantly in material things, while "the Gospel is free" has grown to become a license for us to be miserly in giving to the Lord. Is it possible that our lives have become so complicated by all that we have (all that we have to pay for) that we simply can't see our way clear to make that leap of faith in our giving habits?

Without printing the equation again, let it suffice to say that if everyone did their part, the Church would have money to spare. We wouldn't need to "market" our missionary needs, and our local buildings would have plenty to keep them running and even multiplying as they should be. At the start, however, we must each reject the ungrateful concept of "my" money, which lies at the base of our unwillingness to give. Such thinking represents our rebellious nature, and demonstrates a lack of trust in God. Let us consider this "special request": that we all prayerfully adjust our thinking about the relationship between ourselves, our God, and the money He provides, and act according to the dictates of the Spirit of God within us.

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

What do you do when you're afraid? What about when you're afraid of a new teacher or mean kids at school? What do you do when you've made a mistake or have picked the wrong friends?

I asked a group of young people from first grade through high school what they were afraid of and what worried them. They told me that sometimes when they are really scared they didn't tell their moms or dads at first, because they were worried they'd get into more trouble.

Sometimes when they're scared that everyone will know they're afraid, then they *really* don't want to tell anyone. They just hope the problem will go away and they keep their worry inside.

Grown-ups do this too. But once we're baptized, we have the Holy Ghost inside of us. So when we make mistakes we really feel terrible since we've gone against the Holy Spirit too.

Sometimes our shame or pride makes us want to never admit our wrongdoing. But there is a good way to end the bad feelings. It's by praying, and by talking to a church friend you can trust, who will pray, too. First of all, God made everything in this world. He has sent us His Son, Jesus, to be our helper and friend. And God and Jesus know what we do. They know every one of our heartaches and fears and struggles. They already know about our troubles and mistakes.

We can ask them for help. Start by finding a quiet place, maybe alone in your room, or outside in the yard.



If your prideful part is struggling not to change, then first pray that God will change *that* part. Then pray for the problem.

Tell the Lord all about it. Tell Him about your hurt and anger and fear. Tell Him about the hot feelings of meanness or shame you feel. Then ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to take it away. And if the problem is one that won't go away, ask Him to show you how to bear it.

Keep asking. Make a little list (or a long list) of questions you have for the Lord. Put a place beside your question to write the date that God changed your pain to gladness. Believe He can change you.

Sometimes when I look back on lists of questions for the Lord that I keep, I am really surprised. Big worries are now little ones. Things I used to be scared of have changed into things I know what to do about. I often ask others to pray for me, too.

The young people talking to me about their fears who had true friends at church told me that those friends made a huge difference in their lives. They felt that even if school was terrible at times, they had someone at church who believed in them. They had someone at church to talk to that they could trust. They had someone to help them pray and be forgiven and keep going.

You can also be that person from The Church of Jesus Christ who listens and prays for their friends. We can each look at our mistakes, ask for forgiveness, and try again. Our Jesus has the power to heal us of our shame and change us into the kind of people we want to be—people with no fear, who trust God.

WORD SEARCH

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Announcement

The General Church Board of Trustees received a gift of the hardcover *Songs of Zion* to be used at the World Conference Center in Greensburg. In order to make room for them, we must remove the black covered folders that are currently being used. If a branch or mission would like these folders, the Trustees will make them available at the October Conference. We do ask that you make a donation to help cover the freight costs incurred in having the hardcover books shipped.

Please contact Brother Dick Lawson to make the arrangements:
1233 Stanford Court
Coraopolis, PA 15108
412/331-7829 Telephone
412/771-7912 Fax

MBA Highlights

May, 1994 GMBA Conference

By Patrick Monaghan

On the weekend of May 20-22, 1994, many gathered at the World Conference Center in Greensburg, PA to take part in the GMBA's business, as well as to receive the blessings of God.

Saturday morning, the conference began with singing and a few words from our Brother Jim Suska. He spoke to us concerning IV Nephi verse 3. Brother Jim challenged the congregation to put aside the problems and concerns of our daily lives, and to be partakers of God's heavenly gifts throughout the course of the weekend. After these words, the GMBA officers' reports followed. Among the ongoing activities and projects were the Student Support Committee, the Youth in Action missionary program, the Camp Procurement Committee, and encouraging reports from the various area presidents.

Under new business, and exciting program in its early stages of development was presented at the conference. Brother Doug Obradovich explained that the purpose of the program is simply to get the youth in the Church more involved in the reading of God's Word, both the Bible and the Book of Mormon. This program, "Word Up!", was accepted by the conference for further development. There will be more said about this program at our next GMBA Conference.

As a result of the efficiency with which the business was conducted, we had time remaining which was devoted to glorifying God. A small group was chosen to sing a selection, after which each one shared their testimony. A good spirit was felt at this time.

After all business had been completed, a short presentation was given titled, "Youth Take Emergency Action." Brother Jerry Valenti directed the skit, which consisted of five young members of the Church having a discussion. During their conversation, each one conveyed that most of their time was devoted to those activities which prevented spiritual growth. Each of these individuals possessed a spiritual gift, yet these gifts had lain dormant. Together, they came to the realization that the gifts God had given them could be used jointly to help spread the Gospel. This skit helped to give the conference a general idea of the aims of "Youth in Action." Following this short presentation, all enjoyed various seminars which were prepared specifically to go along with the Church's responsibility of missionary work.

SATURDAY NIGHT

There was no better way to start our evening meeting than by enjoying the smiles and songs of praise of the little children. As the children sang, they waved flags on which were the names of various missions throughout the world. When they had finished singing, the children presented the flags to the rest of the congregation, asking us to pray for the various missions whose names were written on the flags.

Following this very tough act were the words of our young teachers. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri used Alma 46 as a basis of the evening's message. Here the Nephites are persuaded to evil by a man named Amalakiah, who desired to become king over the people. At this time the foundation of liberty was in grave danger. Nonetheless, a man named Moroni was inspired to go amongst the people girded about with his armor, raising the title of liberty, and crying with a loud voice that if they would not forget the goodness of their God, the freedom of the land would be preserved. After Brother Paul had shared these words, he exclaimed that in these

latter days, the title of liberty is none other than The Church of Jesus Christ!

Brother Randy Ciccati followed, saying that the opposite of liberty is bondage. Brother Randy used an example of an individual whose flight had been cancelled and was stuck in the Atlanta airport for five hours. To this individual, that was a "faaantastic" situation! This person approached the circumstances in a positive manner, and in doing so he had the freedom (liberty) to enjoy his stay at the airport. Following

(Continued on Page 10)

Levittown, PA MBA Fundraisers

By Joyce Ross

The Levittown MBA has been blessed with many fund-raising projects and lots of energy! One of these was an evening at Brother Tony and Sister Nancy Micale's McDonald's Restaurant. We bought the food, and Brother Tony and Sister Nancy donated the money spent to the MBA. After a McDonald's feast, we returned to church and continued our evening with a penny roll. They do add up!

The Levittown Local MBA has organized a group of young teenagers known as the Thursday Nighters. This group meets every other Thursday at Church under the direction of Brothers Jerry Valenti, Jeffrey Giannetti, and Don Ross. They, too, have joined in the fund raising mode and held an ice cream social which was, indeed, a very tasteful evening!

The fund raising went on as the MBA continued with hoagie sandwich sales and a spaghetti dinner. These fund raisers, along with donations, were used to send several people from our local to the GMBA Campout in June, 1994.

We are grateful for all the efforts of everyone who participated, and we thank God for His blessings and the desire to do good.

Branch and Mission News

Dallas, TX

By Debi Jankowski

The Dallas Mission started out the year with a bang! On January 23, 1994, two beautiful souls waded into the lake to be cleansed—our first two of '94. Yes, it was a very windy, typically cold winter day here in Texas. But that didn't dampen our spirits. The look of peace on our new Brother Juan De La Cruz and our new Sister Ida De La Cruz as they came up out of the water, yearning for a breath not only of air, but of new life, produced a warm feeling in our hearts. To see this husband and wife go down into the waters was such a beautiful sight—we rejoiced! Then we left the shores to go back to the church.

To our great surprise, Sister Ina and Brother Burt Miller from Warren, Ohio pulled up just as we were going back inside. But here's how the Lord works: They had been driving around, lost, for the past hour (while we were at the water's edge). Had they found the church building any sooner, nobody from the mission would have been there, and they might not have stayed (They didn't know about the baptisms that were occurring!). So for that we praise Our Savior even more.

And the praising didn't stop there. We had a glorious testimony service, in which beautiful confirmations were given of the "new life" that took place this day. The Spirit of God was flowing from vessel to vessel throughout the congregation. We felt the glory of the Lord.

After Communion was served, our new sister in Christ testified that she had felt a burning sensation while walking out of the water. Later, her husband expressed with much emotion what a blessing he felt in partaking of the Lord's Supper—for him it completed the steps he had taken that day.

We reluctantly closed this marvelous service and fellowship with a perfect song for the day: *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*.

God praised in Glassport

On Sunday, April 24, 1994, the Glassport, PA Branch gave all honor and glory to God for Teddy Jo Crombling, a new sister in Christ, and the celebration of 60 years in the Gospel for Sister Elsie Ensana. Sister Elsie was baptized in Perth Amboy, New Jersey as a member of the New Brunswick Branch.

As the morning meeting opened, Sister Elsie asked to be anointed, as she had suddenly taken ill. Before our meeting was over, Sister Maryann Donkin, Sister Elsie's daughter, presented her with a bouquet of flowers and she was invited to express herself. She began by relating how sick she was before the anointing, and thanked God for healing her. She also related a dream she had the previous night wherein she saw a sister giving her a bouquet of flowers.

It was after this that our new Sister Teddy asked for her baptism. We assembled at the river to witness, with all, her commitment to God. Like each one of us, by His grace we are saved, and as the words state, He will keep that which we have committed unto Him against that day! Thank you, God!

TRUTH continued . . .

missionary work. In this pursuit, we ought to follow the teaching of Paul to Timothy, wherein he says, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of*

truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

We must also encourage thinking and the searching of Scripture. It can be a very dangerous precedent to strictly accept a teaching or an interpretation by leading brother of either today or yesteryear without giving the truth the witness test. We must also be careful in our prescribed method of truth in the disciplining of those who have sinned. The scriptures are plain in the corrective measures of discipline. We should guard against forcing people into taking upon themselves a personality or behavioral change that is not a reflection of the true self. For those readers who are ministers, we as ministers must be very careful of not sending a mixed message (saying one thing and doing another) to those who come under the sound of our voice, always remembering the words of James, "*A double minded man is unstable in all his ways*" (James 1:8).

If we do not have the answer to a scriptural truth, do not make up an answer to satisfy your ego. We must always maintain truth in intent and purpose. We should never take a truth and misrepresent it in its intent and purpose.

We also cannot afford the luxury of coming up with a conclusion and then seeking to justify it by accommodating scripture to the application of our conclusion. We must also be very careful in using dates and attempting to fill out what we feel is a blank in the scripture.

Truth is very painful at times, and we try to numb the pain with such things as procrastination, silence, anger, or other forms of behavior. We must, however, be aware of the fact that this could very well be an attempt to mask the truth, and could possibly lead us to greater pain. There is also in religion and morals a tendency to obscure the distinction between what is and what ought to be.

Truth in the Old Testament denotes a reality that is firm, solid, binding, and hence true. In the Bible the known will of God is final as a standard of truth for mankind. There

is no change or compromise. Truth is not to be negotiated, but rather accepted as final. God's truth is especially noteworthy as a guarantee of merciful consideration of women and men. This point is important theology in both Old and New Testaments.

We should also realize that truth should be our constant companion, as stated in Proverbs 3:3, *"Let not mercy and truth forsake. Bind them about thy neck, write them on the table of thine heart."*

Truth is a response to the will of God. Truth is not merely an utterance from God, nor is it only a response to a specific command of God, but rather, it lies in a response to God's will. We must also be willing to give to truth the witness test, as recorded in scripture: *"In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established"* (Matthew 18:16).

I have tried in this article to stress the importance of truth at every level of our life. It is not only important to be truthful in this life, but it will also follow us in the future life. As stated in II Nephi 2:10, *"And because of the intercession for all, all men come unto God, therefore they stand in the presence of Him to be judged of Him according to the truth and the holiness which is in Him."*

We must also see the seriousness of lying, which is the opposite of truth. This is vividly told to us: *"But the fearful and the abominable and whoremongers and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the Second Death"* (Revelation 21:8).

For those who are ministers, we must use great caution in teaching, that we do not in any way perpetuate a misconception or misinterpretation of the Word of God. If we do this, we can be found just as guilty as the person who initiated the untruth. We must also, both as laity and ministers, never allow ourselves to be complacent with the thought that we have captured all of the truth of the Scriptures and of God's Will for the

human family. We must rather understand that the truth of God is so great that we with finite minds cannot comprehend the totality of the infinite mind of God.

Paul says it so wonderfully in I Corinthians 3:12, *"For now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face: now I know in part, but then shall I know even as also I am known."*

I must conclude this message of truth with the wonderful words of Jesus, *"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). We are no longer in bondage to sin, because *"If the son therefore shall make you free ye shall be free indeed"* (John 8:36).

TITHE? continued . . .

Abraham commenced it.

Jacob continued it.

Moses commanded it.

Jesus commended it.

Who am I to cancel it?

There are some basic principles, philosophies, and attitudes that we must not lose sight of, such as the fact that **God owns it all**, and that **there's no such thing as "my" money**. We must remind ourselves of these truths when tithing, and give to the Lord as a matter of *devotion, honor, and glory to God*, a matter of *duty*, and a matter of *discipline*.

Tithes should be solely and exclusively for the work of Christ's Gospel; gifts to charitable organizations or any other noble cause should not be included as part of our tithe. *"Bring your tithes to the storehouse."* Today, the storehouse would be your local branch. Then, after you have done that, support those other good, charitable causes and organizations over and above the tithe.

Some may question, *"Isn't tithing a hardship on the poor?"* No, the plan is God's; it is fair and reasonable. Both rich and poor pay for food, gasoline, utilities, etc. God is asking for the minimum of ten percent of your gross income. It is the same for all. The act of giving honors God, gives dignity to man-

kind, cuts across systems and socioeconomic barriers, and shows that *"God is no respecter of persons."*

In all of scripture, the only one that asks us to *"prove God"* is in Malachi 3:10. If we bring all the tithes into the storehouse, we will see *"if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."* We continually seek the blessings of God without adhering to the condition stated in Malachi 3:10. If we cannot trust God with our finances, how is He going to trust us with true spiritual riches? Some may say, *"I cannot afford to tithe."* You cannot afford *not* to, lest you be *"cursed with a curse"* (Malachi 3:9).

We as a Church have tried free will offering (\$10 per year back in the 1920s and earlier), budgets (X dollars per person per month, certain dollar requirements from each district via each branch per member), and spending plans (45-10-45, etc.). Are any of these scripturally based? Why not adhere to the word of God as pertaining to matters of tithing and giving?

If 1700 of the membership of the Church were on welfare, and the average dollar amount each received was \$500.00 per month, and all these members tithed (\$50 per month), do you know how much God would receive via His storehouse (the Church)? $\$50 \text{ per month} \times 1700 = \8500 , $\times 12 \text{ months} = \$1,020,000$ per year.

That's right, more than one million dollars, based on \$50 per month from 1700 members who receive \$500 per month on welfare. Would we be able to fund all our missionary programs, help the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow in our communities? What do you think?

I would urge you to think on these things, and please review the scriptures listed below. *"Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity—for God loveth a cheerful giver"* (II Corinthians 9:7).

(Continued on Page 10)

TITHE? continued . . .

Some additional basic truths on the topic of giving follow:

1. It begins in the heart; if our heart is right with God, we will give.
2. It brings honor, obedience, and thanksgiving to God.
3. It is a proportion (percentage) of income; "tithe"—a tenth.
4. It advances the work of God in the world (provides for the spiritual and physical needs of others).
5. It includes every person.
6. It is voluntary, expressing love; it cannot be compelled.
7. It leaves room for growth; you give more as your income increases because you are continually giving a tenth.
8. It requires intelligent planning, thus making us good stewards over what God has given and provided for us.

The primary motivation for giving is the cross of Jesus Christ. (See John 3:16). Other scriptures to review:

Genesis 14:20
 Hebrews 7:2-6
 Alma Chapter 13
 Luke 6:38
 Proverbs 1:7
 Genesis 28:22
 Leviticus 27:30-34
 Deuteronomy 14:22-27
 Luke 18:12
 Numbers 18:21
 Deuteronomy 14:28-29
 Deuteronomy 26:12-13
 Deuteronomy 12:5-19
 Proverbs 11:24-25
 III Nephi 24:8-12
 Malachi 3:8-12
 III Nephi 26:2
 II Chronicles 31:5
 Nehemiah 10:38
 Matthew 23:23
 Proverbs 3:9-10
 II Corinthians 9:6-7
 Nehemiah 12:44
 Nehemiah 13:12

John Ross Jr.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Several people responded "yes" to the last question, and Brother Lyle has been contacting them. Happily, some have indicated they are interested in the Church.

Many prayers accompanied these efforts. Follow-up work will be required at the two location, of course.

COMMENTS

Some of the comments of the workers indicated that the Lord began to bless them from the time they arrived, and they felt that He was directing them as they became involved in the interaction with people.

Another statement about the program was, "It was unbelievable! I grew a lot. It forces you to learn more about God, and you always have to be ready to talk about what you believe in. I would highly recommend it for all the young people, especially when they're relatively new in the Church."

Others asked about where they might be sent next year, and one in particular said that her life had been changed by this experience, and she would be a different person after having had the training in and opportunity of approaching people about coming to the Church.

Brother Ignagni said that he was very appreciative that the GMBA and the workers had come to Dallas to help, and felt that the program was very worthwhile.

Brother Criscuolo stated, "It was an inspiration to the mission to see the dedication of the young people who came to help. They picked up our spirits and were good examples to our young people here."

The worship services were uplifting at both places, and spiritual experiences were also received. It was noted that it was very beneficial to see the growth and development that were taking place, as well.

The determination and zeal exhibited by the workers pointed out the love that is felt in and for the

Gospel of Christ. As Brother Valenti stated last month in this column, "The new venture is called 'Youth in Action' and is designed to utilize the energy, enthusiasm, and availability of the Church's young people (ages 15-25) to provide assistance in the building up of small branches and missions."

Those who have been connected with this program and its start-up are to be highly commended for their efforts. It is hoped that similar future efforts will be as positive in helping to move The Church of Jesus Christ forward!

GMBA continued . . .

Brother Randy was Brother Paul Ciotti Jr. Brother Paul continued with the example of young David before the Philistine giant and army. David stood up for the Lord with great faith. And through this faith, he was given victory. Brother Paul continued, saying that Stephen likewise stood for his testimony of Christ even unto death, and as a result he beheld Christ standing at the right hand of the Father. "The Lord needs a few good men." After his message, Brother Paul invited the McKees Rocks Trio to sing a selection titled, *A Few Good Men*. Following was another selection by the Giannetti Brothers as they sang *Love Lifted Me*. The remainder of our gathering was devoted to the young people, who sang numerous selections and shared their testimonies.

The following morning, many of the saints gathered to enjoy a beautiful Sabbath Day. Throughout the course of the meeting, the ministry was given liberty to preach the word of God with much power and authority. Soon our gathering had come to an end as many went away contemplating the message which had been brought forth. That message being to remember our identity as The Church of Jesus Christ, and also to remember that we are the Standard of Liberty.

Children Blessed

James Nicholas Burns, son of Jim and Sister Michele (Davella) Burns, was blessed on February 6, 1994 in the Hopelawn, NJ Branch by his uncle, Brother Joseph Pittius.

Jolanna and Jordan Rumble, children of Dorcas (Maletta) and Joseph Rumble, were blessed in Clairton, PA.

Tylice Meade, great-granddaughter of Sister Iola and Albert Kershaw and daughter of Lisa Prince Calloway, was blessed in Clairton, PA.

Sutton Bo, son of Brother Alma and Carol Hale, was blessed in Clairton, PA.

Chanelle De Vree and Brittany La Shae, daughters of Alvin Shipps and Michelle Lee Adger, was blessed in Clairton, PA.

Stephanie Marie and Katery Hale, daughters of our late Brother Keith Hale and Karin Brucher, were blessed in Clairton, PA.

On July 24, 1994, Brother Matthew Picciuto asked God's blessing upon Aide Granados, firstborn daughter of Julian and Yolanda Granados of the Modesto, California Branch.

* WEDDINGS *

CIOTTI - ZACCONE

Brother David T. Ciotti and Sister Angela R. Zaccone were united in holy matrimony on May 14, 1994 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Brothers William Colangelo and Ralph Ciotti, grandfather and father of the groom, officiated at the ceremony. Musical selections were provided by Sister Nina DeCenzo and Brothers Patrick and Jason Monaghan.

The newlyweds are residing in Strabane, Pennsylvania. May God richly bless them in their new life together.

ROSSI - MARCANTONIO

Brother Darrell J. Rossi and Sister Constance J. Marcantonio were married on June 11, 1994 in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Brother Harold Littlejohn performed the wedding ceremony, and Brother Paul Palmieri of Aliquippa, PA, cousin of the bride, gave the sermon. Prayer was offered by Brother Arthur Searcy. Musical selections were provided by Monique Hill, Sister Nicole Marcantonio (14), Melissa Rossi (12), and Sisters Geraldine and Renée Littlejohn (14).

Although Brother Darrell and Sister Connie were

separated from their former spouses by death, the Lord blessed our brother and sister by joining their lives together in holy matrimony. The couple attend the Spartanburg, SC Mission and reside in Gastonia, NC with their five children.

CARVER - LAWSON

Christopher Ned Carver and Beth M. Lawson were joined in marriage on July 9, 1994 at the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

The ceremony was officiated by Brothers Richard Lawson, the bride's father, and Brother John Manes, the bride's uncle. Musical selections were performed by Meg Carver, the groom's mother, and Sister Nina DeCenzo.

The couple is making their home in Memphis, Tennessee. We pray for God's blessings to accompany them through life.

OBITUARIES

LANA FALLAVOLLITTI

Sister Lana Fallavollitti of the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her eternal reward on December 23, 1993.

She is survived by her mother, Marie Kimmel; her father, Lirio Fallavollitti; a brother, Joseph; and many other family members. Even though Sister Lana battled cancer for so many years, she always remembered others. Her testimonies were filled with love and concern for her brothers and sisters. She was a true inspiration to the branch. She will be sadly missed and always remembered.

PASQUALE ROSATI

Brother Pasquale Rosati of Lockport, New York passed away on May 12, 1994. He was 84 years old, and had been ill for several years.

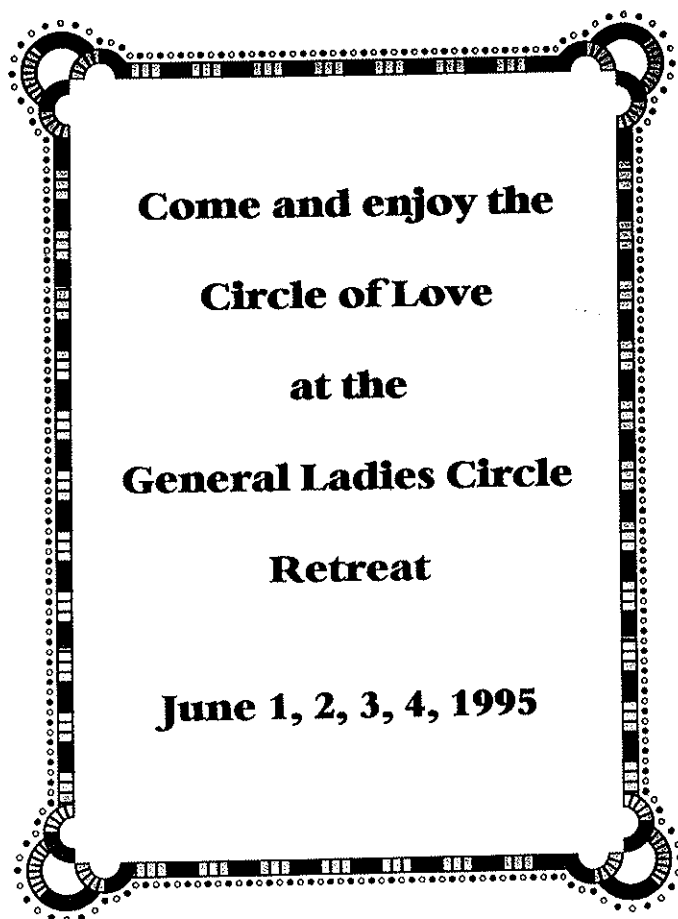
Services were conducted by Brother Wayne Martorana of Niles, Ohio.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Sister Louise; two sons; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He will be missed by all. May God bless and comfort the family.

LOUISE BUCHANAN

H. Louise Buchanan, age 66, passed away May 28, 1994, after a long battle with cancer. She was the daughter of

(Continued on Page 12)



OBITUARIES continued . . .

ter of Sister Bertha M. (Harshbarger) Young of Belleville, Pennsylvania, a member of the Vanderbilt Branch, and the late H. Joseph Young.

She is survived by her husband, Warren; one son; one daughter; and five grandchildren. The brothers and sisters of the Church were always greeted warmly by a dinner when they would make the long trip to visit her mother, Sister Bertha Young. Louise will be sadly missed by her husband, mother, children, relatives, and friends. May the Lord comfort and bless them in their time of loss.

CATHLEEN GAMBLE

On Wednesday, June 15, 1994, Sister Cathleen Crudup Gamble of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch passed from this life to her eternal life in the paradise of God.

Services were conducted by Brothers Joseph Perri and Matthew Rogolino on June 22, 1994. An enormous showing of love and appreciation for our sister was evident at the funeral. Our sister had been baptized for 26 years, and had always been a sister of courage, strength, and a sound mind. Most of all, our sister loved the Lord with her whole soul.

Sister Cathleen was born on December 10, 1944, and was baptized on March 3, 1968. She was preceded in death by her parents, Willie Sr. and Sister Mollie Crudup Brown.

Left behind are her husband, Brother Tom Gamble Sr.; five sons; one daughter; three brothers, including Brothers Jim Crudup and Willie Brown, both elders in the Freehold, NJ Branch; one sister; seven grandchildren; both of her grandmothers; and a host of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends. Sister Cathleen will be missed, but we find peace in knowing she is in the everlasting arms of her Savior, Jesus Christ.

JOSEPH TISLER

Brother Joseph Tisler II of Lorain, Ohio passed away on June 22, 1994. He was born on May 21, 1919, and was baptized on October 6, 1963.

The funeral service was conducted by Brother Joseph Calabrese.

Our brother is survived by his wife, Helen; one son and four daughters; 14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, along with a host of relatives, friends, and brothers and sisters in Christ. May God bless and comfort those who were near and dear to our brother.

GIACINTA IGNAGNI

Sister Giacinta Ignagni passed on to her eternal reward on July 3, 1994 at the age of 90. She was born on December 4, 1903 in Ceperano, Italy. She married Giuseppe (Joseph) Ignagni on February 11, 1921 in Ceperano. They had four children.

They came to America in October of 1947, and Sister Giacinta was baptized on April 11, 1948 by Brother Anthony Pietrangelo in Detroit, Michigan. She was confirmed by Brother Giuseppe Giansante.

Sister Giacinta and her husband, Brother Joe, were staunch members of Branch #1 in Detroit for many years. They were a wonderful example to all who knew them, but most significantly to their grandchildren, who grew up understanding the importance of the Gospel.

Sister Giacinta became ill in 1975, and Brother Joe believed that they should return to Italy so that she could be cared for by her daughter, Rosina. Brother Joe died in Italy on January 1, 1983 at the age of 90 and Sister Giacinta continued to be cared for by Rosina until her death this year. We grieve our loss, but thank God that her suffering is over and that now she is with the Lord.

The Gospel News

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

October, 1994

Volume 50, No. 10

A Gift of Sight

By Colleena Eutsey

On March 30, 1993, my husband, Brother Dewayne; our son, Keith; and I were talking together while reclining on the bed when Keith accidentally hit my left eye with his elbow. It hurt a lot, and I felt as if it had been pushed backwards. The eyelid swelled immediately. My husband called his father, Brother Milford Eutsey Sr., so that he could anoint me. Dewayne said that as soon as I expressed a desire to be anointed, about half of the swelling went down.

Brother Milford anointed me and his wife, Dewayne, and I went to the emergency room. The doctor said it was fine, but when he gave me an eye exam he kept telling my husband that I needed glasses. He gave me drops for infection and said that if any blurring occurred to contact our family eye doctor.

I was fine until 2:30 the next day, when my vision became too blurry to see. I called the doctor and he saw me right away. He said everything looked normal for that type of injury, but he would see me again in three days to check it.

I went back several times, and they found that the fluid pressure

was high in both eyes, and drops were necessary. I went back once a week for several weeks, but the pressure remained higher than normal.

One night I awoke with severe pain in my left eye, and I had no sight. The doctor said to come right away. A test showed that I had two kinds of glaucoma. The doctor gave me special drops to stop the night-time attacks, which had already caused scar tissue to form. I had awakened many times in pain even before my eye injury, but I thought that it was allergy related.

In April and May, I had laser eye surgery for drainage. The right eye also needed surgery in May, as the pressure was dangerously high. The doctor had to operate immediately, and I was not happy about this because I like to ask the saints to pray for me before surgery. My husband was with me, but I still felt like I was facing it alone until I remembered that Sister Hope knew about it. My left eye received 31 impulses, and 29 were administered to my right eye. I still need check-ups every three months, and am still using eye drops.

I never had needed to see an eye doctor before, as I do not wear glasses, so my last eye exam was in 1983. If Keith had not accidentally hit my eye, the doctor said the

glaucoma would have gone unnoticed and I would be blind today. It would have only taken three or four more night attacks to take my sight away.

I thank and praise God every day for working in mysterious ways and for allowing me to keep my eyesight. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for your love and prayers, and for the many cards and calls that I received during my time of need. It is wonderful to know that I, as well as you, have brothers and sisters praying for us all when we need it most.

Are You Out There?

By Mark Kovacic

Recently I had the opportunity to sign on to the *Prodigy Communication Services*. I found it to be a wealth of information. But more exciting is the possibility of sending electronic mail all over the country. And then I thought, "Why not between the saints?"

So, for anybody who's on the Prodigy Service and would like to participate in a Prodigy Church Directory, please send me a message. My ID number is JXBC31A. Unless, of course, someone has already started one. Then send me a message so I can be included.

Apostle's Insights

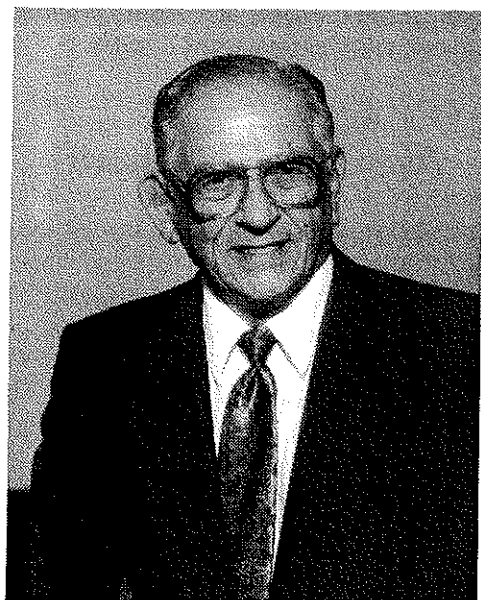
What Is the Book of Mormon?

By Joseph Calabrese

The Book of Mormon is a record of one of the twelve tribes of Israel and God's dealings with them. The tribe is that of Joseph, the same Joseph of Egypt we read of in the Bible (Genesis 30:24-28).

Following are some scriptural references that relate to the record or book:

- a. Ezekiel 37:15-17 speaks of "The Stick of Judah" and "The Stick of Joseph" being one in God's hand."
- b. Psalms 85:10 & 13, and Isaiah 45:45 & 48 speak of "Truth Shall Spring out of the Earth."
- c. Isaiah 11:12 speaks of "Setting up an ensign for the nations."
- d. Isaiah 29:11-18 speaks of "The vision of all is become unto you



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

- e. Genesis 49:22-26, "Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well, whose branches

run over a wall." Note: the ocean is considered a wall.

- f. Jeremiah 23:3 and 16:6 speak of "Gathering his flock from all countries whither I have driven them."
- g. John 10:16, Jesus said, "Other sheep I have," etc. Note: III Nephi in the Book of Mormon explains who the other sheep are.
- h. Matthew 15:24, Jesus said, "I am not sent but unto the House of Israel."
- i. Matthew 10:5-6, Jesus said, "Go not by the way of the Gentiles, etc., but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."
- j. Ezekiel 34:6 speaks of "my sheep wandered through all the face of the earth, etc., and none did search or seek after them."
- k. Revelation 14:6-7 speaks, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven."
- l. Hosea 8:12 speaks, "The great things of my law . . . were counted as a strange thing."

There are several Bible references that are used by critics of The Book of Mormon to denounce its veracity. I will refer you to two popular scriptures that are often used.

- a. Galatians 1:8 speaks, "Though an angel from heaven," etc. Read it all.
- b. Revelation 22:18-29 speaks, "If any man shall take away of this book of prophecy," etc. Read it all.

I would like to draw your attention to one fact: The entire Bible is a book that is compiled of books that writers such as the prophets and the apostles wrote separately. The preface to my bible states, "The Bible is a summary of books (39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament)." The word "Bible" is an anglicized (English) version of the Greek word meaning "book."

Therefore, to recapitulate, the Bible and/or Book of Mormon are writings of men inspired of God to

write as they were directed by the Holy Spirit to write (II Peter 1:21). This should put to rest the criticism of the two scriptures that clearly identify the references to be contained within the writings of the Apostle Paul and to John the Revelator, and not the writings of the Book of Mormon.

I might add, while the Bible is the Stick of Judah and the Book of Mormon is the Stick of Joseph of Egypt (Ezekiel 37:15-17), these records were made known in this present dispensation of time. The Book of Mormon speaks of the records of the other ten tribes that are to come forth in God's own due time. This can be found in the Book of Mormon (II Nephi 29:10 & 14, and II Nephi 30:3 & 4). Then, and only then, will we know who any of the other ten tribes are. Presently many have given their personal opinion about the tribes being the Chinese, East Indian, African, or others, but to convince the Church that they were in fact one of the tribes, a record as inspiring (and inspired) as the Bible and the Book of Mormon would have to come forth from them. Is it not reasonable to think that if two of the sons of Israel (Jacob) left a record that they would leave a record as well?

As I continue to explain what the Book of Mormon is, I have to say that if I were not acquainted with the Book of Mormon, and someone approached me with the claim that this book was a divine record and history of an ancient covenant people, I would probably say, "Prove it! What do you have as witness to this claim?"

Witnesses are needed to prove all things. Even in the natural courts through the ages of time, witnesses were called upon to verify the testimonials of the defendants or the prosecutors of the case. We still wish to defend the Book of Mormon.

Scriptural references for establishing witnesses can be found in II Corinthians 13:1, Numbers 35:30, Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, John 8:17, Hebrews 10:28, and in the Book of Mormon, in Ether 5:4.

In order to further prove what the Book of Mormon is, we need to go further in to scriptural witnesses. These witnesses will prove, along with my previous references, that the book is true. They will also prove that an apostasy, or what may be termed as a falling away, took place after Christ set up His Church.

- a. II Thessalonians 2:1-5 speaks of "A falling away taking place first."
- b. Isaiah 24:1-6 speaks of "The earth also is defiled."
- c. Acts 20:29-31 speaks of "Grievous wolves shall enter into the flock, etc."
- d. I Timothy 4:1-3 speaks of "Latter times some shall depart from the faith, etc."
- e. II Timothy 4:2-4 speaks of "And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, etc."
- f. II Peter 2:1-3 speaks, "There shall be false teachers among you, etc."
- g. Matthew 11:12 speaks, "And from the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of Heaven suffereth violence, and the violent taketh it by force."
- h. Revelation 13:6-7 speaks of the time "He shall make war with the saints and overcome them, etc."
- i. Amos 8:11 speaks, "There will be a famine not for bread, nor for thirst, but for the Word of God."
- j. Revelation 12:6 speaks, "The woman (Church) is fled into the wilderness to feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days." In Ezekiel 4:6, each day is equivalent to a year.

We claim that an angel came to Joseph Smith in 1820. Subtract 1260 years and this shows that the apostasy began in 560 A.D.

Further evidence that an apostasy took place is being proved almost daily by archaeologists. History proves that Columbus found a people here in the Western hemisphere. Findings prove that these people were once a highly intelligent people or race. See the Church Question and Answer Book #173

Part V. Also Part III #76-84.

Last but not least, having scripturally given reference to prove that there was an apostasy, I wish to now give you scriptural reference to prove a Restoration took place.

Some of the references I used at the beginning of this article, such as Ezekiel 37:15-17, Psalms 85:11, Isaiah 11:11-12, Malachi 3:1-2, and Isaiah 62:10-12. Others that refer to the Gospel being restored are:

- a. Revelation 14:6-7 speaking of "The Everlasting Gospel" and "I saw another angel, etc."
- b. Acts 3:19-24 speaking of "A restitution of all things."
- c. Daniel 2:2 & 45 speaking of "Kingdoms that have risen and fallen and the last one that will stand."
- d. Isaiah 2:2 & 3 and Micah 4:42, speaking of "A gathering and a promise: Come and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob and He will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His path, etc."

In our Saints Hymnal, hymn number 11 is *An Angel Came Down*. It speaks of the Gospel being restored by Divine means. Hymn number 471 is *O Stop and Tell Me, Red Man*. This hymn was sung in the gift of tongues, and the interpretation given in English. It speaks of the Seed of Joseph and God's dealings with them. There are many more hymns that speak of conditions before, during, and after the Restoration. All inspired, some already fulfilled, and some yet to be fulfilled. However, to conclude "*What Is the Book of Mormon?*", let me quote part of Hymn number 11: "A heavenly treasure, a book full of merit, it speaks from the dust by the power of the Spirit." I want to say that "all that was promised to the saints will be given" (hymn number 30). The little stone that Daniel saw cut out of the mountain without hands will smite the image at the feet (Daniel 2:34 & 35).

A Peaceful Reign will take place (Note: *Not* the Millennium). Isaiah 11, Isaiah 2:1-5 (all nations), Book of Mormon I Nephi 22:24-28

and II Nephi 30:3-28.

There are more references on the Peaceful Reign, which is a great subject in itself. During this period, a city will be built. It will be called the New Jerusalem (see Malachi 3 and Ezekiel 37:24-28). In the Book of Mormon, see III Nephi 20:21 and III Nephi 21:23-29, as well as Ether 13:2-17.

We believe God will send a deliverer like Moses to restore Israel and be an instrument in God's hand for all people. His name will be Joseph, and he will also be called a "Choice Seer." See Romans 11:26 and II Nephi 3 (all). With all this, we believe that this is only effective for us as you and I continue to keep God's commandments.

Finally, many people have mistakenly taken The Church of Jesus Christ to be associated with other churches with similar or the same name. However, we are a separate and distinct organization with headquarters in Monongahela, Pennsylvania, and have no affiliation with any other group or groups.

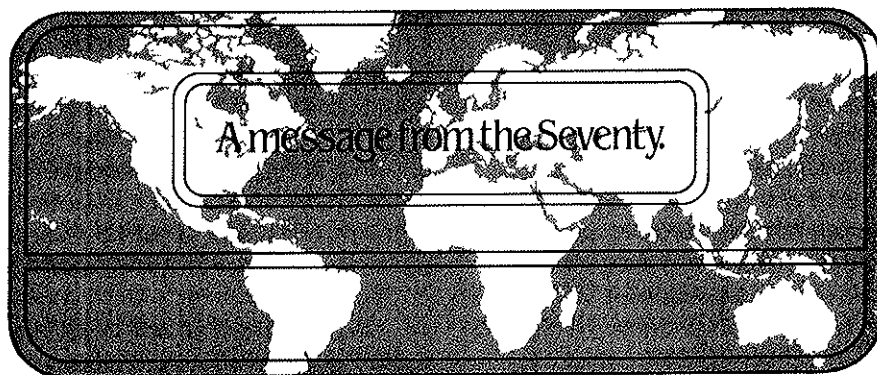
Announcement

For November, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.50%
2 years	6.00%
3 years	6.25%
4 years	6.50%
5 years	7.00%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



Guatemala Trip

*By Sister Cindy Prentice,
Secretary, Guatemala Subcommittee*

My plane landed in Guatemala City this past August 2. While there, I was to gather historical information, determine the needs of our brothers and sisters and their children, suggest suitable programs, and learn about cultural ways and traditions that would be useful in creating a mission statement specific to Guatemala.

I thanked God as I deplaned, as I knew many wonderful experiences awaited me. I prayed that the Lord would keep me humble and help me to have a discerning spirit in any situation. I was pleasantly surprised by everyone's friendliness.

I had been looking forward to meeting Brother Luis and Sister Darlene Marroquin, and I was pleased to be with them.

FIRST DAY

The first day was busy. We went to the International Medical Assistance girls' school, where there were 25 little happy faces. I met the cook, the teacher, and the caretaker. The children are genuinely happy to be at this nice facility.

We then visited Sister Christina Villatora and her family, and then continued on to see Sister Ilsa Solis.

In the afternoon, Brother Luis and Sister Darlene studied some material I had brought with me. A seminar entitled, "Moving on to Maturity" was chosen. That night at

church, we were all blessed as we discussed recognizing and exercising our "spiritual selves" before our emotional or physical selves. Spiritual characteristics in Ephesians 4:17-32 were cited. We also reviewed Christ's characteristics and the importance of identifying with Him to become more spiritually mature and responsible for ourselves in the body of Christ.

The following morning, Sister Darlene told me her impressions of Guatemala. We compared Guatemala and Peru, with which I was also familiar, and found many similarities. She related an experience to me which she received before deciding to move to Guatemala.

In 1986 while in the Anaheim, CA Branch, our sister saw herself in a vision with her husband at a Guatemalan marketplace. Among all the fruits and vegetables, she saw one that was frightening. It was terribly ugly, and was covered with long thorns all around. Brother Luis started to pick it up. This upset her, and she told him not to touch it. She was afraid that he would be hurt or harmed in some way. He comforted her, and said that everything would be all right. He broke the fruit in half, and inside was a beautiful white fruit. Luis tasted it and gave some to his wife to try as well. It tasted so wonderful that she wanted to share it. She held it out to others, asking them to take it at will.

Sister Darlene's impression of this experience was that Guatemala appeared "ugly" to her on the outside, with its poverty and social problems; but, with God's Gospel on

the inside, it could become something beautiful. After the vision, both of them felt the Lord turning their hearts toward Guatemala, where they moved with their family, along with Brother Isidro and Sister Maricela Dominguez, and Sister Rose Anderson in 1987. As a side note, in 1992, they saw a fruit in the marketplace similar to the one on the vision.

The plight of many Guatemalan children was expressed. They are without so many of life's necessities. They must supply their own pencils and paper for school. Most times, if their parents cannot afford to buy these small but important items, they do not send their children to school. There are no child labor laws in Guatemala, so many of the youngsters who cannot attend school will look for work that is available.

A Christmas party is planned every year for the Church children and neighborhood friends. We offered several ideas for the future. Visits are also made to local orphanages.

VISITATIONS

We went to the home of Brother Nayo and Sister Gladys Ramirez. Sister Victoria was there, along with three young people. We also visited a neighbor who had come to Church in the past. She has a special gift for teaching children, so we encouraged her to come and use her talents.

The next day, Sister Darlene and I visited with Sister Ana Subuyuj, an ordained deaconess who regularly brings her five children to Church with her. Later, I continued gathering information.

The following day was Sunday. At the service, Brother Luis spoke about there not being anything impossible with God, as recorded in Luke 1:37 and Mark 10:27. He stressed the importance of having faith to overcome all of life's obstacles. Brother Nayo followed, admonishing us all to lean on the Lord in faith, regardless of the circumstances, because with God, all things are possible.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

As I compile the last issue of *The Gospel News* under my editorship (Brother Don Ross takes over as Editor-in-Chief beginning with the November, 1994 issue), I cannot help but look back on the last ten years and marvel at how the Lord enabled us—myself and the faithful, hard-working brothers and sisters with whom I have had the pleasure of working—to produce and publish the paper on a consistent basis each month. The principal lesson I have learned from the experience is that if we are to accomplish anything for the Lord, we must depend wholly upon Him for the direction, the inspiration, the strength, and the desire to labor on His behalf, keeping an eye single to His glory.

The variety of issues that have been addressed on this page over the past decade seems somewhat to have narrowed in focus down to those surrounding two related themes—the need for continued personal growth and the courageous pursuit of God's truth. Whatever combination of personal circumstances and divine inspiration might have dictated my preoccupation with these themes, they have always seemed an appropriate answer to the question of what all of us, as individuals, can (or *must*) do to fulfill our covenant to the Lord and advance His Gospel as effectively as possible while we're on this earth.

While it is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that we receive the gift of salvation, it quickly becomes evident to us that there can be no standing still once we have taken upon ourselves His name. The scriptures are replete with the history of individuals' physical, emotional, intellectual, and—most importantly—spiritual growth, and the extraordinary manner in which God was able to use them once they had grown. We also read the fate of those who chose *not* to grow. Today, each of us is faced with the identical responsibility of keeping vigil against our carnal nature—which is enmity against God—and pressing ever forward in achieving the stature of the fulness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13).

Linked almost inextricably to our need for continued growth is the obligation we have—to others, to ourselves, and to God above all—to relentlessly pursue His highest truth in all things. It was this striving for God's truth that caused the Apostle Paul, Martin Luther, and Joseph Smith to grow beyond the limits of what they had been taught, trusting the Lord to see them through the often difficult consequences of that choice. If these (and many others) had not had the courage to question what they had learned from others, we would not have the truth—or the blessings—of the Restored Gospel available to us today.

Blessed as we are with what we have, we are duty-bound to grow beyond even that which we've been given, and seek from the throne of God His highest purpose for our lives. Putting forth a consistent effort to reach our full human and spiritual potential and achieve God's highest truth will keep us fully identified with—and properly focused upon—Jesus Christ and His Restored Gospel for the remainder of our days.

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Girls and Boys,

When was the last time you had to do something that scared you? I remember being scared to talk in front of my class when I was young. I remember forgetting I had to do a report and being scared the teacher would call on me. I remember wearing something to school that I thought looked ugly or stupid, and being afraid that other kids would make fun of me. I remember the year my body started to change and several buttons popped off the back of a dress, and I felt ashamed, embarrassed, and afraid to go back to the class where it happened.

Now I am grown up. I'm not afraid of those things anymore. I have a good job, and enough money to buy pretty clothes so it's okay to stand up in front of people. I know that not everyone will like me, and I know how to stay away from mean people. I know more about protecting myself, and making good choices. I picked enough mean friends growing up that now I only pick nice friends.

But I still get scared. I get scared something will happen to people I love. I get scared people I love won't love me back. I get scared I'll get sick again. Sometimes I even get scared about good things.

For example, I'm afraid to try a new skill to see if I can do it. For many years I've wanted to learn how to use watercolor paints. I even signed up once for a class, and then cancelled and got my money back. Finally, I asked myself, "What are you scared about, honey?" I realized that I was scared of not having good enough ideas of what to paint.



I was also scared because I'd never tried it, so I had a dream I could still dream about: My dream of being a famous painter. If I take the class and I find that I'm not that good, I'll have lost my dream.

What I forget sometimes is that there are other dreams. What I forget about is that our God wants us to try and use our talents so they will grow into new talents. Also, if I'm busy growing into new challenges and learning, I'm too busy to be mean. I'm too happy with myself to be jealous about other people and what they can do. I feel happier so I am nicer. And I'm being loving to that little person still inside me, so she is loving back to others.

Jesus told us the story (called a parable) about the man who was given five talents to take care of. He used them each and they doubled. So, maybe once I learn how to use watercolors, I'll also learn about other things. And I'll use up a dream by actually trying it, and then I'll have to get a second dream. I'll let you know how my talent works out—my class starts this month!

What about you? Has God given you a desire to try something new? Are you afraid? Will you take a few minutes and ask the little question, "Why am I scared?" Do it. Learn and grow. Remember the saying, "Courage is fear that said its prayers." Say your prayers and trust God to let you grow.

With love and care,
Your friend, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

COURAGE	LET
COMES	THEM
FROM	DOUBLE
GOD	DO
GIVE	NOT
UP	BE
YOUR	AFRAID
FEAR	HE
MAKE	CARES
YOUR	ASK
TALENTS	HIS
GROW	HELP

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

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MBA Highlights

Pacific Coast Area Camp in Idyllwild, CA

By Linda Reynolds

Two hundred of us gathered in the mountains of Idyllwild from June 23 to June 26, 1994. It was unusually hot for the 6,000-foot elevation, but with hand and electric fans, we all managed and still had a wonderful time.

All of the branches and missions of the Pacific Coast District were represented, and we had a lot of

people visiting from the Southwest District as well. Thursday evening was family night. Everyone just visited with each other. Friday morning after a chapel service, we divided into age groups and had seminars regarding "Praising the Lord." Luke 19:40 tells us that if we do not praise the Lord, then the rocks will cry out in praise.

Brian Alessio from San Diego was our camp director, and had many different games and activities planned for all ages. Ed Buccellato from the Simi Valley Branch was the camp chaplain. Kay Gray from the Anaheim Branch, along with Marcia Liberto from San Diego, were the arts and crafts instructors. Michael Buccellato was in charge of the talent

show, and we are always amazed at the talent in the Church. The Southwest District went home as winners of most of the sporting events, and the Pacific Coast young people are looking forward to a rematch.

In our spiritual services the singing was led by Ken Jones from Yucaipa and Cameron Calabrese from Phoenix. Dwayne Jordan spoke to us on Sunday regarding Israel. He gave us some history, some predictions, and some present day happenings relating to scripture. We all came home with a stone inscribed with Luke 19:40, "But he answered and said to them, I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." We pray we will never hear the stones.

Branch and Mission News

For the Sake of the Call

On Sunday, March 6, 1994, the Tse Bonito Branch bustled with anticipation and excitement as the entire membership was honored to see the ordination of four deaconesses and two elders. Visitors began arriving in advance and participated in an inspirational service held the night before, highlighted by special groups singing and encouraging messages from visiting brothers.

The sisters called of God to this special role included Loretta McClanahan Brutz, Candice Calabrese Genaro, Bonnie Nicklow Metzler, and Vanessa Capone Watson. The sister deaconesses of the Tse Bonito Branch worked in harmony with the ministry during the process of calling upon God to identify those to be set apart for this holy calling.

Brothers Alan Metzler and Ron Brutz were ordained as elders. The Southwest District ministry had unanimously supported the branch's recommendations.

Each of the ordinations followed

the order of the scriptures, with setting apart through the washing of feet and the anointing of ordination. The entire membership contributed in many ways to the blessings that were experienced throughout the services. A highlight of the day seemed to be when the young people sang *Shine, Jesus, Shine* with reverence and heartfelt expression.

Each of the newly ordained shared personal thoughts related to their calling to service, and thanked everyone for their prayerful support and encouragement.

Called of God to Serve

By Bryan Griffith

"Fear not; I am with you," was the interpretation given to the tongues spoken during a meeting with the Palm Harbor Branch Priesthood. Brother Sam Risola, Jr. was called into the meeting to discuss his calling into the ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ. During the course of their discussion, Brother Sam related

how he had somewhat of a fear of the responsibilities of the ministry. The spiritual strength and power of God necessary to perform those duties required by His Priesthood come through God. The Lord answered our brother's concern directly through that interpretation.

Evidence of our brother's calling was made apparent to our branch Priesthood, who received two distinct experiences. Further evidence came as a dream was related concerning Brother Sam which was had back in 1962 by another member of the Priesthood who is not from our branch. God's Spirit made it evident that our brother was to be ordained.

On Sunday, May 1, 1994, many saints gathered together with the Palm Harbor Branch to witness the ordination of Brother Sam Risola, Jr. Presiding Elder Brother John Griffith allowed God's Spirit to direct the proceedings. Brother Isaac Smith of the Tampa Branch came to witness this spiritual calling, not knowing that God, being in the matter, would direct him to wash Brother Sam's feet.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin of the Quincy, Florida Mission was directed to offer a prayer to pronounce God's anointing upon Brother

(Continued on Page 8)

SERVE continued . . .

Sam. All watched as God's will was carried out. Brother Risola trusts in the Lord's strength and power for what lies ahead in his ministry. May God bless him.

The day did not end until another blessing came forth. Our Sister Carol Heckerd after much prayer and waiting upon the Lord, was reinstated in the Church. Many brothers and sisters and friends were present from throughout the district to witness and be part of her joy. As the elders surrounded our sister, Brother Jim Speck stepped forward to lay hands upon our sister, asking God's continued direction in her life.

News from Clairton, PA

Sister Leslie Hale Hammerberg, who was baptized April 3, 1976, was restored on May 23, 1993. She is currently residing in Montana.

Brother Alma Hale was baptized on February 1, 1991 by Brother English Webb. Brother Joseph Austin laid hands on him for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

James L. Maletta III and his wife Michelle Hefner Maletta were baptized on February 3, 1994 by Brother Joseph Austin. Brother English Webb confirmed them.

Norman Maletta was baptized March 10, 1994 by Brother Joseph Austin and confirmed by Brother English Webb.

We thank God for each precious soul who has made a covenant with the true and living God, accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and receiving the precious Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.

Sister Norma Maletta was ordained a deaconess by Brother English Webb on Sunday, April 9, 1994 at the Clairton, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Iola Kershaw had a dream which confirmed the calling. Sister Norma also testified of a dream confirming her ordination. Her feet were washed by Sister Iola Kershaw.

New members in McKees Rocks, PA

Kristy Lynn Rogalla was baptized on June 28, 1994 at the GMBA Campout in Ligonier, Pennsylvania. Brother Chuck Maddox of the Cincinnati, OH Mission baptized her, and she was confirmed by Brother Sam Dell of the New Brunswick, NJ Branch.

Daniel Matthew Cornell was baptized the next week, on July 3, 1994, at the McKees Rocks Branch. Brother Paul Ciotti Sr. performed the baptism, and Brother Daniel was confirmed by Brother William Colangelo. Brother Daniel felt the touch of the Lord at the Campout, and experienced the Lord's calling there.

We rejoice in the Lord's calling of these young people into the Church. Pray along with us for our young members everywhere, that the Lord would bless and keep them.

Greensburg Branch news

Sunday, February 7, 1993 was an exciting and happy day for the Greensburg, PA Branch as our Brother Joseph Draskovich Jr. was ordained into the ministry. Many brothers and sisters from various branches were present to witness the ordination, including Brother Joe's twin sister Josephine and brother-in-law Roger Pepper from Livonia, Michigan. Brothers Art Gehly and Paul Palmieri both spoke about the life and duties of an elder.

Brother Jesse Carr washed Brother Joe's feet. Sister Rita Gehly related the following experience: As Brother Jesse reached to embrace Brother Joe, a quiet voice said, "My brother has taken the step and is ready to serve."

Then Brother Carl Frammolino called the hymn *Ready*. It made us feel that Brother Joe ready and willing to serve. It gave this writer a peaceful feeling and I am thankful to God for this experience.

Brother Carl ordained Brother

Joe. After the ordination, our brother's family was each asked to give a testimony. After the meeting the congregation gathered for a luncheon prepared by the branch.

On August 8, 1994, Sherri Draskovich Keibler was baptized by her father, Brother Joe Draskovich. Her grandfather, Brother James Campbell of Monongahela, laid hands on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We rejoice over the Lord's blessings in adding to the Greensburg Branch.

Branch 3, Sterling Hts., MI

By Brenda Capone

On May 8, 1994 there were many visitors at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan. Many brothers, sisters, and friends were in town for Sister Joyce and Jonathan Krumpe's wedding. Brother Phil Jackson from the Ohio District opened our meeting by asking us to sing *Take Some Time to Pray*. He then related an incident that had happened that weekend at the motel where they were staying:

Sisters Fran Jackson and Brenda Capone had taken their children down to the pool to go swimming. After about 45 minutes, the five children began to yell and scream. Brenda and Fran ran to the 8-foot deep area to see what was wrong and discovered that a little boy lay unconscious on the bottom of the pool. Their daughters had seen him swimming a few minutes earlier, but now he was not moving and they realized that something was wrong.

Megan Jackson dove to the bottom, and with the aid of another adult was able to pull the boy to the side of the pool, where Brenda and Fran pulled him out of the water. His body was lifeless, and they rolled him onto his side. In this position, much water was expelled from his mouth.

Ambulance, police, and fire departments arrived. People were frantic and many tears were shed as they all waited to see the outcome.

The sisters and their children stood by the pool and prayed. The little boy revived, and then went into shock, screaming at the top of his lungs as he relived the moment. Young Sister Colleen and Megan were crying, and told their mothers how they had begun to pray the moment they saw him in the water.

Brother Phil's purpose in relating this story was to show us how the prayers of our mothers, through years of teaching by example, had affected him and all of us who are raised by prayerful, christian parents. "Our mothers have taught us to pray, and have showered us with prayer all of our lives." He told of when he was a child, how his mother would not send her children off to school with praying for them. He spoke of how important it is that we not take these prayers for granted—both the prayers offered up for us and those we offer up as well.

Brother Phil used Ecclesiastes 5:2, "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter any thing before God." He said that there are times when each of us has been in a position where we have had to offer an "instant" prayer, such as Colleen and Megan did. The Lord understands this. However, we must be careful in other areas of our lives, that we don't offer too many of those kinds of prayers. We must all take the responsibility for praying. Consider who it is that you are speaking to. Take the time to meditate on how you want to approach the throne of God.

Brother Phil told us how there was a time when he was doing a job for someone, and he had no other work lined up for when he finished. As he worked, the Spirit of God prompted him to pray. He told God his concerns, having bills to pay and a family to provide for. Then he asked God if He could provide for him and see him and his family through this lean time. As Brother Phil went back to working, a woman from across the road walked over. She said that she had seen him working there all week, and was just wondering if he would consider doing

some work for her. The work she had for him kept Brother Phil busy for six weeks!

In the Book of Ether, when the Brother of Jared asked the Lord not to confound their language, he was clear and sincere in his request. Consider the scripture in Judges, where Gideon asked the Lord that the fleece would be touched with dew and nothing else, and then he knew that it was a sign that God would save Israel by his hand. Do you think there was no thought put into this? Do you think Gideon just threw a piece of wool out the door and said, "OK, Lord, just make it wet if these things are true. Otherwise, it's not."

Let's not be hasty in our prayers, but let us take more time to meditate and make use of the abilities that God has given us. Be steadfast, precise, and considerate. The next time someone asks you to pray for someone or something, take some time to consider what they asked. Don't just say, "Lord, take care of this," and then that's it and you say to yourself, "Well, I've done my part." God is not that unapproachable. Your prayer is allowed to be more than just a quick sentence or two.

We, as members of The Church of Jesus Christ, should be "growing up" in the Church as well. Motivated by God, knowing that He is with you, that he hears and loves you. Know that you can approach Him, and pray for the discernment to know God's answer and be ready to hear Him and obey. Don't blame God for something that goes wrong in your life when you fail to wait upon Him. Give God the opportunity to work in your life, and He will. Let Him see the time, the feeling, and the faith that you put into even the smallest of prayers.

Brother Jack Ford added a few words about the woman at the well, and how God gave her, and all of us, the "living water." He said that it's a moving water and that it doesn't stand still. We should use that water to move others as well as ourselves. And we can start by being more sincere and faithful in our prayers.

Most of all, we can begin by asking what it is God wants for us, and then obeying His will.

It was a very enjoyable service, and we truly enjoyed what our brothers said. May God continue to communicate with us, and we with Him, and may we all pray for the discernment we need to feel the hand of God in our lives.

Baptism in Monongahela, PA

On July 10, 1994, the first member of The Church of Jesus Christ from Barcelona, Spain was baptized in the Monongahela River.

At the Wednesday evening service on July 6, Ana Sandoval expressed her desire to become a member of the Church. During the 1992-93 school year, Ana came to the United States as a foreign exchange student. Ana stayed with Brother Rick and Sister Jessie Scaglione for part of the school year, and she spent the remainder of the year with Brother Chuck and Sister Joyce Kogler. She attended meetings and other Church activities throughout her stay here, and fell in love with the Church.

Back for a visit this summer, Ana made her wishes known to the congregation in Monongahela. She was baptized the following Sunday morning by Brother William Chepanoske, and later was confirmed by Brother Alexander Cherry. Sister Ana gave a very beautiful testimony of how God has affected her life. She also related several experiences which were a confirmation of her baptism.

As our new sister returns home to Barcelona to continue her college education, she will need the prayers of the saints to keep her strong. Sister Ana will welcome letters from the brothers and sisters throughout the Church. Please write to:

Ana Sandoval
Trav. De Les Corts ^60 6° 4a
08028 Barcelone, Spain

Ordination in Hopelawn, NJ

On August 14, 1994, another worker for the Lord was set apart when Sister Michele Davella Burns was ordained a deaconess. We were very blessed to have many visitors in attendance at our branch that day, particularly the visit of Brother Walter and Sister Marie Cihomsky, who at one time were members of the Hopelawn Branch.

Sister Michele testified of an experience that she had several years ago that confirmed her calling. Michele had a vision of an elder coming up to her and saying to her that it was time for her to be ordained a deaconess. Michele's mother had also had an experience several years ago that bother her daughters would serve as deaconesses. On this day these experiences came to pass.

We were very blessed throughout the day, and we later enjoyed fellowshiping with the saints over lunch. Our prayer is that God will bless Sister Michele in her endeavors to serve God, the Church, and His people.

60 years in the Gospel

On Sunday, June 12, 1994, the brothers and sisters of the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch gave thanks to God for two of our sisters, who, like all of us, have been kept by the grace and mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Sister Helen DePiero

Sister Hilda Sgattone was baptized in April of 1934 at the age of 17 years. "I'm glad I made my commitment when I was very young. I was raised in the Church; I love serving God."

Sister Helen DePiero was baptized on June 10, 1934, also at a young age of 16. She was brought up in the Church by her parents as well. "I have always been very happy to have dedicated my life to God at such a young age."

Each of our sisters was presented with a dozen long-stemmed roses and an engraved charm. Our prayer is that God may grant them many more years in His service, and may He shower them with many blessings.

Baptism

Daniel Yoder asked for his baptism at the GMBA Campout at Antiochian Village, Ligonier, Pennsylvania. He returned to the Imperial, PA Branch on July 3, 1994 to be baptized by Brother Dan Buffington. We were happy to be able to witness our brother's new beginning in Christ.

1994 Six Months Financial Results

Dear Readers:

We normally try to write these articles on a quarterly basis so that you, the members, are aware of the financial situation of the Church. However, since reports from some quarters are late in coming, it is difficult, if not impossible, to report to you in a timely manner.

Our donations for the first half of 1994 were \$185,731 as compared to 1993, when \$245,359 was collected in the same period. As you can see, we are \$58,628 behind the same point last year. The Spending Plan for the first six months of 1994 is \$262,007, which means we are \$76,276 behind where we thought we would be at this point in time. This is not where the Church should or wants to be financially.

The Church needs our support now! If we are to accomplish our missionary requirements and take care of our expenses, it is mandatory that we, the Church, concentrate our efforts and increase our donations for the final months of this year. We know that this is possible and fully believe it can be done. May God help us with the will and determination to accomplish our goal!

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Atlantic Coast	\$ 28,553	\$ 39,315
Michigan/Ontario	45,653	56,451
Ohio	18,625	23,077
Pacific Coast	21,794	35,753
Pennsylvania	45,740	56,518
Southeast	17,607	20,840
Southwest	7,758	13,405
TOTALS	\$185,731	\$245,359

General Church Finance Committee

MESSAGE continued . . .

There was a strong spirit of singing and testimony. After sharing my testimony, I had a desire as I sat in my chair to ask for prayer. I had come to Guatemala with some questions about a situation in my life. I struggled against the Spirit. I felt I had been sent to uplift and encourage my brothers and sisters, so how could I ask for prayer for strength and discernment?

I realized how prideful I was acting, and called upon Brother Luis to anoint me. He broke his heart for me in prayer, and immediately I felt strengthened and saw the way more clearly.

While Brother Luis was praying for me, Sister Mati saw a man in white standing behind us; as the prayer began, the man opened a large white book trimmed with gold. He looked at Brother Luis and then me, and smiled. He then started writing in the book, as if he were recording what was happening at that moment. As the prayer ended, the man closed the book, looked at me contentedly, and disappeared. We thank God, because He confirmed my direction and gave Sister Mati encouragement as well.

The afternoon was spent in visiting. Our first stop was at the home of Sister Virhelia, a woman in her seventies who must provide for herself as well as an afflicted adult son living with her, who requires much care. please let's all pray for her. We next went to see some friends who are interested in the Church.

The final day of my stay had arrived. We visited Brother Victor and Sister Lipa Rivera and their children. We also spent time with Sister Mati Lima and prayed with Sister Romalia Marroquin. We then traveled to the countryside, to a place called San Jose Pinula.

As we drove back to the city, storm clouds had formed. We stopped at Brother Beto Dominguez's street stand, where he sells enchiladas. As we sat in the pouring rain eating corn *atole*, *arroz con leche*, and enchiladas, it occurred to me that the rain smelled sweet. It has washed away the gasoline and car fumes, and made the tropical flowers brighter and more vibrant. Yet with all of this, it could not compare to the sweetness in the Spirit of Christ that I had shared with my Brothers and Sisters here. The fruit had opened;

and the people are tasting.

Let us not forget those who are laboring in the mission fields. A card or letter to Brother Luis, Sister Darlene, and family and/or to Brother Isidro and Sister Maricela Dominguez would certainly encourage them. Please mail your correspondence to Brother Ken Staley, who will accumulate the mail and forward it. Brother Staley's address is: 16126 Forest Oaks Drive Ft. Myers, FL 33908

Guatemala Subcommittee

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*** WEDDINGS *****GRIFFIN - JOHNS**

On April 9, 1994, James Griffin and Carol Johns were married at the Vero Beach Alliance Church.

Brother Frank Rogolino performed the wedding ceremony, and Brother Sam Costarella gave the sermon. Musical selections were performed by John Hear.

The couple attend the Fort Pierce Branch, and reside in Vero Beach, Florida. We pray that God will richly bless them.

SMITH - LOWE

John William Smith and Sister Dana Marie Lowe were joined in marriage on May 30, 1994 at The Church of Jesus Christ in Tampa, Florida.

The marriage was performed by the bride's father, Brother Duane Lowe, with Brother Isaac J. Smith assisting. Musical selections were provided by Sister

Barbara DiNardo, Sister Linda Benyola, and Doug Smith, with Sister Christina Benyola on the flute, Doug Smith on the trumpet, and Brother Phil Benyola on the piano.

The newlyweds will reside in Brandon, Florida. May God bless them in their new life together.

HUTSKO - VAVRO

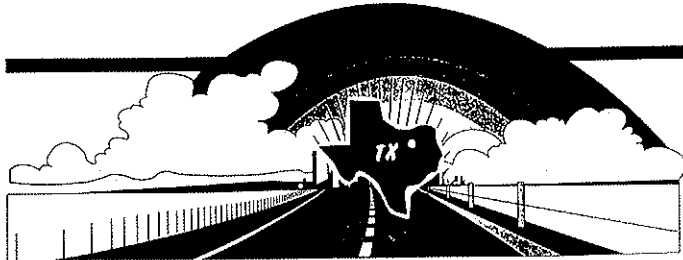
On August 27, 1994, Brother Timothy Hutsko and Stephanie Vavro were wed at the Greensburg, PA Branch. Timothy, a member of the Glassport Branch, is the son of Brother Louis and Sister Lois Hutsko, and the great-grandson of the late Brother Louis and Sister Conchetta Tassone.

Brother John Ali officiated at the ceremony, with Brother Joseph Draskovich assisting. Musical selections were played by Sister Erma Draskovich.

The newlyweds are residing in North Versailles, PA. May God bless their new life together.

Somewhere Over The Rainbow

(In DALLAS)



the Women are having a.....

RETREAT

Join us on this exciting journey to: DALLAS
by participating in the : GENERAL LADIES CIRCLE RETREAT

Whether you journey by airways or roadways: JUNE 1995
is the time to do it !!!!!

Children Blessed

Alyssa Marie Honsaker, daughter of Mark and Karen Honsaker, was blessed on April 10, 1994 by her great-grandfather, Brother Frank Giovannone.

Megan Brittany Landrum was blessed on August 7,

1994 by Brother William Chepanoske in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch. Megan is the granddaughter of Sister Jane Seighman Whittaker.

Brother George Johnson blessed Michael Alan Landrum, grandson of Sister Jane Seighman Whittaker, on August 7, 1994 in the Monongahela, PA Branch.

William Hamilton Leach was blessed by Brother Brian Smith in the Monongahela, PA Branch on August 7, 1994. He is the grandson of Sister Jane Seighman Whittaker.

OBITUARIES

PHILOMENA BARTUCCIO

Sister Philomena Bartuccio was called to her reward on May 27, 1994. She was a member of the Cape Coral, Florida Branch for 26 years, and the Cleveland, Ohio Branch for 31 years prior to that. She served the Church as a deaconess.

Brother Milford Eutsey Sr. officiated at the funeral service, with the help of the branch elders.

Our sister was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Ross Sr., and by her daughter, Sister Albina Kukal. Sister Philomena leaves behind four daughters and five sons, including Sister Irene Parry of Michigan; Sisters Theresa Palermo and Geri Gawronski of Cape Coral, Florida; and Brother Dennis Bartuccio of Ohio. Our sister also leaves behind a brother and a sister, both of Ohio, 30 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Sister Philomena always bore her testimony, and was quick to share her experiences of the Gospel with others. She will be sadly missed by her family as well as all the brothers and sisters who knew her. We pray the Lord may comfort all those who are left to mourn her passing.

LESTER BITTINGER

Lester E. "Buzz" Bittinger of West Leisenring, Pennsylvania, passed away on August 23, 1994 at the age of 73.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Robert Nicklow, with Brother Richard Lowther assisting.

Lester is survived by his father, Brother Joseph Bittinger, and apostle and member of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch; his wife, Anna Grace (Bryson) Bittinger; one daughter, Sister Sandra Bittinger, a member of the Vanderbilt Branch; two sons, Joseph E. and William; two sisters, Sisters Hulda Stroko and Nellie Bailey of the Vanderbilt Branch; 8 grandchildren, one great-grandson, and several nieces and nephews. He will be sadly missed by his family, relatives, and friends. May God bless and comfort the family.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

The Gospel News

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

November, 1994

Volume 50, No. 11

For Cure of Cirrhosis of the Giver

(The following article was written by a member of the Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ.—Editor's note)

The disease "Cirrhosis of the Giver" was discovered in 34 A.D. by the husband-wife team of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-11). It is an acute condition that renders the patient's hands immobile when he is called on to move them in the direction of his wallet, purse or check book, and from thence to the church financial secretary. This strange malady is clinically unobservable in such surroundings as the shopping mall, restaurant, video store or supermarket. Some try to use a fake remedy, such as pointing out to the patients that income tax deductions can be claimed for giving or that they should feel obligated to help pay the expenses of the Church. The best therapy, and that which leads to a sure and lasting cure, is to get the individual's heart right with God. This affliction is actually a symptom of a more basic need of the soul.

Prescribed medication: Frequent doses of Romans 12:1 and Luke 9:23, accompanied by a dash of 2 Corinthians 9:7. This dosage will become quite pleasant if swal-

lowed with a heaping tablespoon of Philippians 4:19!

Do you suffer from this disease? Unfortunately, it appears that this disease is fairly widespread and is reaching epidemic proportions. Reviewing our financial records, we can't help but notice the decline in our collections and the number of church members with very little next to their names. We normally instruct our members to give according to how God has blessed you. Is this really an indication of how much He has blessed you? What if God turned things around and actually chose to bless you according to how you give to Him?

The current economic climate has indeed been a problem for many but does that mean our offering to God is the first thing to go? This sort of thinking is similar to the girl who is given two dollars by her father. He tells her she can do whatever she wants with one of the dollars but the other is to be given to God on Sunday. On her way to the store, she trips and falls and one of the dollars falls down the sewer grate. As she stands looking down the sewer, she says, "Well Lord, there goes your dollar." First me, then God. One of the best givers in our branch happened to lose his job

and was unemployed for several months. During this period, he continued to donate at the same level. Meanwhile, others who were blessed with jobs couldn't find any money (or very little) to give back to God.

Some have said that they intend to donate but they have trouble remembering to actually do it. I have always advocated the practice of writing a check to the Church every month as your first check of the month. I have an appointed time when I shower, brush my teeth and comb my hair. These get done every day. I do not have an appointed time to wash my car. It never gets done! If we designate a specific time for donating to the Church, it will get done and we won't have to fall back on the hollow excuse of "I forgot." Our financial records for one of our members shows the same exact amount (a healthy amount by the way) donated every single month of the year except April. Curiosity dictated that this member be asked why the different amount for that one month. The answer? A \$1200 bonus received in March caused this member to increase the usual donation by \$120 that month in order to share a portion of the blessing with God.

I think it might help if we consider who really gets the larger benefit out of our donation, us or

(Continued on Page 3)

Apostles' Insights

The Risen Saviour

By Apostle Gorie Ciaravino

(The following article is a reprint from The Book of Sermons. It is being printed as a tribute to Brother Gorie Ciaravino, an Apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ.—Editor's note)

Our topic this morning will be on "The Risen Saviour." For our text, we shall use the 5th Verse of the 30th Psalm: "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." Surely, these words might be said to depict the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on this Easter morning.

There were sorrow and grief in the hearts of the disciples, as their Master hung on Calvary's tree. They became even more remorseful when He was carried away and laid in the sepulchre; but, in the morning, when they heard that He had arisen, their hearts were filled with joy.

When Jesus died, His disciples thought the Light of the World had gone out. Their hopes had vanished, although they had been told many times by Our Saviour that He would not be with them for long. He had endeavored to prepare them for this day by declaring some of the old prophecies concerning His sufferings and inevitable death; yet, when that day came, their hopes for the redemption of Israel had vanished.

Israel had been awaiting redemption from its natural bondage. The Israelites, as a result, overlooked the greater importance of His coming to liberate them from a spiritual bondage. Today, nearly two thousand years later, Israel is still waiting for the prophecies to be fulfilled—still waiting for their liberator to come into the world.

This morning, we are wonder-

ing how many Gentiles are still in bondage—not a natural bondage as Israel had been under but a spiritual bondage. They are still wandering about in the darkness, as they were during the hours which Christ lay in His Tomb, not choosing to take advantage of the opportunities presented by His Glorious Resurrection.

In St. Matthew 28:1 we read, "as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre." On arrival, they found it empty, for the Master had risen.

With the resurrection of Jesus came the dawn of a new day for God's people. The resurrection of Christ brought hope for eternal life.

Continuing with the account in St. Matthew, we find that "behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door." The stone which had been used as a barrier had been removed, just as were the walls of Jericho which stood as a barrier before Israel.

On this Easter morning, the Christian world is celebrating the resurrection of "the Risen Saviour." I sometimes wonder whether we realize the real importance of His resurrection. What does it mean to you and me? How does it affect us?

No doubt, all the world knows the story of Jesus, about His death on Calvary's cross, and His resurrection on the third day. Again, may I ask, do we understand the deep significance of this wonderful plan of God?

When God created Adam and Eve, our first parents, He placed them in the Garden of Eden and instructed them to eat of the fruit of all the trees there except the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge. In their disobedience, they ate the fruit which had been forbidden them. God had warned them that "in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

We all know that the Word of God is never spoken in vain; there-

fore, for their transgression, death came upon our first parents. This death could only be removed by the supreme sacrifice. His death and resurrection were necessities. Jesus declared unto His disciples, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day. And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things."

We read in the Scriptures, "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." Death, being the stone which formed the barrier between man and eternal life, has been removed by Our Risen Master.

The prophecies have been fulfilled. Men have the opportunity for working out their own soul's salvation. Let me warn you this morning, however, that only believing that He is the Christ will not bring you your salvation.

In his letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul wrote, "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." We see that even Paul was concerned about enduring until the end. In order that we may benefit by the death of Christ and His resurrection, we must first believe in Him as the Son of the Living God. Then, we must keep the commandments and ordinances which He taught and attempt to follow in His footsteps. After all, was not His life an example for us? Finally, we must keep faithful and endure to the end, as the Apostle Paul has said.

It behooves us to avail ourselves of the opportunity granted us to be His disciples in these, the latter days. Also, in remembering His resurrection, we may endeavor to learn of His ways and ask as they did on the Day of Pentecost, "Men

(Continued on Page 11)

Note of Thanks

This note of thanks on behalf of The Church of Jesus Christ, the *Gospel News* Staff, and the many readers of the *Gospel News* is for Brother Anthony J. Scolaro. He served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Gospel News* for ten years. Brother Anthony's editorials were an inspiration to all. His tireless efforts, contributions and involvement will always be remembered for years to come. Our prayer is that God will continue to bless Brother Anthony and use him in other capacities for the benefit of the Church.

The Gospel News Staff

* * * * *

We want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your prayers, cards and many calls which helped Alfred through his heart attack on July 13. He is recuperating and we thank God. Thank you all from the bottom of our hearts and may God bless you with His grace and love.

Your Brother and Sister in Christ,
Alfred and Josephine Dominico

* * * * *

I want to thank all of my brothers and sisters for their phone calls, flowers, cards and many prayers. My recent fall and illness were a real setback, but your prayers and the anointing of the brothers helped my recovery. I recently relocated and my new address is:

38 East River Drive
Willingboro, NJ 08046-2316
Phone (609) 877-1723

God bless you all.

Sister Angeline Biscotti

GIVER continued . . .

God. When you consider the Eternal God who created heaven and earth, do you really think it has a very large effect on Him whether or not we donate \$20 a month to the Church? I'm sure He can get along quite well without our small offerings. However, by withholding that small portion for ourselves, we damage our own relationship with Him. So who is the winner when we donate what is expected? Of course, we are.

Let me give you an illustration from my own life. When I was a teenager, I got my first summer job working at a grocery store. I remember when I cashed my first weekly paycheck for \$39, I was thrilled. After all, my allowance prior to this had been just a few dollars a week so this \$39 was like a small fortune. When I got home, my mother asked me to hand over this money, telling me that the rule when she was growing up had been that all paychecks are handed in and spending money is then given out. I refused and went to my room.

Later, my father came to talk to me and told me that my mother was quite upset that I refused to contribute this money. I couldn't understand what difference my few dollars would really make in the running of the household but, finally, I relented and gave her the money. In return, she gave me back a portion of it which amounted to two or three times what I have been receiving in allowance prior to this. This continued for the remainder of the summer and I quickly became accustomed to "getting by" on \$10 or \$15 per week. Considering I had no real expenses (food, clothing and shelter were already being provided by my parents at no charge), it wasn't much of a hardship.

Oh, by the way, do you know what my mother did with the money? She opened up a bank account and deposited the money each week. At the end of the summer, she handed me the bank book.

Do we really believe the

Scripture about "laying up treasures in heaven where moth and rust doth not corrupt?" This is what giving to God is all about. It has nothing to do with what the Church does with the money or what difference can be made with our few dollars. It has everything to do with our relationship with God and how "upset" He will be with us if we refuse to return a share of our income to Him after He has provided for our every need. Any little good that we do will be returned to us many times over. It may take the form of additional money, it may take the form of additional blessings, or we may not realize it until the next life but God has good things in store for us. He's depositing it all in a "bank" and the bank book has our name on it.

If you have been lax in giving this year, I would encourage you to make a donation by December 31, the final Sunday of the year. Regardless, as we enter 1995, I urge you, for your own sake, to rethink your philosophy on giving to God. Remember, it won't make a bit of difference to God whether you do or not but it will make a big difference to you. May God always bless you.

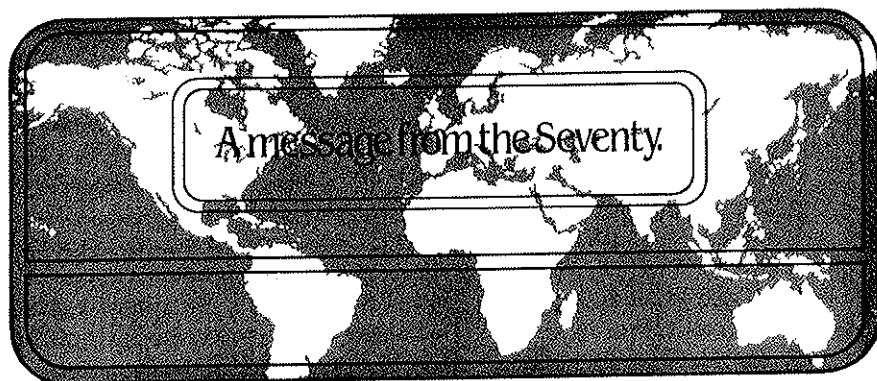
Announcement

For December, 1994, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.75%
2 years	6.25%
3 years	6.50%
4 years	6.75%
5 years	7.25%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



Labors Reviewed; Calling of Three Evangelists; Elections; Regionalization at Quorum of Seventy Conference

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

The labors of two departed evangelists were reviewed, three new evangelists were called, officers were elected, and the new regionalization program plans were discussed at the Semi-Annual General Quorum of Seventy Evangelist Conference at the World Headquarters in Greensburg, Pennsylvania on Thursday, October 6, 1994.

The report of the passing of the two beloved brothers since the last time the group had gathered included their many years of valuable service. There were Brother Elmer Santilli, who went to his reward the latter part of April, and Brother Edward Perdue, who left this life about a week before this conference.

Brother Santilli had been an evangelist since May 24, 1970. Besides serving in many other capacities in the Church, he had been a past Secretary of the General Quorum and recent Chairman of the General Development Committee.

Brother Perdue was ordained an evangelist on July 9, 1968. Along with his wife, the late Sister Evelyn, he had started the missionary work in Tijuana, Mexico in the 1950's. They devoted their lives to the Mexican work. Their beginning was the forerunner to the founding of many other locations in that nation.

Both of these Brothers will be sorely missed, and their examples will be long-remembered. A standing moment of silence was also observed for them at the General Church Conference Sunday service.

NEW EVANGELISTS

The three new Evangelists are Brother Phillip Arcuri from the Atlantic Coast District and Brothers Joel Gehly and Brian Martorana from the Ohio District. They were recommended to the General Church Conference which passed a motion to approve their ordinations into their new office.

Brother Arcuri has been very active in missionary work in Cottageville, South Carolina and Brothers Gehly and Martorana have traveled extensively to foreign fields, as has been noted in past issues. All three have also held various other offices in the Church.

General 70's officers elected were Thomas Liberto, President, and Leonard Lovalvo, Vice-President. Reelected were Eugene Perri, Secretary; Wayne Martorana, Assistant Secretary; Fred Olexa, Treasurer; and the writer, Editor.

Brother Isaac Smith is the immediate past President, having just

concluded his allowable time in that position. He was given a standing vote of thanks by those assembled. Brother Thomas Liberto had been the Vice-President.

Committee officers were elected as follows: Missionary Operating Committee Chairman, John Griffith; MOC Vice-Chairman, Peter Scolaro; Americas MOC Chairman, Richard Christman; AMOC Vice-Chairman, Fred Olexa; Foreign MOC Chairman, Phil Jackson; FMOC Vice-Chairman, John Manes; Research & Development Chairman, Dwayne Jordan; and R&D Vice-Chairman, Nephi DeMercurio. Reelected to the Media Committee were Carl J. Frammolino, Chairman, and Matthew Rogolino, Vice-Chairman. Both the R&D and Media groups, which had been part of the MOC, have been placed directly under the General Quorum.

The Chairmen of the District Evangelists are Matthew Rogolino, Atlantic Coast; Nephi DeMercurio, Michigan-Ontario; Russell Martorana, Ohio; Paul Liberto, Pacific Coast; Richard Scaglione, Pennsylvania; Dennis Moraco, Southeast; and Dwayne Jordan, Southwest.

APRIL 1995 TARGET DATE

The Research & Development Committee reported the regionalization target date is April 1995. It is anticipated that arrangements will be made between districts by then to transfer missions requiring realignment to their new region which will be servicing them after implementation. Timely transitions are being sought so members will continue to receive visitations and/or meetings as in the past.

The purpose of the project is to have locations placed within their closest districts. This will permit more feasible mileage coverage and less travel time.

A very favorable appraisal of this year's General Missionary Benevolent Association's Youth-in-Action Program was given. As

(Continued on Page 7)

The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

During the last six months the membership of The Church of Jesus Christ has been instructed to "keep its identity" and "stay focused." It is important that we ask ourselves a few questions. Who are we when we join The Church of Jesus Christ? Can we or should we compromise? With whom? Over what? The answers to these questions are in the Holy Scriptures.

According to the Holy Scriptures, when you join the Church, you become a saint of God. The Lord called His followers saints of God when He told Nephi that he had forgotten to write about them when they resurrected with Him at His Resurrection. The Apostle Paul in Romans 1:7 wrote "To all that be in Rome, beloved of God called to be saints." King Benjamin in his beautiful sermon, Mosiah 3:19, said we must put off the natural man and become a saint of God. In Psalms 37:28, King David wrote that the Lord "forsaketh not his saints." Nephi called those who belonged to the Church of the Lamb of God, saints of God. These are just a few of the many Scriptures that refer to "the saints of God."

Keep in mind that a saint is not a person who is elevated, exalted or revered in any way. A saint is a person full of humbleness, lowliness of heart, possesses a broken heart and a contrite spirit, carries the pure love of God and keeps himself or herself unspotted from the world. This places a tremendous responsibility on the people of God.

That responsibility requires that we strive to live a holy and righteous life. By our actions and the love we show towards one another shall all the world know that we are His disciples. It means our actions and words must be above reproach. This responsibility also requires that we love one another as Jesus Christ loved us. Please remember that Jesus did not throw the Samaritan woman in the well! He corrected her with love and her testimony was the catalyst for others to believe in Him.

Our responsibility includes bearing our testimonies to spread the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. We must "stand up for the restoration." It is essential that we stand up and tell others of our faith and doctrine, including the Book of Mormon. The Lord instructed His apostles to "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." We must do the same today. We are charged to tell others of the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Can we afford not to live up to our calling? What are the consequences of not living up to our calling?

If we do not live the life that is required of us, we lose the opportunity to receive eternal life. The Scriptures state that the Spirit of God will not always strive with man. By not serving the Lord in spirit and in truth, we jeopardize our opportunity to retain the Spirit of God and to reign with Him forever. It is imperative that we keep the commandments of God along with His principles and doctrine.

The principles and doctrine of Jesus Christ as instituted by Him, cannot be altered or compromised in any way. Jesus Christ is unalterable, unchangeable, and with Him there is no shadow of turning. Since the Lord is unchangeable, His principles and doctrine are unchangeable. If we compromise, if we do not stay focused, we will lose our identity.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock

A Man Who Lied About God

Dear Girls and Boys,

It had been sixteen years since King Mosiah had died. Since his sons, the four princes Aaron, Ammon, Omner, and Himni chose to be preachers rather than to be King, a series of judges ruled the land. The Nephites had established many fair laws; it was against the law to cheat, lie, steal, murder, etc. It was also the law that you could spiritually believe however you wanted to believe. The Lord never forced anyone to serve Him, in those days nor in our days.

There had been three peaceful years since the Nephite people had fought their last war against the Lamanites and Amalakites. The people of Ammon (Anti-Nephi-Lehis) had sent their two thousand young sons to fight bravely and God had spared them all. These true believers in God remembered what their mothers had taught them. They also well remembered the mighty power of God, who had saved them.

But Satan was furious. He began working in the heart of a powerful speaker named Korihor. He told Korihor to go among the Nephites and start confusing the people. But Korihor had to remember to pretend he truly believed his words so he wouldn't be breaking the laws of peace.

Korihor made fun of people who had faith. In a powerful way he told people they were crazy to believe in



something they couldn't see and told them that there was no God, so they should do whatever they wanted here on earth. Many weak people in Zarahemla decided they liked his evil words and they began to break all the laws of God that taught them to do good.

Korihor decided to take his preaching to the people of Ammon, too. But when he reached the land of Jershon, those people remembered well what it had been like when they were Lamanites living in unbelief. They also remembered the beauty and power of God who protected their sons and themselves in battle. Instead of being tricked by Korihor, they forced him to stop preaching his lies and leave their land. Thus we see that evil will leave us if we call upon God and stand up to it.

Next Korihor decided to take his lies to the land of Gideon. The people there also did not want him preaching his lies. They took him to be judged by their high priest. When this strong man of God saw the hold Satan had on Korihor and heard the lies Korihor was boldly spouting, he put Korihor under arrest and sent him to be judged by the governor of the land and chief judge, Alma.

Immediately the Lord showed Alma how Satan had tricked Korihor into speaking such lies. Korihor boldly told Alma that there wasn't any God and the elders just told the people stories so they could earn money. Quietly Alma answered Korihor that that was a lie, since he'd never once received any money for preaching the word of God.

Then Korihor said he knew there

wasn't a God and Christ would never come. Alma said, "What proof do you have that there isn't a God? The words of the ancient prophets, in fact all things on the earth and the planets that move in regular form prove there is a creator. I tell you, Korihor, Ye have no proof; you just say that. I know you do believe but a lying spirit possesses you and you push off the Spirit of God. The devil is working in you to destroy the children of God!"

Korihor replied, "Show me a sign and then I'll believe."

Alma warned him, "Korihor, I hurt because of the hardness of your heart, that you still will resist the Spirit of Truth and your soul will be destroyed. But it is better that one soul, yours, should be lost than many. So, if you deny again that there is a God, He will smite you so you will never talk again and trick so many people."

Once again Korihor argued, "I say that you don't know there is a God, and unless you show me a sign, I will not believe!"

And Alma replied, "This I will give you for a sign, that in the name of God, you will no more have a voice."

Now when Alma had said this, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could no longer speak, just as Alma had warned him. When the chief judge saw this, he wrote a note to Korihor saying, "Are you now convinced of the power of God? Who did you want Alma to touch to show you a sign for proof? You have your sign, will you argue more?"

And Korihor wrote back, saying, "I cannot speak; I know only the power of God could do this. I also did know there was a God but the devil tricked me and taught me what to say and I believed him."

Then Korihor asked Alma to pray for him and ask God to take the curse away. But Alma said unto him, "Korihor, God tells me that if your voice was restored unto you, you again would go about deceiving and leading away the people of God."

(Continued on Page 11)

Our Women Today

Blessings Abound at General Ladies' Circle Conference

By Karen L. Progar

The sisters of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle were greeted by a beautiful fall day as they met in conference on Saturday, October 8, at the Greensburg Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. As Sister Bonnie Metzler opened the meeting in prayer she requested that the Lord be present at our meeting and indeed He was.

Sister Arline Whitton, General Circle President, welcomed the sisters before beginning the coverage of our business. The morning speedily passed with the Ladies' Circle able to make a number of monetary donations. The last two special projects netted over \$1,200.00 for Kenya and \$1,866.50 for San Demetrio, Italy. In addition, at this conference, we were able to donate \$2,057.68 for the Indian Mission Fund and \$200.00 each for Media Communications, Africa, Italy, India and the Missionary Foundation Fund.

After a brief lunch break, we heard more about our upcoming General Circle Retreat and 75th Anniversary Celebration which will be held in Dallas, Texas on June 1-4, 1995 at the Doubletree Hotel. The weekend theme is "Love Builds Bridges." The Dallas Home Circle is in charge of the welcome, seminars are being handled by the Southwest Area, talent night by the Michigan/Ontario and Atlantic Coast Areas, the 75th Anniversary program by the Pennsylvania and Ohio Areas, music by the Pacific Coast Area and Sister Lydia Link is handling the memorial service. The cost of the retreat per person is \$135.00 if four people share a room, \$155.00 if three share

a room, \$195.00 if two are in a room and \$315.00 for single occupancy. Room prices include meals during the event. The organizers have made every attempt to make this event affordable, while designing a luxurious vacation. In addition, Sister Bonnie Smith advised us that a special rate agreement has been negotiated with American Airlines. Those planning to fly American must make their own reservations and use the special confirmation number which will appear in the Ladies' Circle Conference minutes.

Sister Arline expressed that she felt she had been given a special blessing while preparing this afternoon's devotions because she had the opportunity to write them with her natural sister, Sister Harriet Francione, who has been ill for some time. The program entitled, "Gently He Leads Us" was presented by sisters from all over the Church, randomly selected during the morning meeting. Faith, Hope, Love, Trust, Peace and the Power of Prayer were elaborated upon through Scriptures, hymns and poetry, with the congregation participating in the singing of *Gentle Shepherd, Great is Thy Faithfulness*, and *I Just Keep Trusting My Lord*.

Sister Diane Robinson shared a touching rendition of *Because He Lives* after which Sister Mary Bertolo, from the Inner City Branch, who is suffering from cancer, shared her testimony. Sister Mary Brown of Modesto, California also testified regarding the bout with cancer she has undergone. While these sisters were on the rostrum, another sister saw a white glow around them.

Several other experiences were had during the afternoon session. At one point, while Sister Arline was conducting the business, a white personage was seen moving back and forth behind her on the rostrum. In addition to assisting in the program design, Sister Harriet also made a favor of homemade candy and a poem for each of the sisters. Samantha and Nicole DeSantis, two of the young girls in attendance, passed the favors out. While the girls were doing this,

one of the sisters saw a personage walking with one of them and motioning for her to hand the packages to the various sisters in attendance.

The day passed speedily and the group formed a circle and Sister Jan Cornell closed our conference in prayer. We praise God that we were able to enjoy such a wonderful day of fellowship with each other and with the Lord.

REMINDER

There will be no seminar day on the Friday of General Church Conference in April of 1995. In addition, there will be no General Ladies' Circle Conference the last weekend of April 1995. It is our intention to encourage our membership to concentrate its efforts toward attendance at the General Retreat, where we will also conduct our business meeting. Start planning to be part of this historical occasion.

MESSAGE continued . . .

reported last month, young people from different parts of the Church visited Dallas, Texas and Harrison, Michigan to help in outreach activities at these two places.

The hope is that more locations will become involved in the ensuing years. Requests for participation must originate from the missions themselves through their District MOC Committees. Then the GMBA Youth-in-Action Committee will begin the evaluation and mechanics required in coordinating the projects.

Brother Thomas Liberto in giving the MOC report, summarized the missionary efforts in which the Church is involved around the world. He gave a brief overview of the locations being serviced and the progress being made. He also announced future foreign missionary trips to be taken by various brothers of the Ministry. They will be visiting current fields. He also reviewed some trips which have been made recently.

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Baptism in Spartanburg, SC

The Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission witnessed another joyous occasion as one of our young teens rendered obedience to the Gospel. Our new sister, 14-year-old Nicole Marcantonio, was baptized by Brother Darrell Rossi on April 24, 1994.

A week before she asked for her baptism, her Sunday School class was studying about Abraham and Isaac, and the class was asked what they would give up for the Lord. Nicole immediately replied, "Everything." That night, when she went to bed, she had a very difficult time falling asleep. She said she felt God was trying to keep her awake. She just felt He was trying to get her attention but she didn't understand why.

Also, the song *Living for Jesus* kept playing over and over in her head. She finally knelt down and prayed for peace, and asked God if He was calling her to get baptized.



Bro. Darrell Rossi baptizes Nicole Marcantonio.

The next morning she shared this with me, and asked how she could know for certain that God was calling her. Later that day she also shared this with Brother Darrell Rossi, and he also felt that God was calling her. We encouraged her to pray about and ask God to confirm it so that she would know for sure.

She prayed that night as she was instructed, and asked for a dream confirming her calling. That same night she dreamed she was in a room with a group of people, and a man was pouring the Communion wine. He spilled the wine, and seemed upset about it. Then she heard a voice saying that it was all right—it was no accident that Jesus' blood was spilled for us. The man proceeded to pass the bread and wine to everyone, and when he came to Nicole, he allowed her to partake of the Lord's Supper. Nicole awoke knowing for sure that this was God's confirmation of her calling.

We are thankful that the Lord called Nicole at an early age. Our prayer is that all our teens and young adults will hear and answer the call early in their lives, as they are the future generations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We ask that you keep Nicole and all our young brothers and sisters in your prayers, that they will endure as they go through this life.

* * * * *

The children of the Spartanburg Mission presented the Restoration Story in songs and recitals on April 28, 1994. Each child told their part of the story to the congregation with medleys of songs throughout the presentation.

It is truly a blessing to see the children involved in the telling of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, as they are, indeed, the future generations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We must, as parents, stand firm and raise up our children in the ways of the Lord, and when they grow up, they shall not depart from it. They must feel that they have a part in the Church, and that childlike faith and desire to serve the Lord will stay with them always.

We must also pray for our children daily, and one day, as the Lord calls each one, we will see our children being led to the waters of regeneration to be baptized as Saints of our Lord. May God bless each and every one of you.

Songs of Zion taught in Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger

"And they cried, 'Ah, we knew the day would come. . . .'" The day finally came when the *Songs of Zion* were taught in Freehold, NJ. Visiting with us were Sister Arlene Buffington and her daughter, Sister Becky Tarbuk, Brother Jim and Sister Jean Moore, and Brother Chuck and Sister Cheryl Krocsko, all from Imperial, PA; Brother Eugene and Sister Donna Amormino from Detroit, MI Inner City Branch; Sister Meredieth Martin and Brother Cleveland and Sister Margaret Baldwin from Quincy, FL; and Brother Miguel Bicelis from Miami, FL. Every branch of the Atlantic Coast District was also represented. Our little building in Freehold had "standing room only" for most of the weekend. The singing was so powerful that neighbors could hear the singing from several blocks away.

This was the first time the songs were taught in several years. As Sister Margaret Baldwin expressed, this was a "monumental" occasion, referring to an experience of Brother Cleve many years ago about Sister Arlene Buffington, and now to see this gift presented to the branch where the Baldwins met the Gospel.

Saturday afternoon, as Brother Jim Moore began speaking concerning the glory of Zion, a sister had a vision of a large table spread with

delicious foods, and saw many of the saints just beginning to gather around the table. Sister Arlene and Brother Eugene then began speaking concerning the many experiences associated with the *Songs of Zion*.

After a buffet dinner of Italian, Mexican/Guatemalan, and Southern U.S. food, we gathered upstairs once again for the evening. The Freehold Branch choir sang two of the songs in Spanish, and Brother Miguel Bicelis related his powerful testimony of how the Lord had begun to use him in translating the *Songs of Zion* into Spanish.

Brother Miguel received a number of powerful experiences after expressing his desire to the Lord that the lyrics of the *Songs of Zion* would flow as easily and beautifully in Spanish as they did in English. After blessing Miguel with the words to several of the songs from the Lord in metered, rhyming Spanish, He also began to strengthen Miguel's singing voice, so that he could better teach the songs.

In time, Brother Miguel began to become involved with contemporary Christian music, particularly the music and singing of Steve Green. At one of Steve Green's concerts, Brother Miguel was asked to go up on the stage and sing with Steve Green in front of thousands of people. After doing so, he became physically ill. After the concern on the way home, he heard a voice speak to him and say, "You remember the words to his songs (Steve Green), but you have forgotten the words to My songs." A little later the voice came back and reminded Miguel, "I have even given you a voice to sing My songs, and you are singing the songs of the world."

It was explained that this is how we many times unknowingly lose our identity when we feed from the tables of other doctrines, or even music, as the experience was brought forth at our April, 1994 Conference. During prayer at this evening meeting, a sister had a vision of a great light coming from the pulpit, covering the entire congregation.

On Sunday morning, Brother

Eugene Amormino spoke on how the Restoration of the Church came about, and why it's so important to understand our Commission for the future. He explained how we should be planting seeds among the Seed of Joseph for the work that is about to take place. Brother Jim Moore spoke on the latter-day glory which is Zion, and how we should not forget the reason for Christ restoring His Church. The reason is so that Israel can be gathered as God remembers His promise to Abraham, and to build His kingdom of peace upon this land.

Brother Paul Benyola related a dream he had had many years ago, showing that we are at the door of this great and marvelous work. He saw men laying the foundation of a house, and recognized all of the men. Recently, the last of these men were called into the ministry. The foundation has been laid, and now the visible parts of the building can be erected, which happens very quickly in comparison with the laying of the foundation. Just as Isaiah prophesied, "A nation born in a day, and a kingdom at once." As Brother Paul held up the Bible and Book of Mormon, a sister saw them become as gold.

Another sister from Freehold had prayed the night before that she would be allowed to feel the spirit of Zion that is expressed in the songs. She dreamed that night that she was sitting in a congregation when a voice from heaven said, "*The Songs of Zion*, 32." She saw pruning tools that were rusted from not being used, and saw them turn shiny and bright—ready for use. Then she heard the voice say, "10." When she awoke, crying, she turned her *Songs of Zion* book to pages 32 and 10. Lo and behold, the first song is *One Last Pruning*, confirming our sister's dream, and the second is *I'll Stand on That*, showing her to stand on the love of God and know that these songs were sent from His throne.

Later that evening, everyone gathered at our home. We prayed for the work of the Seed of Joseph in Freehold. They formed an inner

circle, and we Gentiles formed the outer circle. During the prayer, a sister had a vision of the inner circle becoming golden. She saw lions come around them to protect the golden circle.

Praise God for a glorious weekend in July. Pray for us as we labor for Zion and "prune the vineyard growing wild."

Lockport, NY

On May 29, 1994, the saints in Lockport, New York had a beautiful day. Seven of the apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ were here to present a plaque to the family of our late Brother Paul D'Amico. Brother Paul D'Amico was an apostle of the Church for forty years.

Brother Dominic Thomas opened our meeting in prayer. Brother Paul Palmieri spoke on Brother Paul's life and then read of the Prophet Elijah and Elisha who acquired Elijah's mantle when he was taken.

Brother Paul Benyola spoke of the years he spent in Lockport, New York working together with Brother Paul D'Amico in the Ministry. Brother Joseph Bittinger spoke of the many times he was with Brother Paul, his stay in Lockport many years ago and how he considered him, Brother Paul, as a son. Brother Nick Pietrangelo spoke of the childhood and adult life of Brother Paul. Brother Russell Cadman spoke of Brother Paul as an Apostle and his work in the Quorum. Brother Joseph Calabrese shared the Quorum of Twelve's desire to present a plaque to the D'Amico family. Brother Paul D'Amico's passing is a great loss to the Church and to the Lockport Mission. His life was dedicated to the Church.

Brother Joseph Calabrese recalled the time when Brother Paul D'Amico traveled to Lorain, Ohio to anoint him when he was losing his eyesight. Today, Brother Joseph Calabrese is a living testimony of the

(Continued on Page 10)

LOCKPORT continued . . .

power of God; his eyesight has been restored. Brother Joe then played a tape of Brother Paul preaching a sermon a few years ago. No one will ever forget Brother Paul D'Amico's unique and powerful voice when he preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The presentation of the plaque was made by Brother Joseph Calabrese to the D'Amico family. It's cover is "The Lord is My Shepherd," the same title and cover that Brother Paul D'Amico had printed on his pamphlet. Sister Grace D'Amico expressed herself and thanked God for all His goodness in her life.

It was glorious to see so many present from different parts of the Church. There were about seventy-five present for this beautiful day and meeting. We welcome brothers and sisters to visit us in Lockport, New York. Remember us in prayer. God bless you all.

The hand of God felt in Modesto, Ca

By Valerie Dulisse

At times, we as a people are reluctant to follow God's plan for our lives. The story of Naaman in the Bible illustrates the unwillingness of a person to subject himself in complete faith to God's will, and obedience to that will. On September 25, Brother Leonard Lovalvo was inspired to speak on this story of healing and relate it to our own lives. Naaman was suffering from leprosy, but because of his pride he refused to listen to the direction of God's prophet Elisha regarding the method of healing. Many times, God in His wisdom has other ideas for the timing as well as the method of our healing. Our sufferings may be of a spiritual nature—a spiritual leprosy, so to speak, or the suffering of a physical affliction. These will both appear in our lives at times. God's answer to our prayer may be unlike what we would expect. Perhaps God requests a simple way for us to do something

so that our prayers will be answered, or He may allow the trial so that we could be refined, and the dross removed from our spiritual lives.

This message was especially fitting today because our branch had been in fasting and prayer the previous Wednesday and Saturday for the sick, of which there are many in Modesto as well as throughout the Church. At each of the fasting and prayer meetings during the week there was a beautiful spirit and the power of God was felt. On Saturday morning at our prayer service, Brother Joseph Lovalvo had a vision at the end of the meeting in which he felt he was being lifted up toward the heavens and looked down upon the meeting. He had risen so high that the sacrament table appeared as a small box below him. He felt that God was pleased, and that our prayers had ascended to heaven.

Brother Matthew Picciuto testified of the way God had spared he and Martha's lives on a rainy night the previous week, when a car was rolled over right in front of them, and again when a truck nearly veered into their own car to avoid the accident.

A Sister testified of a dream God had given her in which the enemy of our soul had been chasing her and God gave her a warning that he was after her, and was the cause of her discouragement and heartache. She has begun to feel a spiritual healing, and praised God for lifting her from the depths of depression which had even taken away her desire for living.

Brother Richard E. Deulus Jr. requested prayer for severe wisdom teeth pain, and was instantly healed. Immediately after he stood from the chair he told of how he had not taken the medication a sister had given him because he knew that God would take care of him. We heard then from Brother Louis Parravano, for whom we had been praying for many weeks. We were overjoyed to hear that his tests had come back negative and he had no cancer in his body.

Sister Jean Ciarolla had been suffering for over a week with

intense back pain with no relief. That morning she was anointed and the following Monday morning her back was healed.

Sister Lydia Dulisse has been suffering from an unknown blood disorder which has caused her extreme fatigue and weight loss. The doctor was concerned that it could be cancer. When Sister Lydia first became sick two years ago, her mother Mary Randy had gone to God in prayer for her. A light came into the room and an angel appeared to her and told Sister Mary, "I will take care of her." On this particular Sunday, Sister Lydia had prayed for a sign that it was God's will for her to be anointed. She asked God for Brother Joe Ciarolla to ask the congregation if there was anyone else who needed prayer, and for them to come up now. Sister Lydia received her sign exactly as she had requested it. When Brother Joseph Lovalvo prayed, he asked that God would cause the coming tests to reveal that nothing was wrong with Sister Lydia. When her doctor received the results of the cat scan and blood work, she spoke verbatim the words Brother Joe had said in his prayer: the tests results revealed that there was nothing wrong with Sister Lydia. Our Sister now has renewed strength and energy for the first time in two years!

Our Brother Jose Rodriguez related how his son Levi had been healed of a torn tendon through prayer, choosing prayer rather than to go to the hospital. Levi's sister Ruth was recently healed as well, when Levi prayed for her during a serious illness. The faith of one so young is such a remarkable thing to see. He is still in elementary school.

God's way is the best way. Although He manifests His power and healing in His own time frame, we have seen that a Branch, District or even General Church is able to reach the throne of God through fasting and prayer, and His mercies are waiting to be extended to His children. Let us keep in mind the results which drawing closer to God can bring, Brothers and Sisters. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

RISEN SAVIOUR continued . . .

and brethren, what shall we do? 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. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation."

MESSAGE continued . . .**SEMINAR CONDUCTED**

Five Brothers acted as group leaders in a seminar which completed the day's schedule. They were Brothers Russell Martorana, Larry Watson, Paul Liberto, Richard Christman, and Nephi DeMercurio. The discussions centered on individual and joint efforts in spreading the Gospel. The interaction was very enlightening and uplifting, as the brothers offered the insights they have gained. The needs of all segments and age groups were analyzed. Sharing of the information was viewed as being extremely beneficial.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

Let us consider the meaning of the words identity and compromise. Identity

is defined as: the collective aspect of the set of characteristics by which a thing is definitely recognizable or known: the set of behavioral or personal characteristics by which an individual is recognizable as a member of a group. Compromise is defined as: a settlement of differences in which each side makes concessions.

The people of God must possess and exhibit those characteristics that make them recognizable as true Disciples of God. Nephi was a man of steel in his service to God. King Benjamin was not only a ruler and king of God's people, he was a servant of God's people. The Apostle Paul was zealous, firm, true to his word and the Word of God.

Men and women in the Holy Scriptures did not know the meaning of compromise. The Lord certainly did not know the meaning of the word. Jesus Christ did not compromise when He answered Nicodemus. He told Nicodemus that he had to be born of the water and the Spirit, otherwise he would not enter heaven; he would not even see heaven! Abinadi did not compromise with Noah. Peter did not compromise on the Day of Pentecost when he was asked by the crowd, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" His answer, "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." In Hebrews 11:35, we read that men and women "were tortured, not accepting deliverance." They would not compromise even if it

meant death. Stephen did not compromise during his defense before the Sanhedrin even though he knew his life was in jeopardy. As the crowd was stoning him to death, his saintly character allowed him to easily say, "Lord lay not this sin to their charge."

It is important that we "keep our identity" and "stay focused." Our lives and ultimate reward depend on our identity and focus. As King Benjamin stated so eloquently in Mosiah 5:15, "Therefore, I would that ye should be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen."

CORNER continued . . .

The followers of Korihor all repented once they saw the end of their evil leader. Korihor wandered from city to city begging for his food until one day he was accidentally run over and killed. So we see how Satan tricks people and then abandons them in their pain and sorrow. Peace again reigned throughout the land. (Alma 30)

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Children Blessed

Jared Justin Ford, born April 8, 1994 to Brother Joel and Sister Linda Ford was blessed on May 15, 1994 by his grandfather, Brother Jack Ford.

Charles Anthony Petrosky, son of Charles W. and Sandy Petrosky of Greer, South Carolina was blessed on September 11, 1994 in the Vanderbilt Branch by Brother Richard Lowther. His grandparents are Charles and Pamela Petrosky of Perryopolis, Pennsylvania and James and Sandra Taleff of Greer, South Carolina.

Shelby Lynn Rust, daughter of Dean and Sister Karen Rust, was blessed on September 25, 1994 in

Eugene, Oregon by Brother Bob McDonnell.

Cristy Michelle Plahy, daughter of Gregg and Wendy Plahy, was born on May 25, 1994 and blessed on July 10, 1994. The blessing was performed by her grandfather, Brother Tom Jones at the Bell Branch in California.

Ty Manuel Martinez, son of Brother Hector and Star Martinez, was born on September 19, 1994 and blessed on October 2, 1994 by Brother Harry Marshall at the Bell Branch in California.

Jennifer Elise Baptist, daughter of Lisa and Rene Baptist, was born on September 8, 1994 and blessed on October 9, 1994 by her great grandfather Brother Jim Scalise at the Bell Branch in California.

* WEDDINGS *

GOMEZ-EDWARDS

Brother Nestor K. Gomez Jr. and Sister Michelle D. Edwards were joined in marriage at South Bend, Indiana on August 13, 1994.

Brother Mitchell Edwards, father of the bride, officiated the ceremony and was assisted by Brother Mark Naro. Musical selections were offered by Sister Kathleen Furitano and Sister Georgianna Love.

The newlyweds will reside at 88-24 53rd Avenue, First Floor, Elmhurst, New York 11373. May the blessings of God be with them as they begin a new life together.

RANDY-SECHRIST

Samuel David Randy of Modesto, California and Christina Sechrist of Newport Beach, California were joined together in Holy Matrimony in Modesto, California, on September 17, 1994.

The ceremony was officiated by Mark Randy, father of the groom and assisted by George Heaps, father of the bride. Musical selection was provided by Carrie Dulisse.

Brother Frank Ciotti was the best man and his wife, Sister Shari, who is the sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. We wish them happiness.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

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

LUCY LOMBARDO

Sister Lucy Lombardo of the Cleveland, Ohio branch passed on to her eternal reward on May 10, 1994. She was sixty-five years of age.

Sister Lucy was the beloved wife of the late James Lombardo originally from Branch 4 in Detroit, Michigan. Services were conducted by Brother Vince Gibson. Assisting was Brother Jim Hufnagle. The service was filled with a wonderful spirit of love.

ELVA B. KELLER

Sister Elva B. Keller of Smock, Pennsylvania passed away on September 13, 1994 at the age of seventy three. She was a member of the Vanderbilt Branch.

The funeral was conducted by Brother James L. King with Brother Lawrence King assisting.

Left to mourn for Sister Elva are three daughters, Carol Kolbaly, Lucille Wolfe, and Sister Wilma King; two sons, Bob and Del Keller; one sister, Elaine Forsythe; one brother, James Lewis; eleven grandchildren, two great grandchildren along with many relatives, friends and the brothers and sisters of the Vanderbilt Branch. May the Lord bless and comfort the ones left behind.

CHARLES MAGGIO

Brother Charles Maggio of Rochester, New York passed on to his eternal reward on September 26, 1994. He was a member of the Rochester Branch.

Left behind is his wife, Sister Loretta D'Amico Maggio, a son, Charles, a daughter, Rosalie Grant, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Services were conducted by Brother Russell Martorana.

MARIA ROSA KARANKO

Sister Maria Rosa Karanko passed away August 24, 1994. She was born on April 8, 1908 in Bovalino, Italy.

Sister Maria was a faithful member of the Bell, California Branch. She leaves to mourn a son and daughter.

The funeral was conducted by Brother Harry Marshall.

The Gospel News

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

December, 1994

Volume 50, No. 12

A New Christmas List

By Jeffrey Giannetti

Once again the Christmas season has arrived. This season is often referred to as the season for giving. We each look forward to giving and receiving presents from family, friends and loved ones. We search the stores and fight the crowds to find the perfect gift for each person on our Christmas list. Then, on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day—depending on the tradition in your family—we share our presents, feast on enormous meals and enjoy the peaceful, happy spirit this holiday often brings.

It is certainly fitting to find giving synonymous with Christmas. Christmas after all, celebrates the birthday of the giver of all good, Jesus Christ. He gave the ultimate sacrifice—His own life—that we may experience the joy of salvation. We could search the stores from Macy's to Sak's and Nordstrom to Neiman Marcus and still never find a gift so great as the one given to each of us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

With that in mind, let's try something different. For a moment, let's hypothetically turn the tables. This year let's try to imagine a different kind of Christmas list—not

a list we make and hope our loved ones will fill. Instead, this is a list we are given and are expected to fill. To phrase it like our children might, we play Santa! The list we are given is very simple, short and it is from only one person. Imagine if this year's Christmas list was given to us by Jesus Christ! After all He has done for us, now He is asking us to fill the requests on His list. What do you think His Christmas list would contain? Do you think we could fill the items?

Students of the Scripture and followers of Christ may already know what His list might contain. Jesus taught a new Gospel during His three year ministry. These new teachings were not meant to change the current religious law, but to bring its fulfillment. The overriding and central theme of Jesus' teaching was love. Through these teachings, we can gain insight into what Jesus' Christmas list for us would contain.

We read in Matthew the 22nd Chapter beginning in verse 35 where the Lord was approached by a lawyer who asked a question seeking to tempt the Lord. His question for the Lord was, "... Which is the great commandment in the law?" The answer Jesus gave was very simple, much like our hypothetical list. "Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul; and

with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40). Are you beginning to get the feeling our list might have something to do with love?

Further insight into what our fictitious list might contain is found in the Gospel of St. John. After Jesus introduced the glorious ordinance of feet washing—by example—to His Apostles, He then gave them a new commandment. Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another, as I have loved you, that ye also love one another" (John 13:34). Again in John, Jesus illustrated the importance of love when He said, "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" (John 15:12,13).

Based on these and many more Scriptures, the Christmas list of the Lord given to us to fill would contain only the following two items:

1. Love the Lord with all of our heart, soul and mind.
2. Love each other and our neighbor as Christ loves us.

Simple, beautiful and plain, this
(Continued on Page 11)

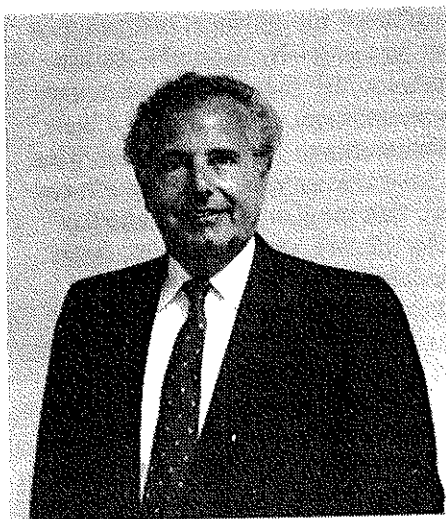
Apostle's Insights

From the Cradle to the Cross! 1.6 Billion Christians Pay Homage!

By Paul Benyola

THE CRADLE

In a little town called Bethlehem, a baby named Jesus made His appearance. Jesus' entrance was prophesied by many since the beginning of the world. Isaiah described in a detailed sequence, the vicarious sacrifice of Jesus Christ seven hundred and twelve years before Jesus was born (Isaiah 53). Jesus' birth in a stable was, for the most part, unnoticed by most of the people of that day. In the Americas, the three days of light was a powerful and visible sign of the birth of Jesus.



Apostle Paul Benyola

JESUS' CHILDHOOD

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was sent to the earth from heaven. The greatest event in the history of the world was announced by the Angel of the Lord who, with a

multitude of the heavenly host, praised God and said, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will toward men*" (Luke 2:13-14). This PEACE is possible when we accept Jesus in our lives.

Jesus' childhood was uneventful except for the time He was found in the temple sitting in the midst of the doctors. Jesus told His mother, "*How is it that ye sought me?*" (Luke 2:49). This statement by Jesus acknowledged that He was the Son of God and that He knew what His destiny was.

JESUS' MINISTRY

When Jesus reached the age of thirty years old, He started His mission to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on Earth, beginning with the people of Israel. He condensed the voluminous law of Moses into two commandments, "*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets*" (Matthew 22:37-40).

With this clear and concise statement, JESUS set out to reclaim men and women who were cut off from the presence of GOD since the fall of Adam and Eve. JESUS WAS READY TO RESTORE ISRAEL TO NEW HEIGHTS OF GLORY. He preached a plain and simple relationship with GOD, and with all of GOD's children, without regard to race or color. This gospel of PEACE excluded fighting, bloodshed and the endless wars that plagued the world up to the time of Jesus Christ and continues to plague the world today.

THE CROSS! JESUS INTRODUCES A PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL

The leaders of the Jews rejected Jesus and convinced the people to demand His crucifixion. JESUS' death opened up the way of salva-

tion equally for all men and women through the ages of time. Jesus said, "*And wither I go ye know, and the WAY ye know*" (John 14:4).

The "WAY" is Faith in Jesus Christ, Repentance, Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Men and women lost the "WAY" for about 1260 years. In 1830, the "WAY" was clearly defined through the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ.

THREE YEARS AND A LASTING EFFECT ON BILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN

With the foundation for The Church of Jesus Christ clearly set up in the three years of Jesus' ministry in A.D.30 and with the Restoration of The Church of Jesus Christ in A.D. 1830, even the avowed atheist must be amazed at the tremendous effect that Jesus's three years of ministry has had on billions of men and women and children throughout the last 1,964 years.

PEACE THAT PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING

In the busy and sometimes frustrating world we live in, it is important to recognize the beauty that Jesus was able to portray to those surrounding Him. He did not look on the outward appearance, but was able to penetrate our heart and mind with a hope of eternal life. Jesus gave us the opportunity to define our priorities in life and GOD is always first.

If we continue to improve our relationship with God, family and neighbors, we will experience the *peace of God, which passeth all understanding* (Phil 4:7). This wonderful peace is a gift from Jesus. When the trials and burdens of life seem to overwhelm us, prayer will allow us to receive the precious gift of PEACE at the most critical time in our life.

Some of the leaders in our

(Continued on Page 11)

A Testimony

By Sister Connie Rossi

Greetings to my dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. I would like to share my testimony with all of you regarding my recent experience with the healing hand of the Lord.

This past month I went for my annual physical which included a routine mammogram. A few days later my doctor called requesting additional mammograms be taken due to a questionable area that showed on the films. Shortly after, I got another call from the doctor asking me to come into his office to discuss these tests and the mass, or spot they noticed on the films. I immediately was hit by all kinds of thoughts since my mother had passed away three years ago of breast cancer after fighting this disease for eighteen years. But all through the years I had refused to allow this to be a concern or fear in my life. I have always put my trust and faith and my very life into God's hands and believed He would spare me of this. The next day, my husband, Brother Darrell and I went to consult with the doctor. He recommended I see a surgeon as a follow up and possible surgery to do a biopsy.

After referring us to a surgeon, I made an appointment to see this specialist. The doctor reviewed all the mammograms and reports and did recommend surgery to do a biopsy, especially because of my mother's history. We set the date for out-patient surgery for Tuesday, August 23, 1994. In the meantime, Brother Darrell and I took this matter to the Lord in prayer to ask God to intervene and heal my body. Brother Harold Littlejohn had anointed me in church and Brother Darrell had anointed me several times at home, including that same morning in the hospital. The morning of the surgery I was taken to radiology for more mammograms for the surgeon and radiologist as a guide to pinpoint the area in question. Several were done and a half

hour later the technician came back and said they would need to take a few more at different angles because the radiologist was having a hard time locating the spot. While I was waiting in between films, I stayed in prayer to the Lord and asked Him if it be at all possible to take the spot away; that it would not even show up on the x-rays. I asked the Lord to heal me and for this to be a witness to all those involved to give Him all the glory for this experience.

These tests were repeated three times and they still could not pinpoint the spot so they did a sonogram to see if they could pick it up that way. The radiologist was baffled as he guided that sonogram paddle back and forth because he could not seem to be able to see anything that had been there before. The radiologist discussed these findings (or non-findings) with me and explained to me that the results of the films taken that morning compared to the ones taken a few weeks prior were not the same! This morning's films, and even the sonograms, did not pick up any questionable spots or mass. Therefore, they had nothing to go by and strongly suggested cancelling the operation for that morning. After consulting with the surgeon, it was agreed to cancel the surgery and to do a follow-up in six months. After being told no surgery was necessary and I could go home, Brother Darrell and I rejoiced and praised the Lord right there in the halls of the hospital.

Brother Darrell and I have both experienced what it is like to see a spouse through an illness and pass away. But God has gloriously blessed us by bringing us and our five children together and united us as husband and wife on June 11, 1994. We realize this was a test of our faith and endurance. The Lord has brought us together for a purpose and I believe Brother Darrell and I will have a long and happy life together serving the Lord and fulfilling His will in our lives.

Needless to say, we went home

that day praising the Lord, full of hope and joy! My trust and total faith will always be in the Lord, six months from now, six years from now, for all the days of my life. It truly is a magnificent and humbling experience to be in "the healing hands of the Lord." May God bless you always.

Note of Thanks

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of the brothers, sisters and friends for your cards, phone calls, flowers and gifts sent to our mother, Sister Olive Elzby, during her illness and subsequent passing. Sister Olive was deeply touched by the love and care of the saints.

The Family of Sister Olive Elzby

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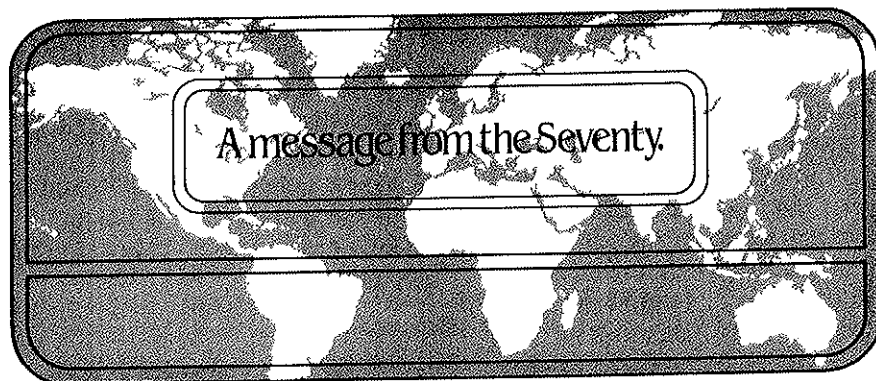
Announcement

For January, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	6.15%
2 years	6.65%
3 years	6.90%
4 years	7.40%
5 years	7.75%

Deposits to this fund can only be made by branches and auxiliary organizations of The Church of Jesus Christ.

To make a deposit or obtain additional information, please contact Brother Gary Martin at 412/376-3365.



Three Brothers Visit Mexico

(Following is a summary of the report submitted by Brothers Daniel Mora, Joseph Ciarolla, and Matthew Picciuto who visited Durango, Chihuahua, and Sinaloa last May 2-9.—Evangelist Editor's note)

The Brothers arrived at the Torreon Airport on Monday, May 2, where they were met by Brother Eulogio Hernandez and his wife, Sister Ana, who took them to Sister Josefina's house. They were given a warm welcome with a delicious meal, during which the locale's spiritual state was discussed.

Then they went to another member's home, Sister Angela, who told them experiences which God had performed in her family. They proceeded on to see Brother Jose Escalera, the Presiding Elder in the area. The next morning, they were updated by Brother Escalera including information that services will again be held during the week at Gomez Palacios and on Sundays at the rancho, Juan E. Garcia.

That afternoon, they visited with Sister Chela. At the evening service, the Spirit of the Lord was felt by the entire congregation, as Brother Eulogia Jr. delivered a powerful message encouraging everyone to carry on. Inspirational preaching was evident the entire evening, as many blessings were received.

Late that evening after the service, the Brothers departed on an eight hour bus trip to Chihuahua

where they were greeted by Brother Marcelino and Sister Cleotilde Granados. The rest of the day was spent in visiting several people.

FOURTEEN CHILDREN BLESSED

That evening, fourteen children were brought forth for blessing at this new mission, which was composed of seven members and fifteen visitors. This group developed considerably since their last visit there in September 1993.

Our Brothers prayed for a young woman, Martha Martinez, who asked for her baptism two years ago but could not receive permission from her parents to be baptized. Brother Daniel asked her to come forward so that hands could be laid upon her. Before this was done, however, Brother Joe commented, "We will pray not only for her but also for her parents." After having been gone for only ten minutes, Martha returned, exclaiming, "Brothers and Sisters, the Lord heard our prayers. I can now enter the waters of baptism."

Much thanks is due to the members of the Ahome and San Isidro, Sinaloa Missions who travel twelve hours by train, crossing the Tarahumara mountain range. The Cuatemoc Mission reported this great support, as they do not have a full-time minister.

The next morning, the threesome was joined by Brother Marcelino Granados, and they traveled through-

out the area checking possibilities for growth for the Church. They saw that God has reserved a great work for everyone there with the Seed of Joseph.

In the afternoon, they traveled to the city of Chihuahua which is the capital of the largest state of the Mexican Republic, from where they journeyed to Sinaloa. In the evening, they arrived at a small village, Macapule, which is located between Los Mochis and Ahome. They paid a visit to this mission to greet the small group which is endeavoring to build its own church building with their resources by selling food, such as tamales, on Saturdays. Slowly, they are succeeding, for they now only lack the roof and floor.

A meeting was held at Brother Hector's home, the Presiding Elder at Ahome. During their visit, they discussed construction of a sorely needed building at San Isidro.

Friday morning, the three Brothers gathered information about the construction of this structure, including governmental requirements, budgets, materials and allied costs.

In the afternoon, the Brothers visited Brother Hector again and some members of the congregation. The day was concluded with a three hour hymn service at Ahome.

The three travelers began Saturday with a visit to Brother Hector's parents who live in Los Mochis. His mother, Sister Angela, told them some experiences and healings she had received. She also commented on how her husband and she had come to the Church.

That afternoon, the Ministers of the site gathered with the three brothers and they discussed various matters, which included the covering of missions in Mexico City and Chihuahua.

SUNDAY SERVICE

Sunday began with two baptisms. The love for God was displayed, as everyone came to the baptismal site, arriving by public transportation, a couple of trucks,

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The city of Corinth was the site of some of the greatest victories ever won by The Church of Jesus Christ. In 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, the Apostle Paul wrote:

"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.

"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."

There were *saints* in Corinth who were baptized out of an environment of vice and degradation and received salvation by rendering obedience to The Church of Jesus Christ. Their sins were forgiven, their backgrounds and histories were forgotten.

The conditions described by the Apostle Paul still exist. The Church of Jesus Christ will be the instrument used by God to overcome and change the degradation and sinful state of society. This will have a profound effect on The Church of Jesus Christ. Our branches and missions will experience tremendous growth. New branches and missions will be established all over the world. In Alma 29:8 we read that the Lord doth grant unto all nations, of their own nation and tongue to teach his word. The Gospel will be preached in every language, by men of every nationality and race. Just think of it. The Restored Gospel will be preached in the Far East. Countries like China, Japan, Australia, Thailand and more. The Restored Gospel will be preached in Russia and the entire European continent. It will cover all of Africa, the Middle East, South America and all of North America. There will not be any place on earth where the Restored Gospel is not preached or heard. Every nation, every individual will hear the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ, The Church of Jesus Christ. The Choice Seer will be a member of the Church. The restoration of the House of Israel and the Peaceful Reign will become realities. As thousands, millions join the Church, this will effect our families.

As people are baptized and forsake their past, they may express interest in our children, our sons and daughters. Will we accept them? Will we forget their backgrounds? Will we love them? The saints of God answer yes to these questions. We will wash their feet and we will drink from the same communion cup. We will greet each other with a holy kiss. We will embrace one another in the spirit and love of God. We will shed tears of joy together as we experience the blessings and power of God. We love our neighbors as ourselves and love God with all our hearts, with all our souls and with all our minds.

We are familiar with the parable of the prodigal son in the 15th chapter of Luke. A young man who received his inheritance, left home and eventually wasted everything he had on sinful living. He found himself feeding swine in the fields. His condition had deteriorated so badly, to stay alive he ate the husks which was food for the swine! How humiliating! What a life! Thank God the prodigal son repented and returned home. There are two other stories in this parable and they are extremely important to us as the saints of God. Only one of them describes the character, love and spirit of a saint of God; the other does not.

The first story covers the prodigal son's brother. He was self-righteous, unforgiving

(Continued on Page 7)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

How to Start the New Year Fresh and Clean

John 16
John 14:15
III Nephi 11:36

Dear Girls and Boys,

Sometimes I hear young people (and even older people) say, *"Oh, I can't get baptized. I do too many things wrong or I'm afraid that after I'm baptized, I'll make mistakes."*

Trust me; you will. We all make many, many mistakes. It seems to be the way we wild humans are. Even though we have a guide-book (the Book of Mormon and Bible) to learn from, we still make our own decisions. We still make many mistakes, and sometimes we do it on purpose.

That's part of what serving God is all about . . . learning to love ourselves and others enough to keep learning even though we make mistakes. It's about asking for God's forgiveness.

Now God tells us there is only one unforgivable sin, that is the sin of denying the Holy Ghost. Aside from that He speaks strongly against shedding innocent blood, committing adultery (having a sexual relationship outside of your marriage), and other things He hates. He lists seven things He finds really terrible. And to God, backbiting (gossiping meanly about someone), telling untruths (bearing false witness) about someone, troublemaking (having feet that are swift running to mischief) are also sins. He said that an abomination to Him is a proud look. Think

about how many times we've been happy and gloating over having something someone else didn't have and feel proud. God doesn't want us to be like that. It hurts others too deeply.

God also hates us to have hearts that deviseth (make up) wicked imaginations. We are to believe good things, think good thoughts and be truthful.

But sometimes we each feel jealous or spiteful and we do one of the sins listed above. We fail. We make mistakes. So what should we do next?

There is a way out of those horrible, crummy feelings. It is through private prayer (talks) with God. It is through talking to God about your hurt, your shame, your anger and hateful thoughts. We must admit them, face them, and then ask God to forgive them. And then ask God to strengthen us so we will not do those sins again. And He will; and we can grow inside.

And the beautiful secret to all of this fresh love and forgiveness is Jesus. The man who sacrificed His life as a special offering for all of mankind, goes to God on our behalf. This beautiful Jesus loves you even when you act ugly. He loves us even when we're feeling sorry for ourselves. He especially loves us when we repent and beg Him to help change us.

And the second secret why you don't have to fear baptism is that you are given a gift to help you. This gift, called the Holy Spirit or Holy



Ghost, comes to stay inside you once you are baptized. It is described as being the mind of the Father and the Son. It can and will guide you, lead you and direct you in paths that are right. Some people call it *that little, quiet voice inside me*.

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

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Our Women Today

You Can Make A Difference Say Something Good, Do Something Good, Be Someone Good

By Suzette Huttenberger

The above title was the theme for the Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Circle Seminar Day held at the Levittown, Pennsylvania Branch on September 19, 1994. All branches in the Area were represented, even from as far away as Maine. The day began with Sister Flo Lombardo playing the harp for us. A beautiful spirit was felt by all that attended the meeting.

Sisters Linda Scolaro and Lisa DiRado conducted the seminars. They began by relating experiences each of them had of people who have made differences in their lives. Sister Linda had injured her back. She did not say anything to anyone, yet a sister contacted her to tell her that she was directed to pray for Sister Linda.

When Sister Lisa DiRado was going to college, she drifted from the Church. A brother and sister who always kept in touch with her invited her to church in Detroit one evening. Brother Eugene Amormino was visiting that night. He preached on young people who have gone astray. He taught the *Songs of Zion* that night. Sister Lisa heard them for the first time, and said that night she decided to begin to search for Jesus Christ to be a part of her life again.

The Scripture, Matthew 5:14-16 set the theme for the day. Verse 16 says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works." However, verse 15 should be even more convincing to us, "Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto

all that are in the house."

We have been given the light of Christ, and the Gospel the day we got baptized. Let's not hesitate to share it with others. We should be eager and excited to share our testimonies.

We broke into seminar groups and shared with others our own experiences of people who have made differences in our lives. A beautiful spirit was felt by all as many related powerful experiences.

Sister Joyce Ross, President of the Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Circle, followed by giving us valuable principles in making a difference:

Recognize and value the unique person that you are.

Realize that whatever is worth your doing is worth doing the very best that you can.

Understand that true happiness is having hope, experiencing love and doing things for the betterment of other people.

This is just a sampling of the principles that were taught. Sisters Janice and Jennifer Huttenberger then sang, *Remove Every Stumbling Block*. The sisters listened to a beautiful collection of songs with the piano and harp played together.

We had the privilege of having Sister Arlene Whitton, President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle at our meeting. She was our keynote speaker. She related an experience that Sister Mabel Bickerton had about the Ladies' Circle. Sister Mabel said, "We are in a new era." Our era now should consist of love, strength, and unity. Sister Arlene got everyone excited about their role in the Church, and how Christ is willing to use us as His servants. Sister Arlene said it is up to us to accept responsibility. It is up to us to put that responsibility into action. Sister Arlene encouraged and instructed the sisters to be positive influences in their branches, missions and the Church.

Apostle Paul Benyola spoke to the sisters and women who attended the meeting. He said they were very important to the Church. He told them they are assets to the Gospel and could assist in many ways to

insure the Church is successful. Brother Paul encouraged all the women to continue to serve the Lord and to work for the Church.

We had a wonderful day. We experienced the love of one another and the love of God.

See you all in Dallas, June 1995.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

had no mercy, had no compassion, passed judgement, and certainly lacked love. He did not serve his father because he loved him. He served his father for his own gain.

The second story deals with the prodigal son's father. He was very humble, very compassionate, very forgiving, extremely merciful and was full of love. The father did not judge his prodigal son. In fact, he never asked him what he had done! It was not important. What was important was the prodigal son's repentance and return home. The father simply forgave his prodigal son, gave him new clothes, like robes of righteousness, and welcomed him home.

The saints of God must be like the prodigal son's father. We must be full of humility, compassion, mercy, forgiveness and love. We must forgive others as Jesus Christ forgave us. We must not judge. The Lord said in Matthew 7:1, "Judge not, that ye be not judged." With God's guidance and help, may we always remember that this is a commandment, not a suggestion. We must love one another. We must love all people. We must love the sinner but not the sin. We will be used by God to introduce the Gospel to men and women everywhere and to rewrite the history of humanity. People throughout the world will be converted. They will no longer be in the grasp and clutches of sin. They will become saints of God!

What a glorious future is in store for the saints of God. Brother W. H. Cadman expressed it so well before he passed away. He said, "I believe there are great things in store for The Church of Jesus Christ."

Branch and Mission News

Branch 2, Detroit

ByCarolynn Gentile O'Connor

BAPTISMS AND TESTIMONIES

Within the last six years at Branch 2, we have experienced a great influx of young people between the ages of eighteen and twenty-six. God has blessed us tremendously with twelve new members, many of them children of the saints.

You may have read in past issues of *The Gospel News* about the baptisms of Shannon Lambert and Carolyn Parravano who were baptized in September of 1989, or David Lovalvo and Daniel Parravano, who were baptized one week later on October 1, 1989, or Carolynn Gentile and Jim Lambert who were baptized in 1991, all with their own special persuasions and confirmations to serve the Lord and each gaining strength from the others' commitment and contributing to the positive welfare of the Branch.

It was on a Sunday in September 1992 that two other young members joined the congregation, Christina Gentile (now DiMelis), and Jennifer Lovalvo.

Christina writes: "I had been called many times over the years but I chose not to listen. One night I had a dream that we were in a meeting at Branch 2 and Jennifer stood up and asked to be baptized followed by Dino DiMelis. In the dream, I knew that I was already baptized when this happened. I took this to mean that they would someday ask after I had been baptized. As much time went on, I wondered if the fact that I had not asked was stopping them from asking to be baptized. Several years had passed since the dream and on September 20, 1992, Jennifer stood up and asked for her baptism. I was happy and afraid. Happy that Jennifer had made the decision, afraid because I realized that I had waited so

long. As Brother Leonard Lovalvo made his way to the back, I asked to speak with him. I told him about the dream, and how I felt. He said that I could not do anything about the third person but that I could do something about myself. He suggested that I enter the water first before Jennifer if that would make me feel better. As we joined the meeting, I testified of my experience, omitting Dino's name, and asked for my baptism. What a relief to have finally made that commitment! For one year and nine months after that day, I waited and prayed that Dino would answer God's call. My prayers were answered. My dream was fulfilled, and my husband and I now serve God together."

Jennifer remembers: "September 20, 1992 felt just like every other Sunday. I went to church like always. There was no preaching that day because my father, Brother Leonard, decided to have a testimony service. I sat back and enjoyed everyone else's testimonies, but really did not feel like testifying myself. As the meeting progressed, Lynette Thompson (mentioned later), stood up and praised God for being introduced to this Church. She said she was amazed and blessed ever since she walked into the building and wanted someday to become a member. At that point, I said to myself, *'You've been born and raised in this Church, what's your obstacle?'* Shortly after, Sister Alice Romano stood up to thank God for everything in her life. I began to break down. Sister Alice had gone through so much and still had the strength and desire to stand on her feet to praise God. As soon as she sat down, I jumped to my feet and began to speak, but at that point, I still did not know I was ready. Finally, I just could not contain myself and confessed my desire to be baptized that day. My experience was not earth shattering, but rather a

subtle realization of what I knew I wanted."

Tina Buffa chose GMBA

Campout in June of 1993 to give her life to Christ. She remembers, "It was one of those spontaneous prayer meetings around 2:00 or 3:00 AM. One by one, people were getting up and asking for strength or whatever their needs were. I started to feel the spirit come unto me, and I knew I needed to be prayed for but did not have the strength to do so. Just when I finally was turning around, (I was on my knees), Brother Chuck Maddox put out his hand to reach me. As soon as hands were laid upon me, I immediately knew this was my calling. I was baptized the next day along with Brother Greg Davis. My parents traveled to Campout to be with me. I was baptized by my uncle John Buffa and I was confirmed by Brother Paul Ciotti."

In August of 1993, we were blessed with another beautiful sister, Lynette Thompson. Lynette was introduced to the Church through her friend Jim Lambert. She writes: "I saw a beautiful spirit among the saints and from the start wanted to feel that spirit too. Over the next two years (that she attended with Jim), I was touched many times and enjoyed many intense meetings and finally asked for my baptism during testimony. I was baptized the following Sunday by Brother Alex Gentile and confirmed by Brother Dominic Thomas. What I remember most about that day is feeling as though I was running into Jesus' outstretched arms."

Sister Lynette's decision to join The Church of Jesus Christ did not come easy. Her parents belong to another church and were concerned with her commitment to this church. Through much prayer, Lynette has found peace in her home and has testified often to God's goodness in her life.

We are now into 1994 but the continual progression of young people entering the Church has not declined. This year we were blessed with two new members, Jared DeMercurio and Dino DiMelis.

Jared DeMercurio testifies:

"When I was a teenager I took God, the Church and the saints for granted. Even though I was born and raised in the Church with two God-fearing parents who loved me very much, I did not realize what I had. I was a very angry young man and felt I had suffered greatly and as though I did not deserve to suffer like I had. When I was twenty-one, I began to realize how much God really had done for me and I should be thankful for just being alive. I was caught up in the ways of the world, doing things that I knew were wrong. Plus I felt that I was not going to give myself to God unless He gave me a sign. On December 13, God granted my wish. He gave me a dream and in this dream God showed me what life would be like with God, the love, forgiveness, peace of mind and soul, always having God watching over me, guiding and directing me. God also showed me what life would be like without Him. All I could see was pain and suffering, anger and bitterness. Then God spoke to me in this dream saying, *'If you do not get baptized I cannot guarantee what will happen to you. But if you get baptized, I will take care of you.'* When I woke up the next morning, I realized what I had to do and asked for my baptism the following Sunday."

Dino DiMelis, the newest member of the branch writes: "I am very fortunate to have been brought up in The Church of Jesus Christ. Even at a young age, I can remember feeling the Spirit of God. As I grew older, the very same Spirit that I had enjoyed as a young man became the source of inner conflict. Meeting after meeting, I refused to commit my life to Christ. Soon the blessings were resulting in feelings of guilt. It is not that I was not being blessed. I was married, working, healthy and happy. I had a great life! My contentment began to reinforce my resistance to serve God. I began to rationalize my situation. I was not a sinner. I just was not praying as often as I used to. Over five years had passed before I realized that the Lord was no longer part of my life.

Even the baptism of my father and my fiancée had little or no impact upon me. Then one Sunday, as I sat stolidly in church, I realized that it had been a long time since I had felt the Spirit of God. I attempted to allow myself to feel the Spirit and nothing happened. Several Sundays passed and it was becoming painfully apparent that I was out of touch with God. Had God given up on me? After a month of prayer and struggle, frustration gave way to fear. Attending church made me all the more aware of the void that existed in my life. My wife mentioned to me one Sunday in May, that she had been feeling that someone was going to ask for their baptism. The feeling was so strong that she was compelled to bring her camera and extra shoes. The meeting began with the children singing a simple song, *I Want to See Jesus*. The words were so beautiful to me. I began to cry tears of joy as the faintly familiar Spirit I had been praying for returned to my heart. The sermon that morning seemed as though it was being delivered directly to me. Brother Alex Gentile and Brother Leonard Lovalvo spoke about being in danger of losing your soul by leading a comfortable life without Jesus. The point of the message was that the worst obstacle for your soul is the feeling that your life without Christ is obstacle free. I did not deny the Spirit that day. It is my continued prayer that I will never again find myself without the Lord. Before my baptism I was happy. Today I have the joy and peace of knowing that I am happy in the service of the King."

What a blessing to have twelve young and eager souls enter our branch. Each have different situations and trials that they face each and every day. We ask for your prayers on their behalf as they try to carry out the work of the Lord. We also ask for your prayers on behalf of those who attend our branch weekly but have not yet made that commitment.

May God bless you and your branch as He has so graciously blessed us.

Youngstown, OH

By Lisa Italiano

I went to Cincinnati, Ohio anticipating a blessing. What began as a family trip quickly ended up as an all girls' trip. My mother, Gina, and myself pulled into Brother Paul and Sister Karen Pezzenti's home late Friday evening, July 31, 1994. I was very excited to see Megan Jackson and Colleen Capone again.

I guess you could say the blessings started later that night when everyone except Colleen, Megan, and I were asleep. We began talking about GMBA Campout and Megan's baptism. I told them that I kept seeing God work in everyone's life but mine and that I wasn't sure if I was ready to get baptized. Later on we began relating experiences God had given us. I related my experience at last year's campout for the first time.

The experience was this: During the Saturday seminar class taught by Brother Chuck Maddox and Brother Doug Obradovich the Lord's presence was felt by everyone and was displayed by our weeping. Towards the end of the class, we had to tell our classmates what we would say if we were face to face with Jesus. When my turn came, I replied with tears in my eyes, that I could only cry at His feet. After saying this, I saw Jesus from the knees down and me kneeling at His feet crying. That was the day I really began to think about baptism.

That same night I recalled at least three times when I almost asked for my baptism. We ended our discussion praying for each other.

On Saturday, I pretty much put the thought of baptism out of my mind until Brother Angelo Liccata and Brother Ralph Cartino Jr. began singing church hymns. After singing, Brother Angelo said, "Someone's going to ask to be baptized and it's going to be you Lisa."

I went to church waiting for a blessing. I was looking forward to being with the seventy or so young

(Continued on Page 10)

YOUNGSTOWN, continued . . .

people who were mostly baptized. At the beginning of the meeting, Sister Mandy Genaro sang *Reflections*. Once Sister Mandy had finished singing, Brother Mike Nuzzi testified that he had a vision in which the Lord was standing next to Sister Mandy holding a gift wrapped in gold and along side of Him was a table filled with these same gold wrapped presents. At this time, my mother, Sister Linda Italiano heard the voice of God say, "One of those gifts is for Lisa."

After Brother Mike Nuzzi's vision, Brother Angelo Liccata and Brother Ralph Cartino Jr. sang, *Without Him*. During their duet, I began crying uncontrollably. At that time the congregation was asked to stand and sing the chorus. While we sang I prayed that if God thought I was ready to please send me a sign. Immediately after I finished praying a brother, who's name I don't know, was blessed with the Gift of Tongues as well as the interpretation. The interpretation was about how the young ones should answer the Lord when He calls. I knew that was my calling so as everyone sat down I remained standing to testify how the Lord answered my prayer and announced my decision to walk with the Lord. When I sat down I felt a tremendous weight lifted off my shoulders. After I asked for my baptism, my mother testified about her experience. Our meeting was continually blessed as three other young people also asked for their baptism so they could walk with God.

I chose to wait a week and get baptized by my father, Brother Mike Italiano. I was confirmed by Brother Ralph Berardino. I am fourteen years old. God bless you all.

Tse Bonito, NM

(The following article appeared in the Tse Bonito Branch Update. It tells of the Youth in Action in The Church of Jesus Christ and standing up for the Restoration.—Editor's note.)

Extra! Extra! Jesus Visits the Americas

Angela Genaro authored a well documented research paper during the Spring 1994 Semester in one of her Gallup High School classes. She chose a topic which she held great interest and, at the same time, would demonstrate great courage and character for a high school junior. Her teacher gave her the green light for this topic, and Angela pursued every shred of evidence she could uncover to present a case which could end with only one verdict for the open minded reader. The scripture she used was John 10:15-16, "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd."

Christ definitely left substantial evidence of His presence here in the Western Hemisphere. To begin, Angela Genaro presented a foundation for Jesus presence in Judea, His birth, life, crucifixion and resurrection. Next, she began to cite from the Book of Mormon and from the cultural histories of the Native Americans as recorded from faithful oral renditions of stories of a unique person who walked the America's.

In a very methodical, yet focused manner, the story unfolded with a *preponderance* of discovery proving that circumstances were reported which validate Jesus's visit to the Other Sheep just as He said He would. He came with a message of peace; with actions of healing; and with a Gospel of reconciliation of women and men to God and with one another.

God bless you Angela Genaro and all the young people of The Church of Jesus Christ. *Go and Tell Others of Jesus and tell them of the Restoration.*

50th Anniversary

By Pete Oestreicher

Sunday, October 16, 1994, was a joyous and memorable day at the Saline Branch, where brothers, sisters and friends helped Sister Eleanor Buffa celebrate her 50th spiritual birthday in The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Eleanor was baptized on October 14, 1944 in the Detroit River by Brother Joe Dulisse, and became a member of Detroit Branch 2.

Also present to help her celebrate were her four sons and daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren. Other family members not present include two other grandchildren, a grand daughter-in-law and a great granddaughter.

Sister Eleanor was honored by the musical selection, *Bought by the King*, sung by her son Bill, daughter-in-law, Leona, and granddaughter Lynnette. Sister Eleanor testified that she was thankful for all that God has done for her in her life and for her wonderful family. She stated she does not know what she would have done without The Church of Jesus Christ, that she was very happy, and that she never regretted joining the Church at such a young age.

There were many blessings that day and we pray the Lord will continue to bless our Sister Eleanor.



Sister Eleanor Buffa

LIST continued . . .

is all the Lord would ask of us. No burdensome laws and procedures like the old law. Just love for Him and His creation. Love is the key ingredient in our service to God. Remember, Jesus said, “. . . On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” If we are able to love God and each other, all of the other requirements of serving God—righteousness, obedience, keeping His commandments—are made possible. Enduring to the end; preaching the Gospel; sharing the holy communion; giving our testimony; and fulfilling the prophecies recorded in the Bible and Book of Mormon, are only attainable if we first love God and each other. Remember the words of the Apostle Paul to the saints at Corinth. He wrote, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity [love], I am become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.” He continued, “And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity” (I Cor. 13:1,13).

As we approach the Christmas season and the new year, let us do so with a goal of loving the Lord and each other as never before. As we seek to evangelize the Gospel, let us possess a love for the souls of mankind like the sons of Mosiah. It is written of them, “. . . For they could not bear that any human soul should perish; yea, even the very thoughts that any soul should endure endless torment did cause them to quake and tremble,” (Mosiah 28:3). Let's work to fill this new kind of Christmas list and as we do, the Church will experience an outpouring of God's spirit too abundant and miraculous to comprehend. Let's make the Lord's Christmas a happy one and give the world the day prophesied of in Nephi's vision when he said, “. . . I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth . . .” (I Nephi 14:12). May God bless us all as we strive for more of His love.

INSIGHTS continued . . .

society have developed counterfeit “peace plans” to replace the PEACE that Jesus brought to the world. These “peace plans” do not include the importance of GOD and family. They advise those in trouble to “do what is right for you” and disregard the destructive effect this counsel will have on relationships with GOD and family.

The two great commandments are known by all who read the Bible. Are not our families, spiritual brothers, sisters and friends also our neighbors? What kind of love, patience and tolerance should we exercise towards them?

EASY TO UNDERSTAND

The pure doctrine of Jesus Christ, as written in the Bible and Book of Mormon and preached in The Church of Jesus Christ, has been revised, expanded and changed by others. These changes, along with the hundreds of churches formed to bring others to the “true” knowledge of Jesus, has caused some to reject Christianity.

DEFEND, NURTURE AND PROTECT

We have accepted the plain and precious truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Jesus matured from a boy to fulfill His destiny as the Son of God, we must also develop a spiritual maturity and accountability. This will enable us to defend, nurture and protect our faith and families in the spiritual challenging days we live in.

With God's help, we will remember the full meaning of the birth, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This includes our individual commitment to serve Him to the best of our ability until we are called to that heavenly home which Jesus has gone to prepare for us.

JESUS, OUR PERSONAL ADVOCATE

When we are confronted with problems created by man, read what the Apostle Paul writes in his epistle

to the Romans, “*What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? . . . For I am persuaded, that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, [and our families] which is Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Romans 8:31-39).

This statement of confidence in God by the Apostle Paul was put to the test when he became a martyr for Jesus Christ in Rome.

We serve the Creator of Heaven and Earth! What greater power is there!

MESSAGE continued . . .

bicycles and even by walking.

On this day, both the Ahome and San Isidro Missions came together, and the building at Ahome was filled to capacity. After some hymns, both Brothers Mora and Ciarolla preached, inspired by the Spirit of God. The great enthusiasm of all who were present was evident, as experiences and visions filled the service. Afterwards, all of the family in Christ enjoyed a delicious menudo which the Sisters had prepared.

The Brothers concluded their trip, arriving safely at Tijuana on Monday, May 9. They expressed gratitude for the work of the Lord being done in Mexico and for the means which He provides for His work..

CORNER continued . . .

As you grow, you'll learn more and more how to quietly listen to the Holy Spirit within you. You'll be comforted and helped deeply to choose right and quickly repent when you make mistakes. You will never be alone. God will help you every step of the way and you need not fear. Trust in Jesus and feel good again inside.

With care, your friend,
Sister Jan

* WEDDING *

CARSON-WILLFORTH

Elaine Willforth and Matthew Carson were united in holy matrimony on August 27, 1994 at the Warren Branch of The Church of Jesus Christ. The ceremony was officiated by Brother Frank Giovannone, the bride's grandfather. Musical selections were provided by the bride's aunt, Sister Judi Gensburg as organist and Sister Lorie Prokup as pianist. The newlyweds will reside in Virginia. May the Lord bless them as they journey through life together.

Children Blessed

Shaireka Lashawn McCrary, age 10, a cousin of Sister Regina Alverson, was blessed at the Spartanburg Mission on Sunday, August 21, 1994. Brother Harold Littlejohn referred to III Nephi 17:19-21 regarding how Jesus blessed the little children and prayed unto the Father for them. Brother Harold and Brother Darrell Rossi then laid hands on Shaireka and Brother Darrell prayed and pronounced the blessing on her. Sharing in this blessing of Shaireka was our visiting Sister from Clairton, Pennsylvania, Iola Kershaw.

Sadie Ellen Redmond, daughter of Tim and Terry Redmond was blessed in the Warren Branch on September 25, 1994 by Brother Richard Santilli.

Zipporah Cantoria Krumpe, daughter of Daniel and Menina Krumpe, was blessed on October 9, 1994 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch by Brother Jack Ford.

Alyssa Lea Giannetti, daughter of Jeffrey and Kathy Giannetti, was blessed on September 18, 1994, in the Levittown Branch by her grandfather, Brother Peter Giannetti, Sr.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

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

OLIVE ELZBY

On Sunday, June 12, 1994, the Lord saw fit to call home Sister Olive Elzby of the Meaford, Ontario Mission. Sister Olive was born in Meaford, Ontario (Canada) on May 27, 1926. She was baptized into the Church on May 16, 1948 and served as a deaconess for thirty years. The funeral service was conducted by Brother Larry Henderson in Meaford. Some of Sister Olive's favorite *Songs of Zion* were sung by the congregation.

Our Sister is survived by her children, Richard Elzby and Jane, Linda Boyle and Brian, and Lloyd Elzby and Karen. She will be greatly missed by her children and eight grandchildren.

Sister Olive was a pillar in the Meaford Mission. Her life was dedicated to the service of the Lord. She will long be remembered for her love of the Scriptures and the *Songs of Zion*, along with her consistent testimony of praise and her care for others. Those who mourn her loss take comfort in the promises that the Lord has made to his faithful servants: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him" (James 1:12).

ROBERTA CRUDUP

On Wednesday, October 12, 1994, funeral services were conducted for our Sister Roberta Crudup who passed on to her eternal rest. She was a faithful member of the Freehold Branch. Her grandson, Brother James Crudup, officiated at the ceremony.

Sister Roberta was born in Henderson, North Carolina, moved to New Jersey and was baptized into the Church in her later years. She was a retired farmer and was well known among the saints for her love of cooking. She was a loving mother and grandmother to many and was ninety-two years old. Preceding her in death was her late husband, Omega Sr., and three sons. She is survived by three more sons, five daughters, including Sisters Molly Crudup Brown, Betty Crudup, Carrie Bell Crudup-Clancy, Geraldine Crudup Littlejohn and Lotie Crudup-Reid. Sister Roberta also is survived by two hundred grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, some of whom are members of the Freehold Branch as well as the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission. We thank God she rests from her labors in the paradise of God.