

The Gospel News

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

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Summing Up and Looking Forward

By Thomas Ross

Ring out the old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land;
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

These closing lines from Alfred Tennyson's great New Year's poem are most suitable and soul-stirring as we *ring out the old* 1994 and *ring in the new* 1995. You will note the heartfelt wish of the poet Tennyson he so simply and eloquently expressed with pen, prophetic-like with anticipation for a better future.

TIME HURRIES ON

The end of the year is a time for summing up and looking forward. It is also a time when we are forcibly reminded as the writer Blair wrote over two hundred years ago, "*Think we, or think we not, time hurries on with a resistless, unremitting stream.*" Charles

Wesley, contemporary with Blair, wrote in one of his great hymns, "*Our life is a dream, our time as a stream glides swiftly away, and the fugitive moment refuses to stay.*"

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word time as a limited stretch of space of continued existence, as the interval between two successive events or acts, or the period through which an action, condition, or state continues; also as an indefinite continuous duration regarded as that in which the sequence of events takes place. Some have defined time to be the measure of the motion of heaven.

TIME AND ETERNITY

Alma, in unfolding the mysteries of God to his son Corianton, declared, ". . . *all is as one day with God, and time only is measured unto men*" (Book of Mormon, Alma 40:8). Then the words of the Apostle Peter who wrote, "*But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*" (II Peter 3:8).

We may say then that time is a part of measure of eternity.

In her beautiful treatise entitled *Infinite*, in the June 1973 issue of *The Gospel News*, Sister Terri Bravo offers the following allegory:

Picture a mountain in your mind. Every one thousand years a bird comes and makes one peck on this mountain. When the mountain is completely flattened, this is one day in eternity!

In summing up our successes and failures during the past year, may we renew our gratitude to God for His guidance, strength and support that enabled us to successfully achieve at least some of our goals and to fulfill in whatever degree our duty to God. On the other hand may we seek His pardoning grace for our failures and shortcomings and ask Him for greater strength to enable us to do better in the future.

In looking forward to the New Year may we take fresh courage, trusting in God, and in the verse of Charles Wesley:

Come, let us anew, our journey pursue,
Roll around with the year, roll around with the year,
And never stand still, and never stand still
Till the Master appear.

God is Merciful

("The following article is a reprint from the Book of Sermons. It is a sermon given by Evangelist, Matthew T. Miller.—Editor's note)

The passage for today is found in Psalms 23:4. It reads as follows:

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."

David, who in his youth was just a little shepherd boy, could correctly be characterized in later life as a man after God's own heart. Throughout his life, he manifested the steadfastness, faith, and reliance on his Creator which is unquestionable.

What boy, when attacked by a lion and a bear, could have held his ground? No one, unless God was with him. Through the wrong choice of the children of Israel and the sins of King Saul, all their great warriors were terrified by the champion, Goliath. What boy could have had courage to withstand such threatenings? No one, unless God was with him. David declared to the champion,

"Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of host, . . . whom thou hast defied. This day will the Lord deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel."

This was done. Like us, David made many mistakes, but he declared that a good man, even though he should fall, will be upheld by the Lord. He repented much and was forgiven by our heavenly Father, becoming a pattern for saints.

In these latter days, we have also had a similitude of David, or, as we may say, the faith of our

fathers by the ushering in of the Book of Mormon over a hundred years ago. The whole book is wonderfully inspired. If we read it with faith in the Infinite and comply with its teachings, we shall be heirs to salvation. We must, however, remain humble and steadfast to the end to inherit the kingdom of heaven.

I want to refer you to the first four chapters of Mosiah in this book. They bring the teachings of King Benjamin to the people of God. We shall mention particularly the third chapter, nineteenth verse, which reads: "For the natural man is an enemy of God, and has been from the fall of Adam, and will be, forever and ever, unless he yields to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man and becometh a saint through the atonement of Christ the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father."

This, to me, agrees implicitly with our topic. When Jesus was here on earth, the following account took place after one told Him: "Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" (Matthew 12:47-50).

From my youth, I had a desire to follow the Master. Thank God, on October 28, 1923, I made Him my choice. Now I can always say, Yea though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no evil: and, by God's help, my hope is that I shall be able to say it to the end of my life. Then, on the last day, not only me, but whosoever is found with this persuasion will find that it will be well with his soul. We

shall, surely, hear our Master saying unto us that because "thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

My dear friends, can you not see the advisability of making Him your choice, of following Him by day and by night, and of complying with all His holy commandments, such as faith, repentance and baptism in the waters as He was baptized? Then having hands laid upon you for the reception of the Holy Ghost, which shall lead and guide you into all the truths and show you things to come, the signs could follow you, as we read in St. Mark 16:16-18:

"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Thank God, I have experienced the manifestation of these signs in The Church of Jesus Christ and do humbly wish to do so until the end of my life.

We thank God, our dear heavenly Father, for the privilege of broadcasting a message of love, goodwill, and cheer to our radio audience. Our hopes are that our words have been seasoned with grace and the Holy Spirit, so that they may bring conviction to the hearts of the children of men.

To the bereaved, we say this morning: put your trust in God for His omnipotent care. To you who are weary and heavy laden, the Saviour is saying, "*Come unto me, . . . and I will give you rest.*" To you who desire to feast on His love, remember "*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*" If we knock, an omnipotent door will be opened unto us. If we seek, we shall find His blessings and the peace which the world cannot give.

The Power of the Written Word

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

When we think of reaching people through communication we have basically two methods at our disposal. The method of communicating vocally and the method of communicating through the written word. Let us consider the merits of each.

The spoken word is powerful and effective, yet it has an inherent weakness. It is dependent upon biological and pathological limitations. These limitations manifest themselves at the time of death. The vocal word is destined to a place of permanence only in the memories of those whose ears responded to the vibration of sound, the vibrations of which formed themselves clothed with meaningful and purposeful stimuli through the magic of language. The word spoken today, though moving and all encompassing, might appear to be fainter and fainter with the passing of time and people.

We shall now consider the written word and its impact. Jesus emphasized the importance of this when He reprimanded the disciples on this land for not writing the testimony of Samuel the Lamanite regarding the resurrection of many of the saints and He concludes by saying, "How be it that you have not written this thing that many saints did arise and appear unto many and did minister unto them. And it came to pass that Nephi remembered that this thing had not been written. And it came to pass that Jesus commanded that it should be written; therefore it was written according as He commanded. And now it came to pass that when Jesus had expounded all the scriptures in one, which they had written, He commanded them that they should teach the things which He had expounded unto them" (III Nephi 23:11-14).

I believe we are suffering today with unresolved and unanswered questions on the works of Christ because the pen failed to record many incidents that were resplendent with divine truth. This is verified by John when he states in John 21:25, "*And there are also many other things which Jesus did the which, if they should be written every one I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.*" The written word can be read and reread innumerable times; it also allows for meditation and study. In II Timothy 2:15 Paul admonishes us, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*"

There is today a deluge of written verbiage directed at obscenity, immorality and civil disobedience, pornographic literature is big business and continues to flood the American homes with this diabolical evil. I read not too long ago the amount of literature (and the figures are staggering) that the communists used to distribute to nations and people all over the world during the height of the Soviet Regime. The written word is, I believe, one of the mightiest weapons used to great effectiveness among people of underprivileged nations. The forces of evil are riding upon the wings of the written word and are effectively reaching people with their message of false hope and camouflaged security.

I therefore, respectfully suggest that we who have the hope of the world and the medium through which peace, both national and international, as well as individual can be attained, embark upon a mission of penetration, and the *Gospel News* (though infinitesimal in size) is yet immeasurable in potential effectiveness in providing for its readers a wealth of knowledge and experience.

The paper can reveal man's relationship to God, and the relationship of man to man. We should heed the words of Nephi with great

diligence. II Nephi 29:11-12, "For I command all men both in the east and in the west, and in the north, and in the south, and in the islands of the sea, that they shall write the words which I speak unto them; for out of the books which shall be written I will judge the world, every man according to their works, according to that which is written. For behold I shall speak unto the Jews and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the Nephites and they shall write it; and I shall also speak unto the other tribes of the house of Israel, which I have led away and they shall write it. And I shall also speak unto all nations of the earth and they shall write it."

I believe you will all agree, we as Gentiles come under the last admonition of all nations. I leave you with this soul searching question. Are we leaving in written form the many experiences, revelations, and other ways that God is manifesting Himself to us today? Write it so that others might share in your joy.

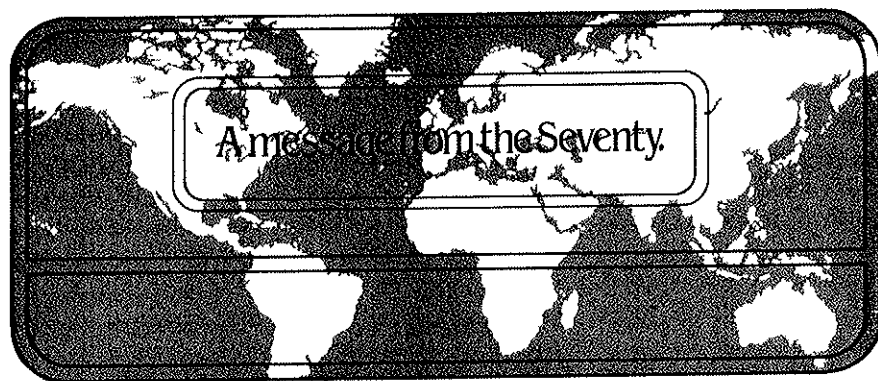
Announcement

For February, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	6.40%
2 years	6.90%
3 years	7.15%
4 years	7.65%
5 years	8.00%

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.



Trip to Kenya

(Following is the report submitted by Brother Frank Natoli of the recent successful trip to Kenya.— Evangelist's Editor)

Brother Joseph Perri (Foreign Missions Operating Committee-Italy Coordinator) and his wife, Sister Mary, left their missionary efforts in Italy to meet Brothers Joel Gehly (FMOC-Kenya Coordinator) and Frank Natoli (FMOC-Kenya Assistant Coordinator) who traveled from the United States to Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, East Africa. On October 21, they joined forces in helping to strengthen and further The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya.

In 1985, efforts began with sacrifice and prayer to obtain registration for the Church to become officially recognized by the Kenyan government. For years, Brother Elizaphan Osaka (an ordained Elder) and his wife, Sister Nina (an ordained Deaconess) were the only members of the Church there. After registration was granted in 1993, seven more were baptized. By the end of this missionary visit, eighty-six more souls would repent of their sins and be baptized, increasing the number in Kenya to ninety-five.

PREPARED FOR BAPTISM

The new converts had been prepared for baptism by Brother Elizaphan and his son, Brother Stephen. They had been holding meetings in eight villages with

attendance ranging from thirty to eighty adults plus children on a regular basis in each village. These two brothers, father and son, travel on foot to each location to preach the Restored Gospel of Christ. It takes two to three hours of walking up and down hills to reach some villages. Because of their desire and efforts over the past years, this missionary visit took on excitement for the work in Kenya, and ordinations were also performed.

With revelation and demonstrated ability, Brother Stephen Osaka was ordained an elder, along with five teachers, two deacons, and two deaconesses. Meetings were conducted with all of the ordained officers to provide instruction and answer questions. The entire group was additionally able to visit seven of the eight villages, bless five babies, baptize the eighty-six, and meet with the Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kenya to further solidify the Church's relationship and commitment to the Kenyan people. The clinic, primary and technical schools all demonstrate the sincere interest of the Church to offer humanitarian, as well as spiritual assistance to Kenya.

Each of the ten days there was filled with activities to strengthen, encourage, teach, and direct. Because the rainy season came a little earlier than expected, visiting the villages became very difficult. All roads are dirt, and even with the rented four wheel drive vehicle, climbing the red Kenyan clay hills in pouring rain became a challenging and prayerful effort.

The brothers reported that whereas rain on a special event day such as a wedding is usually not well received in the American culture, it is the opposite in Kenya. The Kenyan culture is so heavily influenced by agriculture (tea, coffee, corn, sugarcane, pineapples, etc.) rain is looked upon as a blessing. Their comment was that, *"the brothers and sisters of Kenya felt that, after the hot and dry summer, the early rains came with the visiting missionaries!"*

MEETINGS IN OPEN

Since no buildings exist in any of the eight villages, meetings are held in the open. At the first village, there were many baptisms. Although the day started out hot and sunny, by the time everyone gathered near the water, the heavens opened and rain poured down while the baptisms and confirmations continued. The village people, including the chief who also attended, were very impressed that the missionaries were willing to *get wet*. They stated, *"Truly, the rain was a shower of blessings."*

Likewise, the moment Brother Stephen was ordained an Elder, thunder was heard and rain poured down. The report emphasized that *"God was pleased with all that was done."*

Seeing the Church well established and firmly planted, tearful goodbyes were said and the six hour drive to Nairobi was followed by the eighteen hours in the air in returning to the United States which ended the 17,000 mile missionary trip for Brothers Gehly and Natoli, while Brother and Sister Perri returned to Italy to continue their time there.

A Humble Suggestion

Please read the Bible and Book of Mormon often. They are very good for you!

The Gospel News

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Do we want to experience and see God's power manifested in the Church? Do we want to witness the power of God in our lives? Do we want to see the sick made well? Do we want to see souls baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ? We can experience all of these things and more in 1995. It is simply up to us.

How is all of this possible one might ask? One of the best methods to move the hand of God is fasting and prayer. Actually, *much* fasting and prayer is the key to our success as the saints of God. It must be done often, with faith, with real intent, with a humble heart, and with love. When we apply ourselves, God will always respond.

In Alma 17:3 we read the account of Alma and the sons of Mosiah. This short verse details their gifts, the power of God that accompanied them and what they did to become successful in their ministries. What a beautiful scripture. What a beautiful lesson.

It states: "*But this is not all; they had given themselves to much prayer, and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God.*"

Because Alma and the sons of Mosiah applied themselves through *much* fasting and prayer, they experienced and received the gifts of God. They were also extremely successful in bringing many souls to the knowledge of the truth, The Church of Jesus Christ.

We have the same opportunities. We have the same potential. It is there for the asking! We must possess the desire and self motivation to fast and pray. The Priesthood of The Church of Jesus Christ should not have to ask us to fast and pray. We should be quick to fast, quick to pray of our own accord. If we do not fast and pray, who will?

As individuals, as branches and missions, we all have the responsibility to fast and pray. According to Moroni 6:5, "*. . . the church did meet together oft, to fast and to pray, and to speak one with another concerning the welfare of their souls.*" The word oft is the old English word for often which means, *many times, frequently*. We should not fast and pray just for ourselves or just for our respective families. We should prefer others and fast and pray for those in need, for those that are sick, for those that are struggling spiritually, and for the welfare of the Church. When we prefer others, God will prefer us.

Great things happen when you fast and pray. An angel appeared to Cornelius! Since Jesus Christ never changes, angels can appear to us, today, if we sincerely apply ourselves to fasting and prayer.

Souls are miraculously healed and recovered from sin as a result of fasting and prayer. Consider the awful state of Alma and the sons of Mosiah prior to their conversions. In spite of their heritage, they severely persecuted the saints of God

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The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



The King Who Disobeyed His Father

Dear Girls and Boys,

The king of the great Lamanite nations had appointed some of his sons to be kings of their own smaller countries. They were, however, supposed to do whatever their father told them to do; they were to rule their countries the way the great king ordered, according to Lamanite beliefs. Now one of the great King's sons, Lamoni, had met the Nephite preacher, Ammon, and began to believe in God and Jesus Christ.

Lamoni, who was also king, realized that there was one, true, living God. He was full of joy and love. But Lamoni was afraid to tell his father, the great king of the Lamanites, about his new religion. The Lamanites hated every Nephite and all the Nephite beliefs, and it was the Nephite prince, Ammon, who had told Lamoni the convincing story of Jesus Christ's love and power.

God spoke to Ammon and told him to go to the next country to rescue his brothers, who were being tortured in prison for talking and preaching about God. Ammon told King Lamoni that he had to go and free his brothers.

King Lamoni said, *"I will go with you. The king of that land is my friend. I know that you can do anything with the power of God, but maybe I could talk to the king of that land. But tell me one thing: How do you know they're in prison?"*

Ammon answered, *"The Lord*

told me to go and rescue my brothers who are in prison."

So King Lamoni had his servants get the horses and chariots ready, and he and Ammon began their journey.

And it came to pass that as they traveled, they met the father of Lamoni, the great Lamanite king. The king was angry, and said to his son, *"Why didn't you come down on the day when I made a great dinner, a feast, for my sons and my people?"*

(King Lamoni hadn't come because he was busy setting up new churches in his own land, with the help of Ammon). The angry older king insulted his son by demanding, *"Where are you going with this Nephite, whose people are all liars?"*

When Lamoni started explaining about the love and power of Christ, the older king became furious. He shouted that Ammon was a liar and a thief, and commanded his son to kill Ammon with a sword and to come with him back to the capital, the land where his palace was.

Lamoni quietly refused, and his father then drew his sword to hit his own son. But the man of God, Ammon, stood up and said, *"You shall not kill your son! He is an innocent man."*

Lamoni's father answered, saying, *"I know—it is you that has tried to change him!"* And the king stretched forth his hand to kill Ammon. But God gave Ammon power, and Ammon struck the king's arm so he could not use it to fight.

When the great king realized that he could be killed, he began to

beg Ammon to allow him to live. Ammon raised his sword and said to the great king, *"I will kill you unless you agree to let my brothers out of prison."*

"Yes, yes!" agreed the king, *"I'll give you anything you ask—even half of my kingdom!"*

Ammon continued, *"You must also agree to let your son Lamoni keep his kingdom, and give him permission to rule however he sees fit. Then will I spare you and let you live."*

The older king was full of rejoicing. He agreed to everything, and he was astounded, because Ammon hadn't asked for riches or power, but only for religious freedom. The king said to Ammon, *"I will give you everything you ask for. But you and your brothers must come to teach me, too—as soon as they're out of prison!"*

Ammon's brother did go to the great king of the Lamanites to tell him the story of Christ. The king believed, and thousands followed and were baptized.

The prince who disobeyed his father became a great king who led his people to serve God.

(Alma 20)

Sincerely,
Sister Janet

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MBA Highlights

GMBA Campout "94"

During the week of June 18th-25th, many found themselves standing in heavenly places as the saints of God gathered for GMBA Campout "94" in Ligoneer, Pennsylvania. Brother Ron Giovannone was the Camp Director and the week's theme was *Come Plant Your Feet On Higher Ground*.

To begin our camp, an orientation meeting was held Saturday night as Brother Ron Giovannone welcomed everyone. At the meeting, Brother Ron, during the course of his address, spoke about Abraham of old. At this time, even in our orientation meeting, God began blessing us as Brother Mike Nuzzi was given a vision of a large green hill behind Brother Ron as he spoke. The meaning of this experience would unfold throughout the course of the week.

Sunday morning we again gathered for the Sabbath service, hearing the inspired word of God brought forth by our Brother Steve Champine (Alma 43:44-47). This scripture speaks of the Lamanites and how they fought with great strength against the armies of the Nephites. Although the Nephites faced a tough opponent, they found victory as they were *fighting for the better cause*. Brother Steve expressed that likewise, we as The Church of Jesus Christ are fighting for the better cause in this day and age. The powers of darkness are trying to hinder God's people, but we must realize that no matter how strong the enemy may seem, our God is so much greater, and it is for His Church we fight! Following Brother Steve, Brother Joel Calabrese expressed that the message was truly inspired, likewise sharing the blessing he received hearing Brother Ron Giovannone's message the previous night. At this time, Brother Mike

Nuzzi once again was given a vision of the same green hill, yet this time there were sheep grazing on it's side. Brother Mike shared these experiences with the congregation, saying the hill looked very peaceful and beautiful.

Our Sunday night service began as we watched the Deaconesses prepare the communion table as we would later pass sacrament. Brother Paul Palmieri opened the service using the 64th chapter of Isaiah. He also read the words to the hymn, *Lovest Thou Me*. Brother Paul expressed that we as God's people must sincerely express and convey the love of God in order to help set others free from the bonds which bind them. *"Many people have been healed physically, but the greatest thing in the world is the salvation of a soul."* After the words of Brother Paul, we communed with God as sacrament was administered. During communion the gift of tongues were spoken and a brother had the interpretation, saying that the tongues were words of praise to God for His perfect love. What a great way to begin our week! We all shared a glorious Sabbath day together.

Throughout the remainder of the camp we received many blessings, all of which could not possibly be mentioned. As a result, this article contains just a few of the week's highlights.

During the Monday night service, Mandy Genaro of the Niles Ohio Branch blessed us by singing a song titled, *Reflections of His Image*, written by her mother, Sister Kathy Genaro. While Mandy sang this song she began to weep till she was unable to finish the song. She testified that she desired to serve God, requesting prayer for guidance in her life. The Priesthood layed hands on her, and immediately following she asked to be baptized. It was evident that the Lord was working in the hearts of others as many were prayed for including Kristy Rogalla, Megan Jackson, and Nephi DeMercurio, all of which asked to be baptized as well. At the close of our meeting it seemed as though no one wanted to

leave. As many embraced one another, Brett Gibson, Daniel Yoder, and Justin Windsor likewise made Jesus their choice. The angels truly rejoiced! It was nice to hear the experience of Sister Josephine Ross, Brett's grandmother. She expressed that her heart was burdened for her grandson as she witnessed God's spirit working upon many of the young people. As she was praying for him she heard a voice call out, "Brett!" This was a nice confirmation to Brett's calling into the Gospel. The following day Brother Wayne Martorana spoke during chapel using Ether 3:1-2 for his message. This scripture speaks of the Brother of Jared and how he petitioned the Lord to touch the stones he had prepared so they would have light for their journey to the promised land. Brother Wayne likened these stones to us as we were all once without light or life until Christ touched our hearts. He also used the three Nephites as examples, relating their strong desire to remain among the children of men. To this day they are continually being used to spread Christ's Gospel here upon the earth. Brother Wayne asked each of us to examine our own selves, hoping that we likewise had this same desire. To conclude his message, our brother related an experience he had concerning the conversion of Sister Mandy Genaro. Before Mandy sang the song her mother had written, Brother Wayne asked the Lord if this song was going to be used as an instrument to bring Mandy into the Church. After asking this, he heard a voice say, "Yes, she will not be able to finish the words of the song."

During seminars on Tuesday, the seminar group of ages 45-60 was in store for an incredible blessing. At the end of their seminar, they all joined hands as Brother Nick Francione offered the closing prayer. During their prayer, Brother Mike Nuzzi saw the three Nephites standing in the midst of their circle. It was made known to him that they would remain with us the remainder of the day. Little did Brother Mike

(Continued on Page 8)

Pennsylvania District Elkins, W. Va.

FELLOWSHIP TOGETHER

Brothers, sisters and friends from Pennsylvania and Elkins, West Virginia met together for their annual weekend of fellowship on August 20-21, 1994.

On Saturday everyone gathered at the Elkins Park for a picnic. A very large crowd of young, middle age and oldsters, including Brother Joseph Bittinger, who was celebrating his ninety plus birthday, were in attendance. While the children played games and expended their energies, the rest of us sat around visiting and enjoying each other's company. After a delicious picnic dinner, which included so many desserts prepared by the sisters, we were hardly able to move.

A portable keyboard was set up and then began a blessed time of "Singing in the Park." Besides a lot of congregational singing, there were many special numbers by our brothers and sisters and even the children. When we were all *sung out*, we gathered up our belongings and returned to the motel for a good night's rest.

Sunday morning found everyone refreshed and ready to hear the word of God. Our meeting was opened by singing an Elkins favorite, *I'll Fly Away*. Brother Dick Lawson offered prayer. Brothers Pete and Joe Giannetti sang, *He Knew You Then, He Knows You Now and He Loves You*.

I wish I could write all the words that our brothers spoke to us. They were food for our souls. Brother Art Gehly was our first speaker. He read his favorite scripture, *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . ."* Brother Art exhorted us to acknowledge Jesus Christ as our Saviour and bring forth what He wants of us in spite of the wiles and struggles of this world. Jesus Christ is the power of the resurrection! When we make our covenant with

Him then we receive that power within us. This is our inheritance to give to our children. Brother Gehly told us to think about what our life would be like if we did not serve Jesus. He ended by telling us to be uplifted by God's promises and love.

Brother Russell Cadman thanked God for being a part of The Church of Jesus Christ and for the Restoration. He said we should look forward to the time of Zion, when there will be peace throughout the land.

Brother Bill Colangelo asked the congregation if they understood the magnitude of the words, *There's room at the cross for me?* Do we realize that the blood of Jesus covers all mankind? He reminded us that Jesus loves us no matter who or what we are.

Brother Bob Nicklow, Jr. expressed the feeling of being alive and stirred up because of the cross and the resurrection. He said that we should be thankful that through the resurrection, there is life. Brother Bob read Revelations 21:7, *"He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son."* He asked, "Do we want this promise?" With Christ all things are possible because *"Greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world."* Brother Nicklow also read from Revelations 22: 1-2 that the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. We are living in the time of the leaves and we must take them (the Word) to the world. We must live a life that speaks of the power of the resurrection.

Brother Joseph Bittinger thanked God for the Gospel and for the many years of joy spent serving the Lord.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri was our last speaker. He thanked God for the R&R (Restoration and Resurrection). For our closing hymn we sang, Victory in Jesus and Brother Ralph Ciotti prayed. We all headed home with a blessing and a hope in our hearts. We are looking forward, with the help of God, to next year when we will meet again and enjoy this blessed fellowship.

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

CAMPOUT continued . . .

know that earlier that morning in a fasting and prayer meeting, one of the brothers invited the three Nephites to be with us throughout the day.

After the baptisms of our five new converts, we gathered for our night meeting anticipating the gift of the Holy Ghost upon them. Brother Phil Jackson spoke on the Holy Ghost and its importance to the servant of God (III Nephi 19:12-15). He exhorted the congregation saying, *"Let's focus ourselves as our new members receive this great gift. This is a serious matter!"* After the confirmations, the Holy Ghost was likewise moving upon others. Daniel Cornell of the McKees Rocks Branch asked for prayer. As the Priesthood layed hands on him, the gift of tongues were spoken saying, *"My Spirit calleth you, Daniel! I call you tonight! Saith the Lord!"* Soon it was made known that Daniel also wanted to be baptized. At this time, Brother Ralph Cartino shared an experience he had during seminars. He related seeing a vision of the same hill Brother Mike Nuzzi had seen, but in this vision there was one lamb walking down the hill's side. Praise God!

The following day (Thursday) after seminars, many gathered at the waters edge to witness the baptisms of Jackie King and Garry Camden, Jr. After the baptisms, it seemed as though no one wanted to leave as a result of the tremendous spirit which was present. The saints all began to sing songs of praise. While the saints sang, the Priesthood expounded the scriptures, calling others to repentance. At this time Ben Ciccati gave his life to Christ. Ben expressed that he didn't expect God to give him some great experience to call him into the Church. Ben simply stated that as he marveled at the beautiful mountains, trees, and birds, he simply considered Who created them—God. Ben was immediately baptized, coming out of the waters a new man. Afterwards, the saints continued praising the Lord, sensing there was still another blessing to be

shared. At this time, Brother Mike Nuzzi was given a vision of a rainbow extending from the sky and resting upon the congregation gathered beside the waters. Brother Mike later shared this experience with everyone, stating that he felt as if there was still one more soul being called. Confirming this experience, Peter Buffa desired baptism and was baptized by his uncle, Brother John Buffa. Lillian Liberto and Kathy Vito likewise desired baptism, but both were baptized at their respective branches following campout. Finally, the saints returned back to the camp having spent over two hours by the waters praising God for the tremendous outpouring of His Spirit. This had truly been the highlight of the week!

As we gathered for our final meeting Thursday night, the entire service was devoted to singing and

praising God. Sister Carolyn Parravano did a wonderful job with the Kid's Choir as they sang numerous selections being accompanied by four guitarists. Following these selections were the confirmations of the four newly baptized members. It was nice to hear each of their testimonies as they praised God. Last, but certainly not least, was the heart felt singing of the GMBA Camp Choir led by Brother Ken Lombardo. Various songs were done, the last of which was titled *Praise You*. This is exactly what the saints of God did this night, we praised our Lord, Jesus Christ. At the close of our meeting, it was voted on that our camp theme song was, *Taste The Grass On The Summit*.

III Nephi 26:6 speaks of the teachings of Christ upon this land of America. *"And now there cannot be written in this book even a hundredth*

part of the things which Jesus did truly teach unto the people." I, along with those who attended Campout, can truly relate to this verse knowing that mere words cannot do justice to the things we had felt and shared together. We once again thank the GMBA offices, Brother Ron Giovannone and his committee for their efforts in helping to make the campout a growing experience. At the week's end, fourteen individuals had surely planted their feet upon higher ground. Our prayer is that they will always remember the covenant they've made with the Lord.

We're pressing on the upward way,
New heights we're gaining every day
Still praying as we onward bound,
Lord plant our feet on higher ground!!

GMBA Editor,
Brother Patrick Monaghan

Branch and Mission News

Avondale, Pennsylvania

On Sunday, September 11, 1994, we had our second annual outdoor meeting and fellowship picnic at our home in Avondale, Pennsylvania. God gave us a beautiful day.

We had eighty-five visitors from Freehold, Edison, Metuchen, New Brunswick, Levittown as well as from Florida. Many friends from the Avondale area also attended. Several

members of the Priesthood were represented. They were Brothers, Jim Crudup, Willie Brown, Phil Arcuri, Arthur Searcy, Bob Pizzaia, Sam Dell, Paul Benyola and Joe Benyola.

The Priesthood were very blessed and we enjoyed a wonderful meeting. As Brother Paul Benyola was speaking, I, Sister Judy Venuto, had a vision. I saw three personages standing behind the Ministry. I also saw sitting on either side of the

Elders, Brothers Augie D'Orazio and Tony Ensana, both who have gone on to their reward.

We were glad to have Sisters Betty Perri, Margaret Benyola and Theresa Venuto with us. Their combined years in the Church is over 200 years! Thank God for the pillars in the Church.

After the meeting, we enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers, sisters and friends. We trust God will continue to bless us as we meet and meet often. God bless you all and love to all.

Brother Bob and Sister Judy Venuto



From left, Sis. Betty Perri, Sis. Margaret Benyola, and Sis. Theresa Venuto.

CINCINNATI MISSION

By Sister Bonnie Miller

The Cincinnati Mission has certainly been blessed this year. So many wonderful things have happened with our Mission. Many events have caused all of us to know God does work in each one of our

(Continued on Page 10)

CINCINNATI continued . . .

lives and blesses each of us, even though we will never be worthy of these blessings.

In December 1993, Alyssa Carol Maddox was born to Sister Diane and Brother Chuck Maddox. Alyssa was blessed on January 16, 1994 by her father, Brother Chuck.

Each year we have a Christmas program and dinner at a home. This year Brother Jim and Sister Bonnie Miller hosted the program and dinner. We had a large crowd of brothers and sisters and friends, from as far away as California. Our children put on a program for us and each of us felt the blessings of God.

During the first part of 1994, we had many visitors in the Cincinnati Mission. Even though it was a record cold and snow season, this did not stop brothers and sisters from other parts of the Church to visit with us, each one bringing a blessing to us.

On a cold snowy morning in April, Winston and Angelo Licata were baptized. We had many young people and not so young visiting with us this day to share our joy. Even the cold weather did not stop the blessings that day. We met the entire day because we had so many in attendance. Surely our cup was full that day. Since then, our two young brothers have brought many blessings to each of us. Our prayer is that both of our brothers will continue to grow in the service of God.

In July we hosted an MBA activity weekend. Over one hundred brothers, sisters, and friends from Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, and Arizona came to join us for a fun day at Kings Island. We experienced many blessings during the day and on Sunday. We rented a building to accommodate so many people. This was a wonderful Sunday with many experiences and blessings shared by all of us. We thank God for all of this. We are still talking about that weekend.

We have been blessed this year with another family coming to live in the Cincinnati area, and being part of

our Mission. Brother Jerry and Sister Beverly Rao moved to Burlington, Kentucky in late April. They have two sons, a daughter, and daughter-in-law that attend our services. We are so happy to have them with us. Once again we are growing in Cincinnati. We thank God for all His blessings. We now have eight families in the Cincinnati Mission. Thank you God. God bless each and every one of you.

Modesto, California

On May 1, 1994, Brother Joseph Manes was reinstated into the Church. Tears of joy overwhelmed our brother as he was honored in seeing his sister, Teresa Pandone and brother, Nick Manes from Youngstown, visit for this special occasion. Brother Joe's renewal was an answer to many prayers. It was confirmed in a dream to Brother Joseph Ciarolla.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo was our opening speaker. He expressed joy for the light seen and for The Church of Jesus Christ being an open door for all mankind that are willing to serve the Lord. Brother Leonard spoke on Moroni 6:8, as they repented and sought forgiveness with real intent, they were forgiven. He stated that Jesus seeks out the interior of a person and no man can repent unless God brings the spirit of repentance upon him. Brother Leonard reminded us that in Luke 15, the Father shows forgiveness, love, compassion, blessings, joy and His arms are open to His children.

Brother Anthony Picciuto followed and said we all seek forgiveness, mercy and compassion. If we want forgiveness in our lives, then we have to apply it to others. Brother Anthony read Matthew 5, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

Brothers Leonard Lovalvo and Joseph Manes sang the song, *He Was There All The Time*. As they sang, we felt the love and kindness of the Lord. Brother Joseph Manes testified and expressed his gratefulness and thankfulness to God for His love and

kindness. Brother Joe related how beautiful it is to look on the faces of the brothers and sisters and thanked them for the love they have shown him.

There was a sweet spirit among the congregation and it was the Spirit of the Lord. Brother Joseph Lovalvo laid hands on Brother Joseph Manes for his reinstatement. Brother Lovalvo exclaimed, "*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand. Ring the bells of heaven, there is rejoicing there today. Welcome home, Brother Joe.*"

Sister Marilyn Manes expressed herself and thanked God for His goodness. She thanked the brothers and sisters for their love and compassion. Sister Marilyn thanked God for answering her prayers and the prayers of the brothers and sisters.

To add more joy to the day, the brothers and sisters witnessed the blessing of Brother Ken and Sister Mary Brown's granddaughter. The baby, Hailey Nicole Brown, was blessed by Brother Leonard Lovalvo as the parents, Bill and Teresa Brown from Texas witnessed the joyous event.

We had many visitors from Lindsay and Sacramento, California; visitors from Ohio and Texas. We thank God for a wonderful and blessed day.

Levittown News

The Lord has been very good to us in the Levittown Branch. He has blessed us with wonderful meetings and we have several attend who are not members. It is beautiful to see those who are not members continue to attend the meetings. We thank God that a couple of non-members are now members of The Church of Jesus Christ.

On June 30, 1994, Garry Camden Jr. was baptized at the GMBA Campout. He was baptized by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti and confirmed by Brother Jerry Valenti.

Donna Custer was baptized on July 17, 1994. Sister Donna was baptized by Brother Joseph Benyola

and confirmed by Brother Jeffrey Giannetti. It was a beautiful summer day and it was all the more beautiful to witness Sister Donna's baptism. Her family and friends came to view her baptism and see this wonderful ordinance.

We are blessed to have a new teacher in our branch. Brother Mark King was ordained a teacher on April 17, 1994. Brother Joseph Benyola washed Brother Mark's feet and Brother Lawrence King, Brother Mark's dad, ordained him into the office of teacher.

Our prayers are that God will bless and sustain Brother Garry Camden Jr. and Sister Donna Custer. We pray that God will bless Brother Mark King in his office of teacher, a very important office in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We welcome visitors to our branch. Remember us in your prayers.

Monongahela, PA

REACHING THE MILESTONE

Seven more saints have entered an elite circle of brothers and sisters who have been baptized for fifty years or more. Sisters Susan Olexa, Rebecca Griffith, Margaret Johnson and Thelma Campbell, and Brother James Campbell were honored at a dinner held at the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on October 22, 1994. Brother Meredith and Sister Irene Griffith, long time members of the branch now residing in Florida, were also remembered.

A program featuring favorite hymns and scriptures of the honorees and their advise to the young was printed for the occasion. A dinner was enjoyed by all the guests, which included brothers, sisters, friends, and family members. Afterward, Brother Chuck Kogler presented a brief history of our brothers and sisters.

Sister Susan Olexa was baptized on August 29, 1940. Her favorite scripture is the 23rd Psalm. *Beyond the Sunset* and *The Last Mile of the Way* are her favorite hymns. The

spiritual advise Sister Sue gave to the young people is to read and obey God's word and trust God completely.

Brother Jim Campbell was baptized on September 18, 1942. John 3:16 is his favorite scripture and an experience concerning the hymn, *The Mercies of God* was expressed. Brother Jim advises the young people to be active in the Church by attending meetings, bearing testimonies, and praying often.

Sister Thelma Campbell was baptized on September 18, 1942. The 13th chapter of I Corinthians is her favorite scripture. Her favorite hymn, *Some Day He'll Make It Plain*, brings her hope and strength through discouragement. Her spiritual advise to the young is to attend meetings and talk with the older members.

Sister Rebecca "Betty" Griffith was baptized on October 13, 1940 at the age of sixteen. One of her favorite scriptures is the 25th chapter of Matthew and two favorite hymns are, *The Lily of the Valley*, and *Mansion Over the Hilltop*. Sister Betty advises the young to live for the Lord and do His will.

Sister Margaret "Peg Cowen" Johnson was baptized on March 28, 1943. The 23rd Psalm brought her through a particularly difficult time in her life. Sister Peg testified that she received a wonderful experience as she penned the words to *He'll Hold My Hand*, a hymn sung often by the Church. Her advise is to keep involved in the Church, study the scriptures, pray and exercise your faith.

It has taken patience and endurance to reach this spiritual milestone. They have overcome afflictions, discouragements, and obstacles with God's help and with the prayers of the brothers and sisters. These saints should feel spiritually proud of their accomplishments, perhaps expressing the joy that Ammon felt. With God's spirit, he said, *"I do not boast in my own strength, nor in my own wisdom. I will rejoice in my God. I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of God, for in His strength I can do all things"* (Alma 26:11-12).

EDITORIAL continued . . .

and tried to destroy the Church. They were not successful. The Lord extended His mercy and saved them from eternal destruction. Alma, the son of Alma, said in his testimony that he was in the darkest abyss but he now beheld the marvelous light of God. His soul was racked with torment. However, because of fasting and prayer by the people of God, he was able to say, *"I am snatched!"* This testimony is found in Mosiah 27:23-31 and it tells of a glorious and wonderful spiritual resurrection.

Ammon testifies in Alma 26:17, *"Who would have supposed that our God would have been so merciful as to have snatched us from our awful, sinful and polluted state?"* Isaiah states that fasting loosens the bands of wickedness, removes the heavy burdens and lets the oppressed go free.

There are many reasons why we should fast and pray. It is humbly suggested that we read the new pamphlet entitled, *Fasting and Praying*, authored by Apostles Joseph Lovalvo, V. James Lovalvo and Robert A. Watson. It represents excellent instruction.

The Lord said, *"He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do."* Hard to imagine, but true because the Lord said it. We have available to us a power far superior to anything known to the human family. That power is what created all things. It has no limits! It knows no limits! The Lord will give it to us without a price. The Lord instructed us to *"seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* This commandment has a wonderful promise attached to it.

May our young men see visions and may our older men dream dreams. May our women be like Phebe and Priscilla and may our children be like young Mormon. Let us move the hand of God. Let us fast and pray often so we will reap the harvest of the Lord.

* WEDDINGS *

Walter William Wetz and Becky Anne Lowther were united in holy matrimony on April 23, 1994 at the Vanderbilt Branch. The ceremony was performed by Brother Richard Lowther.

Charles Vincent Lowther and Lorrie Baird were united in holy matrimony on October 22, 1994 at the Vanderbilt Branch. The ceremony was given by Brother Richard Lowther.

Mark Intrieri and Michele Duralia were joined in marriage on September 24, 1994 at the Glassport Branch. Mark is the son of Sister Nina Intrieri and Ray Intrieri.

Children Blessed

Aimee Marie Venuto and Robert Andrew Venuto, children of Rita and Bob Venuto, were blessed on May 29, 1994 at the Avondale Pennsylvania Mission.

Kara Lyn Weamer, daughter of Joann Carol Weamer was blessed on October 16, 1994 at the Youngstown Branch.

Rhiannon Kaitlin Lutes, daughter of Carl and Amber Lutes was blessed on October 16, 1994 at the Roscoe Branch.

Sarah Elizabeth Price, daughter of Mike and Tammy Jo Price was blessed on August 28, 1994 at the Herndon Branch.

Abner Mosqueda, son of Brother Alfredo and Rosa Mosqueda of the Modesto California Branch was blessed on November 13, 1994.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

OBITUARIES

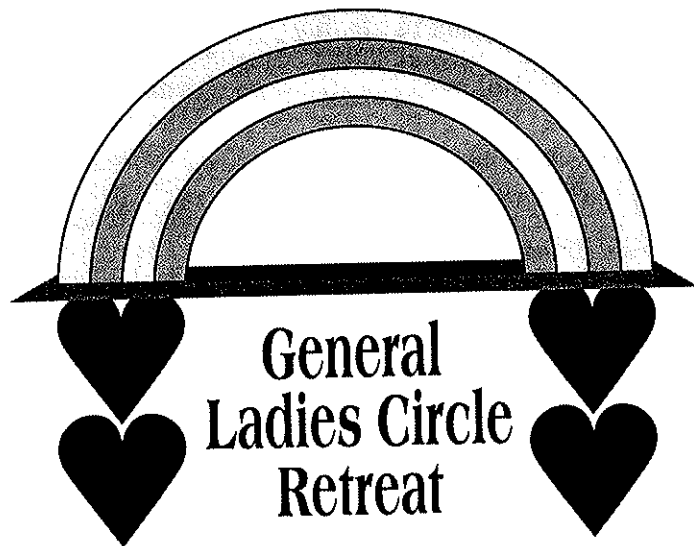
Charles Zetka passed on to his eternal reward on September 18, 1994 at the age of seventy-two. He attended the Roscoe Branch. Left to mourn are his wife, Evelyn, his sons, Tim and Charles and his daughters, Donna, Pam and Tracey. He was a wonderful friend to the members of the Roscoe Branch.

Direll Chambers passed away on October 4, 1994. He was eighty-five years of age. He is survived by his wife, Sister Rose Chambers, a son Edward and a daughter, Beverly.

Brother Jerry Priler was called home to his reward on October 4, 1994 at the age of seventy-seven. He was a member of the Glassport Branch. Surviving Brother Jerry is his wife, Sister Clara, a son, Jerald Priler and a daughter, Sister Nancy Lee Rollason.

Brother James N. Dutchko passed on to his reward on October 15, 1994. He was a deacon in the Roscoe Branch. Brother James is survived by his wife, Sister Betty Lou Dutchko, a son, William, his father Peter Dutchko, a brother and a sister.

LOVE BUILDS BRIDGES



June 1st - 4th 1995

Let us build this bridge not only
for ourselves but for our children
and for those who will follow

The Gospel News

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

February, 1995

Volume 51, No. 2

The Choice Seer

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

(The Church of Jesus Christ believes that God will raise up a Choice Seer to restore the seed of Joseph and to restore Israel. Article 19 of our Faith and Doctrine outlines this belief that God will use man as His instrument for the purpose of restoring all of Israel. The following article is printed with the permission of its author, Apostle V. J. Lovalvo. It is taken from his book entitled, It Is Written, Truth Shall Spring Out Of The Earth.— Editor's note)

The Book of Mormon speaks of many prophets and a few Seers. It explains that a Seer is greater than a prophet because he can not only prophesy of the future things, but more so, he has the power from God, and the wherewithal to translate records written or engraved upon plates, stones, or any other place.

However, it is also written in the above book that a very special man was to be raised up by God in the latter days who is called a *Choice Seer*. This man was to be a mighty prophet in the sight of God and man; he was to do a marvelous work for the Lord. Let the record

show for itself concerning this great prophet. Lehi, before his death, spoke to his son, Joseph,

“For Joseph (Joseph of Egypt) truly testified, saying, A Seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a choice seer unto the fruit of my loins, yea, Joseph truly said: thus saith the Lord unto me: a choice seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and he shall be esteemed highly among the fruit of the loins. And unto him will I give a commandment that he shall do a work for the fruit of thy loins, his brethren, which shall be of great worth unto them, even to the bringing of them to the knowledge of the covenants which I have made with thy fathers.

“And I will give unto him a commandment that he shall do none other work, save the work which I shall command him. And I will make him great in Mine eyes; for he shall do My work. He shall be great like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver My people, O House of Israel. And Moses will I raise up, to deliver thy people out of the land of Egypt. But a Seer will I raise up out of the fruit of thy loins; and unto him will I give power to bring forth My word unto the seed of thy loins; and not to the bringing forth of My word only, saith the Lord, but to the convincing

them of My word, which shall have already gone forth among them.

“And out of weakness he shall be made strong, in that day when My work shall commence among all My people, unto the restoring thee, O House of Israel, saith the Lord. And thus prophesied Joseph, saying, behold, that seer will the Lord bless; and they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded; for this promise; which I have obtained of the Lord, of the fruit of my loins, shall be fulfilled. Behold, I am sure of the fulfilling of this promise.

“And his name shall be called after me; and it shall be after the name of his father. And he shall be like unto me; for the thing, which the Lord shall bring forth by his hand, by the power of the Lord shall bring my people unto salvation.

And the Lord said unto me also; I will raise up unto the fruit of thy loins; and I will make him a spokesman. And I, behold, I will give unto him that he shall write the writing of the fruit of thy loins, unto the fruit of thy loins; and the spokesman of thy loins shall declare it” (2 Nephi 3:6-19).

The reader has now a beautiful picture of the coming of this *Choice Seer*, who shall be mighty in the hands of God.

(Continued on Page 2)

SEER continued . . .

Some of the latter day people believe that Joseph Smith was the *Choice Seer*. However, in the mind of the author, it is an error as the Book of Mormon gives a very accurate account of this great man.

The record states that this Seer shall be of the tribe of Joseph (Joseph of Egypt) and of the Seed of Lehi who was a descendant of Joseph who was sold into Egypt. Lehi came to the land of America from Jerusalem in 600 B.C. From him sprang the American Indians (or the Lamanites as the book calls them). Joseph Smith was not of the Seed of Joseph nor did he descend from Lehi.

Regarding the *Choice Seer*, the Book of Mormon says,

"And not to the bringing forth My word only, saith the Lord, but to the CONVINCING them of My word."

Joseph Smith did not CONVINCE the Lamanites (American Indians). He was used to translate the records which were given to him by the Angel Moroni. He was the one referred to in the Bible as *"the man who is not learned."* The *Choice Seer* and Joseph Smith are two different men altogether. The former is of the lineage of Lehi (Seed of Joseph); the latter was the Gentile who was to be used to translate the Plates.

On the very first page (title page) of the Book of Mormon there are two paragraphs taken from the Plates which were translated by Joseph Smith. The second and last lines of the first paragraph reads,

"Sealed by the hand of Moroni, and hid up unto the Lord, to come forth in due time by way of the Gentile. The interpretation thereof by the Gift of God."

Please note that it says, *"by way of the GENTILE,"* a single person. It does not read *Gentiles*, plural. Now if Joseph Smith was the *Choice Seer* spoken of in the Book of Mormon, who is the *GENTILE* through whom the record would come through? It is obvious that the *Choice Seer* of the Book of Mormon and the Gentile (Joseph

Smith) are two persons.

It is written that the *Choice Seer* is to be like unto Moses; and that he would be given a spokesman as was given to Moses; that the *Choice Seer* would write the words that God would dictate to him and his spokesman would speak them (2 Nephi 3:18). Joseph Smith was not like unto Moses nor did he have or need a spokesman. He was a powerful speaker in his own right. Some have suggested that Sidney Rigdon may have been the spokesman because of his oratorical ability. Joseph Smith did not need any one else to do the speaking for him as he was an eloquent speaker. In the days of Moses, Aaron was used of the Lord to speak that which came forth from God. The two brothers got along very well in the service of God and the people. Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon (according to that which is written) did not cleave one to the other in brotherly love; and much strife was among them.

It is written of the *Choice Seer* that, *"they that seek to destroy him shall be confounded."*

This was a promise given to Lehi by the Lord. Unfortunately, Joseph Smith was killed by a mob while he was in jail in Carthage, Illinois, and those who perpetrated this heinous crime were not *destroyed* nor even punished.

It is very plain that the *Choice Seer* shall be of the seed of Joseph (of Egypt). He said, *"a Seer shall the Lord my God raise up, who shall be a Choice Seer unto the fruit of my loins."*

Lehi reminded his son that because of the covenant that God made with Joseph of old, his seed (American Indians) would not be destroyed, nor be forgotten. God would raise up a mighty man (*Choice Seer*) from among them who would be instrumental in bringing the word of God to them, and *convince* them of the things that had already been spoken to them. He was to come from the fruit of the loins of those who should write upon the plates; and that was from the descendants of Lehi.

The *Choice Seer* spoken of in the Book of Mormon is also that person referred to in the Bible, when Jacob predicted what was to befall his posterity in the latter days; in the blessing he pronounced upon his son, Joseph:

"Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall . . . but his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob" (FROM THENCE IS THE SHEPHERD, THE STONE OF ISRAEL).

This cannot refer to Christ, as HE came from the Tribe of Judah. The above refers to the *Choice Seer*, as he shall come from the loins (or Tribe) of Joseph; his name, according to the record, shall be also Joseph; and his father's name shall be Joseph. He is also (in the opinion of the author) that man referred to in the Bible, Romans 11:26, called the DELIVERER, who shall *"come out of Zion and turn away ungodliness from Jacob."* He shall deliver the Seed of Joseph (American Indians) from oppressions and be mighty among them in bringing the word of God to them in power.

In summary, The Church of Jesus Christ (of which the author is a member) takes the following stand on the *Choice Seer*:

1. The *Choice Seer* is to come from the seed of Lehi. Joseph Smith was not of Lehi's posterity.
2. He is to convince the Lamanites (also referred to as Nephites or American Indians) in person.
3. His tongue will not be loosed much; he shall be given a spokesman. Joseph Smith did not have (or need) a spokesman; he was an eloquent speaker.
4. Those who seek to destroy the *Choice Seer* shall be confounded. Joseph Smith was slain by a mob in June, 1844.
5. The *Choice Seer* shall bring many thousands of Lamanites (American Indians) to God.

Joseph Smith did not bring

many (if any at all) Indians to the Lord.

Because the author believes that Joseph Smith was not the Choice Seer spoken of in the Book of Mormon, does not deter from the fact that he was used of God mightily in bringing forth the Book of Mormon. Without a doubt, he can be called a seer also because God gave him the wherewithal (Urim and Thummim) to translate from the Plates; that the spirit of a prophet was also upon him. The intention is not to judge whether one is greater than another, but simply to put in the proper category the individuals referred to in the Holy Scriptures (Bible and Book of Mormon). Joseph Smith had his work cut out for him; the Choice Seer (of the

loins of Lehi) shall have his. What a great champion shall the Choice Seer be for the Lamanites (American Indians) when he appears on the scene; what power shall be manifested when he stands up in defense of his people; what glory shall be seen when he convinces his people of the word of the Lord! The author's prayer is that, if it were in God's plan, he would be among the living when this great Prophet and Seer will be raised up by the Lord; if not he, then his prayer and hope is that his posterity will see him. The poet expresses the thought beautifully:

Then the gospel will go to the Redman
And the scales will fall from their eyes
When the Choice Seer comes forth
with the records

He'll be received with gladness and surprise.

He will be strong in the spirit
And the hidden things of God
He'll convince both the Lamanite
and Gentile
And bring all nations to the Lord.

Three cheers for the Standard of truth
That in the last days will be unfurled
Three cheers for the Standard of Jesus
That will stand for a sign to the world.

Alexander Cherry

Note of Thanks

Greetings to all of you in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks to everyone and tell you how deeply we appreciated your cards, telephone calls, flowers and especially all of your prayers.

We know that God has heard them because we are progressing very well. Praise the good Lord for your love towards us. We want to thank the brother elders in the Ministry that prayed and anointed us. Oh how they prayed that the Lord would heal us! We do sincerely pray that the good Lord will richly bless each and every one of you for your love and kindness in our behalf. We love you all.

Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo
Sister Anne M. Lovalvo

1994 Nine Months Financial Status

Dear Readers:

Although you will read this after the end of the year it is important for you to understand the financial situation of the Church on a continuing basis.

Our donations for the first nine months of 1994 were \$310,308 as compared to 1993 which were \$355,743. We are \$45,435 behind where we were at this point last year. The *SPENDING PLAN* for the nine months of 1994 is \$393,011 which means we are \$82,703 below the Plan.

We have pointed out what this means when we fail to attain our goals so we will not rehearse that again. All of these figures indicate either an inability or an unwillingness to support the Church financially. Each of us has to review ourselves to answer the question of why the Church is not meeting the goals that have been established.

The following figures represent the nine month totals by district for 1994 and 1993 comparison.

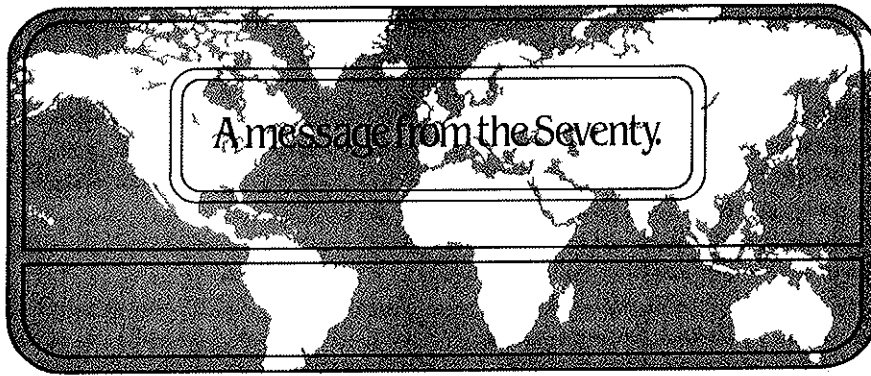
<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>1994</u>	<u>1993</u>
Atlantic	\$ 42,838	\$ 51,073
Michigan/Ontario	69,939	80,810
Ohio	31,529	30,988
Pacific Coast	47,760	55,452
Pennsylvania	78,851	86,911
Southeast	28,258	30,590
Southwest	11,133	19,919
TOTALS	\$310,308	\$355,743

May God bless us with the will and determination to accomplish our goal!

General Church Finance Committee

Request for Correspondence

Laurie J. Gipson attends the New Orleans Mission. She would like to correspond with brothers and sisters in the Church. Laurie's address is: Miss Laurie J. Gipson, P.O. Box 562, Poplarville, MS 39470



Trips to Mission Fields

*By Carl J. Frammolino
Evangelist Editor*

Six trips were taken to mission fields the latter part of 1994. Visited were Guatemala (twice), Kenya (reported last month), England-Ireland-Germany, Italy, and India. Brief accounts of these journeys are as follows:

GUATEMALA

Travelers to Guatemala were Brothers Ken Staley and Dennis Moraco, November 11-16, and Brothers Paul Ciotti and Mark Lawson, November 24-29. Both times the Lord's blessings were felt, even though there was sadness awaiting them.

Unfortunately, Sister Victoria Barrios, our resident missionary Brother Luis Marroquin's mother and a faithful member, had passed away rather suddenly just prior to the first visit and Byron Rivera, a senior in high school and the son of Brother Victor and Sister Felipa Rivera, was killed in an automobile accident just before the second group arrived. The visitors' opportunities to help bring comfort during these unforeseen difficult times proved to be most beneficial, and the Lord dispensed His blessings even amid these periods of discouragement.

Byron, the oldest of five children, was very highly respected; and he was diligent in attending church

services. His friends, who attended school and played with him on the soccer team, requested a memorial service for him. It was held in the middle of the family's community in the three-tiered cascade of homes at night under the lights where many people listened from their porches and windows. Brother Ciotti was able to speak to the residents about the young man's love for Christ, his constant striving to get closer to God, and the beauty of the Gospel. Two of Byron's friends spoke about his gentle leadership, concern for others, and example in refusing to participate in sports or other activities when it was time for church.

KENYA, EAST AFRICA

Brothers Joel Gehly and Frank Natoli went to Kenya in late October, where they were met by Brother Joseph and Sister Mary Perri, who interrupted their missionary tour in Italy to join them there. The article last month reviewed their visit during which there were eighty-six baptisms and ten ordinations.

Prayers, as for all missionary locations, are being requested for our brothers and sisters in Kenya who are seeking to do the Lord's work and bring others into the fold.

ITALY

Brother Joseph and Sister Mary Perri spent about two months in Italy in visiting the brothers and sisters starting in September. They were

accompanied by Brother Eugene and Sister Florence Perri during the first two weeks which were spent primarily in the northern part of the country.

For the majority of their stay thereafter, they were located in the San Dimetrio area, where they were also able to attend to some of the repairs to our church building and to offer other assistance as required. They were able to speak to some non-church people about the Gospel. (They also went to Kenya in the middle of this period, as reported above).

ENGLAND-IRELAND-GERMANY

Visiting England, Ireland and Germany October 21-November 3 were Brothers John DiBattista and David Nolfi of the New Works Committee.

They ordained Brother Pat O'Callaghan an elder in England and baptized a new brother, Detlev Rucks, in Brackel, Germany. They also spent time with Brother Giovanni and Sister Maria Marino in Frankfurt, Germany and visited a family in Ireland desirous of learning about us. Upon arrival in Ireland, they found there were other people who wanted to know about The Church of Jesus Christ. The seed was thus planted. Much travel was involved.

Other inquiries are being received from different parts of the world. They are generated by people who read about us in various publications or are informed by other means. They usually contact the General Church Correspondent, Brother Richard Lawson, who relays the information to the New Works Committee which has been organized under the Foreign Missions Operating Committee (FMOC). Follow up is attempted as practical. Brothers DiBattista and Nolfi said they had several other contacts they could have made but did not have enough time to do so.

(Continued on Page 11)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

There is a sense of false comfort and security in much of the religious world. This can be traced to two appealing, yet cunning and deceptive statements. These statements are, "once saved, always saved" and "all you need is Christ in your life." Nothing could be farther from the truth! These two statements are simply not true!

These statements are not based on the Scriptures. They are totally contrary to the Bible and the Book of Mormon. They are the sayings of man. Neither one was ever spoken by Jesus Christ. Neither one was ever taught by Jesus Christ.

We read in Matthew 7:21-23, *"Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."* This was not said by man, it was said by the Lord Himself. This is not hard to understand. It is very plain and to the point. We must do the will of the Father, not sometime, all the time, daily. We must keep His commandments, regardless of the cost! We must keep His commandments because we love him.

In Matthew 24:4-5 we read, *"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall deceive many."* Let us not be deceived, let us not be fooled. We must stay alert. We must be vigilant. Jesus instructs us that endurance is necessary, it is required, it is vital! He said in Matthew 24:13, *"But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."* In III Nephi 27:16-17 the Lord stated, *" . . . whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father. And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire."* The Apostle Paul said of himself in 1 Corinthians 9:27, *"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."*

These teachings of the Lord and the Apostle Paul do not sound like "once saved, always saved." They mean just the opposite. Jesus Christ taught that "we must be born again" and "we must endure to the end." If "once saved, always saved" is true, then one could argue that the enemy of all righteousness will qualify because he was in heaven in the beginning. God forbid!

"All you need is Christ in your life" is a very misleading statement. If it were true, there would have been no need for the Restoration. If it were true, we could dissolve The Church of Jesus Christ and all of us could join a church of our choice. This approach is not the answer. It is not an option. We read that in the last days, there will be only two churches. We must ask ourselves then, at that time, what church will we join? Jesus Christ said in John 14:6, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: No man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* This Scripture makes it clear that Jesus Christ set up His Church. He did not set up His churches!

Different churches, different religions are what caused Joseph Smith to inquire of the Lord which church to join. His mother Lucy, his sister Sophronia and two of his brothers, Hyrum and Samuel belonged to one church. His father, Joseph, his brother Alvin and Joseph Smith himself belonged to another church. This confusion in his home and in his community created a desire in Joseph Smith to want to know what church to join, what church was true, what church was set up by Jesus Christ. He read James 1:5, *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and*

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

At Church last week, two young sisters were talking to me about their schools and colleges. Both were saying that when they went somewhere at school, people often noticed them. They both said that many people, even strangers to them, asked their opinions and advice. Even if they were tired or trying not to be noticed, people still came up to them. They wondered why.

I know that this is true in my life and in the life of other people who go to church and serve God. I started to wonder why this is. Why do we stand out? What do we do that is different? I started talking it over in my mind with the Lord.

As I prayed, I remembered the words of Jesus. The answer came to me. It is in the Bible in the books of Matthew 5:16, Mark 9:50, and Luke 14:34. Jesus told us we are different. We are special through God's power. He called us the salt of the earth.

Now, think about salt. Have you ever eaten plain food where there is no salt added? Do you remember the way it tasted and how unsatisfied you were? Have you ever felt like something without salt was not even worth tasting? Did you know that humans and animals crave salt in their bodies to be healthy?

That's the way mankind is. Without true believers, the world is desperate. In some deep, mysterious way, those that believe in God can touch the lives and hearts of others. We can make a difference. For example, we have a place to go when our hearts are sad and broken. We can cry and pray away evil thoughts that trouble us. We have deep love

for one another that also leads to peace and to feelings of safety and contentment. We have felt the power of prayer and forgiveness. We have hope and trust that things will work out for the good.

We know that we serve a powerful God who knows all, sees all, and understands all. In my job as counselor, I often hear terrible, sad stories. As I sit and listen, I pray. I pray for God's guidance and ask for the right words to help this person. I pray for love to flow from me to that person. I ask God to protect that person and to help them so that they will not keep hurting themselves or others. I don't have to depend on only my talent or abilities to help people because I have God and His Son, Jesus. So do you.

We are the salt of the earth. We're just a few people compared to hundreds of thousands. But we are like that little bit of delicious, tasty salt sprinkled on top of the feast. Thank God for this power. Pray for the willingness to learn to use it to help those about you. Practice. When you feel afraid, talk to the Lord and pray for the right words, the right thoughts, the right spirit of understanding and love. Be the salt.

With care,
Your friend,
the salt, Sister Jan

THE SALT OF THE EARTH

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Notice

Any member interested in assisting on the World Conference Center Audio Committee, please send a written request to the General Board of Trustees Secretary:

Joseph Ross
#2 Ross Drive
Aliquippa, PA 15001
Fax #412-375-5108

You will be required to operate the sound system, record conferences, programs etc.

Our Women Today

Ladies Uplift Circle Pennsylvania Area

By Joyceann Jumper

The Pennsylvania Ladies' Uplift Circle met for our annual retreat at Olgeby Park in Wheeling, West Virginia on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 1994.

Our retreat began with our President, Linda Ottavian, welcoming everyone and thanking God for all arriving safely. The Glassport Circle provided the devotions by reading several passages of scripture pertaining to our conduct. The local Circle reports were presented including activities and fund raisers held during the past six months.

We were very excited to have Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, the Vice President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle with us. She discussed the plans for the General Circle Retreat to be held June 1-4, 1995 in Dallas, Texas.

Election of officers was held and the officers for the next year will be:

President	Linda Ottavian
Vice President	LuAnn Carson
Secretary	Jan Cornell
Ass't. Sec.	Sandy Bittinger
Financial Sec.	Becky Tarbuk
Treasurer	Karen Progar
Auditor	Dora Rossi
Historian	Lucetta Scaglione
Editor	Joyceann Jumper
Librarian	Mary Lou Buffington
Card Sender	Carol Monaghan

Our new project for a fundraiser is the selling of holiday napkins.

Our meeting was opened for testimony and several sisters expressed their gratitude to God for the many blessings they have received. During the afternoon, we met for our seminar entitled, "Lord, Teach Us To Pray." We separated into groups to discuss the seminar outline prepared by Sister Jan Cornell. We were blessed in sharing our thoughts and experiences of prayer. At the conclusion of our seminar, we chose a prayer partner with which we are to share our desires and needs. We were encouraged to keep a prayer

journal in which we will see the provisions God has made for each of us.

The evening was spent playing scripture Jeopardy, with our host, Susan King, from the Vanderbilt Circle.

Sunday morning, we sang *Take Some Time To Pray* and *Good Morning God* after which Brother Paul Ciotti opened our Sunday morning service using II Chronicles, chapter six as his text. Solomon had built a most beautiful temple unto the Lord, but something was missing from the building, the Spirit and the glory of God. After Solomon prayed, there was beauty within the temple as well. When we are in trouble within our own temple, we turn to Jesus Christ who will come and abide in us. The beauty will radiate on the outside from within.

Brother Sela Palmieri followed by thanking God for the opportunity to be in our meeting. Several sisters were anointed after which Brother Paul Ciotti passed communion.

We thank God for the glorious weekend we experienced and look forward to our next gathering as the Area Ladies' Uplift Circle.

MBA Highlights

We Believe in God

We believe in God
And we all need Jesus
Cause life is hard
And it might not get easier
But don't be afraid
To know who you are
And don't be afraid to show it
If you believe in God
If you say you need Jesus
He'll be where you are
And He never will leave you
Sing to me now words that are true
So all in this place can know it
We believe in God
And we all need Jesus

The words above are familiar to

many who have attended either GMBA, Michigan-Ontario, or the Ohio Area Campouts this year. The children sang this song in their choir and the words have basically set the theme for the summer.

The Michigan-Ontario Area MBA held its annual campout August 19-21, 1994. The camp theme was "Working in the Vineyard of the Lord." Our Saturday seminars followed this theme and many of us set new goals to be more effective servants to the Lord. The day was filled with recreation, crafts, and free time. The Saturday evening service provided many blessings as we shared the Lord's Supper and enjoyed listening to the testimonies and singing of the young people.

The Sunday service began with a beautiful spirit as the children sang, *We Believe in God*. Brother Larry Champine then opened the meeting

by stating that we need to be consistent in our walk with the Lord. It's a fact that we all need a boost of "spiritual energy" from time to time, yet its comforting to know that The Church of Jesus Christ is a storehouse of strength for all those who take advantage of it. Between conferences, campouts, weekly meetings, and general fellowship with the saints, we can find what we need to enjoy the Spirit of God, and to make a difference in this world. Brother Larry continued by saying, "Our God is not a campout God! He is with us at all times. We just need to look for Him and enjoy His presence."

Brother Peter Scolaro followed by challenging us to GET NOTICED! Brother Peter encouraged us to keep our excitement and don't get

(Continued on Page 11)

Branch and Mission News

Herndon, VA

God poured His Spirit down upon us on September 11, 1994 as we witnessed the baptisms of our two new converts, Sister Angelica Izquierdo and Sister Hythia Young. They were both baptized by Brother Chatman Young. The baptism of Sister Angie drew us to the water's edge that morning in Lake Fairfax Park, Virginia. After Sister Angie's confirmation during the afternoon meeting, Sister Hythia, who could hold back no longer, stood and asked to be baptized. We went back to the lake for a second baptism and blessing that day. Praise God for all His goodness.

There were words of wisdom spoken during our testimony meeting which were, "We hope to have the enthusiasm of the young in the Gospel; the determination of the old."

On September 18, 1994, Brother Mike Hildenbrand, preached a beautiful sermon. His sermon was from the Book of Mormon, 27th chapter of Mosiah. Brother Mike instructed those in attendance not to be timid, but to be bold, yet humble and not overbearing. We must possess the determination and faithfulness of Alma and Paul.

Beautiful testimonies added to our blessings during this Sabbath Day service. Sister Nellie Maletta, during her testimony, quoted from II Timothy, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Sister Nellie noted that "we, the Church, are on the brink of something new," and indicated that this scripture is for each of us.

Sister Brigetta Craft testified to God's goodness for bringing her son, Brice, back home with her to stay. Sister Iva Bordeaux confirmed Brice's return with an experience that she had recently.

We are so thankful for God's

blessings upon us in Herndon, Virginia. Please remember us in your prayers and remember to visit us and share the joy of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Baptism at the Inner City Branch

By Erika Adams

June 5, 1994, was a beautiful day for a baptism and that is exactly what happened; truly a baptism to remember. The day started out with a beautiful ray of light from the sun. The river was so beautiful and it was very warm out. As the saints gathered at the rivers' shore, we were handed a sheet of paper with the song, *Shall We Gather At The River*.

We sang the first two verses and Brother Anthony Scolaro offered the opening prayer. Brother Eugene Amormino led the candidate into the waters of regeneration. He proceeded to raise his arm toward heaven with those wonderful words, "Mary Frances Bertolo, having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." As sister Mary was brought up from the watery grave, she embraced Brother Eugene and he gave her some encouraging words. The brothers and sisters then sang the last two verses of the song. Brother Steve Champine offered the closing prayer.

As we made our way to the branch, we were anticipating the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. As we were waiting, we began to sing a few songs. Brother Eugene stood and asked the choir to come to the front of the Church to sing, *God Has Smiled On Me*. Sister Mary had requested the song and related that

this song had touched her. We also sang, *People Need The Lord*.

The Ministry knelt down in prayer that God would truly be there so that they might do the will of God before they laid hands on Sister Mary. While the brothers knelt in prayer, Brother Alfred Mendenhall heard these words, "Mary, don't worry, the decisions and the responsibilities are no longer yours; only eternal life." Brother Steve Champine confirmed Sister Mary Bertolo. While the confirmation was taking place, Sister Judy Salerno spoke in tongues. Sister Mary Bertolo received part of the interpretation, "And an angel has flown over."

After the confirmation, Brother Eugene asked everybody to come to the front and to give a hug to sister Mary Bertolo. As our brothers and sisters embraced Sister Mary, we sang, *I Surrender All*. At the end of our service we sang just a verse of *He Touched Me* and *He Planted Me Deep*. Brother Tony Randazzo, Sister Mary's natural and now spiritual brother, closed our meeting with prayer.

Today was a day to remember. May God bless and work with Sister Mary Bertolo. The brothers and sisters of the Inner City Branch are continuing to pray for those who have not yet made a covenant with God and for those who just did. May God bless you all.

Notice

Gospel News guidelines were mailed to all District Editors in November, 1994. They have several copies and were to mail a copy to each Branch and Mission in their respective District. If any Branch and Mission Editor or Presiding Elder has not received their copy, please contact your District Editor.

Brother Donald Ross
Editor

Ordination In Aliquippa, PA

By Marty Jumper and Karen Progar

Even before the Sunday services began at the Aliquippa Branch on October 2, 1994, the Lord confirmed our Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri's calling into His royal Priesthood. When the Ministerial Board met the previous Monday, tongues were spoken, reported Brother Paul Ciotti, visiting Evangelist from the McKees Rocks Branch. The interpretation was, "I am pleased with your work tonight." In addition to this confirmation, Brother Paul Ciotti told us that he was given to understand that Brother Paul Aaron's gift would be to strengthen and watch over the Church.

The building was nearly filled to capacity as the congregation sang, *Blessed Assurance*, to begin the service. Brother Brian Smith of the Monongahela Branch used I Nephi 13:37 and Alma 17th chapter as his scripture. He reminded us that truly they are blessed who bring forth the Lord's Zion and that when Ammon became a servant to the king and in his most humble state, this is when Ammon could show forth the power that God had placed upon the Church. We must say that we want to be a servant to labor for the Lord and wait for opportunities with great joy.

Brother Art Gehly, Pennsylvania District President, followed rejoicing to be part of the work. He emphasized that what we can do is only in and through Jesus Christ and that this holy calling has existed since the beginning of time.

After a lunch which was prepared by the sisters of the branch for the Aliquippa saints and visitors which included nearly twenty members of the Priesthood, we reconvened for our afternoon service and our brother's ordination. The afternoon service was opened by Brother Gary Martin of the Fredonia Branch. Brother Gary used Ephesians 4:7 as his text and explained how it does not matter what office we hold in the

Church. He continued stating that we are all equal and of one body, working together toward our goal.

Brother Jim Gibson read portions of the Priesthood responsibilities to the congregation and visiting Apostle Russell Cadman spoke regarding the Priesthood origin and expectations.

Brother Chuck Jumper washed brother Paul Aaron's feet, after which Brother Carl Frammolino offered a special prayer. Apostle Paul Palmieri had the privilege of ordaining his son, the third generation of his family to serve in the Priesthood.

We rejoiced when the word of the Lord came forth, "Receive my servant for I have prepared for you a laborer, thus saith the Lord."

After a beautiful communion, the dreams which our brother had relative to his calling were read by Aliquippa's Presiding Elder, Brother Joseph Ross. An experience which Brother Paul Palmieri had several years ago at a Pennsylvania campout was read. The experience occurred when several young brothers occupied the rostrum one meeting. The Lord spoke to Brother Paul Palmieri, telling him that Paul Aaron would be called into the Priesthood.

Several other experiences were related. Sister Carey Naro of Lorain, Ohio, shared an experience she had several years ago when Brother Mark Naro was ordained. In the experience she saw a rostrum filled with Priesthood members with Brother Mark and Brother Paul Aaron standing in front of the rostrum. In the experience, Brother Mark joined the brothers of the Priesthood and she was given to understand that Brother Paul Aaron would also join them. The confirmation of Brother Paul Aaron's calling came forth in many other wonderful dreams and experiences, which will surely uplift Brother Paul Aaron in his work.

We're Marching to Zion was used as our closing hymn and Brother Tom Ross offered the closing prayer. Brother Paul Aaron's family hosted a wonderful reception later in the evening.

Roscoe Branch

By Bertha Jean Bilsky

The disciples came to Jesus saying, "... Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven? And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me" (Matthew 18:1-5).

Many times we have witnessed through our children what Jesus meant in this scripture. Recently a little one in our branch, Holly Keeney, who is eight years old had to have her tonsils removed. Holly was very sick for a long time because of her diseased tonsils. Holly was blessed in The Church of Jesus Christ as a baby and always attended Sunday School faithfully. The night before her operation, Brother James Abbott and Brother John Bilsky went to visit her at which time Brother Jim anointed her. Little Holly said while she was being anointed she heard a voice tell her, "Holly, do not be afraid, I'll be with you." She said she knew it was Jesus speaking to her and his voice was so sweet.

The next day before the operation a nurse remarked to her how calm she was and asked her if she was afraid. Holly replied, "Why should I be afraid, Jesus is taking care of me." Of course Holly came through the operation very well and was back in church a week later with a beautiful smile, taking part in Sunday School.

We thank God for the beautiful experience of little Holly and the examples of faith and humility we have in our children, who are alive in Christ. We are reminded many times as we face the questions and problems of life, that we must be as the hymn says, *Like A Child*, believing that our Father is beside us, and trusting our Father each day.

Erie, PA

In the Erie Branch, we praise the Lord that two sinners have come home and are happy to welcome our two newest members. Brother Robert Dyer and Sister Jane Gross Daly were both raised under the sound of the Gospel as young children, being brought to church by their parents. Later in age, however, they faded away from God and into the world. Each has a beautiful testimony of how God knew their heart and brought them back to the fold.

Brother Bob was baptized on February 24, 1994 by Brother Joel Gehly and confirmed by his natural, and now spiritual brother, Rodney Dyer of Muncey, Canada. Although temperatures plummeted to a brisk ten degrees, the Lord provided a lovely spot for our new brother to go down into the waters of regeneration. Our hearts were warmed at the beautiful sight and we thank God for our many visitors who joined us in this day of celebration.

Prompted to visit the Church early in September, Jane came with an open heart, willing to search and commit, thus allowing the Lord to enter in and call her to the waters of baptism. We welcomed our new sister into the fold on Wednesday, September 28, 1994. She was baptized by Brother Joel Gehly and confirmed by Brother T. D. Bucci. The day was filled with terrible thunder and lightning storms but that did not dampen the spirit of the saints as we prayed for a clearing. Just as we gathered at church, the Lord saw fit to calm the angry storm. It was a beautiful, uplifting sight to behold and we thank God for our new sister.

On Sunday, October 2, 1994 we were especially blessed by a visit from Brother Joseph and Sister Vickie Calabrese. Brother Joe's sermon was centered around the topic of baptism. How wonderful and glorious to belong to and be a part of The Church of Jesus Christ. We pray that God will richly bless our new converts as they strive to serve Him to the best of their ability.

Sixty Years in The Church of Jesus Christ

By Stephanie Rado

The brothers, sisters, and friends of Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan, had the privilege of sharing in the celebration of our Brother Anthony Scolaro's sixtieth anniversary in The Church of Jesus Christ. How appropriate the opening hymn that was called by Brother Lou Pietrangelo, *Give of your best to the Master; Give of the strength of your youth*. Brother Anthony was fifteen years of age when he was called into the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

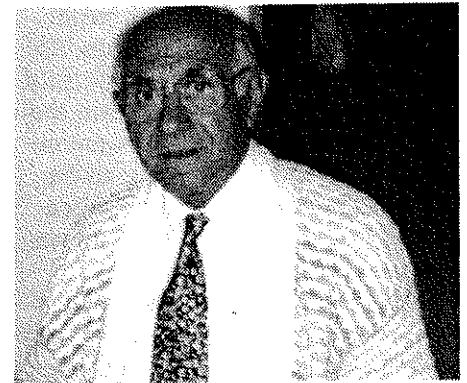
Brother Lou Pietrangelo opened our meeting by reading from the ninth chapter of Acts. This portion of Scripture tells us of Paul's conversion. Brother Lou went on to say, "How precious is our conversion. We have the privilege that the Lord has given us a portion of His Spirit and the ability to act on it. Who else can change the human heart? It's our purpose to be a witness to the Spirit of the Lord. Tell your testimony, tell what happened to you when you were converted." Brother Lou went on to say, "Do not rely on the arm of flesh, but lean upon the Word of God. When you eyes are opened, you will discover a source of energy and power you never knew before. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the most wonderful thing in your life."

Brother Anthony gave his testimony of sixty years in the Gospel. While at a conference in Lorain, Ohio on October 7, 1934, he was called. He could feel his heart beating. The Lord was knocking at the door of his heart. Brother Anthony leaped to his feet and asked for his baptism. Brother Anthony was baptized one week later on October 14, 1934 at Branch #1 in Detroit, Michigan. He was baptized by brother Matthew Miller and confirmed by Brother Joseph Gianzante. Brother Anthony went on to say that the Lord has been very

good to him. He met his beautiful wife, Sister Angela in the Gospel.

The Lord has been with him through many trials over the years. During World War II, he entered the Army has a conscientious objector. While in training, Brother Thomas Ross from the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch sent him a copy of the green Saints Hymnal when it was first published. Brother Dominic Moraco went to Brother Anthony's Army base camp to locate him. Brother Dominic found Brother Anthony; they prayed together and looked over the hymn book. Serving in the Air Evacuation Squadron as a medic transporting wounded soldiers, Brother Anthony saw many critically wounded and said, "No one wins wars and I thank God that He brought me back to this beautiful land of America."

Brother Anthony said, "I have



Bro. Anthony Scolaro

no regrets, the Lord has given me an indescribable peace that surpasses all understanding; it's a peace and comfort that only the Lord can give you. When we die, we just begin to live." Brother Anthony shared with us that during times of discouragement his wife has told him, "Don't be discouraged, that is what the devil wants us to do, to be discouraged."

Brother Anthony continued his testimony by telling us, "We never find the perfect situation in life, but we have everything to gain by enduring to the end. I have many fond memories and I thank God that He has brought me to this point in my life. It's my desire to be faithful

to the end."

Brother Anthony Scolaro was ordained an Elder on April 15, 1956. How grateful we all are to be able to share in this blessed celebration with our brother. May God continue to bless Brother Anthony all the days of his life.

MESSAGE continued . . .

INDIA

Traveling to India November 24-December 13 were Brothers Philip Jackson, Bryan Martorana, Steve Champine and Mike Nuzzi. They visited all church locations. Details of this trip will be reported next month.

Guatemala is under the Americas Missionary Operating Committee (AMOC), while the other locations reported in this issue are under the Foreign Missions Operating Committee (FMOC).

Readers will be happy to know that the Missionary Foundation Committee is planning to distribute a missionary newsletter periodically. The Missionary Foundation Committee was established by the General Church in October 1990.

Requests have been received in the past to learn more about the people in the fields, so it is hoped that this new publication will fulfill some of these requests and generally give some information about those being affected, as well. There is much work being performed by The Church of Jesus Christ in missionary fields around the world.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." This Scripture stirred him to ask God what church to join. A voice told him to join none of them for their creeds were an abomination in His sight. Joseph Smith was used by God to restore The Church of Jesus Christ. He is often and falsely

accused of suffering from fantasies and delusions. We must remember that while Joseph Smith was the principal figure in the Restoration, there were eleven, count them, eleven other witnesses to the precious plates! Not one of these witnesses ever recanted or withdrew his statement declaring the authenticity of the plates and the Book of Mormon. Their statements are found in the front of the Book of Mormon.

There is much more to serving God and Jesus Christ than "once saved, always saved" and "all you need is Christ in your life." The Scriptures teach us we must exercise faith, we must repent, we must be baptized by His authority, and we must have hands laid on our heads for the reception of the Holy Ghost. We are taught to love God above all and love our neighbors as ourselves. We are taught to be obedient and keep His commandments, not some of them, all of them! We are taught to endure to the end. We are taught to be perfect even as He was perfect. Sound impossible? It is not impossible because in Genesis 6:9 we read that *Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations*. Perfection comes through obedience to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Salvation comes through membership in The Church of Jesus Christ.

The bridegroom, Jesus Christ, will return for His bride, The Church of Jesus Christ. He will not return for His brides, His churches. They do not exist. He has only one! Jesus Christ makes this very point in John 10: 1-2, *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep."* There is one door, one shepherd, one church. Apostle Paul in Ephesians 4:5, said there is *"One Lord, one faith, one baptism."* There are not many of each, there is only one of each! There is only one church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

Full acceptance of Jesus Christ requires obedience to His Gospel and its principles! The Church of Jesus

Christ is His Gospel and its principles.

MBA HIGHLIGHTS continued...

weary. "It's true that life is hard at times, but we know that we believe in God, and we can't be afraid to show it! We have the responsibility to be bold and allow the world to notice us. The world will not notice us because we are strong or beautiful, but they will see that we carry the Love of God in a way that cannot be overlooked."

Brother Gary Ciccati continued with this message. He remarked that we really have to love to work for the Lord in order to actually get out there and do it. Taste that the Lord is gracious, and understand above all things that His love is unconditional. Unless you've tasted, and realize God loves you, you will not have the motivation to go out and do what is expected of us. We need to be Christ-like and gracious at all times. Brother Gary then quoted Proverbs 17:17, *"A friend loveth at all times."* God is our friend. What we have to remember is that we did not choose Him, He chose us. We just accept His offer. Brother Gary concluded by urging us to follow the example Christ set, and to love one another unconditionally.

As the weekend had come to a close, we were each faced with the task of getting back into the real world, and again becoming representatives of Jesus Christ. It is not easy to do without the strength of numbers, but our Friend is holding our hand through it all. I urge you to know who you are, and SHOW IT! Everywhere we go there are people who need Jesus. If you show who you are, someone may see something in you they have been looking for in their life. Take the chance and introduce someone to your Friend. We were not given the precious gift of The Church of Jesus Christ to hide it. We must share it. Get excited about God, and spread the joy that you have found. The Lord will bless you for it.

* WEDDINGS *

Brother Eric Yoder and Angela Miller were united in holy matrimony on September 10, 1994 in Imperial, Pennsylvania.

Antoinette Azzinaro and Timothy Payne were united in holy matrimony on October 15, 1994 in Lockport, New York.

Brother Ron Roy and Catherine Zaccagnini were united in holy matrimony on July 30, 1994 in Windsor, Ontario.

Brother Don Collison, Jr. and Carina Scarel were joined in marriage on August 13, 1994 at Windsor, Ontario.

Children Blessed

Matthew Pepe, Elena Pepe, and Julia Pepe, children of Brother Mike and Donna Pepe, were blessed on November 27, 1994 in Modesto, California.

Brittany Lynn Moxham, daughter of Jennifer D'Amico and Michael Moxham was blessed on October 16, 1994 in Lockport, New York.

Patrice Ann Burdick, daughter of Kevin and Marilyn Burdick, was blessed on October 16, 1994 in Lockport, New York.

Noah Jonathan Nieves, son of Brother Abraham and Sister Lynne Nieves was blessed on September 4, 1994 in Branch #1, Chesterfield, Michigan.

Christopher Seth Barnes, son of Christopher and Mari Barnes was blessed on September 11, 1994 in Windsor, Ontario.

Kaitlyn Carolyn Labute, daughter of Brother Brad and Sister Sylvie Labute was blessed on October 16, 1994 in Windsor, Ontario.

Baptism

Brother Justin William Cuomo was baptized on June 28, 1994 in Ligoneer, Pennsylvania by Brother Larry Henderson and confirmed by Brother Brian Martorana.

OBITUARIES

Sister Elsie Tucker of the Monongahela Branch passed away to her eternal reward on November 12, 1994. She was born on January 29, 1906. Sister Tucker is survived by a sister, Sister Alma Rouse, a brother, Brother Chuck Tucker, and many nieces and nephews, including Brother Alexander Cherry.

Sister Betty Perri of the Lake Worth Branch passed on to her eternal reward on November 23, 1994 at the age of eighty-two. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Eugenio Perri and her grandson, Eugene "Buddy" Perri. Sister Betty is survived by her sons, Brothers Joseph Perri and Eugene Perri, her daughter Lydia Mazzeo, two daughters-in-law, Mary and Florence and a son-in-law, Frank Mazzeo.

Sister Anna Progar passed away and on to her eternal reward on October 21, 1994 at the age of seventy-six. Left to mourn is her daughter, Karen, a son Frank and a daughter-in-law, Karen.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Notice

The editor of the Miami Branch, Sister Jill Kovacic, is offering tapes of their Sunday services at no cost to all interested individuals. This is especially appealing to shut-ins and others who cannot visit other branches and locations for various reasons. For the exchange of a good cassette tape and how often you return it, Miami Sunday services are available for your spiritual enlightenment. Postage and mailing will be provided and paid for by Sister Jill. You may take advantage of the offer by writing to:

Sister Jill Kovacic
16545 SW—144 Court
Miami, FL 33177

The Gospel News

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

March, 1995

Volume 51, No. 3

Proclamation

Dear Readers:

This letter is written to explain and affirm the belief of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ (headquarters at Monongahela, PA, USA) is a Church completely separate from any other church or religious organization. Our Church name may be similar to other organizations, however, we have completely separate beliefs and are not affiliated with any other church group. The Church of Jesus Christ is recognized and registered as a distinct church organization by the United States government. The Church of Jesus Christ is registered in several countries throughout the world. We state our basic beliefs for your understanding and reaffirm our desire to uphold the laws and requirements for a church wherever we are registered.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes first and foremost in the salvation of mankind through the atonement of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The scriptures teach and we believe that only by the

grace of God, can men and women live eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven. This atonement, or the covering of sin, is only possible through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. 1 John 2:1-2, states, *"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation [atonement] for our sins: and not for our's only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* This is the belief of The Church of Jesus Christ. We believe in one God, the eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

The Church of Jesus Christ believes in the spiritual restoration of the ancient people of God, the twelve tribes of the House of Israel. This belief is described in two records which we believe to be the Word of God; the Bible, and The Book of Mormon. We believe the Book of Mormon to be a record of one of the tribes of the House of Israel in the Americas. Jesus himself stated that there were other people of God throughout the world; *"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice . . ."* (John 10:16).

This record also proclaims Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the salvation of mankind through the atoning power of Jesus Christ. We are not, nor do we have the same faith and doctrine as other Restoration groups. We are completely separate and distinct in form and belief from these organizations. We believe that all of the lost tribes of the House of Israel will be brought back to the knowledge of the atoning power of Jesus Christ. The Church of Jesus Christ is active in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to many nations and tribes of people throughout the world.

The Church of Jesus Christ is registered in many countries to proclaim the knowledge of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and through Him the opportunity of eternal life. We seek only to offer spiritual knowledge and salvation to any and all of the many people throughout the world.

Dominic R. Thomas, President
The Church of Jesus Christ

Paul Palmieri, First Counselor
The Church of Jesus Christ

Robert A. Watson, Second Counselor
The Church of Jesus Christ

Young Decisions

By Brother Doug Obradovich

What Do I Wanna Be When . . .

What do you want to be when you grow up? Gonna go to college or trade school? Stay single or get married? Save or spend? Paper or plastic? Do you find yourself asking too many questions with too many choices with too many people?

You may not believe this, but at age 36, I still run into these same questions. Okay, I've answered the question of marriage. But at your age, these questions probably wake you from a sound night's sleep, steal your concentration and cause you to get speeding tickets (just trying to help you out when you show your parents that \$43.50 speeding ticket you hid in the folded envelope in the bottom of your glove department).

It's interesting that as we begin planning for our futures, we seem to focus on the temporal or natural needs. Did you notice any obvious omissions from those first questions? How about: Should I study the Bible or the Book of Mormon? Visit the sick or stay home and pray? Write a get-well card or call a weak member? Accept an office in the MBA or Sunday School?

Please know that I find answering the first set of questions very important. I'm just encouraging you not to allow them to take precedence over the second group. As you plan for your futures, consider every facet of your life. Desire. Determination. Dedication. Execution. Which set of questions receive your full desire? Which are you determined to answer first? Which get your complete dedication? To which do you work hard at until executed or completed?

Desire—"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"* (Matthew 6:33). Again, please understand that I see the importance of answering these questions, but gently remind you that if you prioritize them, you can

get everything! God first!!

Determination—"For God wills that shall be done with an eye single to His glory"* (Mormon 8:15). Whoa, now this is dedication. An eye single to His glory . . . one focus point; that being on accomplishing His will. Want it? Just do it!

Dedication—"And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength; this is the first commandment"* (Mark 12:30). He doesn't just want your desire and your single focus, He wants your heart, soul, mind and strength. He wants all of you! You ready to give it up? I know you are.

Execute—"They had waxed strong in the knowledge of the truth; for they were men of a sound understanding and they had searched the scriptures diligently, that they might know the word of God. And this was not all; they had given themselves to much prayer and fasting, therefore they had the spirit of prophecy, and the spirit of revelation, and when they taught, they taught with power and authority, even as with the power and authority of God"* (Alma 17:2-3). See, it isn't enough to give him your all, unless you follow it up with action. And is it worth it, the effort? Oh yes.

As you begin your search to discover "what you wanna be," keep your focus. Study your schoolwork. Make good choices. Consider your future. But hear these words of one individual who has enjoyed careers as: 1) Delivery Person (florist), 2) Cabinet-maker, 3) U.S. Mail carrier 4) Retail Salesperson (clothing), 5) Kitchen-installer, 6) Manufacturer's Representative, 7) Entrepreneur (waxing/washing autos), 8) Stockbroker, 9) Bank Trust Officer, 10) Bank Investment Consultant and 11) Sales Manager. Through all these "careers" I have maintained one constant—my call to serve Jesus Christ. And with this, I'm learning which are the most important questions. Hmmm, which should I read now, Bible or Book of Mormon?

50th Anniversaries

By Sister Judi Kincer

On July 3, 1994, the Lorain Ohio Branch celebrated the 50th spiritual anniversary of Sister Victoria Calabrese and Sister Katherine Cocco.

Sister Vicki was born August 31, 1918, blessed in the Church on November 8, 1931 and baptized on July 2, 1944 by Brother Patsy Fire and confirmed by Brother Vernon Chester. Even though she was five months pregnant at the time, she knew she made the right decision. Sister Vicki was ordained a deaconess on May 5, 1963 and is very active in the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

Although loving all of God's word and the Book of Mormon, she cites as her favorites, the 23rd Psalm, reading about Moses and David, and in the Book of Mormon she especially likes Mosiah and Alma. Her favorite hymns are *My God Thou Seest Me*, *First Love* and *God Understands*.

Sister Vicki and Brother Joseph Calabrese were married April 6, 1937 by Brother Leonard Alessio. They have five children, several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Sister Vicki sums up her life by saying, "All in all, I thank God for The Church of Jesus Christ. I also thank God that all my children and nine of my grandchildren are

(Continued on Page 8)



Sis. K. Cocco and Sis. V. Calabrese

Greetings in Christ



By Mark Randy

Words That We All Can Live By

- The greatest handicap—*fear*.
The easiest thing to do—*find fault*.
The most useful asset—*pride in workmanship*.
The greatest stumbling block—*egotism*.
The greatest mistake—*giving up*.
The most disagreeable person—*the complainer*.
The worst bankruptcy—*loss of enthusiasm*.
The meanest thing—*regretting other's success*.
The greatest need—*common sense*.
The best gift—*forgiveness*.
The greatest comfort—*work well done*.
The best day—*today*.

Our life holds the most valued experience. Each one of us can profit by our experiences, or take it as a happening, and lay it aside and go on and continue making mistakes. Some of us may repeat the same mistakes; we think it is a tragedy not to learn from our mistakes.

I had several benefits in my childhood and some setbacks. My mother allowed me to join the scouting organization. That was a great blessing to me. The Boy Scout system originated in England in

1910. Its founder was General Sir Robert Baden-Powell. It spread in Europe as it did in America.

I had the good fortune to be raised by Godly parents. Dr. Annania was the organizer in our little town of Cinisi Province, Palermo, Sicily. The Cub Scout was named in honor of an eleven year old boy whose name was Bolilla. The first thing I learned was duty, respect and honor.

The above twelve admonitions were part of the beginning of our duty and respect to *God, parents, and country*. They have helped me in my life. My beloved mother was my greatest teacher and later my beloved father who was an American. No way could I have succeeded in The Blessed Church of Jesus Christ. I bless our God who foreknew us and therefore prepared us to work. I thank my God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Each one of us owe to God, our parents, the schools and wise counselors. All of the above admonitions could be traced in the three loves, *duty, honor, and respect*. It's a golden rule; fifth, sixth and seventh chapters of Matthew; also the Apostle John, the beloved wrote, "*God is love*," John 4:16. Therefore, we, being His children, are governed by the *love of God*. Of all of the above admonitions, the gift of forgiveness is the *greatest*. Of what value is our religion if we can't forgive?

Our God, gave *His only Begotten Son as a Lamb*. God was watching and endured all the abuse against His beloved Son. I do not know how He could have endured. Yes, He suffered it till He heard His beloved Son cry, "*Eli, Eli, La'ma sabach thani? . . . My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?*" Matthew 27:46. Luke adds, "*Father forgive them; for they know not what they do.*"

Yes, forgiveness is the greatest! Is there someone you have not forgiven? If not, why not?

God bless you readers,
Brother Mark Randy

Note of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your many encouraging phone calls as well as cards and gifts of love, but most of all, your constant prayers in behalf of my sister, Dorothy Gilbert, and myself. Continue to pray for us as we are still in need of your prayers. May God bless all of you.

Sister Libby Rosemeier

* * * * *

Greetings and love to our dear family in the Lord. Our appreciation for your prayers and communications are very deep, as we thank you for many years of support. Many of you we haven't seen for some time now, and we deeply miss each of you. Our years in the service of God and in His beloved Church have been our very breath of life. We thank God daily for His miraculous care and love for us in both joy and sorrow. Affliction comes to us all, but, oh, how blessed are your prayers and support in our times of need. We pray for you all also. We grieve with you in your trials, and rejoice in all the good that comes to your lives.

For those of you who missed our change of address in the Gospel News last year, it follows. We still received all your cards wherever they were sent. They were all beautiful and uplifting to us.

Brother Gorie is struggling valiantly to get on his feet again. It is nothing short of miraculous how he survived this past year. He endured pneumonia twice, four broken ribs, another stroke and a heart attack. He is now receiving physical therapy so he can at least walk with a walker. He is also receiving voice therapy. We are so deeply appreciative of all your prayers in our behalf.

I am recovering also from my surgery and feeling stronger each day. We couldn't have done it

(Continued on Page 10)



Trip to India in Late 1994

By Brother Brian Martorana, Coordinator for India

Brothers Phil Jackson, Steve Champine, Mike Nuzzi, and I were privileged to travel to India from Pittsburgh, PA last November 25, arriving in Madras on Sunday afternoon, November 27. The prayers of all the saints throughout the Church and the expressions of love and support from the 30 brothers and sisters who had seen us off remained with us during the trip and our return home on December 13.

At the Madras Airport, the saints from three different branches greeted us warmly and provided transportation to our hotel. As we were going there, Brother Mike had a vision of two doves. Once we arrived at the hotel, Brother Babu (our elder in Madras) and his wife, Sister Merlin, told us their two daughters, Jesse and Snoby, desired to be baptized in our presence. We rejoiced to hear this and related the two doves to our new candidates.

Before our departure, we had been informed that Sister Merlin was suffering from a bleeding ulcer. That evening, Brother Phil was inspired to anoint our sister. A few days ago, I received a letter from Brother Babu who said that Sister Merlin is no longer suffering from this affliction.

TADEPALLIGUDEM

Early the next morning, we traveled from Madras to Tadepalligudem, nine hours by train. We

were greeted by Brother Solomon Livingston, who has diligently assisted us in the work of the Lord since the death of his father, Brother David Baer Livingston, whom God utilized greatly in establishing the Church in several villages. Brother Solomon shared two experiences with us in which God revealed His will to both him and Brother Yohan (another elder in the Church).

"After Brother Livingston's death, Solomon was about to take his inheritance from his father's estate and leave for another city to seek work because he was unemployed. The day before his planned departure, he received a telegram from Brother Phil (Chairman, Foreign Missions Operating Committee) and me, desiring his assistance in the Church work. Solomon felt God's Spirit and his desires changed. Instead of leaving, he has remained with his mother and labored among the established church locations."

"Shortly after Brother Livingston's death, Brother Yohan had a vision in which Brother Livingston appeared and told him that the work would go forward and that he would be the Presiding Elder of the Church. Just a few days later, Solomon visited him and told him the brothers from America desired that he be the Presiding Elder and the work was to proceed. Brother Yohan was greatly blessed because he thought the work of the Lord would

be stopped after our brother's passing."

That afternoon, there was a conference attended by 600 members and 100 non-members, including several village leaders. I was inspired to address the conference, using Alma 12:24 and emphasizing that this life is the time to prepare to meet God and to remain faithful in the Gospel to inherit a mansion above. In this service, Brother Solomon was ordained an elder. I was honored to wash his feet, and Brother Phil ordained him. God's direction and presence was felt throughout this beautiful day.

ERODE

Brothers Dev and Babu and their wives traveled with us to Erode. The Erode work had been established through one brother who desired to know about The Church of Jesus Christ and who wrote to Brother Joseph Calabrese for about one year before we visited him and his father during our trip in December 1991. Since that time, the membership has increased to almost 300 people.

Upon our arrival, we met with Brother Manuel, the Presiding Elder, and his wife, Sister Mary, a Church deaconess. During our stay, we established the Church in four new villages and baptized 32 people. About 100 persons of the new villages could not be baptized while we were there because they could not take leave from their jobs. Our resident elders were to baptize them thereafter.

One of the candidates who was baptized was Brother Manuel's son, Vincent, who is 32 years old and employed as a Physical Education teacher. He was eager to serve God and be a part of the Church. We also ordained four teachers, one deacon, and one deaconess.

AMBATTOR

We were able to visit Ambattor twice, which is approximately one hour from Madras by car and 20

(Continued on Page 10)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

What is charity? The dictionary's theological definition is: the love of man for his fellowman; brotherly love. This definition is very limited when compared to the Holy Scriptures, Bible and Book of Mormon. It does not capture the true meaning of charity. It does not capture the meaning and teachings of the Lord.

Jesus Christ said in John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* God sent His only Son into the world to give His life for all mankind. Jesus Christ gave His life willingly; not only for His Church, not only for His saints, but also for the sinner. That is charity! That is the love of God! Could we sacrifice one of our children? Could we sacrifice our life so someone else might live?

The Lord extended the love of God to the adulterous woman. He did not condemn her to an eternal life of misery. He did not cast her into the fire. He did not stone her to death. Jesus Christ said in John 8:11, *"Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more."* The Lord forgave her; He pardoned her; He gave her an opportunity to become a new creature. Would we have loved her and not judged her? Would we have forgiven her?

Jesus Christ instituted the ordinance of feet washing. This is found in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John. It states that the Lord washed His disciples' feet. This had to include Judas Iscariot! Could we have done what the Lord did and washed Judas' feet? Do we love the sinner? How deep is our love for the sinner? How much do we love the sinner? Do we pray for them in truth and in spirit? Do we make them feel welcome in our meetings? Do we diligently pray that God will change their lives?

Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians, 13th chapter tells us that all gifts, however excellent, are absolutely nothing without charity. We could speak with tongues of men and angels, but without charity, we sound like brass and tinkling cymbals. We could prophesy, we could know everything, we could possess faith to move mountains but if we do not have charity, we are nothing. We could feed the poor, give our bodies to be burned but without charity, it profits us nothing.

Moroni wrote the words of his father Mormon in Moroni, the 7th chapter, which states that charity is the pure love of Christ; it endures forever; and whoever is found possessed with it at the last day it shall be well with him. The words of Mormon and the Apostle Paul are very similar, almost identical. They were separated by an ocean! They were continents apart! They lived centuries apart! This is a marvelous example of the prompting of the Spirit of God. This is a wonderful example of the importance of charity.

The Book of Mormon, Moroni 7:46, instructs us to *"cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail."* Nephi informs us in II Nephi 26:30 that *"the Lord God hath given a commandment that all men should have charity, which charity is love. And except they should have charity they were nothing!"*

Nephi was full of love and concern for his people. He writes in II Nephi 33:3, *"For I pray continually for them by day, and mine eyes water my pillow by night, because of them; and I cry unto my God in faith, and I know that he will hear my cry."* Nephi's brothers, Laman and Lemuel, tried to destroy him. In spite of their reprehensible actions, he prayed for them; he loved them. We read in Nephi's writings, 1 Nephi 7:21, his statement, *"I did frankly forgive them all that they had done."* What a glorious spirit of forgiveness and love. Nephi loved his family, he loved his people, he loved the Jew

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock



What do you do when you are in the Lion's Den?

Dear Boys and Girls,

Sometimes when I'm praying with my daughter Leah, I'll hear one of us ask the Lord, "Don't let anything bad happen to us," as part of our prayers. Later I'll think about all the great followers of God in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Joseph was sold as a slave and thrown into prison, but God delivered him (rescued him) months, even years later. During the time he was in prison, as we read in Genesis 39:21, *"The Lord was with Joseph, and showed him mercy and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of prison."* The Lord was with Joseph, and whatever Joseph did, the Lord made it successful. Later, Joseph used everything he learned in prison to run the country of Egypt and save thousands upon thousands of people from starving to death.

Noah spent years of his life working with his family to build a huge boat many miles away from any big ocean. Then he began filling it with every kind of creature that lived upon the face of the earth. We can imagine how people must have laughed at him for being so different. The Bible tells us that the other people living at that time had hearts that were full of evil continually. I can imagine Noah patiently working, encouraging his sons, and praying with his wife.

After all of their work and years of effort, God's plan became clear. The evil people were drowned and swept off the earth. Noah's family,

who served God, were saved. For months they lived in the ark with the animals. Even then they must have worked hard feeding and caring for all the animals. They must have prayed and trusted God as their great boat bumped around in the dark waters. Yet God brought them through safely; God delivered them.

In the Book of Mormon, King Mosiah loved God greatly. But as his sons grew up, they began to do evil things. They let the evil one, that ugly devil, convince them to do wrong things. They even went so far as to try and get other people to follow their evil ways. We can imagine their father and mother's shame and heartbreak as they realized how far their sons had turned away from the good things they had been taught.

As the months passed, this good man of God, Mosiah, fasted and prayed to the Lord to change his sons. The Lord heard those cries and sent a mighty angel to shake the earth and give the young men the choice to stop their evil ways or die. They were awakened to the evil they had been chasing and repented. Later, God used all four young men to serve as missionaries and bring thousands to know God.

When Daniel served God, the Lord gave him much wisdom and power. He, like Joseph, worked for a king in ruling a nation. But other people were jealous of Daniel. They tricked the king into making a new law that said no one could pray or ask any man or God anything for one

month, or else they'd be thrown into a den (an underground cage) of lions. They knew that Daniel prayed to God openly three times each day, and would thus break the law. Can you imagine how Daniel felt when he heard of this new law? Sometimes I wonder if he thought maybe he should pray in a hidden spot, or pray in his heart. But Daniel trusted God's will and prayed openly.

When he was arrested and thrown into that dark, smelly hole full of dangerous lions he trusted God. Hour after hour passed and the Lord sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths; they never hurt Daniel. How he must have been rejoicing! The Lord can do all things.

(Continued on Page 11)

WORD SEARCH

TURN	LOVES
HE	YOU
SAVETH	DANIEL
THOSE	LIONS
CONTRITE	DEN
SPIRIT	JOSEPH
CRY	IN
UNTO	PRISON
THE	MOSIAH
LORD	NOAH
YOUR	DARK
GOD	WATER

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

MBA Highlights

Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout

By Lucetta Scaglione

SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND

The Pennsylvania Area MBA Campout began on Friday evening, September 16th at Antiochian Village. After every one present was registered, a short orientation meeting was held. Brother Rich Scaglione spoke to us about giving 100% of our service to the Lord. He said that if we continue to the end, we will be saved, *no ifs, ands or buts*. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri stated how excited he was to be at the campout and reminded us that if we *"SEEK first the kingdom of God all these things shall be added."* After the meeting was closed everyone stayed to fellowship and have refreshments.

Saturday morning started with a beautiful chapel service. Brother John Buffa told us that we should be here to receive God's blessings. That if we would ASK and SEEK with a positive spirit that we would FIND something special this weekend. After Brother John's words, we divided into our seminar groups.

From the reports that were given later in the day, everyone must have had a very good time in their seminars which were on the topic of *Seek and Ye Shall Find*. Saturday afternoon was spent playing sports, making crafts or just resting.

Saturday evening, the one hundred and eighty-five people registered plus many visitors gathered together to enjoy God's spirit. After the children sang several songs, Brother Brian Smith was the opening speaker. He asked us several questions. Who are we? Where are we going? What are our goals? What are the Church's goals? He said, "We are The Church of Jesus Christ and we should be proud of this. We need to have a vision. If we SEEK to bring forth His Zion, we shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost. The challenge goes out to each of us to FIND our place in the work of the Church. We sang, *If You Would Labor in Zion*, then Brother Paul Palmieri told us to be in the perfect will of God. He said that it requires a vision to look ahead and see salvation brought to the entire world. We should look forward to Zion but to get there, there is a lot of work to be done. The young people were called forward to sing and bear their testimonies. Brother Paul Ciotti offered a special prayer for all the young people.

A large crowd met on Sunday morning to enjoy a continuation of

the Word of God. Brother Art Gehly read from the 12th chapter of Luke. He told us we should desire to see God's kingdom fill the whole earth. When we SEEK the kingdom of God, we are seeking God's power. It is within our grasp to see this vision and have this hope. It is God's good pleasure to give us the kingdom. The gift of Zion is within us. Brother Bob Nicklow Jr. told us that if we have a vision, we have a course to follow. We should hold on to that vision of the kingdom of God. Seeking is the most active form of sight. To see is an act of nature but when we hunger and thirst for something, that is *seeking*. Brother Robert Pizzaia reminded us that Satan does not want us to enjoy the words of truth. We must be willing to take these truths to the world. Brother Bob Nicklow Sr. said that we have benchmarks in our lives. These are our blessings and testimonies that keep us on that right course. Several brothers and sisters were anointed and had hands laid on them. As Brother Pete Giannetti Jr. was being prayed for, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues.

Thanks were extended to Brother Tom Stroka and his committee members for all their efforts to ensure that we had a great and wonderful weekend. Our next campout will be held September 15-17, 1995.

Authority and Revelation

By Evangelist Timothy Dom Bucci

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

Authority, Webster's dictionary defines it as "a legal power or right." During His ministry, the scripture records that Jesus *"called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases"* (Luke 9:1). Jesus spoke to the eleven disciples before He made His final ascension

into heaven (to sit on the right hand of God the Father), saying, *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* This confirmed what was written by the Apostle John, *And hath given him [Jesus] authority to execute judgment also, because he is the son of man"* (John 5:27). Authority.

Jesus conferred the legal authority to the eleven saying, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"* (Matthew 28:18-19). The Apostles then conferred the authority on others to build up The

Church of Jesus Christ. Apostle Paul refers to this in his letter to the Corinthians: *"For though I should boast somewhat more of our authority, which the Lord has given us for edification"* (II Corinthians 10:8). Authority is essential.

We of The Church of Jesus Christ believe that the authority Jesus and Paul spoke of was withdrawn from the earth about A.D. 560. It was restored in 1829, May 15, when Joseph Smith, Jr. and Oliver Cowdery went out to pray concerning authority in the woods of western

(Continued on Page 11)

ANNIVERSARIES continued . . .

baptized." Sister Vicki's goal is to continue to love and serve the Lord to the best of her ability all the days of her life.

Sister Katherine Cocco was born May 31, 1930, baptized in the Church at the tender age of 14 years on October 8, 1944 in Detroit, Michigan after she had gone to a conference there with her father, Brother Joseph Maselli. After hearing about the wonderful love of God, she was overcome with the spirit of repentance and couldn't wait for the hymn, *My God I Am Thine* to end so she could ask for her baptism.

Sister Katie was ordained a deaconess on September 22, 1974. She has held several offices in the Lorain Branch. Sister Katie has several favorite scriptures which include the Book of Mormon, Moroni 7:26-30; in the Bible, John 13:34-35, and John 14:2. Some of her favorite hymns are, *I Surrender All*, *Where He Leads Me I Will Follow* and *In Thee Do I Live*.

Sister Katie and Brother Mike Cocco were married on September 24, 1949 in The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Alfred Dominico. They have three children and several grandchildren. Sister Katie's desire is to love and serve the Lord all the days of her life.

May God continue to bless our sisters, use them for His honor and glory and may they always be a help to those who stand in need.

By Brother James G. Speck, Sr.

On July 30, 1994, Sister Marie McGuire celebrated fifty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. The Lake Worth Florida Branch commemorated the event on August 3, 1994.

Sister Marie McGuire was born in 1929. She was blessed and raised in the Church. Sister Marie was baptized on July 30, 1944 by Brother Gorie Ciaravino and confirmed by Brother Charles Breci, deceased. Many wonderful experiences can be

related by Sister Marie. Her first major experience occurred in 1945.

During the summer of 1945, Sister Marie was visiting the Church in Glassport, Pennsylvania. At the conclusion of her visit, she went to the train station to return home. Sister Marie boarded the train and as she approached her reserved seat, a man was sitting in it. He was very pleasant looking, dressed neatly in old-fashioned burlap clothing. Sister Marie was timid and didn't want to hurt his feelings. As she neared her seat, he motioned for her to sit down.



Sister Marie McGuire

He moved over by the window to give her room to sit. Thoughts raced through her mind; who was he and why was he sitting in her seat? What did he want and why was he so gentle?

A few moments after sister Marie sat down, he patted her arm gently and spoke to her in a very soft voice. He told Sister Marie he was sent for a purpose and for her not to be afraid. He went on to say he would not harm her and would tell her everything very shortly. The man told Sister Marie to do everything he said. She was obviously frightened at the time, then she felt a calmness come over her entire body. She looked at him; he smiled gently and spoke gently. The man told Sister Marie he was there on a mission. He had some instructions for her to follow.

The man proceeded to tell Sister Marie that the train she was on was going to crash, there would be many

people hurt and if she did what he said, she would not get hurt, not even a scratch! Her heart began to race and as if he knew how she felt, he assured her that she had nothing to fear. He said he was there to protect her. The man said he was going to leave and go to the rear of the car. He explained that when he nodded, Sister Marie was to get up and to wash her face; come back and take her seat. He got up and left. Sister Marie stood up, looked at him, he nodded his head. She did what he told her to do. She returned to her seat and he was still in the same position in the rear of the car.

The train was moving slowly in the yard and as the train's speed increased, Sister Marie felt a strong, fierce jolt. The train had crashed! People were everywhere, on the floor, screaming and crying. Sister Marie turned her head and saw the gentle man smiling and nodding his head. He then disappeared immediately, right before her eyes! The crash was caused by a faulty rail switch which resulted in a head on crash with another train.

Sister Marie's testimony is that the Lord sent His messenger to watch over her and protect her in this tragedy and ordeal. She thanks God for watching over her throughout her life. Sister Marie states that God has been very gracious to her and her family. Her desire is to serve Him all the days of her life; to prove faithful and endure to the end.

**You've Heard All About It...
Now's Your Chance To Be
Part Of It!**

Youth In Action '95

Young person age 15 or older?
A free week or two next summer?
Put it to use for the Church!
Send name and address to:

**Brother Jerry Valenti
811 Lillian Lane
Warminster, PA 18974**

Sister Jane Glackin's Testimony

By Brother Alex Robinson

(The following is the testimony of Brother Alex Robinson's great-grandmother, Sister Jane Glackin, from the late 1800's. Brother Alex Robinson never met his great-grandmother. She died four years before he was born. Sister Jane Glackin lived the last years of her life with Brother Alex's grandmother, Catherine (Glackin) Beitler who was her youngest daughter. Sister Jane Glackin was a nurse, midwife and medical practioner in Zion Valley (now St. John) among the families of the saints; often being gone several days at a time when attending a critical condition. Her faith in William Bickerton was without reservation, and she and her husband accompanied him to Kansas in 1875, homesteading and building a sod house about one mile south of St. John. This testimony is as it was rehearsed to Brother Alex Robinson

many times. Her testimony does reveal the manner in which our Lord has kept His hand on His Church—Editor's note.)

My great-grandmother, Jane Glackin, had an experience about the Church while a young woman in Glasgow, Scotland, her native land. She heard the Restored Gospel preached by early Church missionaries on the streets of Glasgow. She was introduced to the Book of Mormon and felt an unaccustomed stirring within her soul as she listened to their words of God's latter day revelation. In presenting the Book of Mormon, the Elder told her, "Don't take my word for it. Ask the Lord and He will reveal to you whether the words we have preached are from God or man."

This she did and following had a dream in which she found herself

being taken into the basin of a little waterfall by a man whom she had never seen. He raised his hand toward heaven and spoke, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

Several years later and with most of her family grown, they immigrated to America, settling in the small town of Stockdale, Pennsylvania and among many families of coal miners, some of whom were members of The Church of Jesus Christ. She was invited by them to attend a conference at Little Redstone Falls, and when someone requested baptism, she joined them in going to the water. There she heard the same words and immediately recognized the falls as that seen in her dream in Scotland many years before. She too requested baptism and remained faithful the rest of her life. Her name is recorded in the membership of the Little Redstone Falls Branch in the early 1870's.

Branch and Mission News

A Summer of Blessings Saline, Michigan

By Peter Oestreich

The summer of 1994 brought many blessings to the Saline Michigan Branch. Several of its young people were baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

On May 29, Lynette Buffa, teenage daughter of Brother Bill and Sister Janet Buffa, was attending Branch 2 when a strong feeling came over her. Lynette had been thinking about baptism for a while, and had not experienced such a strong feeling since the previous Ohio Campout. Something Brother Alex Gentile said that morning had a profound effect on her, "We pick and choose what we want in life, but how many of us

choose the Lord. If you have been thinking about baptism and haven't done anything about it, WAKE UP!" That same morning, Dino DeMelis asked for his baptism. Lynette then knelt in prayer, was prayed on, and Brother Alex knelt by her. She then knew this was her day, and asked for her baptism.

Members of Branch 2, Saline and other branches then met at Edison Lake to witness the baptism. Lynette was baptized by her uncle, John Buffa, after which everyone returned to Branch 2, where Sister Lynette Buffa received the Holy Ghost by having hands laid on her by Brother Leonard Lovalvo. This was truly a day of rejoicing. "It was the happiest day for me," said Sister Lynette. "I knew in my heart this is what I wanted."

Peter, Lynette's younger brother, barely thought about baptism before GMBA Campout, June 25-July 1, 1994. Peter always said his sister was more spiritual than he was. During campout, however, he began to seriously think about it, and after much soul searching, deliberation, and prayer, asked for his baptism at the water's edge on June 30. Peter was baptized by his uncle, John Buffa, and had hands layed upon him for reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother John Straccia. Peter loves the Saline Branch, and hopes and prays it will grow.

Nephi DeMercurio Jr., son of Brother Nephi and Sister Lorraine DeMercurio, also asked for his baptism at campout. According to Nephi, who had been contemplating baptism for two to three years, "All my excuses ran out, and if I didn't ask for my baptism then, I never would have." Nephi chose not to be baptized at campout, preferring to

(Continued on Page 10)

SALINE continued . . .

return home where he was baptized by his father on July 3, and confirmed by Brother Alex Gentile. In attendance at Nephi's baptism were Brother Ken Staley and his family from Florida, and many other brothers and sisters from Saline, Branch 3 and other branches.

On August 28, Renee Ostrander, daughter of Brother Harold and Sister Rosanne Batalucco, was baptized in Edison Lake by her uncle, Bro. Jim Cotellesse. Besides members from Saline, there were also visitors from Branch 2 and Branch 4. Immediately afterwards, everyone returned to the Saline Branch where Renee had hands laid on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost by Brother Anthony R. Lovalvo, her grandfather. Renee testified that God had always been good to her, and baptism was her way of paying him back. Renee had made her intentions known earlier that week, which came as a surprise to family and friends. Renee and her husband, Craig, frequently discussed their spiritual life, and Renee had made her baptism a matter of prayer.

The summer of 1994 brought many blessings to the Saline Branch. We gained three new brothers and sisters, and saw a loved one return to California, a sister in Christ.

Freehold, NJ

By Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

Once again we gathered at the lake to baptize another soul from the seed of Joseph into the Church. Laura Navarro asked to be baptized, wanting to join her husband, Brother Adrian in serving God.

A week before her baptism, Sister Laura was sitting at work in a meeting when suddenly a man behind her leaned up to her and whispered, "I know that you are going to be baptized!" Shocked, she responded, "Yes!" She then asked him what church he belonged to. He said, "The Church of Jesus Christ!" She thought he was a brother from

another branch. When she turned around a few minutes later to look at him again, he had disappeared. After hearing this experience in our meeting we felt strongly one of the Three Nephites had appeared to our sister. There were other experiences and visions. At the baptism, two young boys, about four years old who were not standing near each other, both saw a bright light come down upon her and Brother Jim Crudup who was baptizing her, but no one else saw the light.

On Thanksgiving weekend, we were privileged to have returning to our branch Brother Miquel Bicelis from Homestead, Florida. When he was here last July, he assisted in teaching the *Songs of Zion*, especially to our Spanish speaking congregation, having been gifted with the ability to accurately do the translations. Upon leaving in July, his flight was overbooked and the spirit spoke to him and told him to give up his ticket, which means the airline gave him a free ticket to use at a later date. He was prompted to return to Freehold, New Jersey in November. Brother Miquel labored very hard the entire time he was here, teaching the songs, speaking to our brothers and sisters and their families who are not members of the Church, and translating our entire Sunday meeting—even the testimonies in both languages.

What a beautiful weekend it was, showered with beautiful visions, dreams, and testimonies. Many of our members testified that after the songs and the experiences surrounding the songs were explained in Spanish to them, they felt as if a light had been turned on in their spiritual lives. They realized that God truly is still on his throne, and loves us enough to continue to speak to us in these last days. One vision a sister had while we were closing in prayer was that she saw a light jutting forth through rocks and hills and even through trees. She saw Satan try to stop the light with a net, but couldn't. We know the Gospel will soon jut forth, ". . . for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

THANKS continued . . .

without God's care upon us and the prayers of our faithful brothers, sisters, and friends. We thank God also for the daily devoted care of our children and grandchildren. They have been a blessing to us and we pray God will repay them with His richest blessings and a long healthy life. We love you all and embrace you in the love of our Lord. Our home address is 17429 Indian, Redford Township, Michigan 48240, telephone 313-533-6662. At present, Brother Gorie is a patient at Botsford Continuing Health Center at 21450 Archwood Circle, Farmington Hills, Michigan 48336-4702.

Sister Antoinette Ciaravino

MESSAGE continued . . .

minutes from our Church in Ayalur. Brother Stephen, Presiding Elder, and his wife, Sister Mercy, are dedicated in telling others about the Lord, and they hold meetings in their house every Sunday and Friday morning. Brother Stephen related two experiences to us which witness to the power of God.

"One woman whom we met at Stephen's house had asthma. After our brother anointed her, she was healed and wanted to be baptized. She had another problem which was healed during baptism. She is now a faithful member of the Church."

"A woman who was sitting on a bus next to Sister Mercy was pregnant with twins, but one was not well. Brother Stephen prayed for her and gave her his address. Later, the woman visited our brother and sister and testified that she had delivered two healthy babies."

On our first trip, we were delighted to meet brother Stephen's father and mother whom he baptized earlier this year. We also met Sister Mercy's father who is not yet a member. As Brother Stephen closed our meeting in prayer, Brother Mike saw a light from heaven which

descended in the middle of the living room.

During our second visit, we witnessed nine baptisms—three were from Ambattor, four from Madras, two from Ayalur. In this service, people completely filled the home and many were standing on the porch and in front of the house. The Lord truly blessed us that evening, as we exhorted to the congregation and bestowed the Holy Ghost upon our new candidates.

OTHER SERVICES

We also were able to attend an evening service in Bangalore and Sunday meetings in Madras and Ayalur. In each area, we found men, women, and children who are hungry and thirsty for the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, many people in India will never have the chance to know about the Lord Jesus; however, we continually solicit your prayers that God will utilize us and our people in India to reach out to those who have a desire to serve the Lord.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

and he loved the Gentile. His love did not discriminate. Nephi's love for mankind had no boundaries. He was confident that he would meet many, not a few, many souls in the kingdom of heaven.

Are our pillows wet? Are our prayers cries for the sinner? Do we love our fellow man that regardless of where the Lord sends us, we will go?

Charity, the pure love of Christ, is the greatest gift of all. Charity never fails. Charity does not criticize. Charity does not find fault. Charity does not gossip. Charity does not judge. Charity does not want its own way. Charity prefers others, not one's self. Charity creates meekness, kindness, lowliness of heart, humility, long suffering and goodness. What a wonderful and blessed gift. May we be full of charity.

The Lord commanded us to love one another even as He loved us. There are those who have made mistakes. Some have stumbled along the way. May we always remember that Jesus Christ still loves them. His arms are open to them. Our spiritual growth and welfare is based on our charity towards them and the whole world. We represent The Church of Jesus Christ which is the hope of the world. We must have charity to be a positive influence on the world. To overcome the world, we must have charity. For the Church to move forward, we must have charity. For our branches and missions to grow, we must have charity.

Apostle Paul stated in Colossians 3:14, "*And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.*" Let us be in the bond of perfectness. Let our first fruit of the spirit be love. Let us love one another. Let us love all people. By the love we show towards one another, towards our God, towards our neighbors, may all the world know that we are His disciples.

CORNER continued . . .

So sometime, somewhere, when you or someone you love are in your own kind of lion's den, your own prison, or on dark stormy waters, remember Psalms 34:17 & 18, "*The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth and delivereth them out of all their troubles . . . he saveth those who have a contrite spirit [those who are sorry for what they've done wrong].*" Call on God, tell Him you are sorry for the things you have done wrong. He loves you and hears your prayers.

AUTHORITY continued . . .

New York and a messenger of God appeared. The messenger said, "*In the name of Messiah I confer this Priesthood and this authority, which will remain upon the earth, that the*

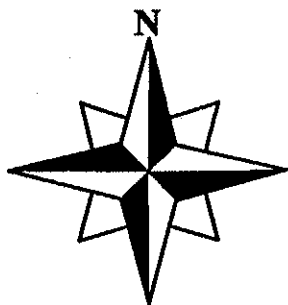
sons of Levi may yet offer an offering unto the Lord." This same authority continued after Joseph Smith through Sidney Rigdon, William Bickerton, and William Cadman Sr., all the way down to our day and time.

I would like to share with you a revelation I had concerning authority and confirming the faith of The Church of Jesus Christ. At about 5:30AM on January 12, 1984, I had a dream. I awakened and meditated on the dream. I said, "I must remember the dream; it is good." I fell asleep again and awakened about 6:30 AM and thought about the dream, however, I could not remember it except for the words that I heard, "Having given the authority of Jesus Christ."

On January 30, 1984, early in the morning, I had the following dream. It seemed that I was going to attend a conference. I was seated at a table and seated about this table were about six or seven women. I addressed them saying, "I had a wonderful experience several weeks ago, but I cannot remember the entire dream. However, I do remember these words, 'Having given the authority of Jesus Christ.' The women seemed unconcerned and began talking with one another. I became perturbed and in a firm voice said, 'Ladies, having given authority of Jesus Christ.' Then I said, to them, 'I must get to conference, but I don't have a car.' One of the women seated next to me said, 'You can have my car.'"

Jacob states "*Behold, great and marvelous are the works of the Lord. How unsearchable are the depths of the mysteries of him; and it is impossible that man should find out all his ways, and no man knoweth of his ways save it be revealed unto him; wherefore, brethren despise not the revelations of God*" (Jacob 4:8). Moroni declares, "*And again I speak unto you who deny the revelations of God and say they are done away, that there are no revelations, nor prophecies, nor gifts, nor healings, nor speaking with tongues, and the interpretation of tongues; Behold, I*

(Continued on Page 12)



Do You Know Which Direction

Your Life's Heading?

Let His Spirit Take You *South* For:

GENERAL LADIES' CIRCLE RETREAT

on
June 1st - 4th 1995

at
The DoubleTree Hotel
Dallas, Texas

*** WEDDING ***

Rachel Elisabeth Mott and John Sprague Yeager were united in holy matrimony at a lovely evening service in Kinsman, Ohio on Friday, December 30, 1994.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Children Blessed

Tyler William Weltz, son of Walt and Becky Weltz of Scottdale, Pennsylvania, was blessed on December 11, 1994 at the Vanderbilt Branch.

John Eric Armstrong, son of Sister Dora and John Armstrong, was blessed on November 20, 1994 at the Lorain Ohio Branch.

Matthew Scott Snodgrass, son of Bill and Sister Shelly Snodgrass was blessed on November 27, 1994 in the Monongahela Pennsylvania Branch.

Timothy Lee Glover, Jr., son of Timothy and Melissa Glover of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was blessed on December 25, 1994 at the Vanderbilt Branch.

Christian William Graham, son of Susan Graham, was blessed on November 27, 1994 in the Imperial Branch.

Joseph Charles Young, Jr., the nephew of Sister Ernestine Hammond, was blessed on September 18, 1994 at the Edison New Jersey Branch.

Stephanie Marie Crupi and Joseph Salvatore Crupi, stepchildren of Sister Margaret Crupi, were blessed on September 25, 1994 at the Edison New Jersey Branch.

OBITUARY

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

John Giovanni of Youngstown, Ohio passed away to his eternal reward on October 29, 1994. He was the son of Brother John Sr. and Sister Theresa Giovanni.

AUTHORITY continued . . .

say unto you, he that denieth these things knoweth not the gospel of Christ; yea he has not read the scriptures; if so, he does not understand them" (Mormon 9:7-8) Amen!

God gives us revelations to confirm our Faith and Doctrine (and authority), and let the world know that we have the pure and unadulterated gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. *"And the Holy Ghost giveth authority that I should speak these things, deny them not" (1 Nephi 10:22).*

The Gospel News

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

April, 1995

Volume 51, No. 4

The Missionary Endeavors of Sister Evelyn Perdue

By Sister Mary R. Lovalvo

The first time I met Sister Evelyn Perdue was in September 1947. We had just arrived in California after a long exhausting trip from Detroit, Michigan. My husband, V. James Lovalvo, had often told me about her determination to be baptized in The Church of Jesus Christ, and that she was of a Jewish parentage. Now to find out that she—of the Tribe of Judah—was marrying Edward Perdue of the Tribe of Joseph, another Israelite, was more than a coincidence. My husband and I were overwhelmed; a Jewess and a Josephite were getting married! Isn't this symbolic of what The Church of Jesus Christ believes? Judah and Joseph (including the rest of the House of Israel) together with the Gentiles shall, in the last days, build the House of the Lord in the New Jerusalem, upon the land of America. Sister Evelyn and I became fast friends. I loved to hear her testimony. Nobody could say, "Jesus Christ, my Lord" as she did in her testimony.

She worked in downtown Los Angeles as a secretary, and I

worked two blocks away as an assistant designer, at a place where they made ladies' designer suits for Saks Fifth Avenue. We met several times during lunch hour and as we conversed, her love for Jesus Christ, our Lord never ceased to amaze me. I shared her love for the Lord, and when I would say, "Evelyn, when you mention the name of Jesus Christ, I am overwhelmed with blessings," her reply was "Mary, dear Mary."

Our friendship and relationship had grown to a beautiful level. Once, she did not see me at lunch hour or at Church, and upon inquiring, was told that I had taken a leave of absence to take care of my daughter who was sick with pneumonia. Immediately, she and Brother Eddie came to visit us. That was a night to remember. She handed me a check with my name and her signature on it. She told us that when she heard of our Priscilla's illness, she went to God in prayer for us. That night, she had a dream in which the Lord told her to give us some financial assistance. At that time, I had not worked for over a

month, and my husband had a job in which he earned two-thirds less than he did in Detroit. As Sister Evelyn presented the check, she said, "We have \$500 in the bank. You may write any amount up to \$500, or take all of it." We looked at both of them, overcome at their generosity. And blessed Eddie; he did not say much, but his love for us was evident. "Love, such love!"

I shall never forget that night. We prayed together and shared many experiences. Then I turned to Evelyn (dear Evelyn) and said, "God came in your dream, and sent you here because we feel alone and forgotten in California. Now this show of affection from both of you is all I needed, and knowing also that God sent you to us. I will not accept this check now because I am hoping that God will heal my daughter, and I will go back to work soon. But if I need some money, I will ask you for it."

Shortly afterwards, I had a dream in which I saw Brother Perdue with his feet planted on a high hill. With his arms outstretched, he was calling to his people (the Seed of Joseph) to come to Jesus Christ the Lord. At that time, I was not acquainted with his people. When I related this experience to Sister Evelyn, she laughed, saying, "Eddie?

(Continued on Page 3)

Apostle's Insights

Get into the Mainstream

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

The question is being asked by many, "Is there something that I can do to help move the Church in a forward direction?" The answer comes crisp and clear, "Yes, there is." In order to feel the forward movement of the Church you must get into the mainstream for this is where the action is.

"How do I condition myself to find this, and how do I know when I have found it?"

In answer to the first question, the conditioning begins by draining all of self from your life and in its place fill it with complete and selfless dedication. This requires the pulling out of the many comfort-



Apostle Robert A. Watson

able alternatives that we run for when the strength of our commitment is tested. We must capture the vision of the Church and be willing to be disciplined and marshalled in this great army of Christ. The Apostle Paul in speaking to Timothy

gives us an insight of this conditioning in II Timothy 2:3-5: "*Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. And if a man also strive for masteries yet is he not crowned except he strive lawfully.*"

Paul uncovers the human pattern that evolves when a breakdown occurs in our conditioning. It is the entangling of oneself in the affairs of the world. This conditioning is not predicated on our moods and depressions. We cannot afford the luxury of moving in comfort and of traveling at the price we want to pay. We must submit ourselves to the admonition of Christ, "*Deny yourself. Take up your cross and follow me.*" This means insulating ourself against our moods and depressions; it means the desire to move not only in comfort, but also in adversity; it means that we do not set the price we "want" to pay but God has His own bookkeeping system and He sets the price we "must" pay.

Perhaps by now you are becoming a little uneasy in this conditioning program. It could be that you are spiritually out of shape. You have not exercised the inward man, but merely catered to the whims and lusts of the outward man. For you to measure the distance you are today from the mainstream of the Church may require a painful yet necessary and honest evaluation of your efforts. If you will begin right now and start on this conditioning program you will soon experience a gravitational pull towards the center of church activity.

In answer to the second part of the question, "How will I know when I have reached the mainstream of the Church?" You will experience some of the following.

An excitement will pervade your whole mind, body and soul. The promises to Israel will not be a distant fading hope; but a thing of the now. An almost uncontrollable feeling will live with you constantly,

that any day could bring with it the beginning of a great marshalling of God's covenant people. You will almost begin in your spirit to look for material on a daily basis needed for the building of the New Jerusalem. When this excitement awakens you in the morning, when this excitement is the last thought on your mind before going to sleep at night; brothers and sisters, you will have now found the mainstream of the Church.

To many this may just represent a few words that will soon be forgotten, but to others it represents a challenge that deserves further thoughts. They say, "Now that we have found the mainstream what can I specifically do?" Let me preface my answer by saying either lead, follow, or get out of the way. The Church has been filled for too long a period of time with all kinds of stumbling blocks placed in her pathway by minds that have been stagnated with fear and intrepidity. To many the thunderous roar of the crowd is heard with reverberating echoes. "It is not time, wait, the day will come." They seem to feel that by pushing the work to a future day it will act as a catharsis to numb the pain of a pricked conscience. Yet the cry comes loud and clear, "Work while it is yet day for the night soon cometh when man can work no more." Yes, it is time to work harder in our Branches, our Districts and our General Church. Get all excited to do something you have thought about doing for a long time, but never had the courage to do it. Stand solidly behind the brothers and sisters that are breaking open new frontiers for the Church. Take a new look at yourself and your Church and if you are not now in the mainstream of the Church, don't let another day pass before you begin the conditioning program.

I will conclude with a sign that I saw in front of a church while traveling through the countryside in England which said, "I was looking for a new church until I found out that my old church was looking for a new me."

PERDUE continued . . .

He's not inclined to hold a conversation very long, let alone preaching." She was soon to learn how well the Lord blessed her husband's words.

In the process of time, Sister Perdue had surgery performed on her back, from which she was not recovering. To get a little rest, she had to sleep on a lounge chair. As she was praying one night for relief from her pain, the Lord spoke to her saying, "Evelyn, if you are willing to work for Me, I will bless you." Immediately, she asked, "Lord what is the work You want me to do?" In that instant, she remembered my dream, and told the Lord that she would work for Him.

Shortly thereafter, Sister Evelyn and Brother Eddie started to work among the Mexican people in Los Nietos. After that, there was an opening to preach in Tijuana, Mexico. They went there and worked diligently day and night among the people. Soon, they moved there, and also suffered affliction and persecution there.

One afternoon, they came to visit us, driving many miles to do so. As soon as I opened the door, I asked, "What are you doing here? You were both in my dream last night." A short while after they entered, I said, "I saw you both on a dusty hill, and Eddie was digging. Wherever he dug, water sprang out. Little children came and drank from the water. With the help of other elders, Brother Eddie built walls around this clear, clean water. I saw the children also swim in the water. It was a joy to behold." After I related my dream, it seemed to renew their hope.

During their visit, my husband anointed Sister Evelyn for her affliction. By the time they left, she was feeling much better. When they took their leave of us, I thought, "The Tribe of Judah and the Tribe of Joseph going back to Tijuana with more determination to fulfill that which the Lord had commanded them to do." Brother Eddie, blessed man, had as much determination and

resolve to work for God as his wife.

Eventually, a church was built on the same hill that I had seen in my dream. Sister Evelyn asked us to go to the dedication of the church and celebrate the event with them. As we entered Tijuana, on the day of dedication, and saw the hill (of my dream), I stood in amazement; I couldn't believe my eyes. There also was the church filled to capacity with the sound of beautiful singing echoing all around. It was wonderful, full of joy and gladness.

Brother Eddie's preaching was a blessing; full of God's Spirit and authority. Sister Evelyn was like a mother to all. I could see that they were seeking direction from her; something that she did with a willingness born of love for the people. With Brother Eddie at the helm, the work among the Seed of Joseph grew rapidly.

At that period of time, the General Church sent my husband to do some missionary work. When we returned, we ventured into a new business, and, being low on funds, we decided not to take any more trips for a while. But shortly, we heard that a new church building was going to be dedicated among the Seed of Joseph in Ahome, Mexico. "Oh, how we would like to go," my heart cried. But we could not close our office; it would be lunacy to do so.

A few days before a group of brothers and sisters were preparing to leave for Sinaloa (where the new church was situated), I received a call from Sister Evelyn whom I had not seen for a long while. It was good to hear her voice. After the salutations, she said, "Are you and Brother Jim ready to leave and see the fulfillment of your dreams?" Oh, how I wanted to tell her "Yes." Instead, I said, "Not this time; maybe in a couple of years. It's financially impossible now." We said our good-byes, expressing our hopes to see each other soon.

The next day, an air mail, special delivery envelope arrived containing a cashier's check in sufficient amount for two airplane

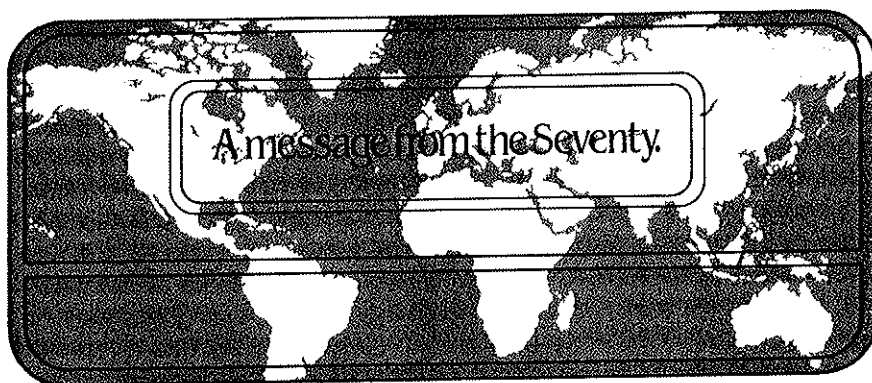
round-trip tickets and enough for food and hotel accommodations. In the envelope was also enclosed a beautiful letter in which she stated the importance of my husband's and my attendance at this dedication. She continued saying that the check was a loan, and to use all of it or as much as we needed. "Your presence is a must," she concluded.

She must have been inspired to send us a check, and the Lord was preparing a blessing for us in Mexico, for after reading the letter to my husband, (in unison) we said, "We are going." We decided also, to return the check to Sister Evelyn, and use our credit card again. My husband said, "Let's do it, we can't get any lower financially."

Because of the lack of time, and not being informed regarding permission to travel in Mexico, we were found without a visa at the Mexican Airport. Many of our church members who were going to Sinaloa were permitted to go through the gate because they had visas. We were detained and asked to step to one side, and be ready to be sent back to the USA. My husband and I were speechless.

Brother Eddie and Sister Evelyn stepped up to the Immigration Officers and pleaded with them to let us enter the land of Mexico, telling them that it was important that we be approved, as my husband was a Minister and we were going to a church dedication in Sinaloa. The officer called his supervisor who, after listening to him and to my nephew, Sam Randy, also appealed to him in our behalf, shook his head, denying us entry, saying he could not break the law. He started to leave, apparently bored with the insistence of the three members speaking in our favor. Suddenly, he turned back and signed his name, permitting us to pass through. We thanked the Lord for His intervention, otherwise we would have had to return home. While waiting for the plane which would take us to Sinaloa, Brother

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Exploratory Trip Made To Peru

*By Evangelist Richard Christman,
Americas Missions Operating Committee Chairman*

"For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:30-32).

Our strongest impression of our exploratory trip to Peru this past January 3-14 was that God had prepared the way and that it was His will that this was the time to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to Peru.

Brother Bill and Sister Cindy Prentice, Brother Miguel Bicelis, my wife (Sister Pat), and I comprised the group making the trip. We were uplifted daily by the willingness and interest of the people we met to hear about the Restored Gospel's message of salvation and hope. This was also true in the services we held.

There was no resistance by the majority of those we met with; rather, there was a sincere desire to have the Bible and Book of Mormon explained.

FIRST STOP

Our first stop was Lima, Peru. Arriving at midnight, we were welcomed by friends of the Prentices' and a bus to the hotel. The next day, we met these friends and contacted the family of Sister Angelica Izquierdo of

Herndon, Virginia. They gave us a very warm and cordial reception at their home and the blessings of God were felt so much that our taxi driver, who had come into our meeting, was visibly touched by the Spirit of God and the love that was there. We had the opportunity to anoint both of Sister Angelica's parents.

Next, we traveled from Lima to Arequipa, a city with an altitude of 7,700 feet, where we were met by more friends of the Prentices', the Cordano family, who were also very loving and hospitable.

We met and prayed daily before starting out; and we felt very secure,

even though there had been some civil unrest recently. People from a variety of stations of life met with us, and we felt God's peace, assurance, and intervention. The land was different; the food was different; but God was very much the same.

On a Sunday afternoon, we went to the plaza area of Arequipa, a city of 700,000 people. There was a fountain surrounded by a park with benches and walkways. Families, some from the city and some from the mountains, were spending the afternoon. Probably a couple of hundred people were there. Brother Miguel borrowed a guitar from an acquaintance of Sister Prentice's, and we began to sing the *Songs of Zion*, which brought many onlookers. Some approached us and questioned whom we were and what we were doing there. We were very comfortable doing this, even though we were in a strange land and in a public place. Brother Miguel asked an elderly Indian woman, "Do you know God?", and she answered, "I know God walked this land." This was one of the many blessings we received singing the songs in both Spanish and English to these people.

HIGH ALTITUDE

The high altitude presents a physical problem to some, as many of the Indian people live at heights of 10,000 feet or more and altitude sickness is a problem. We asked a young man who lived at that height what kind of horses and cattle they have on their ranch, and he answered, "Those that can survive." I remarked to another young man that we live in Arizona where we have less than 10 inches of rain a year. He smiled and said, "It only rains here about every three years." Indeed, even the cactus looked dead.

There are many

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(Left to right) Pictured standing: Sis. Pat Christman, Brother Miguel Bicelis, Brenda Galvez, Sis. Cindy Prentice, Bro. Bill Prentice, Nylda Galvez, Helena Moretti, and Grisella Calosi. Kneeling: Dora Galvez.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Apostle Paul, writing about the Lord in Philippians 2:7 states, “. . . and took upon him the form of a servant.” The Lord, speaking about himself in Luke 22:27 said, “. . . I am among you as he that serveth.” Did Jesus serve? How did He serve? Whom did He serve?

Yes, the Lord served. Jesus Christ served in many ways. He came to do the will of His Father; He did not come to do His will. He served His Father, God Almighty, by doing what the Father wanted Him to do! The Lord did not do what He wanted to do! The Lord bridled and subdued the passions and temptations of the flesh so He could please and serve His Father. Hebrews 4:15 states, “. . . but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.” This is a great example of service.

We read in III Nephi 17 that everyone who was sick, regardless of their condition, was healed by the Lord. He healed them all! This is service; this is ministering to your fellow man; this is ministering to your neighbors. In Matthew 20:28 the Lord said He did not come to be ministered to, but He came to minister. Oh how He ministered to the people. He never, never turned anyone away who humbly came to Him seeking His mercy, compassion, and healing power. He simply could not deny them. He did not deny them. This is service.

The Scriptures tell us that the Lord set the example. Since He did, then we are required to serve. Whom must we serve? We must serve the Lord. How? By keeping His commandments—by doing everything He instructed us to do. We cannot do just some things. The commandments of the Lord are not a selective process. We serve by adhering to the Lord’s agenda; the Church’s agenda; not our agenda! Our agenda should be the Lord’s agenda. The Lord said that we are to “seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” We serve the Lord by asking Him what He wants us to do. We do not serve the Lord by telling Him what we want, and asking Him to make it happen! Suppose the Lord instructed us to testify and proclaim the Gospel in Alaska. Would we quickly respond or would we tell Him we prefer to go to Hawaii? Our service must be performed willingly and it must be complete. As Nephi said in II Nephi 25:29, “. . . worship him will all your might, mind and strength and your whole soul.” Total service, nothing less. Kindly remember that obedience is better than sacrifice.

King Benjamin said in Mosiah 2:17 “that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.” In Mark 9:41 the Lord said, “For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward.” Imagine, by giving a simple cup of water, you gain, you do not lose your reward. What a wonderful Lord!

It is the simple things, the humble things that are important to the Lord. That is why Jacob in his writings, Jacob 2:19 tells us “to do good, to clothe the naked, and to feed the hungry, and to liberate the captive and administer relief to the sick and afflicted.” The Apostle James tells us “to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction.” This is service to our fellow man; this is service to God.

We must also serve the Church. How can we serve the Church? We begin by building our lives around the Church, not by building the Church around our lives. We serve the Church by respecting and keeping the Faith and Doctrine and Law and Order. We serve the Church by respecting the Ministry; the Apostles, the Evangelists, and the Elders. We serve the Church by pursuing its dream, its vision and its mission. We

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Trust in God, Ask in the Name of Jesus

Dear friends,

Have you ever thought about how scary and confusing it would be if you didn't know about the power and love of God? What would it be like if you thought there was magic in the wind, or a special meaning if you saw an unusual animal or pretty stone? What would it be like to be afraid to go outside at night to get in your car?

Did you know that there are millions of people in this world who have such fears? Some are mentally ill or very depressed and sad. Others have been taught to believe in wrong things. Many people have never heard of our God of power and love. They think God is someone far away, away up there who doesn't even know them. They don't realize that He is the one who has created every good thing. They don't realize that He sent His Son, Jesus, to come to this earth and see what it is like to be human. And God gave Jesus the power to intercede or "stick up" for people. That's why we ask for things and say, "In the Name of Jesus."

These are special times for you to be alive. There is much work to do. Not only are there millions of people around the world who need to learn about the love and power of Jesus, but there are millions of people right here in North America who need you to tell them how to trust in God and ask in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. So many of the kids that you know have never been taught

how to pray by just talking their fears and hurts and anger out loud to the Lord. You can reach them by praying for them when they hurt. You can share your lives with them so they can see how well things turn out for us when we trust in the Lord.

Today in most families, kids spend a lot of time alone while their parents are working. Usually they watch a lot of television and no one is there to explain to them what is not true. That is another job for you. For example, aliens from outer space are very scary for many kids. You need to remind them that there is not one bit of truth or warning about creatures from outer space anywhere in the Bible or Book of Mormon. God can read minds, God wrote all the laws of science. God created gravity so we would not float off the earth.

Little children don't have to worry about aliens and neither do you. You also don't have to worry about someone having "power" over you or your life. God has all power and in the name of Jesus, our Elders have the power to cast out all unclean thoughts and fears. You can always ask for prayer for yourself and other kids that you know need help.

God created everything. He even created the angel named Lucifer who became the evil one we call Satan. God and His precious Son, Jesus, have power over the devil. Don't fear; just pray and help other people who are living in this cold, sometimes hard world. Jesus said



that any time you help others, every time you feed the poor, give water to someone who is thirsty, give clothes to someone who needs them, that it is the same as if you had done it for Jesus. Be the hands and feet for Jesus. Reach out to others; shine your light and love and tell others how trusting in God and calling on the name of Jesus has brought you through. Everybody needs love.

With care,
Your friend,

Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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MBA Highlights

The Atlantic Coast Area MBA Singspiration

By Sister Joyce Ross

*"I will sing unto the Lord,
because he hath dealt bountifully with
me" (Psalm 13:6).*

We gathered together on Sunday,
February 12, 1995, to sing praises
unto our Lord as we joined in fellow-
ship after our District Conference.

Our Area MBA officers allowed
the Spirit of the Lord to guide and
direct our Singspiration. All the
members of the Priesthood that were
in attendance, fifteen, sang to the
congregation, *My Jesus I Love Thee*,
and what a beautiful sound it was.
All the Deaconesses in attendance
sang to us too. The Levittown
Branch Choir sang a few "Restored
Gospel" hymns. We sang, and we
sang, feeling to praise God.

Brother Joe Giannetti was asked
to express himself as he has moved to
our Area and will be attending
Church in the Atlantic Coast District.
He thanked God for the love of the
Saints and that this love could be felt
regardless of where you attended or

where you lived. We welcome
Brother Joe.

On a sad note, so to speak,
Sister Jill and Brother Randy Ciccatti
were asked to express themselves as
they are soon to be moving to the
Pacific Coast. They too marveled
and thanked God that wherever they
had lived, the Lord had always
provided them with the privilege of
attending The Church of Jesus Christ
and spending time with the Saints of
God. We will miss their support and
contributions to our Area.

So in conclusion, let us, *"Make
a joyful noise unto the Lord . . . Serve
the Lord with gladness: come before
his presence with singing"* (Psalm
100:1-2).

Our Women Today

50th Anniversary

KINSMAN, OHIO

On October 18, 1994, the
Kinsman Ladies' Uplift Circle met at
the home of Sister Rosalie Mott for a
50th Anniversary program for four
sisters in their Circle. Sisters Anna
Dreer, Anna Jackson, Rose Corrado,
and Joyce Jackson had reached a real
milestone, fifty years in the Ladies'

Uplift Circle. There were sisters
visiting from Fredonia, Pennsylvania
and Cleveland, Ohio.

A program was presented by
Sisters Sharon VanKanagan and
Rosalie Mott. Each sister was
honored and a story was read that
exemplified her life in some way and
her favorite song was sung. Then
each sister was asked to share some
treasured Circle memory and details
of joining the Circle. Sister Anna
Dreer joined in 1932, Anna Jackson
in 1938, and Sisters Rose Corrado
and Joyce Jackson in 1944. It was so
inspiring to hear stories of the
beginnings of the Ladies Uplift Circle
and the conferences held in sister

Sadie Cadman's home. What a
blessing the Circle has been through
these many years!

Each sister was presented with a
pen on which their initials and "50"
were engraved. Ohio District Presi-
dent of the Ladies' Uplift Circle,
Sister Nancy Mayher shared a few
words of encouragement about the
importance of the Circle. It was a
wonderful meeting spent in sharing
God's blessings. We thank God for
these lovely sisters and their dedica-
tion to the Lord's work through the
Ladies' Uplift Circle.

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Sisters Joyce Jackson, Anna Dreer, Anna Jackson, and Rose Corrado

Branch and Mission News

News from Oak Grove, MO

On Wednesday, July 6, 1994, a few brothers and sisters from the Roscoe, PA Branch arrived in Oak Grove, Missouri to visit with Brother Charles Smith, Evangelist of The Church of Jesus Christ and his wife, Sister Ilene. As we arrived in Oak Grove the sign, "Put Your Heart In Oak Grove, Come Grow With Us," greeted us.

Brother Charles and Sister Ilene welcomed us very enthusiastically when we reached their home, and it wasn't long before they took us to view the newly refinished room in their basement, furnished with used pews, pulpit and organ recently donated by Brother Joe and Sister Helen Tisler from Lorain, Ohio.

Many hours were spent the next few days singing hymns and talking over scriptures and experiences. On Sunday, July 10th, a meeting was held at their home which we were able to attend, along with some local friends they have made who live in the Independence, Missouri area. Brother Smith opened the meeting speaking from the Book of Mormon, 31st chapter of Alma, concerning the pride of the Zoramites and how God worked with those that had been cast out from worshipping with them because of their poverty. He spoke on the necessity of being humble and brought out many beautiful thoughts on this subject. God's spirit continued to bless us in our fellowship service with testimony and praise to God in word and song.

On Tuesday, July 12th, the evening before we left for home, we felt to make a call to a brother who had lived in our area in Pennsylvania many years ago, and is now living in Blue Springs, Missouri, a town within minutes of Brother Smith's home. To our surprise, Brother Bob Lowden and his wife Ruth came over

and some friends of Brother Charles and Sister Ilene who often attend meetings in their home stopped by. We had a wonderful visit and enjoyed singing over hymns of praise together.

As we left Oak Grove to head home for Pennsylvania in the morning, we again passed the sign, "Put Your Heart In Oak Grove, Come Grow With Us." It reminded us of the hopes and prayers of Brother Charles and Sister Ilene Smith, that other brothers and sisters from our Church would move to that area and help them in working to spread the Gospel there. We talked over what impressed us most about our trip to our mission in Missouri. We all agreed it was the spiritual energy and enthusiasm of Brother Charles and Sister Ilene, and the way they are always looking ahead with great expectations and faith in God.

We thank God for the blessings we felt in being with them and allowing us to make the trip to Missouri. Please pray that God will provide their needs and that they will be able to fulfill their desire to do His work in that part of the vineyard. If you would like to write to them, their address is: Mr & Mrs. Charles E. Smith, 103 East 15th Street, Oak Grove, MO 64075. They are far from family and brothers and sisters of the Church and would appreciate hearing from you.

Reach Out Committee of McKees Rocks, PA

By Brother Mark R. Lawson

"And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

As the summer of 1993 was drawing to a close, a young adults' meeting was held at our branch in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania. During this meeting, the young people formed a "reach out" committee with the aim of helping to spread the Gospel. Brother Paul Ciotti, our Presiding Elder, asked those of us present to make a commitment to step out in faith, to reach out to those around us; in our families, our branch, our district, the General Church, and in our communities. We were admonished to act in such a way as to be a supportive influence by encouraging and uplifting those in need, hoping to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us. As it states in James 2:24, *"By works a man is justified, and not by faith alone."*

The initial meeting of the Reach Out Committee was on August 21, 1993 with all members of the committee present: David Ciotti, Paul Ciotti, Jr., Linda Zane, John Manes, Patrick Monaghan, Jason Monaghan, and this writer. The Committee decided to contact Sister Mary Ann Nicosia (now Heaps) and invite her to come to our branch and discuss her experiences in Guatemala, as well as her on-going involvement with the IMA School in Guatemala City. The meeting, held on October 13th, was advertised in local newspapers and radio stations, and an open invitation was extended to various news media outlets as well as neighboring branches.

Sister Mary Ann and a young girl (Gladys), whom she brought with her from Guatemala, gave a video presentation and discussion before a congregation of about 75 people (many of them visitors from the branches of Monongahela, Vanderbilt, Imperial and Aliquippa). Our hearts were blessed by Sister Mary Ann's informative and impassioned discussion of the Lord's work in Guatemala, and our spirits were uplifted by Gladys' infectious smile and tentative attempts at English.

The Committee discussed sponsoring one of the girls in the IMA School. This desire was pre-

sented to the branch and the Lord worked upon their hearts so that we were able to offer support to two girls, Jessica and Magdalena, for the entire year of 1994. The branch has corresponded with the girls, and photographs of the girls were taken during a trip to Guatemala by Brother Paul Ciotti and this writer in February 1994. Our efforts were motivated by the Lord's message in Matthew 25:40, *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."*

In February 1994, the Committee contacted the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation's Adopt-a-Highway Program. We had a strong desire to become more directly involved in our community, and adopting a portion of highway near our branch was a practical and identifiable way of accomplishing that goal. The signs were erected during the week of February 20th, which clearly stated that The Church of Jesus Christ had adopted the next two miles of highway. Our roadside cleanup occurred on three occasions during the past year: April 23, July 23, and November 5th. We averaged about sixteen individuals on each occasion, and we thank God for our Ministry who toiled side-by-side with us, inspiring us with their energy, determination, and humor.

In response to an invitation extended by the committee, Brother Joseph Ross gave a presentation on May 18th regarding his recent trip to Africa. The slide presentation and open discussion was attended by about fifty brothers and sisters. Brother Joe's commentary and humor regarding his experiences and love for the people of Africa were a blessing to all who were present, enabling us to have a more detailed and complete picture of the Lord's work in Africa.

During the summer of 1994, the Committee met and decided that the branch would benefit from the development of a video history, including the senior members and Ministry of our branch. Our desire

was to preserve their testimonies and experiences for posterity, that those members who chose to would have the opportunity to listen to, learn from, and be blessed by, the experiences of our Ministers and older brothers and sisters. This work has been laid in the hands of the young people as we meet with and learn from those who have a long history in the Church. These interviews, which began on August 23rd, have been a time of fellowship and rejoicing, with each of us sharing testimonies, experiences, and singing hymns to the Lord.

The Reach Out Committee continues to trust in the Lord for future inspiration in our efforts in 1995 and beyond. Our support for Jessica and Magdalena, our involvement in the Adopt-a-Highway Program, and our Video History will continue throughout the coming year. Throughout our existence as a committee we have relied upon the guidance and support of our Ministry, as well as the love and prayers of the brothers and sisters in our branch, who continuously encourage us to extend our hearts and hands to others. As it says in James 2:18, *"Yea, a man may say thou hast faith, and I have works: show me thy faith without thy works, and I will show thee my faith by my works."*

Ordination in Cape Coral, FL

By Sister Colleena Eutsey

June 12, 1994 was a special day for us. It began with having many come from various branches to witness the ordination of our Brother James Haugh into the office of a teacher. It was a blessing to have Brother James' family and friends attend the meeting. Brother Ken, Sister Sharon, Cameron and Jameson Staley arrived as new members of our branch. They transferred from the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch. We welcome them with open arms and we are thankful the Lord sent them.

We were also blessed to have in our midst our dear Sister Bertha Constantine. She has not been well in quite some time and is not able to get out for many of the meetings. We thank God she was able to make it today. Her husband, Brother Joseph was a teacher in our branch for many years and has since passed on to his reward. We miss our brother very much and we are thankful his work will be carried on through our brothers who are striving to do the Lord's work in this part of the vineyard.

Many songs were sung to the honor and glory of God and several brothers and sisters sang solos. Many experiences were told of how the Lord showed us that our Brother James Haugh should be made a teacher. The duties of a teacher were read. Brother Dwayne Eutsey Sr., our Presiding Elder, washed Brother James' feet. Brother James Sheffler ordained Brother James into the office of teacher. Our teachers then took a moment to express themselves. It was made known that when our brother was being ordained that the faces of the elders took on Christ-like features. A time of testimony followed. When the meeting ended, we shared lunch and were able to fellowship together. We pray that our Brother James and his wife, Sister Michelle, will always look to the Lord for all things and that Brother James may always carry the loving, humble spirit that he now carries. We thank God for His goodness in our lives. May the Lord bless you.

A Rebirth of the Soul in Quincy, FL

By Sister Meredieth M. Martin

Early in the morning, before the heavy fog lifted, the saints made their way down to the river bank to witness a "rebirth of the soul." The crickets were still singing, and the surroundings were the splendor of peace. What was taking place here?

(Continued on Page 10)

QUINCY, FL continued . . .

What's the great occasion, that anticipation filled the air? All that is witnessed is joy unspeakable and full of glory. The occasion, a rebirth of the soul. That is the thrill that is being experienced.

The saints gathered in a circle, the heads of all dropped in reverence and humility in acknowledgement of the power that was being manifested. "Tomeka Dionne Bright, do you repent of your sins?" "Yes," she said. "Do you promise to serve God the remaining days of your life?" Again she answered, "Yes." Down to the watery grave she was taken by Brother Nephi DeMercurio. He raised his right hand and said, "Tomeka Dionne Bright, having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, Amen." Into the watery grave; a burial in the liquid grave. A mystery? No, not a mystery! A rebirth of the soul took place. The awesome joy of a new birth turned quickly into reality as the saints began to sing, *Saviour Lead Me Lest I Stray, Gently Lead Me All The Way*.

Brother Cleveland Baldwin humbly presented Tomeka to the Lord, as he laid hands on her asking God for the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. We proceeded with the service. Brother Nephi eloquently explained the 6th chapter of Moroni, stating that this chapter contained in a few words the Restoration. It tells us exactly what we must do after a rebirth of the soul takes place. He spoke many words exhorting the saints how to keep the soul alive. Always remember when you are tempted, ask yourself this question, Brother Nephi stated, quoting from 2 Nephi 4th chapter, 27th verse: "*Yea, why should I give way to temptations, that the evil one have place in my heart to destroy my peace and afflict my soul?*"

After the sermon and the blessing of the Holy Communion, we entered into the ordinance of feet washing as the joy of the Lord continued to linger with us. Singing,

The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning, and as our meeting was being brought to a close, Brother Cleveland asked a young lady that was raised in the Church, if she would like to express herself. She stood up as the words burst forth out of her mouth, tears streaming uncontrollably: "I want to be baptized." This was Marie (Penny) Campbell. Last Sunday she came to the meeting, stated that God told her to "Go to Church!" She stated that she had been crying four days and could not stop, that's when the Lord spoke to her. She was asked when would she like to be baptized? "Right now," she replied.

Again, down to the waters edge we went. Our joy was full, and I'm sure the readers have felt this same joy. The waters were ready to receive another body for baptism. Sister Marie Campbell was taken into the water by Brother Charleston Hester. She was confirmed into The Church of Jesus Christ by Brother Nephi DeMercurio as he laid hands on her for the reception of the Holy Ghost.

The saints gathered at Brother Cleveland's home, where our meeting continued. Sister Penny shared a miracle as she testified of God's goodness to her. She stated that when her daughter was born, twelve hours after her birth she became deathly ill, and the doctors told her that the infant had a strange blood disease. They could not tell her what it was, but the child would probably die within twenty-four hours. She called Brother Frank Rogolino who came to the hospital and anointed the baby. The baby immediately began to improve, and she is living and well today. Without a doubt, it was a day when the heavens opened for the saints, and the glory of God did fill our souls. Visiting with us were, Tina Francis, Tally Thomas, Brother Bob Morris, and Sister Constance Smith from Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Yes, we witnessed the baptisms of two souls, prompted by the Lord, who is the author and founder of our faith and of the new birth.

PERDUE continued . . .

Perdue called my husband's attention to a man that was having a seizure. Foam was coming out of his mouth, and his eyes seemed to be turned inside of his head. It was a pitiful sight. (In America, I had seen another man having a seizure during which his body jerked a long time.) This man's body was also jerking uncontrollably. Immediately, my husband prayed for him, and before finishing his prayer, the man's eyes opened normally, his mouth relaxed, and his body quieted down.

His family asked my husband, "Dottore, Dottore, what did you do to him? He has been sick for a long time." Brother Eddie explained to them (in Spanish) that my husband was a Minister. They thanked him and wanted to continue their conversation, but since we had to board the plane (which had arrived), we left. We often think about that man. It would be good to know if he had been completely healed at that airport.

Finally, we reached our destination, and saw the new church that our brothers had labored so hard to build. What a beautiful church! It had showers, a kitchen, eating area, bedrooms and a courtyard. Oh yes, the auditorium was beautiful. The brothers from the USA with the help of the members of Mexico had worked tirelessly to erect the church.

Sunday was a glorious day. Brother Frank Calabrese opened the meeting, speaking in the Spanish language which was blessed of the Lord. After he was through speaking, Brother Perdue, who was in charge, asked my husband to follow. He said a few words in Spanish which the people enjoyed, then he began preaching in English while Brother Eddie translated in Spanish. This went on for a couple of minutes, and then something strangely wonderful happened. My husband didn't wait any longer for Brother Eddie to translate; instead, they both spoke at the same time (under the Spirit of God), saying the same things, one in English, and the other in Spanish. It

is difficult to explain the glorious preaching of those brothers. Other elder brothers spoke, being blessed by the Spirit of God.

There were several baptisms that day also. It was a day to remember for a long while. At the end of the meeting, Sister Evelyn came to me and said, "Sister Mary, how does it feel to have our dreams come to a realization?" Faith is the victory!

Because of listening to (and obeying) the voice of God, the establishment of The Church of Jesus Christ among the Seed of Joseph (in Mexico) will remain a memorial to this fine sister's faith and that of her husband, Edward Perdue, and her daughter, Norma Kennedy.

Dear faithful Evelyn, my friend! It is my prayer that as you sit at the feet of Jesus Christ (in Paradise), a place will be there for me also. The memory of you and your missionary work will be in the hearts and minds of all who love to witness for Christ, the Lord, the Living Son of God. Amen.

MESSAGE continued . . .

challenges in Peru. The amenities of life are not the same as we are accustomed to. The opposition is more subtle and Satan does not turn loose without a struggle. I feel this good beginning was God's sign to us that He is in the matter, however. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached with struggle, opposition, and with difficulty, but thank God it continues to be preached and will continue to be by His people who have taken upon them the name of Jesus Christ, His Church, His Plan, His Doctrine, and His Faithfulness.

The land of Peru bears evidence that Christ did indeed walk the Americas. The Book of Mormon account is witnessed by the evidence found in Peru, both in the land and its people. We are living in a day when God said He would make bare His Holy Arm and accomplish a marvelous work and a wonder. We

have labored as a people for many years, striving to fulfill our mission in God's plan. We must not be weary in well-doing, as each day that passes brings us closer to the great things God has in store for His Chosen People and His Church.

We sincerely seek to find the resources, the missionaries, the time, and the ability to accomplish the great work of the Lord; and in so doing, many times we feel that the battle is difficult and success is unclear; but God assures us that "The battle is mine," and His plans will be accomplished. We must, therefore, proceed with the understanding that God's plan is unfolding, although it is difficult for us to perceive His answers and solutions.

Peru must have the Gospel. All Central and South America, as well as the whole world must have the Gospel. We, as a people have been called to do the greatest work that has ever been undertaken. We cannot accomplish the task alone; but God will accomplish His work. It is our responsibility to be faithful, willing workers, to support the Church endeavors through our prayers, fasting, finances, time, energy, and love.

We feel constrained to return to Peru; and, in fact, a man whom we met when we were leaving the Arequipa Airport asked what we were doing there and why we had come. Brother Miguel explained our mission and our interest in the people there. The gentleman stated that they needed help and that he was interested in helping those who would help his people. He invited us back and said he would open his home and make us comfortable. He then turned to me and looked me squarely in the eyes and said he wanted us to promise to return and to come to his home. I made that promise and his next question was, "When?" This was hard to answer, but I pray that it will be soon and that we can spend sufficient time to give men and women the opportunity to fully know the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

serve the Church by attending "all" services. We serve the Church by supporting "all" auxiliaries and activities. We serve the Church by cheerfully and humbly submitting to the ruling of the majority. We serve the Church through our financial support. We serve the Church by cleaning and maintaining our buildings.

We do not serve God and the Church by first pursuing our dreams, our goals, and our ambitions. They eventually pass away, they come to nothing! Let our desires and priorities be to serve God, to serve the Church and to serve our fellow man. Our minds must be transformed that we may prove what is good, what is acceptable, what is perfect, what is the will of God. We should not think more highly of ourselves than what we ought to think of ourselves.

The Apostle Paul tells us to *"present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

The four sons of Mosiah relinquished a kingdom so they could bring souls to the Lord. Ask yourself, could you give up a kingdom? Lehi left everything, his home and his wealth. Could you, would you give up your home, your riches? Despite his suffering, despite the agony and torment, Job would not curse God! In the end, after his trial, his riches were restored many times over.

The Scriptures tell us to *"choose ye this day, whom ye will serve."* We have a choice to make in life. That choice, that decision is whether or not to serve God. When we put our minds to it, when we focus on serving God, it is not difficult. In Alma 37:44 it tells us *"it is easy to give heed to the word of Christ."*

May we exercise faith to ease the way to serve God, to serve the Church, and to serve our neighbors. With God's help, may we lay strong, solid foundations. May we be laborers together with God and the Lord. Let us labor that we may reap our reward, which is eternal life with God and our Lord, Jesus Christ.



**IF YOU NEED MORE OF GOD IN
YOUR LIFE...**

YOU'LL COME TO THE:

GENERAL LADIES' CIRCLE RETREAT

June 1st - 4th, 1995

**held at the DoubleTree Hotel
in
Dallas, Texas**

Children Blessed

Rachel Cynthia Lopez, daughter of Sister Lisa and Brother Oscar Lopez, was blessed on September 25, 1994 in the Hollywood, Florida Branch.

Kayla Marie Ali, was blessed on December 18, 1995 at the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Branch. She is the daughter of Sister Vicki and Brother Larry Ali.

Shannon Lynn Martorana, daughter of Sister Tina and Brother Wayne Martorana, was blessed on June 5, 1994 in the Niles, Ohio Branch.

Nickolas Genaro, son of Dan and Deneen Genaro, was blessed on September 25, 1994 in the Niles, Ohio Branch.

Taylor Rochelle Cornell, daughter of Andrew and Melinda Cornell, was blessed on January 29, 1995 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

*** WEDDING ***

Sister Nancy DiNardo and Robert Smith were united in holy matrimony on October 22, 1994 in Hollywood, Florida.

OBITUARIES

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

Brother James Campbell of the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his eternal reward on January 12, 1995. He was born on March 15, 1916. Brother Jim had recently celebrated over fifty years in the Gospel. He was an ordained Evangelist. Brother Jim is survived by his wife, Sister Thelma; a son, Clifford; a daughter, Sister Erma Draskovich; three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Sister Mary Frances Galina Rossi of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to her heavenly reward on January 18, 1995. She was born on November 10, 1914. Sister Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Frank F. Rossi. Surviving are two sons, Anthony and Frank Jr.; four daughters, Mary Jane Winkle, Rose Marie Rossi, Cynthia D. Sciarretta, and Mrs. Frank (Annette) Bragg; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brother Leroy Love, Sr., passed away on December 31, 1994. He was born on October 9, 1922. Brother Leroy attended the South Bend, Indiana Mission. Left to mourn are his wife, Cora Love; five daughters, Ollie Mae Exum, Shirley Sizemore, Gail Husband, Sharon Love and Beverly Ann Holt; four sons, John Love, Leroy Love, Jr., Charles and Terry Love; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Brother Joseph DiChiera passed away on January 11, 1995 at the age of 69. He was a member of the Monongahela, PA Branch. Brother Joe is survived by a son, Peter; a sister, Sister Mary Campitelle; and a brother, Peter.

Brother Charles F. Bailey passed away January 1, 1995. He was 79 and was a member of the Vanderbilt, PA Branch. Left to mourn are his wife, Sister Nellie (Duckworth) Bailey; one brother, Floyd; two sisters, Nellie Anderson and Hazel Rohn.

Sister Concetta "Sue" D'Antonio Rossi passed away to her eternal reward on February 5, 1995. She was a member of the Aliquippa, PA Branch. She was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Feo Rossi. Sister Sue is survived by a son, Floyd; brothers, Frank, Fred and Anthony; and a sister, Mary Ross.

The Gospel News

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

May, 1995

Volume 51, No. 5

Mother's Day

By Evangelist Clifford A. Burgess

This Sunday morning has been set apart so that all might turn their thoughts to the one who gave them birth, but not forgetting Him who gave us each a mother. In this vein, my thought this morning is on the relationship of parent to child as found in the Word of God, Ephesians 6:1-4: *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise: That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

There are many children this morning, I am sorry to say, who do not know who their parents are, so how can they honor their father and mother? Understand, there will be a reckoning day in the future, and these children who have been deprived here of a mother's love on earth will reap their rewards when they come before the bar of God.

To us who have known our parents and enjoyed many happy moments with them, who have been brought up in Christian homes,

respected our Christian parents, and obeyed their commands, God's promise is that it will be well with us. Our lives will be lengthened upon this earth. In expanding a moment, just let us pause and think that, if we keep our Heavenly Father's commands, His promise is eternal life in heaven above, which is a much greater reward.

There is many a heartbroken mother this morning who is grieving over a wayward child, perhaps knowing nothing of that loved ones whereabouts and not having had a line from him for a long time. If such a child is tuned into this broadcast this morning, why not sit down, drop mother a line, and ask her to forgive you for your tardiness? Think what a load you will lift from her shoulders, and perhaps you will stop her gray hairs from turning white.

In Brother Paul's teachings, he cautions the parents not to provoke their children to wrath. Parents, have you ever stopped to consider that, when a child confronts you with a question, a harsh answer or cutting him off without any explanation can turn that child against you for life? Harboring thoughts of this incident or similar incidents in his mind can cause the child to later leave home without any explanation.

Let us, as parents, be pals to

our children in their youth; and, when they ask for something which we feel we cannot give them, let us sit down and reason the situation out with them. Then, their minds will be satisfied that their parents cannot afford such a request, and they will understand the situation at hand. This, you will agree, is better than cutting them off with a short, curt reply.

I recall a number of years ago, I was waiting in the Union Depot in Toronto, Ontario, to catch a train for home. While viewing the massive crowd and walking around, I noticed a middle-aged woman with her hands upon the shoulders of a young man. As she looked up into his eyes, I could see tears running down her face. The thought which came to me immediately was that this man was her son, and, no doubt, he was leaving for a distant place, perhaps never to meet again on this earth. When I scrutinized the situation a little closer, I noticed this young man was handcuffed to a plainclothes detective, who, no doubt, was taking him to the penitentiary to serve out a sentence for some crime he had committed.

Many times, this scene comes before my eyes, and I ask myself many questions. Did he leave home

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Apostle's Insights

The Role of the Gentiles

By Apostle Russell Cadman

The people of God, in nearly all ages of time, have had difficulty understanding the things of God in their own day and time. An example of this is when Christ appeared in Jerusalem and was rejected by His own people. Today we have the same type of problem in understanding the ways of God.

Under the Restoration of the Gospel, many have trouble understanding what is to come unto the Gentiles, i.e., what is to come unto The Church of Jesus Christ. We have looked beyond the mark with regard to the role of The Church of Jesus Christ and have focused on Israel, the work that will be done for Israel, and the Choice Seer. Given this focus, many do not understand what will be done by the Gentiles before the Choice Seer comes forth



Apostle Russell Cadman

and Israel as a nation is restored unto the Gospel. The Book of Mormon is very plain when describing these subjects.

This article will outline and describe what will come forth unto

the Gentiles before Israel as a nation comes to the Gospel.

Revelation 14:6-7 reads as follows: "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."

This Gospel was restored to every nation, kindred, tongue and people. It is very clear that we should not favor one nation above another. Every nation and people had a right to the Gospel the minute it was restored. Whether of the House of Israel or not, all have an equal right to the Restored Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However, God did favor the Gentile people in the beginning of the Restoration as described in the Book of Mormon.

III Nephi 16:6-7 (page 384) reads as follows: "And blessed are the Gentiles, because of their belief in me, in and of the Holy Ghost, which witnesses unto them of me and of the Father. Behold, because of their belief in me, saith the Father, and because of the unbelief of you, O house of Israel, in the latter day shall the truth come unto the Gentiles, that the fulness of these things shall be made known unto them."

This very clearly describes that due to the unbelief of Israel, their rejection of Christ and His Gospel, and because of the belief of the Gentiles, the Gentiles would be (subsequently have been) blessed with the Restored Gospel.

The Restoration of the Gospel was only the beginning of the work in store for the Gentile people. There is much more, in addition to the Book of Mormon, to come forth. The Gentiles will be God's instruments to complete this additional work as well. First we must understand that the Book of Mormon was only a partial account of the ancient

American records. Read Ether 1:1-5 (page 426).

Ether 1:5 reads as follows: "But behold, I give not the full account, but a part of the account I give, from the tower down until they were destroyed."

Also read Ether 3:17 (page 431) and the first page in our Book of Mormon where Moroni describes the book of Ether as an abridgement of the record of the people of Jared. There is so much more to come forth! In fact, references of "other books" and "many records" include 1 Nephi 13:38-39 (page 22) and Helaman 3:13 (page 325).

Ether 5:1 (page 434) reads as follows: "And now I, Moroni, have written the words which were commanded me, according to my memory; and I have told you the things which I have sealed up; therefore touch them not in order that ye may translate; for that thing is forbidden you, except by and by it shall be wisdom in God." Joseph Smith was not permitted to translate the sealed parts of the record.

II Nephi 27:10-11 (page 84) reads as follows: "But the words which are sealed he shall not deliver, neither shall he deliver the book. For the book shall be sealed by the power of God, and the revelation which was sealed shall be kept in the book until the own due time of the Lord, that they may come forth; for behold, they reveal all things from the foundation of the world unto the end thereof. And the day cometh that the words of the book which are sealed shall be read upon the house tops; and they shall be read by the power of Christ; and all things shall be revealed unto the children of men which ever have been among the children of men, and which ever will be even unto the end of the earth."

How marvelous this time will be, when all things will be revealed unto the children of men! When and to whom will God reveal this glorious record?

Ether 4:5-7 (pages 432-433) reads as follows: "Wherefore the Lord hath commanded me to write them; and I have written them. And

he commanded me that I should seal them up; and he also hath commanded that I should seal up the interpretation thereof; wherefore I have sealed up the interpreters, according to the commandment of the Lord. For the Lord said unto me: They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord. And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are."

We will exercise faith as the brother of Jared and be blessed with the revelations of the Lord. These blessings are coming to the Gentiles—to The Church of Jesus Christ. What should we look for as a sign of the Lord that these things are about to come to pass?

III Nephi 21:6-11 (pages 394-395) reads as follows: "For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that he may show forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me and be baptized in my name and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel; And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things—it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel. And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that kings shall shut their mouths; for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. For in that day, for my sake shall the Father work a

work, which shall be a great and a marvelous work among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, although a man shall declare it unto them. But behold, the life of my servant shall be in my hand; therefore they shall not hurt him, although he shall be marred because of them. Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil. Therefore it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, which the Father shall cause him to bring forth unto the Gentiles, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant."

This scripture is not speaking of Joseph Smith and what he brought forth unto the Gentiles. Joseph Smith was slain only a few years after the translation of the Book of Mormon and the establishment of the Church.

The servant spoken of in III Nephi 21 will be instrumental in God's great and marvelous work, but many will not believe him. I feel many will not believe this servant because, as I mentioned previously, their minds are so focused upon Israel and the Choice Seer that they may overlook the things that are to come unto the Gentile people. This servant's life will be in the hand of God. He will not be killed, but he will be marred because of those who will not believe.

When this servant is called some will say "we were promised the Choice Seer and we were promised that Israel would do all of this work in Zion." However, we *must* recognize this man as the servant of God who will bring these things unto the Gentile people. Those things being the complete record of the Jaredite people—the blessed records sealed up until the Gentiles exercise faith as the brother of Jared.

Also read Jacob 5:69-77 (pages 106-107) where it speaks of God

sending His servant for the last time. I understand this is the same servant that is spoken of in III Nephi 21:10.

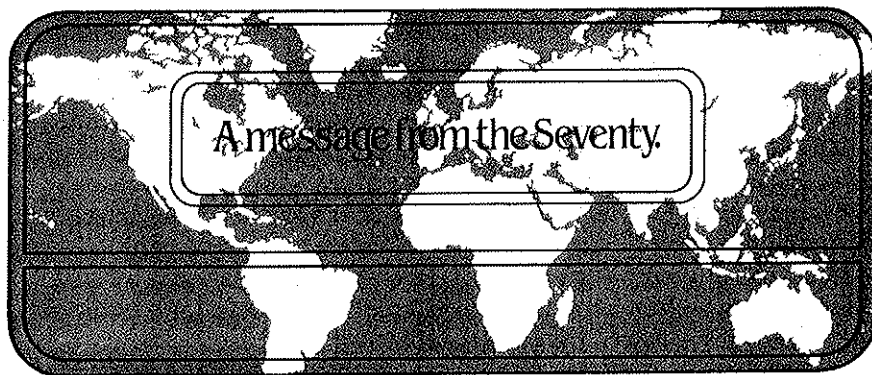
Our spiritual fathers understood these scriptures and we must prepare ourselves with knowledge and understanding of the events which will soon take place. God's words are very emphatic, this servant "shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles."

Now certainly we should not forget Israel. God has a plan for the return of Israel, as a nation, to His fold and the Choice Seer plays a critical role in this plan. But the Choice Seer shall come out of Zion. Apostle Paul states that "There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob," (Romans 11:26). Micah also speaks of this plan for Israel.

Micah 5:1-3 reads as follows: "Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek. But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel."

This scripture speaks of the day when the Lord will return unto Israel and bring Israel up unto the mount of the Lord's house. Therefore Israel, as a nation, will not return to the Gospel until this time when the *remnant of his brethren* (the Church) return to the children of Israel. The Choice Seer will be one of the children of Israel who have come into the Church.

This scripture also sets the time of Israel's return as "... until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth..." This describes The Church of Jesus Christ, primarily as Gentiles, laboring as a woman giving birth to bring forth
(Continued on Page 11)



Preparations for Missionary Trips

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

Missionary trips and tours are made to our existing locations and to places in the world where there have been specific requests from interested parties wanting to know more about The Church of Jesus Christ and the Restored Gospel. In all instances, careful preparation is very important; thus, discussing some of the details involved will offer some insights into what is required.

Prayer and fasting are prerequisites, seeking God's will and guidance. Obviously, all travelers must feel His influence as they embark on His work. Gaining this confidence is essential and uplifting. Besides being spiritually accompanied, the workers must also ready themselves to carry out their appointed tasks. This will allow for better scheduling and avoidance of undue delays or effects of personal hardship.

REQUIREMENTS OF NATIONS

Understandably, there are conditions and limitations placed upon travelers by nations around the world. These reflect current conditions and may be subject to change. Travelers must conform to the requirements, including the submission of the proper paperwork and the obtaining of documents in advance.

Different credentials are mandated by each government. For example, passports may be required for some places but not in others. When needed, they and visas must be

pursued which includes application and presentation to the proper authorities well before departure; and the duration of the stay must be approved. Governmental agencies grant permission in these matters, so working with them and being familiar with their locations and their scope of authority are mandatory.

Of personal significance are immunizations which must be received before travel to some nations. The inoculations must be administered within certain spans of time to afford maximum protection.

The types of clothing which should be taken must also be ascertained. There are restrictions on the amount which can be carried, so it becomes imperative to have the needed provisions for the stay. Many changes of clothing may be required, depending on the number of days away. An added consideration is that there may not be time for nor accessibility to laundry facilities.

Passports, travel tickets, medications, and monetary exchange items should always be carried on the person. As all travelers know, they should not be put into suitcases, because they may not arrive at the same time and thus create some problems. To be remembered is that medical assistance may not be available along the way.

KNOWLEDGE OF COUNTRY

Knowledge about the country is,

of course, invaluable. The weather, the terrain, and other physical features are basic. Next, the composition of the population, the traditions and religions of the nation, and the transportation within the land should be known.

There are various sources from which this information can be drawn. The most recent literature can offer current conditions, but more in-depth publications from the past can supply important material about the fabric of the places being visited.

Today, in addition to numerous books on the subjects, there are probably many videos and computer generated pieces of data which may be obtained. Research should be conducted as much as possible.

Newspapers and periodicals published within the countries themselves offer the most pertinent information. The most recently published will keep travelers abreast.

Transportation to and within a nation must be clearly understood. This includes the means, the schedules, and the advance reservations which must be made; and agendas must be made accordingly so those being visited can be available as well.

Knowledge about the language of the nations is primary. Ideally, the missionary should be able to speak the language; but, if not, an interpreter is invaluable. Some travelers have attended language classes or studied tapes to learn how to communicate. Having books, primarily dictionaries, of the language on the trip is also very useful.

Some of the items mentioned above may appear elementary, but they must be observed.

ACCUMULATED INFORMATION

The various missionary committees have accumulated data from past trips and have profiles for other places not yet visited in the world. The Quorum of Seventy Evangelists had begun to accumulate this kind of information a number of years ago.

Inquiries about the Church continue to come from many places.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Oh, the great work of the Lord. These are the words spoken in a dream a few years ago to Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ. In the dream, an elderly woman appeared in an obviously very empty room. She was hunched over, arms folded and said more than once, *Oh, the great work of the Lord.* It appeared the woman was speaking to the brothers and sisters of the Church.

Brother Dominic Thomas was asked, "What did her statement mean to you?" His response, *"The only important thing in life is the work of the Lord."* He was asked, "What did the very empty room mean to you?" His answer, *"Nothing else counts!"*

The importance of this great work was clearly stated in the Lord's conversation with the Apostle Peter. In John 21:15-17, the Lord asked Peter three times if he loved Him. Peter answered yes each time. The Lord then told Peter once, *"Feed my lambs,"* and twice He told Peter, *"Feed my sheep."*

There are brothers, sisters, and their families who have devoted their lives to spreading the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many of them have given their lives working among the Seed of Joseph. Some have given their lives in other missionary fields. Let us pray without ceasing on their behalf. May our fervent prayers to God provide them with more determination, encouragement and strength to continue their wonderful missionary work. When we see them, may they feel and see our appreciation, concern and love.

The following questions are directed to the young men and women of The Church of Jesus Christ. What are your aspirations, dreams and goals? Are they to be a part of this *great work* or are they on the comforts of life? When the missionary mantle is passed on from the current missionaries, are you prepared to receive this mantle? Are you asking God to use you in this *great work*?

To the young women of the Church: Are you aware of your importance to The Church of Jesus Christ? Have you ever read the story of Phebe in the 16th chapter of Romans? Are you aware that the Lord looks to many of you to be the Deaconesses of the future? Do you know the importance and honor involved with setting the Holy Communion table and being spiritual mothers? Are you aware of your importance in your branches, missions, and districts? Do you know how important you are to the Ladies' Uplift Circle, Missionary Benevolent Association and Sunday School? Have you read the article about Sister Evelyn Perdue in last month's issue of the *Gospel News*? Do you realize the Lord can use you in the same way if you let Him?

To the young men of the Church: Are you aware of your importance to The Church of Jesus Christ? Are you aware that the Lord looks to many of you to be future Apostles, Evangelists, Elders, Teachers and Deacons? Do you realize that the Lord is looking for you to get involved in current works and to lead the way in future missionary endeavors? Are you aware how important you are to your branches, missions and districts? Do you know how important you are to the Missionary Benevolent Association and Sunday School? Do you realize that the Lord wants you to get involved now, not later?

Alma instructed his son Shiblon in Alma 38:12, *"... see that ye refrain from idleness."* Jacob and Joseph realized that if they did not labor to stir the sinner to repentance they would be held accountable. In Jacob 1:19 it states, *"And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the word of God with all diligence; wherefore, by laboring with our might their blood might not come upon*

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The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Moroni Teaches Us About The Comforter

Dear Friends,

Do you know that you possess great power? Did you know that when Jesus died, He left us a special spirit called the Comforter to be with us, to lead, guide, and direct us?

The Book of Mormon is full of special stories of great men and women of God who learned how to listen to the voice of the Comforter and be guided.

After Jesus was crucified, He left the land of Israel and came to teach His favorite children, the Lamanites and Nephites, who had survived the great destruction.

Jesus chose twelve disciples in the Americas. The first twelve, chosen in Israel, are called Apostles. Moroni tells us that after Jesus called them, He laid hands on them (put His hands on their heads and prayed for them).

He called each of them by their own name and taught them, "You shall call on the Father [God] in my name, in mighty prayer; and after you have done this you shall have power. Your power is that upon whomever you lay your hands [and pray] you will give the Holy Ghost."

The people who were baptized had to have a broken heart, a contrite spirit (this means they were sorry), and they had to witness to the Church that they repented of their sins.

And after they were baptized, the Holy Spirit, that beautiful power of God, worked on them and Moroni



says, "they were cleansed by the power of The Holy Ghost."

Have you ever done something that you were sorry for or ashamed of? Has someone ever done something to you that bothers and troubles you? Did you know that it is bad for your health, hard on your heart, and unnecessary for you to carry all that pain and trouble around?

You can go to a quiet place and pour out your heart troubles to Jesus. You can quietly ask the Elders in your branch to pray for you. You can ask the other members, people who are your brothers and sisters, to pray for you too.

You can give away the pain, give up the shame, the ugly feeling of being dirty or worried inside. You can trust Jesus and His Comforter to guide your heart and your life through hard, sad times to fresh new days of joy and promise.

Trust in Jesus. He has the power to make you clean. You never know what beautiful things are waiting for you in the future.

With love and care,

Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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MESSAGE continued . . .

In assessing the ability to honor the requests, it is becoming increasingly important to realize our capabilities and preparedness. Being prepared will acknowledge our willingness to fulfill the commission we have been given.

At the Foreign Missions Operating Committee meeting in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania in March, besides reports and plans for current missionary work, invitations from various parts of the world to hear about the Restored Gospel were presented. Time was spent in fasting and prayer asking God what He wants to be done. Who, when, and how some of these requests could be honored were evaluated, along with seeking the workers to go and the financial resources, always necessary, to send them.

Our gratitude to God and to our people who go on these trips, we are certain, is felt by all.

Our Women Today

PA Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference

By Sister Karen L. Progar

The first real hint of Spring in Pennsylvania is the Ladies' Uplift Circle Conference. This year's conference was held on Saturday, March 11, 1995, at the Imperial Branch. The meeting had an excellent representation of sisters from nearly every home Circle in the Area.

Imperial, the hosting Circle, offered beautiful devotions on the Fruits of the Spirit. We began our meeting with the reports of unfin-

ished business. In September 1994, the Circle sponsored a retreat at Oglebay Park in Wheeling, West Virginia. The Area project for this six months was the sale of holiday napkins, on which the Area netted a profit of \$370.36.

New business included more discussion about our General Circle Retreat which, as you no doubt have heard, will be held on June 1-4, in Dallas, Texas. Sister Linda Ottavian, Area President, gave a report on the finalization of the plans for the event. In addition under new business, we are very pleased to report that our Area was able to donate, at this meeting, \$600.00 for various children's funds throughout the Church. The AMOC was sent \$200.00 for the work in San Carlos, and the FMOC received \$200.00 for

the African orphans and another \$200.00 for the orphans in India. Many layette items were brought to the meeting and will be sent to Arizona for use among the Seed of Joseph.

Continued support of underprivileged children throughout the Church mission fields was chosen as our project for the next six months. We look forward to our September 30, 1995 conference which will be hosted by the Vanderbilt Circle. It is our desire that our efforts this summer will provide sufficient funds to continue support of these deserving projects.

We thank God for the blessings which were felt in our meeting and in the time of fellowship which we enjoyed afterward at our luncheon.

MBA Highlights

PA Area MBA News

By Sister Lucetta Scaglione

SEMINAR

On January 28, 1995, the PA Area MBA held a seminar in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. Brother Patrick Monaghan was in charge of the seminar. As he was reading the 5th chapter of Galations, the 25th verse stood out. *"If we live in the Spirit, let us also WALK IN THE SPIRIT."* This verse became the topic of our seminar. The evening began with a pot luck dinner. After dinner, we divided up into our various classes. There were approximately 88 people in attendance, ranging from the very young to the elderly. Some of the things the classes discussed were, what the Spirit of God is, why we should walk in it, the gifts of the Spirit, how to stay in tune with the Spirit, how to exercise it and REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT! We can sincerely say, "It was a blessed evening."

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT WEEKEND

A marriage enrichment weekend was held at Oglebay, West Virginia on February 11-12, 1995. Thirteen couples gathered in what was a beautiful winter setting. Brother Ron Genaro from Ohio presented an inspiring seminar on Building Lasting Relationships. It was very educational to hear why men and women react the way they do and we learned many helpful ways to enhance and strengthen our relationships with our spouses. In the evening, the couples enjoyed a romantic candlelit dinner. Afterwards, we shared some tears and a lot of laughter as each couple told about their first date, where they spent their honeymoon, a funny story, who they looked up to, and then we got sentimental and told just one, though there are many, trait we love about our mates.

Sunday morning we met together for our last meeting. Brother Ed Donkin spoke to us about the love of God and what it means in our lives. He reminded us that no matter how big and strong we think we are, we are frail compared to the Spirit and love of God. The love of God exceeds and overshadows all things.

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri encouraged us to break down the middle wall in our marriages and become as one, that Christ will strengthen us if we let Him become that mediator in our lives together. Brother Paul mentioned the ordinary wedding that Jesus was invited to, but it became special when He turned the water into the best wine. Our ordinary marriages can become special too, if we let our lives be our water pots and when we dip in, we will draw out love. This will strengthen our marriages so that our children will have that lineage of a solid foundation in Jesus Christ.

Sister Ann Ciotti testified that as our brothers were speaking, she heard Brother Ron Genaro praying for the marriages that are going astray and falling apart. Sister Ann heard the prayer so loud that she thought her ears would burst. Needless to say, immediately, Brother Ron offered a prayer. Brother Bob Nicklow testified that the Lord inspired him with the same scripture concerning the wedding and the wine before Paul spoke. Brother Paul Ciotti expressed that we are the clay and God is the potter. He will shape

(Continued on Page 11)

A Letter

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to first of all thank the Ladies' Circle for their gift. It was very helpful, and as usual, right on time.

I used to wonder why it seemed I was always surrounded by trials and tribulations, and was constantly trying to figure out what I was doing wrong. However, now I am beginning to realize that He was preparing me for this point in my life. I used to think of myself as self sufficient, but God has placed me in a position that I must rely on Him for everything. This has caused me to draw closer to Him, and desire to read and study more. I took for granted the opportunity to attend Church every Sunday.

Now that I am no longer able to

do so, I really miss the fellowship of my brothers and sisters. I have visited other churches here, but I always come home empty and unsatisfied. I know the truth, and have tasted the living water. Therefore, nothing else could quench my thirst. I have found my nourishment in reading the Bible and the Book of Mormon, praying, fasting, listening to tapes of past conferences, and reading the *Gospel News* letter. I can't thank everyone enough for their support. I thank God for you all.

Please pray for me and my family so God will bless us with the necessities of life, and that I may be a light and a source of strength to someone else. I want so much to give something back to God for all He has given me. I will continue to remember you all in my prayers.

May God Bless You All,
Sister Renee

Note Of Thanks

Thank you to all the brothers and sisters for your prayers on behalf of Brother Bob. At his last doctor visit, there was some good news. There is some new bone growth! Brother Bob is by no means out of the woods. He still has the infection, can no longer take medicine for it and there is a possibility of another operation. Only with God's help and intervention and the prayers of the brothers and sisters can it be taken away. God is the only one that can make a bone grow out of thin air! Thank you and God bless you all.

Brother Bob, Sister Judy
and Jessie Venuto

Branch and Mission News

An Exciting Day in Hollywood, FL Branch

By Sister Barbara DiNardo

What a wonderful spirit! Our October 23, 1994 meeting began with the Lord's table being set by our dearly beloved Sister Candace Obradovich while a group sang, *At the Cross*.

Brother Ike Smith opened in prayer, and our hearts were anticipating the coming blessings. We came together to the Lord's House prepared for the blessings along with a wonderful spirit of unity and fellowship with our brothers and sisters. We then sang, *We Have Come into This House*, further fortifying our efforts knowing when we take one step toward the Lord, He takes two steps toward us.

Brother Doug Obradovich with whom we worshiped with for many

meetings in this very house, spoke of Christ giving of Himself so that we could be free from satan's bondage. Brother Doug concluded by encouraging those who had not given themselves to Christ, to stop finding excuses, to begin thinking with our hearts, and trust that God will take care of those who serve Him.

Brother Ken Staley continued, stating that the message was from Christ, not merely shallow words from the elders.

Brother Paul DiNardo then spoke a few words concerning the blessing of little children, using scripture taken from the 10th chapter of Mark. Taking Shantavia Renee Smith into his arms, Brother Dennis Moraco asked the Lord's blessings upon her. Shantavia is the daughter of Sister Casandra and Keith Smith. How we as parents have come to rely on the blessing of our children. We sang, *Love Oh What Love*, and God

Is So Good.

Brother Dennis Moraco then called all the elders present to form a circle around the two who had requested to be reinstated and again be in fellowship with our Christ, namely Brothers Dane Obradovich and Nick Persico. Kneeling in prayer, our brothers begged the Lord's direction, as Jesus said, *"That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us."* Upon the conclusion of the prayer, Brother Phil Benyola offered the prayer reinstating Brother Nick Persico.

Brother Doug Obradovich then prayed, entreating God in behalf of his brother Dane, and thus Dane was welcomed back into the fellowship in The Church of Jesus Christ, sing hallelujah. As if the blessing of a tiny baby wasn't enough to bring joy to the hearts of those present, and the comfort of knowing our two brothers in Christ had taken the necessary steps by their own choice to fully embrace the Gospel once again, another soul, Ish Humphrey asked to be baptized. Yet it was not over; when God calls, He really calls!

Kelly Haggerty then asked for her baptism. While preparing to go to the waters' edge, many testified and praised God; our cups ran over.

It was a perfect day, the sun shining, skys of blue, and a slight breeze was blowing. Brother Ike Smith prayed and our new Brother Ish was taken into the water first, Brother Dennis Moraco saying, "Do you promise to serve God to the best of your ability?" Ish replied, "Yes."

Our Sister Kelly was then taken into the water and the same question was asked and was answered in the affirmative. Upon our return to the church building, we joined in song singing, *He's All the World To Me*. He surely is all the world to us.

Brother Ken Staley offered the opening prayer for our afternoon meeting. Brother Ike Smith spoke concerning the confirming and laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost. A special prayer was offered by Brother Phil Benyola to welcome God's Spirit. Brother Ish Humphrey was confirmed by Brother Ike Smith and Sister Kelly Haggerty was confirmed by Brother Ken Staley. Praise God!

We all shared the Lord's Supper together and embraced the day of days. Blessings flowed from vessel to vessel. Brothers Paul DiNardo and Doug Obradovich officiated in the ordinance of communion. Our wonderful day was then concluded with prayer and Brother Rodger Kirschenpfad thanked our God for blessings anticipated and greatfully received. We love you all and God bless you.

News from Fort Pierce, Florida

By Sister Florence Catena

On Sunday, November 13, 1994, we had the pleasure of having Sister Maryanne Donkin, from the Glassport, Pennsylvania Branch visiting with us. She came to visit with her mother, Sister Elsie Ensana, who recently had knee replacement

surgery. We thank God that Sister Elsie has made a full and speedy recovery.

Our morning service began with the congregation singing hymns and praises to God. A request was made that Sister Maryanne sing a hymn. She chose and sang *For Those Tears*. It is a beautiful hymn and it was beautifully sung. After the opening prayer, Brother Norman Campitelle was our opening speaker. He gave tribute to the Veterans who have fought for our freedom and the freedom of our wonderful country.

Brother Norman related an experience his mother had when his brother, David, was in the Armed Services. Upon David's return home, Sister Campitelle asked him what happened at a particular time. He would not and did not tell his mother. She then proceeded to relate to David, in complete detail, that a ship was bombed and the Hand of God was over the ship. David was amazed and asked her how she knew. Sister Campitelle said that God had given her the vision as to what happened that day. God surely works in wonderful and wondrous ways to protect His children.

Brother Ron Carradi followed on the same theme. He added that the world needs Christ and that we should take on the armor of God. We then heard several uplifting testimonies from the brothers and sisters. Sister Mary Morrin sang the hymn, *Never Alone*. What a blessing to hear this hymn. We had a wonderful day and we thank God for His continued blessings.

A Glimpse of Heaven

By Sister Connie Rossi

On Sunday, December 4, 1994, at the Spartanburg, South Carolina Mission, as Brother Darrell Rossi passed communion, he asked God for a glimpse of heaven. God granted him his request through a vision experienced by Brother Harold Littlejohn.

After the Lord's Supper was

passed, Brother Harold shared with us the following vision he experienced during the meeting. As Brother Darrell passed the bread, Brother Harold saw Jesus hanging on the cross and the Spirit spoke to him saying, "This you are doing is pleasing to me." Then as Brother Darrell went back to the table to cover the communion articles at the conclusion of communion, the Spirit spoke again to Brother Harold and said, "This you have done in remembrance of me."

It was such a blessing to hear this testimony and encouraging to know that the Lord took that time to tell His children how much He loves us and how pleased He is with us when we honor and obey Him. It also pleases the Father to answer the prayers of His children—even when we ask Him for a "glimpse of heaven."

President Visits Atlantic Coast

By Sister Linda Scolaro

Despite unusually cold temperatures and our first snowstorm of the season, we felt the warmth of the Spirit as we gathered to meet with Brother Dominic Thomas on Sunday, February 5. The saints of the Atlantic Coast District gathered at the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch where we were truly blessed throughout the day.

Prior to the start of the meeting, we sang many beautiful hymns, and the singing was seasoned with the Spirit of God. Brother Dominic then introduced the service with the 17th chapter of III Nephi which describes how Jesus healed the sick, the lame, etc. when He visited the Nephites on this land. He also spoke about Jesus' love for children, and how He asked the people to bring their children to Him. Brother Dominic exhorted us to have patience with our children, and remember Jesus' love for them.

The underlying theme of Brother

(Continued on Page 10)

ATLANTIC COAST continued . . .

Dominic's sermon was that he wants to learn more about the Lord. He asked us to keep our eyes fixed on Him, love Him, and serve Him. Brother Dominic gave us so many words of wisdom and encouragement. He begged us not to struggle searching for the American dream when we have God's spiritual dream for us at our fingertips. He also exhorted us to seek and use the gifts of the Spirit.

Brother Dominic explained that he understood the pain that Jesus felt as he was given a dream where he heard the pounding of the nails in Jesus' hands. It was so loud he couldn't bear the sound, and he awoke.

As the meeting went by so quickly, and Brother Dominic was preparing to leave, I felt like the Nephites who didn't want Jesus to depart. We derived such encouragement from his words, and from the spirit that he carried. We extend our thanks to God for bringing Brother Dominic safely to the Atlantic Coast District. Our prayer is that the Lord will continually bless our brother with wisdom and understanding as he serves God and the Church.

MOTHER'S DAY continued . . .

through some harsh spoken words? Was the teaching he received from his parents that which the Lord would expect from parents? Where was the boy's father? Was the home broken by divorce? Did mother have to take up the duties of both parents—go out to work to earn a livelihood to support her offspring, as well as herself? As a result, was the lad allowed to pick his own company, which perhaps was not what mother would have wanted, but which, under such trying circumstances, she had to accept?

Yes, many homes are torn asunder today by differences which could easily be straightened out if we would let the Lord take control of our lives. For instance, it states in St. Matthew 6:33 that if we seek the

kingdom of God and His righteousness, all things shall be added unto us. It is true all Gentiles seem to be seeking for the material things of life and, by so doing, are losing out on the real life which Christ wants us to have and enjoy. Consequently, many are handcuffed to Satan and his hosts of hell, because they are not seeking to find anything better than that which they have at the present time.

I recall a sad instance which I witnessed while visiting a brother and sister in South Gate, California. Waiting for the evening meal to be prepared, two young men in Army uniform came to the house and were welcomed warmly. One boy was from the state of Pennsylvania, and he was acquainted with the folks I was visiting. The other boy, whom we shall call Bill, seemed to be just a friend of his, but he tried to make himself at home with us.

After the dinner was over, we began conversing of the different places these boys had been. Even in their young lives, they had seen almost every country in the world, but I detected that Bill seemed to have something resting on his mind. Many times, he just looked out into space and had very little to say. In conversation later, he said, "I wish I had a home like this to come to, but I'm going home with my friend to meet his parents in Pennsylvania. Afterwards, I'll return to the Army."

Being an Evangelist in The Church of Jesus Christ, my curiosity was aroused to the extent that I asked Bill whether his parents were dead. He informed me that his parents had been divorced when he was very young, that his mother had remarried, and that he did not know where she was. He had been reared by relatives and friends; but, after he got his call to the Army, he thought he would correspond with his father and let him know his whereabouts. To Bill's surprise, he received a reply from his father that he had remarried, and the arrangements with the woman he married were that she was going to forget her children entirely; and he was to do likewise.

Because his father had entered

into this bargain with the woman he married, the lad was out in the world to do as he saw fit. He claimed that he had no place to go, or call home. As a result, he was going to stay in the Army although his time for training was up. Bill had no hope of anything better, so he had resolved himself to this course. He had no one to care for him.

I tried to explain to this young man that, although his earthly parents had forsaken him, he had a Father in heaven who cared for his soul and whose promise to the human family was that He would never forsake it. Bill was also encouraged, as we should be today, that for our obedience here upon earth to Him, Christ had gone on before to prepare a home in heaven for us, which is not made by human hand. There can be no doubt that, even though *"Earthly friends may prove untrue, doubts and fears assail; One still loves and cares for you: Jesus never fails."*

We cannot raise a family without the Bible and the Church. Perhaps there are some listening this morning who have left home and parents through some harsh words spoken or some other instances which have caused a separation. Within themselves, they do not feel that they could just return home and that all would be forgiven. Perhaps by dropping a line to the Gospel Hour at this station, you could let us know what your difficulties are. No doubt, we could intercede for you and make everyone happy because this is Mother's Day. Do not hesitate, for God is waiting in silence.

Many people are unable to communicate with mother because she has been called from this life to her reward beyond this "vale of tears." In the studio this morning, however, is a mother, who has two children, a boy and a girl; and I can say I love them dearly, because they comprise my family. Also, sitting at a radio this morning is a mother who is 86 years young, listening to her son broadcasting this message over the air; and, as soon as the Gospel Hour is finished, we shall be on our way to see this mother of mine.

You know, parents who have a daughter expect that someday they will lose her and she will take on another name. Well, this happened to my daughter last August; but I have never felt that I lost a daughter. Instead, I have gained a son, and I feel that their uniting on earth was also sanctioned from God's throne above.

There has been a request made that my daughter and I sing a duet this morning. I was wondering how many of you mothers remember your children in your prayers every day of your life. I ask this because I would not have attained my present age and be living for God, if it were not for the mercies of God and mother's prayers. I am thankful for this. Please let the remainder of this Sabbath Day be in the service of your Lord and Master. Before I sing the duet with my daughter, accompanied on the piano by Sister Margaret Henderson, I would like to read a poem, *Mother's Day*, I wrote for this occasion and dedicate it to my mother:

This day is set apart for you,
To mothers who are kind and true;
Who've set aside the things of worth,
To give a child a human birth.

Although you haven't been repaid,
Remember what the Lord hath said;
To all who are weary and without rest,
Come unto Me and you'll be blest.

It's good that God didn't forget Mothers,
For it seems she's forgotten by all
others;
And although she may be miles away,
Drop her a line this Mother's Day.

Tell her what she means to you,
So she can live her life anew;
And recall the days of long ago,
When she sang to you both sweet and low.

But now that she is old and gray,
And her aged body is going the way;
Of all who have passed on before,
To enter in by the open door.

So let her life be full of joy,
That she'll remember her girl and boy;
That when she's called to her

heavenly home,
She can present you too before God's
throne.

So I trust that on this Day of Rest,
That God will still continue to bless;
Your Mothers all, through years to
come,
Till we meet them, in that heavenly
home.

*(This article was written several years
ago by Evangelist Clifford A. Bur-
gess, deceased—Editor's note.)*

GENTILES continued . . .

Zion. Once Zion is brought forth, then Israel as a nation will be returned to the family of God. The Choice Seer will be the primary leader of the Church at this time.

William Cadman understood that the man who will be the Choice Seer will come to the Gentile people, be baptized, and be taught of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He believed that this man will be raised among the Gentile people, learning the ways of God. And as Lehi states in II Nephi 3:9, "And he shall be great like unto Moses, whom I have said I would raise up unto you, to deliver my people, O house of Israel."

As members of The Church of Jesus Christ, we must not look beyond the mark, beyond the plan of God for us as His people. Let us study the scriptures and understand His plan for our day and time. May God bless us today with this wisdom and understanding.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

our garments; otherwise their blood would come upon our garments, and we would not be found spotless at the last day." Can you imagine the love that Jacob and Joseph had for their fellow man that they would assume this type of responsibility? What a powerful missionary spirit, what zeal and what determination!

The four sons of Mosiah were

tremendous missionaries. They did not pick an easy missionary field. Their decision was to preach the word of God and declare salvation to their enemies. They did not waver, they did not falter; in fact they were extremely determined to preach salvation to every creature. In Mosiah 28:3 it states, "Now they were desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature, 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."

We read in II Nephi 28:19, "For the kingdom of the devil must shake, and they which belong to it must needs be stirred up unto repentance, or the devil will grasp them with his everlasting chains, and they be stirred up to anger, and perish."

The world has to be told that God has restored the Priesthood authority to The Church of Jesus Christ. The world has to be told as we read in Revelations 14:6 that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven. We must remember that God has commissioned The Church of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to the whole world. We must remember that God and Jesus Christ have given us the responsibility to preach the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to the Seed of Joseph. It must be revealed to them along with the covenants that God made to them in the Book of Mormon and the Bible.

The Church of Jesus Christ bears the responsibility of this great work. All of us have to be missionaries for the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. All of us have to get involved now in the work of the Lord. "Oh, the great work of the Lord. Nothing else counts!"

MBA NEWS continued . . .

and reshape us and make us whole. The Lord has kept us through the trial, but not from the trial. Two can walk as one in the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Be of good cheer!

It was the end of a good week-end but the beginning of a renewed effort to serve God and each other.

LOVE BUILDS BRIDGES



June 1st - 4th 1995

Let us build this bridge not only
for ourselves but for our children
and for those who will follow

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Baptisms

Brother Jason Gibson was baptized on November 13, 1994 on the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation by Brother Richard Christman and confirmed by Brother David Jordan.

Brother Charles Burge was baptized on January 15, 1995 on the Fort McDowell Indian Reservation by Brother Joseph Griffith and confirmed by Brother Wally Cihomsky.

* WEDDING *

Brother Mike Ivey and Sister Karen Alessio were united in holy matrimony on July 23, 1994 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Children Blessed

Megan Ashley Vinsick, daughter of Brother Paul and Sister Christina Vinsick, was blessed on March 19, 1995 in the Modesto, California Branch.

Rebecca Elizabeth Zane, daughter of Linda and Paul Zane, was blessed on March 12, 1995 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

OBITUARIES

Ottavio DiNardo passed on to his eternal reward on February 8, 1995, at the age of sixty-three. He attended the Hollywood, Florida Branch. Left to mourn are his wife, Sister Frances DiNardo; two sons, Brother Paul and Anthony; two daughters, Sisters Angie Stone and Nancy D. Smith; and three grandchildren, Andrew and Gianna DiNardo and Daniel Stone.

On February 6, 1995, our Lord and Savior called Brother Nicholas A. Zinzi, Sr. home to his reward. He was a member of the Palm Harbor, Florida Branch. Brother Nick was born on December 2, 1911 in New York, New York. He was ordained a teacher in 1950 and served fifty-five faithful years in the Church and was very active in the branch and auxiliaries. Brother Nick is survived by his wife, Sister Pearl; one daughter, Gelsa; three sons, Ralph, Nicholas Jr., David; his sister, Katherine; and five grandchildren.

Sister June Etta Shriner passed on to her eternal reward on February 25, 1995. She was a member of the Roscoe Branch. Sister June was born on June 4, 1921. Left to mourn are her husband, Brother Paul Shriner Jr.; two daughters, Delores Green and Nancy Robertson; two sons, Paul A. Shriner Jr., Brother Richard Shriner; seven grandchildren, nine great grandchildren; and two sisters, Florence Prykull and Elsie Means.

The Gospel News

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

June, 1995

Volume 51, No. 6

Father's Day

By Evangelist Nephi DeMercurio

This day is not only set apart to recognize and honor fathers, but perhaps a time to reflect on our identity and function in today's society.

To challenge the thinking of fathers, we can point out the various perceptions of fathers today. They can be considered as titular heads, meaning they have a title only with no authority or responsibility. To the extreme, they can be authoritative, commanding, demanding and forcing respect without giving in return. Lastly, they can be kind, gentle and unassuming creatures who give their all for their children. Yet no matter the perception of fathers, even our most sincere efforts of being a good father may still fail.

In the beginning, God showed His Fatherhood by being responsible for the needs of our first parents Adam and Eve in spite of adversity. God's Fatherhood was tested and challenged when Satan launched an aggressive attack on the Fatherhood of God, by challenging God's responsibility, authority and love for His children, through the temptation of Adam and Eve.

Even though Satan's deception caused a breakdown in the relationship between God and His children, Adam and Eve, He did not forsake them. God did not leave them to their own demise, but He cared for them by clothing them and ultimately providing a way that some time in the future, the relationship between the Father and His children would be restored. It took thousands of years to restore that relationship, but it was not without much sacrifice and pain by God and man to ultimately bring about this reconciliation. The task was enormous. God set His plan into motion to save man by revealing His plan of redemption through Godly men, prophets, the law and ultimately His Son, Jesus Christ. Patiently through thousands of years God taught man about His Son whose death would make us His sons and daughters (Romans 8:14, 16) and restore the human family as His children.

The classic scriptural story of God's reconciliation with man is found in the parable of the Prodigal Son. As the Father in the parable, God shows His enormous patience and love with His wayward son. The prodigal's rebellion and self-centeredness was a source of great sorrow to his father. The son demanded his share of the inheritance. However, in time, he discov-

ered the price he would pay for his rebellion. Ultimately he spent everything and he became destitute. Everything he claimed was his was gone. There was nothing.

Also, this parable shows a historical setting between man and God. For example, we see the children of Israel squander all the things God had given them; land, possessions, wealth, power and honor. All came to naught, because of their self-centeredness and pride. They too lost everything. The parable shows the reality of man's rebellion against God throughout all ages of time.

As in the parable, God shows great patience for man to repent and acknowledge God as the Father. That patience is best described by the words of Jesus when He cried a great lamentation; "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not" (Matt. 23:37).

This is the disobedient man who God loves in spite of his rebellion. That plea for Jerusalem to harken unto God was an ultimate outpouring of God's love toward mankind in trying to reconcile them to Him. He

(Continued on Page 2)

FATHER'S DAY continued . . .

waited for them. He pleaded for them. The time would come when all would be spent. Man would have to recognize his sin, rebellion and his loss of self-respect. It was the recognition that even being a servant would be the answer. Finally after thousands of years, when Jesus died on the cross, man would finally say, "I have sinned, let me become a hired servant and not a son."

Oh how the father waited for the day when he would see his son again. It was no accident that he saw him in a distance. He must have been watching, praying and hoping his son would come home. When he saw him, he had compassion, ran, fell on his neck, kissed him and rejoiced. *"For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found"* (Luke 15:24). Did you hear it? "My son was lost and is found." **That was the ultimate in Fatherhood!**

Today we are challenged as the father of the prodigal. We experienced the bliss with our children but then came the shattered dream, rebellion.

Twenty-five years ago, we rejoiced in the birth of our first son. There was great joy and anticipation for the future. All we could see was good. What greater experience was there to witness than the birth of our own son. We could not envision anything but joy. We felt invincible. We were going to be different than our parents. What did they know. They were old-fashioned. Their value system was a bit outmoded. We had the answer in raising children. After all, we saw the mistakes our parents made and we were going to be different.

As we witnessed the growth of our children and despite the mischief, fevers, various childhood illnesses, teething and growing pains, there was still the innocence of the Garden in our home. However, as our children began to grow older, the idea of independence became greater, the innocence of the Garden was being challenged.

As our children grew older,

they refused to be sheltered, they wanted to be independent and in their growing years felt they could make choices. We were no longer able to protect, plan, think or do for them. They had come of age and with it, independence and rebellion. The dream was being further shattered and as the years progressed we were losing the love of our children. What was once sacred, holy, God, fatherhood and family was being challenged not only by our children, but by the times. We were living in an enlightened age, the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's and we were hearing that we were old-fashioned and antiquated. We were shocked! We thought we had the answers and reluctantly we began to see our own failures. We tried to keep these failures a secret, but the time had come when not only our family but other families were under siege. We felt ashamed to admit our failures in raising our children, but it became apparent, it was a universal event.

We now realized we did not have the answers, because we did not know how to hold on to our children. We tried to challenge their feelings and beliefs. However, with each challenge, the gulf between us became greater. We felt perplexed, because we felt great hostility from our children. What had made this change? We loved our children. We deserved better. Now we could understand the burden of our parents. We were not different. We were like them. After all we loved our children and thought their love toward us would be uninhibited. It would be returned to us freely. We just expected to be loved, but it was not that easy. Our children had their own ideas. They became ambassadors for change. It came from the schools, music, movies, and peer pressure. Even God was being challenged. What a thought! God! Our children rebelling against God. How was that possible? We remember hearing them recite scripture, take part in Christmas programs, sing songs about Jesus and now rebelling against God. It all seemed impos-

sible. Was this happening to us? We thought we were alone, singled out. However, we discovered other families were going through the same turmoil. We were all facing the shattered dream. No one really wanted to readily admit they were having problems with their children. However, in reality all of our children became endangered. Here and there cries began to be heard. Pleas for prayers and fastings were made for our children. We now realize the traditional and Biblical role of fathers had changed. The idea of family was of the past. We did not even have dinner together anymore and family gatherings became unimportant and irrelevant. We prayed, fasted and cried. Through the years, we began to see that our society betrayed us.

It had planned to take our children. We did not see it. We saw a perfect world, a perfect Garden. However, that vision was taken from us and destroyed. We can only think of it being restored again. We must be reconciled to our children as God reconciled us through His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we search for ways to claim our children, again the parable of the Prodigal Son offers the solution, forgiveness and compassion. Remember, the father exhibited the ultimate in love. He did not scold his son or reprimand him. He did not degrade him. The father did not say such things as, Why did you do such a dumb thing? Why did you cause me great pain? Did you realize how much I sacrificed for you? I gave you everything I have and you have not appreciated it. These are the challenges we give our children. We often remind our children of their sins and do not see our own. The Prodigal was forgiven. He started anew.

The father did not care what his son had done. All he knew was that his son was alive. He was home. That's all that mattered. He was home and he was reconciled. It was the Garden scene again, peace, love, and innocence.

We don't want to kill our

children by constantly reminding them of their failures. We want to say to them, "For this my son [or daughter] was dead, and is alive again; he [she] was lost, and is found." Let us reverence our children. Let us cry for them. Let us feel their pain and not our own. Let us forgive them. **This is Fatherhood!**

(Twenty-five years ago, in the June 1970 issue of The Gospel News, Brother Nephi DeMercurio wrote an article about Father's Day shortly after the birth of their first son.—Editor's note)

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Note of Thanks

The family of Brother Leroy Love, Sr., of the South Bend, Indiana Mission, would like to express our sincere and heartfelt thank you to all of the brothers and sisters in The Church of Jesus Christ throughout the vineyard for their expressions of love, sympathy, phone calls, flowers, donations, and especially your prayers, and the thoughtfulness you have shown. May we share this poem with you. "Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a floral piece, if so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest words, as any friend could say; Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, We thank you so much whatever the part." May God bless you, and be with you all always.

Sister Cora Love and Family

Dear Brothers, Sisters, and Friends,

I want to express my heartfelt and deepest thanks for your countless expressions of love. Your many prayers, many cards, letters, and phone calls were like a blanket of love around me. I will always and forever cherish your concern and love for me and my wonderful wife, Sister Virginia. Your kindness, thoughtfulness and love will never be forgotten. I am feeling much better. With God's help, I am gaining strength with each passing day. I thank God for each and everyone of you. He is truly a wonderful God that answers our cries and prayers. I humbly ask that you continue to remember me and my wife in your daily prayers. They mean so much to us. I love each and everyone of you with all my heart. God bless you all is my humble prayer.

Brother Joseph Lovalvo

1994 Financial Results

Dear Readers:

Although SOMEWHAT LATE, these are the final figures for 1994. It is important for you to understand the financial situation of the Church and what impact these figures may have on the Church.

Total donations for 1994 were \$418,212 as compared to 1993 which were \$504,616. We are \$86,404 behind last year and \$101,302 below the SPENDING PLAN for the year.

These figures clearly indicate an inability or an unwillingness to support the Church financially.

The following figures are a comparison of the year-end totals by district as well as the average donation per member per month for 1994.

DISTRICT	1994	1993	AVE./MEMBER
Atlantic Coast	\$ 59,929	\$ 80,186	\$13.39
Michigan/Ontario	92,245	121,859	14.35
Ohio	47,968	44,351	9.66
Pacific Coast	60,601	73,355	11.80
Pennsylvania	100,753	116,645	17.56
Southeast	41,657	40,540	14.53
Southwest	15,059	27,680	5.53
Totals	\$418,212	\$504,616	\$12.93

The requested minimum donation for each member is \$20.00 per month. As shown, we did not meet that minimum.

How can this downward slide be stopped? We hold the answer to that question. The reasons or excuses for this dismal showing can be debated forever. The real reasons are within each of us as members of the Restored Gospel. You know, the Gospel we are so quick to proclaim and tell our friends and neighbors how the Church is expanding its missionary work.

If this continues in 1995, we will have to maintain our silence since the Church, OUR CHURCH, will have to cut back on the missionary work. Then what will we say? 2 Corinthians 9:7 states, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

General Church Finance Committee



Missionary Foundation

*By Apostle Paul Benyola,
Foundation Chairman*

The Mission Operating Committee, under the direction of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, is responsible for overseeing the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ throughout the world. The scope of this huge task includes North, South, and Central America; Africa; Europe; India; the Far East; and many other countries.

The Missionary Foundation is the fund-raising arm of The General Church which has been created to help to provide the finances with which missionary work can be done.

Reaching mankind is a very challenging spiritual task. Romans 10:14-15 explains the situation: *"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?"*

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

We have an obligation to go to all the world. Jesus said, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ."* (Matthew 28:19).

How can the preacher go without the funds to send him? To help raise these resources and to familiarize and keep everyone abreast of the activities undertaken, the Foundation contains three working committees. They are the Missionary Awareness,

Small Business Ventures, and Investments Committees.

MISSIONARY AWARENESS

The Awareness Committee has been created to allow our members and friends to have more in-depth knowledge of what is going on around the Church, particularly in designated mission fields. The Missionary Foundation Newsletter is being sent to our people bi-monthly, and it gives us all more insights into what is being done. Furthermore, individuals can indicate on the return envelope furnished if they feel to contribute to a project in a particular nation or if they want to give without any specific designation.

Additionally, the awareness group is in the process of developing a video tape which will bring us into the homes and lives of our foreign and domestic missions, as well as working on another video introducing our Church to interested people.

This committee is also responsible for coordinating face-to-face presentations throughout all branches and missions; and it will develop programs to solicit for special church approved projects.

SMALL BUSINESS VENTURES

The purpose of the Small Business Ventures Committee is to encourage our foreign missions to create small businesses that will utilize the talents of our members and, at the same time, help to offset the many expenses associated in establishing the Gospel in developing countries.

There are many needs in education and health care, especially among the children, and business opportunities are ways to help. For example, we have financed the Nigerian Otoro farms project under a brother in that area who attended college in the United States and majored in agriculture and farming. In Kenya, we have financed an office faxing center which will be run by a young energetic brother.

We are also reviewing other business possibilities. We do not lend large amounts, and we investigate each proposal carefully to insure that the business venture will be well managed. A financial plan is prepared to provide the guidelines to repay the financing.

INVESTMENTS

A finance committee invests the perpetual funds of the Missionary Foundation in safe investments, such as purchasing branch mortgages from the General Church Building Fund. The interest generated by these funds is used to help defray missionary costs. The original principal of this fund is never depleted and will continue to earn interest in perpetuity.

Special church approved projects are given to the Foundation, which then solicits money for them, as was mentioned in conjunction with the newsletter. Some of the purposes funds were requested were for the orphans in India, construction of a church building and support of the many needy Sunday School children on the San Carlos Indian Reservation, a new roof for our church sponsored school in Nigeria, and the rebuilding of homes and our churches that were destroyed by floods in India.

An approved project was given to the Missionary Foundation in April 1995. It is to solicit donations to build a church building, erect an exterior wall to protect the members from snakes and other unwanted creatures, and dig a well to provide potable water. This structure will be located in Ambattor, India (about 30

(Continued on Page 6)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Are there mountains in your life? They can be overcome, they can be moved. Are there obstacles in your life? They can be eliminated. Are there things you hope for in life? They can be attained. Do you want to experience and see the miracles of God? They are available to you. Do you want to see The Church of Jesus Christ go forward? Remember, The Church of Jesus Christ, is the hope of the world.

How is all of this possible one might ask? The answer is not a difficult one. The answer is for us to exercise **great faith** in the Lord. What is faith? The best definition was given by the Apostle Paul. He eloquently defines it in Hebrews 11:1, "*... the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*"

There are many examples in scripture of men and women who exercised great faith. They were rewarded for their great faith. Enoch never died, he was translated. Alma never died, he was translated, taken up in the spirit. Sara conceived at an old age, giving birth to Isaac. The Brother of Jared removed a mountain that was in their path. David overcame and slew Goliath. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were not burned in the fiery furnace. Their hair was not singed. Their clothing did not even smell of smoke! There are four men who personally knew the Lord and they are still living! This sounds impossible, incredulous! Is it? Not with God! We read in Luke 1:37, "*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*" These four men are the Apostle John and the three Nephites. They are alive because of their great faith. What power! What miracles! What faith! All of these individuals overcame mortality. They overcame the laws of physics. They overcame the laws of nature.

The Lord said in Matthew 17:20; "*... If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*" Please note that the Lord said, **nothing shall be impossible unto you.** Do you realize that the Apostle Peter's shadow healed people? Have you read lately James 5:14-15: "*Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed any sins, they shall be forgiven him.*"

Enos experienced the forgiveness of his sins. He did not pray for five or ten minutes. We read that he prayed all day and into the night. Finally, a voice spoke to him and told him that his sins were forgiven and he would be blessed. Enos asked, "*Lord, how is it done?*" The Lord answered him, "*Because of thy faith in Christ, whom thou hast never before heard nor seen.*" The Lord also told him, "*... thy faith hath made thee whole.*"

It is through faith that the sick will be healed. It is through faith that the blind are made to see, the lame are made to walk, the deaf are made to hear. It is faith that leads to repentance, and baptism that our sins are forgiven. It is through our faith, our belief, our steadfastness that the Lord will use us to spread The Church of Jesus Christ all over the world. It will take great faith to move the Church forward; to go to strange, foreign lands to bear our testimonies and proclaim the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ; to go to our neighbors, our towns, our villages, and our communities to tell people of The Church of Jesus Christ.

It is very possible that our missionaries may encounter harmful and life threatening situations as they reach out to unknown cultures and people. Their lives, their families could be in jeopardy. If we exercise great faith, we can have a positive effect

(Continued on Page 12)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

Sometimes when I see all the bad things going on in the world, the human side of me, the flesh side begins to fear. The old devil wants me to be afraid. But I don't need to fear.

God has created this entire universe. He has created you and me. He even created all the angels. That means He created Lucifer too, His special angel that rebelled and became the devil.

God controls EVERYTHING that He has created. He even controls the old devil. Our job is not to fear. Our job is to know and trust that God does and will control everything.

Our human side of us fears death. But the death of our flesh leads to an eternal life. We hope to be in a good place with the love and joy of our gentle, kind, Jesus to watch over us. So really, when someone dies here on earth, we should be happy for them, even if we're sad that we will miss them.

And when we hear bad things, our job is to pray for the people who are hurt and for the ones that hurt them. Jesus said (in Matthew 5:38 through 48) "... do good to them that hate you, and pray for those that spitefully use you, and persecute you, that you may be the children of your Father which is in heaven."

If you notice, Jesus did not say that nobody would ever hurt you, or use you or persecute you. They will. But what He did tell us is that we have a greater power inside us that will let us overcome those things.

The Spirit of God inside you, the power of love that you can call

on, can take away the power of evil to hurt you. Pray and be willing to change and learn and love—even your enemies.

With love,
Sister Jan

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WORD SEARCH

MATTHEW
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JESUS
CAN
CHANGE
FEAR
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FAITH
HE
CARES
FOR
US

MESSAGE continued . . .

minutes north of Madras). Approximately 40-50 people attend services currently being held in the home of Brother (Elder) Stephen and Sister Pushparag and their two children. If 300 donations for \$90.00 each are received, we can accomplish this task.

There are many worldwide needs. All money donated will go directly to the specified area. Donations given range from several thousands of dollars, from \$10.00 to \$100.00 a month, or as much as the givers can send. No matter what the size your donation or donations may have been, we thank you for your wonderful desire. These donations are in addition to your free will support of your mission or branch, district, and General Church financial responsibilities.

SUCCESS FACTOR

You are the success factor. The Missionary Foundation, along with the other financial committees of the Church, have managed to eliminate all outside church debt. This could not have been done without you. We also want to thank the many brothers and sisters who have given generously of their time and energy since 1990 to develop the Missionary Foundation. May God continue to bless and reward you according to your willingness to assist the GREAT COMMISSION OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.

Donations can be sent to: The Church of Jesus Christ, Missionary Foundation, P.O. Box 15667, Pittsburgh, PA 15244.



Our Women Today

Making A Difference

LADIES' UPLIFT CIRCLE
TSE BONITO, NEW MEXICO

Twenty hand-made quilts and blankets were wrapped, personally delivered and presented to Native American mothers of newborns and other young children scheduled to correspond with the National Make A Difference Day. This occurred on Saturday, October 22, 1994, when ten women from the Ladies' Uplift Circle joined what may have been hundreds of thousands of individuals, families and groups across the nation to intervene in a positive way for others.

Sisters Sarah Watson, Sylvia Curry and Martha Lotgering, provided leadership and inspiration to a

group of younger mothers and their daughters. Making A Difference has been "standing operating procedure" for these three sisters. They are thought of as an aunt, mother and grandmother by many beyond their own family members. Once again, these sisters focused upon the National Make A Difference Day. The internal reward of helping others is their legacy of transferring values to the youth. Unselfish giving is alive and well.

An idea was conceived nearly nine months ago as fifteen women desired to reach beyond their personal needs to bring some light into the lives of others. This vision-setting group integrated retired women, young professionals and homemakers, and daughters of elementary, high school and college ages. They chose to focus upon the youngest of the members of the community—the newborns. Native American families are over-represented among the

economically disadvantaged of this community.

The Ladies' Uplift Circle has been making a difference for two decades here in Navajoland of the Southwest and across the nation for over fifty years. These dedicated women have provided hope to many over the years through unselfish giving of their time and resources.

Make A Difference Day provided an opportunity to promote again the evidence that there are many who quietly give of themselves—not seeking recognition. This was a day which made a difference in the lives of each individual and family involved in both the giving and the receiving never to be forgotten. Sharing and learning the value of giving of self highlighted this event. Make A Difference Day reflected a special day long anticipated, to repeat again and again, and to be a memory of values in action to be shared with another generation in the future.

MBA Highlights

Atlantic Coast Area MBA Married Couples Retreat

By Sister Joyce Ross

We gathered together, married couples of all ages, to enjoy and fellowship one with another in seminar, dining and our Sunday worship service.

Our seminar was conducted by Brothers Dominic Thomas and Paul Benyola. Brother Dominic stated that it would be good for the Church to conduct more retreats of this nature, as they serve an excellent purpose. He also stated how happy he was to be with us. He shared many of the personal experiences in his life together with his wife, Sister Dolores.

Many words of inspiration were spoken to us and time and paper will only permit me to set forth a few:

"Work on your problems rather than your problems working on you; confess to one another if you are troubled or something is wrong; and work out ground rules for confrontations."

Brother Dominic counseled us to remember that next to our relationship with God, our marriage is the most important. Love and serve God first in your life and you will have a successful marriage. It is when you wander out of the perimeters of serving God, problems will arise. Keep the Lord in your marriage in order to keep your marriage. We must put all our faith and trust in the Lord and we must confess to the Lord we cannot do it alone.

He further encouraged us to set important goals, year by year; continue to cultivate our relationship with God; pray out loud together, praying for the spiritual welfare of one another; show reverence for one another; and express out loud how

much you need and love one another.

The evening dinner was special. The room was filled with smiling faces and peaceful charm. Each couple related how they met and when they had their first date. The heartwarming question posed to each person was: "What is the one quality you admire most in your husband or wife?" The answers brought tears, laughter and a certain warmth to all.

On Sunday, we gathered together for our service and Brother Dominic spoke of the Samaritan woman and her interaction with the Master. We enjoyed wonderful blessings and the Spirit of the Lord prevailed in our testimony service and during Sacrament.

We thank God for the opportunity afforded us to enjoy a beautiful weekend and to be counseled by Brothers Dominic Thomas and Paul Benyola.

"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a help meet for him" (Genesis 2:18).

Branch and Mission News

News from Hollywood, FL

By Sister Ilene Coppa

During our Sabbath service on January 15, 1995, our children sang, *Stop and Let Me Tell You What the Lord Has Done for Me*. As we listened to their singing, they were beautiful. Our hearts and minds were full of their lovely singing. Brother Silverio Coppa spoke from the 32nd chapter of Alma. He urged us to experiment upon the words of Alma which compare the Word of God to a seed. Brother Silverio stated that as we experiment, a feeling begins to swell within our breasts and when we feel these swelling motions, we will express and realize that this is a good seed. This seed enlarges our souls and enlightens our understanding. If we continue to nourish the seed with diligence and patience, it shall develop into a tree, bearing fruit, which will point us and take us into everlasting life.

We held our feet washing service and our two new members, Brother Ish Humphrey and Sister Kelly Haggerty, experienced this ordinance for the first time. We love each moment as they learn and this reassures us that God's still on His throne. After all the blessings we enjoyed today, the best was yet to come.

Our testimony time proved to be extremely beautiful and lively. The saints were truly speaking from their hearts. How good God is. Several times our Presiding Elder attempted to bring the meeting to a close, but as the Spirit of God flowed from vessel to vessel, one person after another stood to express themselves.

Then Janet Humphrey, Brother Ish's wife, rose to tell how the Lord has been working with her. She expressed that how she being of the Jewish Nation has come to feel the seed of Jesus Christ, how it has been

swelling in her soul. We were all moved to the edge of our seats, holding our breath as she continued to speak, word after word, glorifying God. It seemed an eternity when at last she said, "I want to be baptized." Janet asked to observe this ordinance in two weeks. This would allow her to invite her family to view the event. We looked forward to the fulfilling of our sister's request.

On January 29th, we began our day of worship at 9:30 AM in our Church building, singing hymns of praise. We were filled with anticipation. Today, even the angels in heaven would rejoice. *Shall We Gather at the River* is not merely a song. It is a happening, its the death of sin, a resurrection and newness of the soul. We all are renewing, in a sense, our promise to serve God to the best of our ability.

We had visitors from Cape Coral, Miami, Lake Worth and the Homestead Mission. Brother Ish Humphrey, himself still in his infancy spiritually speaking, having been born again in October of 1994, was so filled and overwhelmed, he had an expression and testimony only those who are being fed the pure milk and honey of the Gospel possess. We sang *Come All Ye That Thirst*, and we can truly say that our thirst has been satisfied.

The House of God was filled and our Sister Janet was ready along with Brother Dennis Moraco whom she had requested to officiate in this ordinance. We drove to a tiny park, to an inland lake in Hollywood, Florida. Oak Lake by name would never be the same. When we arrived at the site, I noticed there were houses on the far side of the lake. Owners of the residences had gathered to see what our crowd was all about. Being afar off, I wondered at the conclusion of the baptism, just what their thoughts would be. Did we raise their curiosity just enough or

even enough to prompt them to investigate? Time will tell.

Brother Dennis entered the water. He took a pole, measured the depth of the water and plunged the pole into the lake bottom. Returning to the shore, Brother Dennis asked Sister Janet if she repented of her sins, would she accept Christ as her personal Savior and would she serve Him to the best of her ability from this day hence, for all the remaining days of her life? After she answered in the affirmative, Brother Dennis led her into the watery grave. What a beautiful sight seeing her lifted up into the newness of life. Fresh, brand spanking new, as a babe in arms, full of love, looking forward to a wonderful life in Christ Jesus.

Returning to the water's edge, Brother Dennis began telling of Philip and the eunuch, stating as did the eunuch in Acts 8:36, "*See here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?*" No sooner had he said this, when Tony (Anthony Joseph Moraco), Brother Dennis's son, his eldest, stepped to his father's side saying, "I'm ready, Dad, I'm ready." "Just As I Am" was truly the way he came. Tears welling up in his eyes, he reached out and embraced his father, "I'm ready Dad, I'm ready."

Announcement

For June, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	6.00%
2 years	6.20%
3 years	6.40%
4 years	6.60%
5 years	6.80%

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.

We were all touched as this tender hearted young lamb removed his tie and his shoes. He handed them to his mother, Susan. He embraced her and said, "I love you Mom." As Brother Dennis led him into the water, one of the sisters on shore thought how wonderful if Tony's biological mother could see him. At that moment, there appeared a vision of Sister Joyce Moraco. She was robed in flowing white, arms outstretched and smiling.

Back at the church building, Brother Silverio Coppa offered prayer and we sang, *I Will Serve Him* with all our hearts. Brother Ken Staley sang, *For Those Tears*, while playing the piano. He was weeping to such an extent, I wondered if he could see the notes he was playing. The elders knelt in prayer to ask God's blessing upon the new members. Brother Ken Staley laid his hands on Sister Janet's head calling upon God to baptize her with His Holy Spirit even as He did in sending the dove to His only Son. Brother Silverio Coppa then laid hands on his grandson Tony's head, confirming upon him the Holy Ghost. This confirmed what the Lord said that, *"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"* (John 3:5).

Brother Dennis Moraco said that in the tradition of the Italian family, Tony was named for his great-grandfather Anthony (Tony) Russi and for his paternal grandfather, Dominic Joseph Moraca, both gone to their reward. Sister Lisa Lopez rose stating she had been prompted to wash Sister Susan Moraco's feet the previous Sunday. As she washed Sister Susan's feet, she found herself praying for her son Tony. Sister Lopez did not understand it then, but understood it today. Brother Tony stood and expressed himself. He said, "I didn't even know I was in the water at first."

At this point, Katrina Hopkins rose and asked for her baptism. Katrina asked that we allow her family from Quincy, Florida be present at her baptism. To accomplish this, it was decided to baptize

her the next Sabbath Day, February 5, 1995.

On February 5th, we met at the church building once more with great hopes. We were singing hymns once more preparing to go to the rivers of life. Upon our arrival at the waters edge, Brother Paul DiNardo took Katrina into its depths and immersed her from head to toe. His words were, "Having authority given me of Jesus Christ, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, Amen."

We returned to the church building. Our meeting was opened in prayer by Brother Silverio Coppa. Brother Leonard Benyola of New Jersey spoke on the 5th chapter of Alma and asked, "Have you been born of God?"

A chair was placed for Sister Katrina. The elders again called upon God to come amongst us. Brother Cleve then laid his hands on Sister Katrina's head. He asked God to fill her with His Holy Spirit. Brother Cleve petitioned God that Katrina would feel and know her name is written in the Lambs Book of Life, never to be erased; that in the morning of the first resurrection, she would be there.

Brother Cleve then spoke of Sister Katrina's grandmother, a faithful saint, who thought there was nothing Brother Cleve could not accomplish through our Lord Jesus Christ. He went on to say, that everything that looks like gold is not always gold. Brother Cleve encouraged us not to be confused, that Rome was not built in a day, and this was the Gospel we have obeyed. He stated that we are to choose either the world or the Gospel and there are no on-the-fence choices so to speak.

Brother Dennis Moraco then called upon our new members to come up to the podium, whereupon eight saints came forward. They sang us a hymn, *What a Friend* and then they testified, one by one. We were all filled. A number of those present were anointed due to illness. Our meeting was brought to a close. We thank you Lord for all your goodness and blessings.

News from Miami, FL

By Sister Eileen Katsaras

We were happy to have visiting our branch, Brother Bert and Sister Leda Scheffler. Brother Bert told a dream from years ago: There was a gathering in the Greensburg Branch, not only that branch, but the whole Church. Every time those that were in charge tried to open the service, a group of people outside the building would throw stones at the building and make a lot of noise. By the third time they tried to open the meeting, the heavens opened up and big hail stones came down. The people outside had to leave and then they were able to open the service. Years later Brother Bert said he understood the dream when he read from Revelations 16:21, *"And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."*

Brother Bert asked, "What do I have to do to get salvation?" He read from James 2:14, *"What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?"* Brother Bert asked us what do we think we should do. He said, "It's our duty to tell others of this Gospel or it will not be well with us."

Brother Mark Kovacic continued, asking as if it was the Lord asking, "What have you done for me recently?" "What have you done for me today?" Brother Mark said, "We measure our life from the great things that happen from time to time. The great things will come when they come. We measure people from the little things that happen to us in life." He then added to Brother Bert's sermon, "Someday we will move mountains, someday we will climb them." Brother Mark then referenced the third chapter of James which speaks about the tongue. He said, "Watch your tongue, watch what you say." He stated, "Be

(Continued on Page 10)

MIAMI continued . . .

prepared in season and out of season." Brother Mark commented that "if the only way I can get into Zion is by controlling my mouth, boy would I be inspired to do that!"

On this occasion, we also recognized Brother Nick Ritz's 89th birthday. In his testimony, Brother Nick said the greatest blessing is The Church of Jesus Christ. He stated that the good fruit of the vineyard is God's blessings; to the Gentiles and when His people come, the House of Israel, they will enjoy great blessings too. Brother Nick said the Lord is the source of everything, he strives to praise Him, and obey Him in all things.

The Miami Branch was blessed to have Brother Bert and Sister Leda Scheffler visit our branch. We had other visitors as well, Sister Betty Gennaro and Brothers Brian Griffith and Shannon Wood. We extend an invitation to all our brothers and sisters and we remember all of you in our prayers. God bless you all.

Ordinations in Yucaipa, CA

By Brother Roy Verstraete

Sunday, December 11, 1994, a long awaited day finally arrived. On this day, Brothers Randy Lee and Sal Azzinaro would be ordained into the ministry of Jesus Christ. The attending ministers were Brothers John DiBattista and Otto Henderson of Anaheim; Brothers Thomas Liberto, Paul Liberto, Ken Surdock, David Ciccatti and Lou Ciccatti from San Diego; Brother Jim Scalise from Bell; Brothers Ken Jones, Rudy Carrillo, Frank Genaro and Clarence Kirkpatrick from Yucaipa. God richly blessed all who came to witness these ordinations.

The opening hymn was #17 of the *Songs of Zion*, *Wave the Flags of Zion*. Prayer was offered by Brother Frank Genaro, which was followed by many special hymns. *Without*

Him was sung by Brother Kirk and Sister Carol Kirkpatrick, *Amazing Grace* was sung by Sister Carol's niece Shelli Kramer, and the very appropriate hymn, *You Can Use Me* was sung by Sister Diane Surdock.

Our presiding elder, Brother Ken Jones, opened the meeting by speaking to the brothers who were to be ordained about the grace of God. Brother John DiBattista followed with how men are called into this Gospel and the Priesthood of old. Then our Pacific Coast President, Brother Tom Liberto, took charge of the meeting and read from Alma. Sister Bennie Jones had a beautiful vision in which many angels were attending the meeting. She saw a huge bright light shine from heaven on each of our brothers who were about to be ordained.

Brother Randy Lee was ordained by Brother Ken Jones and his feet were washed by Brother David Ciccatti. Sister Carol Kirkpatrick also had a beautiful vision while Randy Lee was being ordained. She saw a vessel of Holy Oil being presented into the hands of our brother. Prayer was offered by Brother Lou Ciccatti, followed by Brother Ken Surdock praying for the Lee family as Brother Randy begins his work for God. Brother Sal Azzinaro was ordained by Brother Tom Liberto and his feet were washed by Brother Rudy Carrillo. Brother Otto Henderson prayed for the Azzinaro family as Brother Sal also begins a work for the Lord. The beautiful day ended by Brother Otto Henderson closing in prayer. After the meeting, we enjoyed a little lunch and a wonderful season of fellowship. God bless you.

Blessings in Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love: Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in

the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3).

How good the Lord is! The New Year has begun with a fervent desire which has been placed in our hearts, to serve God in unity and harmony. We have seen the fruits of this determination in the presence of His Spirit among us. Our business meetings took place this year in an atmosphere of love, acceptance and harmony, complete with anointings, testimony and the outpouring of God's Spirit. There have been healings as well. Brother Jim Grondahl who has been diagnosed with cancer has been receiving good reports from the doctor after his anointings. The cancer has not affected his bones, as was originally suspected, and his cancer cell count is improving. Sister Donna Pepe related that she had been experiencing severe problems with her vision and had intended to schedule a neurologist appointment at her doctor's request. She told of a dream she had the next night in which Brother John DiBattista from Anaheim, California, had anointed her for this problem. The following day she was healed, and her husband Brother Mike informed her that Brother John had indeed stopped over and anointed her as she slept. This testimony opened a floodgate of praise and relating of experiences, all to the honor and glory of God.

Brother John DiBattista brought a wonderful and exciting report of the progressive healing of a young comatose boy named Benny in Paioni, Colorado, who he has been visiting and praying for. Each time after Brother John anointed the boy, the family has contacted Brother John at home to say that Benny was improving. He had been in a coma for four years. When Brother John and Brother Bob Sullivan visited Benny recently, Brother Bob sang *Amazing Grace* in Benny's hospital room. When he sang the words, "I once was blind, but now I see," Benny opened his eyes—the first time in four years! We felt waves of love washing over us as we were again reminded of God's awesome mercy and compassion.

Brothers and sisters, let us allow God to unleash His mighty power among us, through our willingness to humble ourselves, that the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace might continually be ours in these latter days. We hold the key in our hands through our obedience to these words of Paul's Gospel to the Ephesians. We pray God will bless all of you.

Evangelist Ordination

A large gathering of brothers, sisters, and friends congregated at the Warren, Ohio Branch on Sunday, November 20, 1994, for the ordination of Brother Brian Martorana as an Evangelist. In addition to those from our District, there were visiting saints from Michigan and Pennsylvania.

Brothers Phil Jackson and Paul Palmieri were the primary speakers, preaching from the Old Testament, 1 Kings 3, on the theme of God's goodness, wisdom, understanding, and spiritual gifts, and the responsibility of an Evangelist. They also shared various experiences that were given concerning Brother Brian's calling. The brothers elaborated on how God prepares us and develops us as an instrument that He can use. They stated that Brother Brian will need a greater portion of love for God and the souls of mankind than ever before.

Brother Brian was set aside with the washing feet by Brother Wayne Martorana. This action fulfilled Brother Brian's prayer and inner desire that his brother would wash his feet as another confirmation of his calling. Brother Frank Giovannone then offered a special prayer invoking God's spirit in our midst. Brother Joe Genaro ordained Brother Brian into this new responsibility. During the prayer, the gift of tongues was given, with the interpretation, *Let them go out*, referring to the Quorum of Seventy.

Just prior to the ordination as the Ministry encircled Brother Brian, one brother saw a vision of the three Nephites joining the circle. As they

also placed their hands on his head, they uttered the words, *"Your desire is the same as ours."*

Special prayer was offered for the welfare of Sister Rhonda, Brother Brian's wife, and the children for their continued support and understanding as Brother Brian fulfills the responsibility of this office. The Brothers that were preparing to go to India also came forward for special prayer prior to their departure.

Toward the end of the service, Brother Brian briefly expressed himself, saying that during the ordination he felt God's spirit like a warm blanket around him. He was also thankful for his calling and the opportunity to serve in this capacity. A few weeks prior to the ordination, Brother Brian was given an experience to set his house in order so the Lord could use him in a greater way. He concluded by relating some experiences of how he became involved in the work in India. The day concluded with the Lord's supper. At the conclusion of the service, a buffet lunch was served for all in attendance.

Mesa, Arizona Mission Organized

By Sister Marie Cihomsky

The Mesa, Arizona Mission was organized on Saturday, February 11, 1995, by the officers of the Southwest District. In attendance were Brothers Larry Watson, District President, and Apostle Robert A. Watson. Brother Walter Cihomsky was elected Presiding Elder and Brothers Bill Duvall and Emmett Hood were elected Counselors.

The first Sunday service of the newly established mission was held on February 12, 1995. This was a dream come true for the Phoenix saints living in the East Valley. They had been meeting in various homes for mid-week services since March 1981. In January 1984, a building fund was established, looking forward to the day when the Church

could be expanded to include a meeting place in Mesa.

It seemed very fitting that on this day of a new beginning for the Mesa Mission, the first ordinance performed was the blessing of the infant daughter of Brother Richard and Sister Faith Mathews. The blessing prayer for Kayleigh Mathews was offered by her grandfather, Brother Herb Hemmings.

Brother Bob Watson introduced the service rehearsing the words of Peter, "I go fishing." Brother Bob reflected that in the tumultuous time after the crucifixion, this was Peter's carnal mind speaking; he had done something that was difficult for him to overcome. After Peter denied Christ, he was overcome with the feelings of guilt, but Christ had compassion and showed him love and forgiveness. Jesus not only forgave Peter, but he gave him a great responsibility when He said, *"Feed my sheep."* Peter then made a new beginning—with full commitment. Brother Bob exhorted that total commitment is what God wants and that we also need to serve God with full commitment, not holding anything back.

Our service continued with Sister Sylvia Curry singing, *Our Church*, and we all felt a great blessing in this selection.

Brother John Ross from Tucson then addressed the congregation speaking of the great commitment of Jesus Christ and the great love He showed when He died for our sins. He reminded us that without God's love, we cannot be fully committed. Brother John encouraged us to love, honor, glorify, and praise God, and that our new mission would grow as we would grow in love. We truly enjoyed the blessings of God this day. There were many visitors from various branches of the Church in Arizona, as well as visiting saints from Monongahela, Pennsylvania and Detroit, Michigan. There were a total of eighty-four in attendance. A lunch was held afterward, where we continued in fellowship with one

(Continued on Page 12)

Children Blessed

Michael Anthony Chepanoske, son of Anthony and Andrea Chepanoske, was blessed on March 26, 1995 in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch.

Lauren Ashley Callahan, daughter of Anthony Callahan and Jenny Bruce, was blessed on October 30, 1994 in the Cleveland, Ohio Branch.

Kayleigh Elizabeth Mathews, daughter of Brother Richard and Faith Mathews, was blessed on February 12, 1995 in the Mesa, Arizona Mission.

Baptism

Walter Daniel Williams was baptized on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1995, in the Youghiogheny River at Dawson, Pennsylvania by Brother Robert Nicklow and confirmed by Brother James King at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch.

OBITUARY

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

ELEANOR BUFFA

Sister Eleanor Buffa of the Saline, Michigan Branch passed away to her eternal reward on December 17, 1994, at the age of sixty-five. She recently celebrated fifty years in the Gospel. Sister Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, Brother Peter Buffa. She is survived by her four sons, Bill, John, Philip and Michael; eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

MESA continued . . .

another.

Our prayer is that God would bless our mission, that we might proclaim the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to people in the Mesa area. While there is great excitement and anticipation in this new beginning, we will miss the weekly fellowship we have enjoyed for many years with our brothers and sisters in the Phoenix Branch. We ask for an interest in your prayers that God's blessings might abound with all of us as we worship in our various meeting places.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

on those who would harm the missionaries of The Church of Jesus Christ. Our faith, combined with our prayers can change their minds and move the hand of God. Our faith, our prayers, and trust in the Lord can provide His protection to ensure our missionaries safety and success. This is very evident in the story of Ammon. The Lord was very specific when He spoke to Mosiah, Ammon's father. We read in Alma 19:23, *"Now we see that Ammon could not be slain, for the Lord had said unto Mosiah, his father; I will spare him, and it shall be unto him according to thy faith—therefore, Mosiah trusted him unto the Lord."*

There are people who do not believe that angels can and still do minister to men and women. They say that the appearance of angels was for those days, the days of the Lord. We know that they still appear and minister to God's creation. How is it done? What is the formula? The prophet Mormon, in Moroni 7:29-30 states, *"... neither have angels ceased to minister unto the children of men. For behold, they are subject unto him, to minister according to the word of his command, showing themselves unto them of strong faith and a firm mind in every form of godliness."*

With each passing day, it is evident that the world needs The Church of Jesus Christ. God can and will use us, The Church of Jesus Christ, to bring about change in the world. People are suffering hunger, disease, and oppression from high places. The world is suffering from spiritual malnutrition. The Church of Jesus Christ has the spiritual food to satisfy the spiritual hunger that exists in the world.

It is important that we exercise great faith so we can move the hand of God. By exercising great faith, we will experience peace on earth through The Church of Jesus Christ. We will see people healed from every affliction. We will see sinners everywhere forgiven their mistakes and transgressions. We will witness God's blessings in our lives. We will see the House of Israel in The Church of Jesus Christ. We will see The Church of Jesus Christ all over the world. By exercising great faith, wherever we go, we will meet a brother, a sister, and a friend.

The Gospel News

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

July, 1995

Volume 51, No. 7

The Mandate of Forgiveness

By Apostle Robert A. Watson

We must understand that forgiveness was not a 20th century revelation, but rather its origin goes all the way back to the Garden of Eden. It is quite evident that God gave Adam and Eve only one law, that being the forbidding of them from partaking of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It is also evident that this one law encompassed all the laws that were given to them.

The sin committed by Adam and Eve in breaking the law of God is outlined by Lehi to his son Jacob. Wherein he says in II Nephi 2:25-26, "*Adam fell that men might be, and men are that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall, they have become free forever knowing good from evil, to act for themselves and not to be acted upon.*" King Benjamin further enlightens us in the year B.C. 124 that the introduction of sin to the human family through the fall of Adam and Eve would be forgiven through the atoning blood of Christ. After conveying this revelation to the multitude in Mosiah 4:2 they replied, "*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."

We can then readily see that forgiveness became the keystone of God's love and relationship with man and He fully expected that our love and forgiveness for our fellow man would also be the keystone to following the precepts of Jesus. The concept of forgiveness was taught by Jesus in Matthew 6:14-15 wherein He says, "*For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.*"

It appears that Jesus is identifying forgiveness in the form of a mandate. The meaning of a mandate being "to authorize or decree a particular action as by the enactment of a law."

We must then conclude that if we are to follow the dictates of Christ, we must possess a forgiving spirit. To forgive our fellow man then is to keep the law of God intact, and if we refuse to forgive our

fellow man, it is paramount to breaking the law of forgiveness. It is then very important to know the Hebrew word that signifies forgiveness. The word being "Nasa" which gives us the idea of lifting up and removing sin. The removing of sin is verified in the New Testament stating that forgiveness comes through the atoning blood of the Lamb of God. As stated in John 1:29, "*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.*"

We must believe that the Biblical answer to forgiveness is through the atoning blood of Jesus, and if we do not offer forgiveness to those who sin when they sincerely repent and ask for forgiveness, we are saying in essence that the blood of Christ does not cover all sin. This in my judgment is to advocate a very defective and dangerous theology.

Forgiveness is an action verb and it doesn't mean that we should sit around waiting for the other person to repent. To forgive means to give up or give away if someone violates your rights; forgiveness means you give up your rights of reaction, and to get even no matter how much you may feel revenge is justified. The Apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:19, "*Vengeance is mine; I will*

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Apostle's Insights

It Is Written

By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

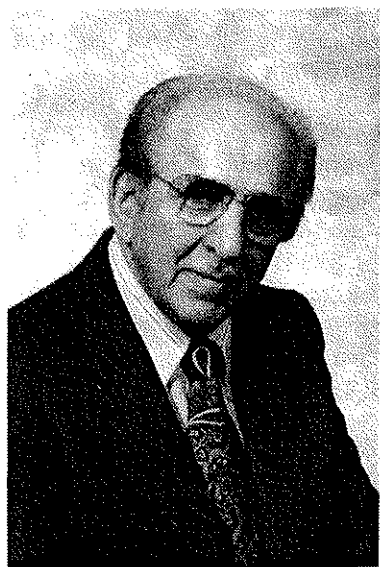
I have been requested to write the following article on:

BEARING TESTIMONY IN A FELLOWSHIP MEETING

"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee" (Psalm 22:22).

Praise is the expression of the soul which begins with the exultation in the heart for God and His Holy Son Jesus Christ. It is a declaration of thanksgiving and an affirmation of one's joy of salvation.

Testimony in a church service means to praise the Lord for His grace, loving-kindness, mercy, long-suffering, His everlasting goodness, for restoring the Gospel and, especially, for giving His Son to die for the sins of the world. Testimony of



Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

praise is a personal tribute to Jesus Christ who broke the bands of death and overcame the grave, bringing about the hope of the resurrection in one's heart.

Praise in the congregation of

the Saints is a commemorative testimonial to the Lamb of God who willingly went to Calvary, bearing the cross and shedding His blood that those who believe in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Jesus, at the tomb of Lazarus said, *"I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die"* (John 11:25-26).

Testimony in the congregation of the saints is not to be considered a duty, but rather a joy, a privilege, a vehicle by which one can exalt the name of the Lord orally. Praising Jesus Christ is giving Him honor and glory belonging to Him exclusively. It is likened to a vassal paying homage to his Suzerain for his love and protection. Testimony is like throwing palms before the Lord, crying, "Hosanna to the Lamb of God."

One should go to a fellowship meeting filled with joyful expectation of praising the Lord. It is not a matter of waiting to be inspired to bear testimony, or thinking, "What shall I say?" Inspiration for subject matter and delivering the same should be in the purview of the Minister who waits upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Conversely, testimony of praise should be in the heart of every member of the Church, grasping the opportunity to give voice to the honor and glory of the Lord.

Testimony is not a matter of telling the congregation what "we should or should not do" or how "we should or should not live." Such exhortation is reserved for the shepherds of the flock to administer. Testimony is a very personal thing. It is an individual's expression of praise, spoken with joy and gladness. It is written, *"I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will shew forth all thy marvelous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High"* (Psalm 7:1-2). Also, *"Praise ye the LORD. I will praise the LORD with my whole*

heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation" (Psalm 111:1).

It is not the length of the testimony or the intent to impress others that's effective or important but its quality. A few words of praise, spoken from the depth of the heart with simplicity and a spiritual tranquillity will be acknowledged by the Lord and blessed by His Holy Spirit. This kind of praise will motivate others to do likewise. Taking one to three minutes should be ample time to praise the Lord in the congregation of the saints. Remember: *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver"* (Proverbs 25:11).

In my early years in the Church, I knew a brother who wrote a lengthy testimony and memorized it, with the purpose of reciting it at the next fellowship service he would attend. The following week he accomplished his desire with interesting results. (Coincidentally, I was present at that particular meeting).

As soon as the Presiding Elder turned the service to the members, this brother quickly arose and began to say, "Brothers and Sisters," repeating the phrase several times in a stumbling manner and then stopped abruptly, to the astonishment of all present. After a brief, embarrassing moment, he raised his head and began to confess his scheme to memorize a testimony intended to impress the congregation and with the expectation of the glory of God filling the sanctuary. He apologized to God and to those present, and then began to praise the Lord, with the result that God's Spirit filled him and all present. What a beautiful lesson was learned by this brother's mistake! God wants praise that comes from the heart, delivered with humility and meekness, overflowing with joy and gladness.

In the sixty-four years I have been in the Church, I have heard many kinds of testimonies given in a fellowship service, to wit; praise, lamentation, travelogue, complaint et al. Seldom has any of the above,

except praise, ever caused the windows of heaven to open and the Spirit of the Lord to encircle the saints. Permit me to clarify briefly.

Lamentation: Telling how sick one is or has been, how much one is persecuted by family or others only creates sympathy in the hearts of the listeners. But if one mixes praise to the Lord, in this category, it develops into a moment of indescribable spirituality.

Example: If one says, "Although I have been (or am) afflicted and am still filled with pain, I glorify the Lord for this opportunity to stand and praise His Holy name, for I know that One greater than I suffered on the cross for my redemption, and to Him I give thanks and honor."

Travelogue: Taking five or more minutes telling what a wonderful time one had on a vacation which included a cruise or going on a trip or visiting someone. This may be an interesting story, but it will not cause the blessings of the Lord to be manifested. Of itself, a testimony meeting is not the time and place to recount one's travels. But, if it's told with the intention of praising the Lord, it's a different matter.

Example: If one says, "I am truly grateful to God for the opportunity to have taken this vacation (or trip, etc.) and bringing me back home safely. I praise the Lord also for granting me the financial possibilities to accomplish this, for without His help I could do nothing. He is my helper, my all in all." Now, one is minimizing the travelogue and accentuating the assistance of God in one's life.

Complaint: Stay away from this category. Don't even mention it. It will not create good feelings, nor will it bring the blessings of God upon the congregation.

Return with me to the fellowship meeting. The Presiding Elder notifies the congregation that it's time for testimony. No one gets up. A few minutes expire. One person gets up, bears testimony and sits down. No one else gets up. The Presiding Elder calls a hymn to

motivate and/or inspire the members to testify. Nothing happens. More hymns are called. Maybe another member gets up, speaks and sits down. More hymns are called. Nothing much is happening. Is everyone waiting to be inspired?

One should always be inspired (ready) to testify. Home should be left prayerfully, asking God to bless the service, inspire the ministers, bless the congregation and bless oneself when (not if) it's time to arise and praise His Holy name. A good practice of meditating daily about the Lord and spiritual things also helps to give one freedom to arise in fellowship services and give God the praise He rightfully deserves. The Psalmist says, "*My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips: when I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in the night watches*" (Psalm 63:5-6). Try it, brothers and sisters. It really works.

It is also written: "*I will give thee thanks in the great congregation: I will praise thee among much people*" (Psalm 35:18).

In "praise" meetings, the names of God and Jesus Christ are exalted. The Lord speaks from heaven and the glory of His Spirit fills the sanctuary; healings and miracles are received; time flees into oblivion and the spirits of all present are lifted to "higher ground."

Testifying vocally is not the only way to exalt God's name. The spoken word is not always necessary. At times, just singing His praises will fill the sanctuary with His Spirit, and the hearts of the saints will be replenished with His glory. Often, the voices of angels have been heard to combine with those of the saints. What melody! What glorious harmony when that happens. No one wants to leave the meeting. No one wants to sever that wonderful tie that binds one to God and to each other.

Permit me to say, "When you are tried by afflictions, go to church. There you will find the Lord. Just praise Him! When temptations

assail you, go to church. That's where the Lord will give you strength. Just praise the Lord! When stresses of a physical or mental nature beset you, go to church. That's where Jesus Christ will comfort you. Just praise the Lord! When you feel empty inside and your heart aches, go to church. That's where the Lord will take away your cares and console you. Just praise the Lord!

Are you lonely? Go to church. God will be your companion. Just praise the Lord! Are you weary and heavy-laden? Go to church. Christ will take away your burden. Just praise the Lord! Are you grieved at the loss of a loved one? Go to church. God will fill the empty spot in your heart with His love. Just praise the Lord!"

The prophet Isaiah said:

"And in that day thou shalt say, O LORD, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me."

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation."

"Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation."

"And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted."

"Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth."

"Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee" (Isaiah 12:1-6).

Thus, it is written.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Three Nations Visited

*By Carl J. Frammolino
Evangelist Editor*

Three nations were visited during a recent trip from the end of March until May 9. Five brothers, Joseph Ross, Joseph Perri, Richard Lawson, Nephi DeMercurio, and Michael LaSala participated in this tandem journey which covered Nigeria, Ghana, and Italy.

Brothers Ross and Perri departed first on March 30, going to Nigeria, West Africa. On April 19, they met Brothers Lawson and DeMercurio in Ghana, also in West Africa, who had arrived there several days before. The four then went to Italy on April 25 where they were joined by Brother LaSala.

NIGERIA

In Nigeria, Brothers Ross and Perri attended the funeral services April 12 for Brother E. U. A. Arthur, who was the President of The Church of Jesus Christ in Nigeria. A Church Evangelist, he was also the paramount ruler of 5,000,000 Nigerian people. At 112 years of age, Brother Arthur was highly loved and respected by all people.

Evangelists Ross and Perri, who were involved in all phases of the funeral activities, were accompanied by Evangelists Edem Ebong and George F. Arthur of Nigeria in leading the procession to the front of the Church. Eulogies and condolences were read from federal, state, and local government officials, as well as from the parent church and

the International Missionary Assistance organization.

The day prior, Brother Arthur's body lay in state at the Abak City Council Chambers where thousands filed past. Both sides of the road were lined by school children. There was an all-night vigil with over 5,000 people present, including Brothers Ross and Perri; and it lasted until 6:00 AM.

Brother Arthur's faithful service in the Gospel, along with his leadership and evangelism will long be remembered. He was introduced to many of the brothers and sisters in America when he traveled here with his late wife, Sister Rachel, and their son, Brother Joseph Arthur, to attend the Missionary Conference in Virginia in 1983.

His nephew, Brother George F. Arthur, has been appointed to fill his



**H.R.H. Obong E. U. Akpan Arthur
Paramount Ruler of Abak.**

unexpired term as head of the Nigerian Church.

Brothers Ross and Perri visited many church locations before and after the funeral. In Lagos, where they first arrived, they went to the new mission home under construction, visited each elder in his home, and attended an uplifting spiritual meeting of the entire Lagos District in the Ikotun church building.

In Abak, they viewed repairs to our secondary school and attended an assembly of all 1,100 students. Special selections were presented for them. The scholarship program is still in effect. The tuition is \$100 for day students and \$220 for boarding students. Sponsors are still needed.

They also met with the elders in the Mission House, attended church services twice at the Nigerian church center, one of them being on Easter Sunday when approximately 2,300 people attended, and went to the IMA Clinic several times.

They visited the 55 orphans and the five deaconesses who care for them. They live and sleep primarily in the open; but the hope is to purchase a house for them to live in and have classes for them. The cost is estimated at \$16,000.

Included in their busy schedule were meetings with six of the eight districts and with several recently established missions. They said, "Evangelism in new villages is an ongoing activity there with converts added regularly."

GHANA

In Ghana, the four brothers traveled with Brother Ford Boadu, who is in charge, and the other elders. They went to crusades which were held in neighboring communities, met with the Ghanaian elders several times, and attended services in Edwenase, Apromasi, Odumasi, Anyinamaso, and Accra.

They were also privileged to participate in the dedication of the first erected church building in Ghana at Anyinamaso. It is described as a "nice building, 42' x 35'.

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Church of Jesus Christ practices and keeps the ordinances that were instituted by the Lord. Every one of them is beautiful. There is a reason each of them exists.

Consider the ordinance of feet washing. It was instituted by Jesus Christ in the 13th chapter of John. Please read it carefully, slowly and thoroughly. It is very descriptive. It is important to note that Jesus Christ washed the feet of every disciple. They must have been astonished. The Saviour of the world, on His knees, washing their feet.

The Apostle Peter was overwhelmed! There was a dialogue between the Apostle Peter and the Lord. In John 13:8 it states, *"Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."* The Apostle Peter was stunned! In John 13:9, Peter answered the Lord. It reads, *"Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."*

It is evident that the ordinance of feet washing is a direct commandment of our Lord and Saviour. John 13:14, 15, and 17 states, *"If I then, your Lord and Master have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."*

What are we doing when we participate in feet washing? We are obeying a commandment of Jesus Christ. We are showing the pure love of God. We are showing absolute and total humility. We are showing brotherly kindness. Remember the Scriptures teach us that we must humble ourselves as our little children. Remember the words of the Lord.

John 14:15 states, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* John 13:35 states, *"By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."* Matthew 18:3 states, *"Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."*

These three statements by Jesus Christ are captured in the following true story. This is a great story; one of compassion, dedication, humility, and love.

Several years ago, there was a dispute between a Presiding Elder, a wonderful Evangelist, and a brother in the Church. The brother left the Church after the disagreement. Many times over the years, the Evangelist tried to make peace, recapture, and rekindle this brother. He was not successful in spite of his many attempts. The Evangelist became sick and was dying. He truly wanted to make peace with this brother. He tried one more time to make peace before he passed away. The Evangelist visited this brother and said, "I am dying and I want to make peace with you before I die. I will wash your feet and I will drink the water!" What a statement! It is worth repeating. "I will wash your feet and I will drink the water!" This is a wonderful example of obedience. This is a wonderful example of love. This is a wonderful example of humility. This is what happens to people; this is the effect on people who are converted into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Before you attend the feet washing service, do you pray that God will bless this service? Do you pray that His Spirit will fill the building? Do you ask Him to bless you with His love and humility? Do you ask Him to direct you as to whose feet to wash? Do you ask Him to bless your hands and prepare them for feet washing?

After participating in the ordinance, have you ever listened to the prayers? Have you witnessed the tears of joy and love? Did you ever sit back and watch a brother, on his knees, washing another brother's feet? Did you ever sit back and watch a sister, on her knees, washing another sister's feet?

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The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



The Anger That Killed a Nation

Dear Girls and Boys,

Sometimes we become very angry at another person or their whole family. We feel we are right and they are wrong! We go to bed angry and when we wake up and think about them we feel anger in our stomach. We may even tell others about how terrible "they" are, so that we feel right about being angry and so that others hate them too.

Is this right? No. Is this good for us? No! The Bible tells us we must do a hard thing. We must lean on God to be strong inside in the right way . . . we must be so determined to do it Jesus' way that we will do anything Jesus tells us to do . . . and Jesus says, "Don't let the sun go down on your anger." Work out what is making you mad that very day. Jesus says to "forgive others seventy times seven," over and over. He also tells members that if they have something against someone else, they must first go clear it up before they take sacrament.

If we go to say we're sorry that something we did caused the person to be upset, we are "turning the other cheek." And most of all, the Lord God said, "Vengeance is Mine." We truly believe that God sees everything and that He will take care of the good and the bad.

Many years after the Tower of Babel, the people started caring more about riches and gold and power than they did about God. One son fought against another to be king; the nation

split into two groups, and then three groups. Each group wanted to beat up the other group and make them servants and slaves to them.

A great curse fell upon this promised land. Nothing was safe from anyone else. Thieves and robbers were everywhere. Coriantumr the king trained his sons to fight other groups that also wanted riches and power.

God sent the prophet Ether to warn the Jaredite nation to put away their anger towards each other and ask for forgiveness of their sins. The people only sneered and laughed at Ether and then tried to kill him.

Anger grew as people fought each other and loved ones died. The people were full of hate and anger towards each other. Soon they began to divide into two groups. One group followed King Coriantumr; the other group followed the other king.

There was no time to plant gardens or go to jobs. War and fighting were constantly stopping work. Coriantumr made a plan: everyone in the nation on his side would gather. The other king did the same. Both sides would fight to the end.

Grandparents and parents were filled with anger and hate towards their enemies; they went to battle. Mothers and fathers taught their children to feel anger and hate and the desire to kill.

The horrible battle day came. A terrible slaughter occurred. Men, women, and children died by each

other's swords. Day after day more of the Jaredites murdered each other. Finally, as God had warned, all were dead except King Coriantumr, who was left as a witness.

Love for riches and power, and anger uncontrolled had planted itself deep in the hearts of this once powerful nation until no one cared for the real and precious things of God and all were dead.

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

KING	TOLD
CORANTUMR	CHRIST
WAR	WORD
KILLED	OF
EACH	GOD
OTHER	HATE
ETHER	ANGER
WARN	PRAY
ALL	LOVE

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

Forgiveness

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).

Our Women Today

Atlantic Coast Area Ladies' Uplift Circle Seminar

By Sister Suzette Huttenberger

LEARN TO LABOR AND TO WAIT

This was the theme of our Ladies' Uplift Circle Seminar held in Freehold, New Jersey on April 8, 1995. We opened our meeting by singing *Taste the Grass on the Summit* and *To the Work*.

Sister Joyce Ross welcomed us and expressed how the Lord inspired her with this theme. Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr. underwent major surgery six months ago to remove an enormous aneurysm. This procedure required much patience, faith, and trusting in the Lord on Brother Carl's part. He is known for laboring for the Church and especially amongst the Seed of Joseph. It was now time for him not to labor but to wait upon the Lord. Her other inspiration was her sister Harriet's battle with cancer. Sister Joyce said this helped her to pray continuously with faith and to leave her sister in the Lord's hands.

Sister Joyce began the seminar on the word LABOR and the results of our laboring. Labor means physical or mental exertion; to work; a specific task; a particular form of work; to strive painstakingly; to proceed with great effort; to suffer from a burden or disadvantage. The scriptures point out to us what the benefits are to laboring for Jesus and His Church.

In Psalms 128:2 it says, "*For thou shalt eat the labour of thine hands happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee.*" In Romans 2:10, "*But glory, honour, and peace to every man that worketh good.*" The Lord is continually calling laborers to work in the vineyard. There is so much work to do that no

one can say there's nothing for them to do. The song says, "Jesus calls, are you sleeping? There is so much to do. It's not the time to be idle, I have labor for you. If you say that you love me, feed my lambs and my sheep . . ."

The second portion of the seminar was PATIENCE—the benefits of waiting. Sister Joyce continued by telling us the scripture in Proverbs 14:29, "*He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*" The Lord is our best example of true patience. With patience come the virtue of slowness, quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger. With this comes three marks of Godly behavior:

1. Keeping a tight rein on your tongue.
2. Looking after those who are less fortunate than we.
3. Avoiding being polluted by the world.

Patience and forgiveness are vital to our spiritual survival. Prayer plays a big role here. Forgiveness requires more than just saying it with your lips. We must ask the Lord to help us forgive, only then are we able to be released, to then realize that we must wait on the Lord and trust Him completely in times of trouble and look to Him for strength to face what comes before us.

An example of patience was Abraham. God promised him a whole nation of children. During their lives, Abraham and Sarah only had one son, Isaac, who he was to sacrifice. Because of Abraham's faith, love and zeal to labor for God, He not only told Abraham to spare Isaac, but He made an everlasting covenant to bless his seed and through his seed, all nations of the earth would be blessed. Learning to wait patiently on the Lord is the key.

We closed the day by singing, *If You Would Labor in Zion*. As sisters, we realized we have an important role in the Lord's Church, to labor for His Kingdom here on earth. God bless you all.

Notice

The Bible and Book of Mormon are now available on computer diskettes along with complete instructions for their installation and use. They are inexpensive and make ideal gifts.

You can display scriptural text, do word search, select by book and chapter, scroll through the verses, create your own bookmarks, and make and attach your personal notes. These diskettes serve as an excellent scriptural study and reference guide. They also function as an excellent archive and preservation tool for our own Book of Mormon and the King James Version of the Bible.

The program costs only \$49.95 with the proceeds going to the Missionary Foundation Committee to support missionary work. Make checks payable to The Church of Jesus Christ. Please contact either Brother Jerry Valenti, 811 Lillian Lane, Warminster, PA 18974, telephone number 215-672-0616, or Brother Joseph Benyola, 409 Farmhouse Lane, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054, telephone number 609-231-4546.

Announcement

For July, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.5%
2 years	5.7%
3 years	5.9%
4 years	6.1%
5 years	6.3%

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 814-227-2421.

MBA Highlights

Southeast Area MBA Campout

CAMP LEHI

"A JOURNEY THROUGH THE WILDERNESS"

By Angela McCook

This year's campout was held at a new location, River Ranch Resort. This was the first time the Church used this location. Having never been to a campout before, besides singles retreat, I have nothing to compare the site with. I'm told that the accommodations were much better than before. I arrived at campout with high hopes for a wonderful weekend filled with many blessings. I have to say that my expectations were fulfilled more than I could have imagined. Before I start, I would like to apologize in advance if I omit anyone's individual experience. There were so many blessings this weekend that it would be difficult to contain them in one article.

FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1995

The blessings began Friday night during our orientation meeting. The focus of our meeting was to keep God's commandments and He will nourish and provide for us. As Brother Bert Sheffler opened in prayer, Sister Jill Kovacic saw a vision of Christ and He said, *"I am here with you, I am in the heavens, I am in the trees, I am in the earth, I am in the water, I am, I send my three to be with you."* What a blessing!

SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1995

We began our day with a beautiful prayer service at 6:30 AM, (quite a bit early but well worth attending).

We continued with our chapel service at 9:00 AM where Brothers Jim Haugh and John Catone spoke about conviction. We then broke into our seminar groups. Our seminars focused on 1 Nephi and the journey through the wilderness into Bountiful. The desired outcome of the seminar meetings was for each individual to experience the Godly conviction that Lehi and his family had during their journey. As we recapped the seminar meetings, many more experiences were given.

As Sister Helen Catone was testifying, a white glow was around all of those on the pulpit. And as Sister Sue Davella was testifying, a white glow was around them again. Praise God, for the Lord works with those before camp to make our camp a great blessing and success for us all.

Sister Pearl Zinzi had a vision that she saw a light around Brother Paul DiNardo as he related the experience Sister Sharon Staley had and a Personage came forward holding a book.

We continued the day with recreation and crafts. During our evening meeting our choir sang a few beautiful songs. Brothers Sam Risola, Milfred Eutsey, Paul Palmeri and Joe Catone, Sr., spoke during our evening meeting. The focus of the meeting was to have faith and trust and God will provide; to stay ready for the Lord; and to make Jesus your choice.

SUNDAY, MARCH 5, 1995

Sunday was a very beautiful day. Brothers Phil Benyola, Malcolm Paxon, Dennis Moraco and Joe Calabrese spoke. While Brother Joe Calabrese spoke, Brother John Griffith experienced the gift of tongues. The interpretation was, *"Thus saith the Lord: I am the Creator of all the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the grasses of the field—all know that I am. My creation has been given to man as a footstool, to know that I am. I have given my son Jesus for your salvation—Do you know my voice?", Thus saith the Lord.*" What a confirma-

tion of Friday night's experience! The following is another confirmation that God's Spirit was with us.

As Brother Phil Benyola was speaking, Sister Shirley Paxon heard another voice. At first she thought it was Brother Miguel Bicelis translating. But she realized that the voice began and ended at the same time Brother Phil did. She was made to understand that it was one of the Nephites in our presence.

Many experiences were had by various members of the Church. The Lord also blessed those who had never met the Church before. Sister Heylen Bicelis brought her friend Karen to camp. Karen is from Venezuela and had never met the Church before. She also does not understand very much English. On Sunday she prayed to the Lord that He would let her know if The Church of Jesus Christ was, in fact, the true Church. As Brother Phil Benyola spoke, she saw a bright glow around him thus confirming to her that this is the true Church.

Again I apologize if I left anything out. The Southeast Area campout was truly a wonderful experience, not only for those of us who had never attended before, but for those who have attended many times in the past.

MBA Youth Group San Diego, California

By Brother Brian J. Alessio

The San Diego MBA Youth Group is beginning its fifth year. The idea for the youth group was born out of a concern over the lack of interest many of our young people seemed to be showing towards the Church. A burden for these children was placed on the hearts of Sister Orletta Liberto and Sister Lisa Alessio. Their desire was to create an atmosphere where the young people could meet in a relaxed setting which would give them an opportunity to fellowship and build friendships in a way not offered by the

Church at that time. The idea was to have something the kids would be excited about and look forward to, something fun, but based on a spiritual theme. Sister Lisa brought her desire to the ministry, and they fully supported her and agreed that the branch would provide the required funding from the branch missionary fund. Since this ministry was targeted at the youth, it was decided to place it under the MBA.

Our structure now is about the same as when we first began. We met weekly at first, in addition to the regular MBA service. Now, we meet in conjunction with it. After opening in prayer, attendance is taken and dues are collected. Following any announcements, the children are led in a short devotion by Brother Paul Liberto, our liaison with the ministry. After the devotion, we adjourn and begin our nights activity. This can be a sport such as soccer or dodge ball, or a theme activity such as a Hawaiian Luau or Nerd night, complete with costumes and appropriate games and refreshments. In addition, we have taken many field trips to amusement parks, baseball games, the beach, apple picking, and camping, to name a few. We also sang as a choir for District Conference where we showed off our new

T-shirts with our logo designed by Brother David Loeth.

As with any new endeavor, we have had our share of successes and failures. However, we have persisted through the rocky times and now have a core group of about twenty-five children ranging in ages from eight to fifteen who are actively involved. As the children (as well as the adult volunteers) have matured, we have been able to give them more leadership responsibilities. We have elected officers of President, Vice President, and Treasurer/Secretary. The children pay a yearly membership fee of six dollars and weekly dues of twenty-five cents. The membership fee goes to help defray the cost of some of the special events. At the beginning of each new year, we vote on where to donate the previous years collected dues. Last year, they were donated to IMA.

Since our beginning, we have had the opportunity to minister to close to one hundred children who would otherwise never have set foot in our Church. Many neighborhood children have come as a result of hearing the laughter and excitement as we met. Others were brought as friends of members. We have had the opportunity to show the love of Christ not only to these children, but

to many of their parents as well. God has truly blessed us in this outreach. We thank Him as well for the special people who are dedicated in their support of this ministry.

Note of Thanks

I would like to thank all of the brothers and sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ for their many cards, phone calls, and words of comfort in my difficult time of sorrow. Losing my husband, Brother Jack Ford, is a great loss to me, my family, and the Kinsman Branch. But through the Church, I have been blessed with a great "support group." God bless you all.

Sister Esther Ford

* * * * *

The family of Nicholas A. Zinzi, Sr., wish to thank all the brothers, sisters, and friends in The Church of Jesus Christ for all the sympathy cards, phone calls, flowers, donations, and gifts of love. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sister Pearl Zinzi and family

Branch and Mission News

News from Monongahela, PA

By Sister LuAnn Carson

On Sunday, February 26, 1995, a group of the PA Youth Summit visited the Monongahela Branch, bringing with them the excitement, joy, and enthusiasm of serving God. We enjoyed lively solos, duets, and musical ensembles, encouraging testimonies, and speaking, all accompanied by the Spirit of the Lord.

Brother Pete Giannetti opened

the meeting, inviting the Holy Spirit to join us. He testified concerning the experiences of some of the members of the Youth Summit.

Brother Albert Giannetti read from Matthew 14 about Peter walking upon the sea. As long as his focus was on Jesus, he was able to perform this miracle, but when his eyes left the Saviour, he sank among the waves. Brother Albert exhorted us to keep our focus on the Lord enabling us to stay above our troubles of this life. Baptism, he continued, is like a pair of binoculars, allowing us to focus in, to see clearly, the truth of

the Gospel. He told those who are not baptized that they have yet to receive their binoculars. They cannot fully focus in on Jesus.

Brother John Mark D'Antonio read from Matthew, "*Be of good cheer. It is I.*" He pointed out the power in Jesus Christ, and that none of us could say those words with the power and meaning of Jesus Christ.

Brother Chuck Kogler testified of his calling into the Church. He told how he felt his own strength in exercising and keeping healthy and fit until God showed Brother Chuck that he needed the power of Christ in his life.

We were thoroughly blessed by the many testimonies offered up that

(Continued on Page 10)

MONONGAHELA continued . . .

morning. Gina Bongiovanni, a young woman who has been attending the Monongahela Branch for a short time, stood to say that she wanted the binoculars that Brother Albert spoke about. She made known her desire to be baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ.

Later that afternoon, Gina was baptized in the Monongahela River by Brother Alex Cherry. Brother George Johnson laid hands on our new sister's head for the reception of the Holy Ghost. May God bless Sister Gina for stepping out on faith. We pray that she will always keep Jesus Christ as her focus in life.

We praise God for a beautiful day filled with His Spirit.

Ordination and Blessing in Cleveland, Ohio

The saints came from Perry, Youngstown, Niles and Kent, Ohio, Imperial, Pennsylvania and Michigan for the ordination of Sister Debbie Kall into the office of deaconess on January 15, 1995. Many of her family traveled from Michigan and all of her family in Cleveland were in attendance to witness this special occasion.

A group of sisters sang *Come All Ye That Thirst*. Our meeting was opened with the singing of *God's Way* and the prayer was offered by Brother Mario Milano of Perry, Ohio. Brother Vince Gibson had the honor of blessing baby Katlin Breanna Smith.

Brother Jim Hufnagle spoke about the calling of those to office, reading from Ephesians 4:11-12, saying the calling to office is for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Brother Mario Milano mentioned Isaiah 40:31, then followed with Romans 16:1-2, which outlines the life of Phebe, a willing worker in the Church and a woman of virtue and likened our sister to her saying Sister Debbie was a precious gem in the Gospel in this part of the vineyard.

Brother Rey Rangel then came

forward and sang *If You Would Labor in Zion*, for Sister Debbie.

Brother Bill Hufnagle expounded on the goodness of Phebe and her willingness to go to Rome to deliver a letter to the Church there, her faith and love giving her strength to go. Brother Bill talked of two different experiences of Sister Debbie's calling saying God has called Sister Debbie Kall to the office of deaconess in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Sister Debbie was called to the front of the church where Sister Roberta Hufnagle, our deaconess, washed her feet setting Sister Debbie aside for this work she was called to. Brother Vince asked the congregation to sing *Zion's Borderline* and a beautiful spirit prevailed in our midst.

Brother Jim spoke of the ordinance of feet washing to set those aside called to an office and then the laying on of hands for prayer unto God for her service to Him. Brother Mario Milano broke his heart to God in prayer as he petitioned God's blessing and bestowal of the Spirit that Sister Debbie might be a light unto others in His service.

After the ordination, those needing prayer, Sister Margaret from Imperial, Pennsylvania and Brother Dwayne Werley of Cleveland, Ohio came forward and were anointed. We sang *Is Anyone Willing To Let Jesus In* as communion was passed.

Members were given the opportunity to testify and a member of Sister Debbie's family took the time allowed to glorify God and praise Him for all things and to thank Him for this day. Sister Debbie's husband, Bill, stood and gave a humbling testimony, acknowledging the humility he felt knowing God had called his wife to this service.

Sister Debbie stood and gave praises to God for bringing her to the Gospel and thanked God for her husband saying he is a special man. She was grateful that her family had come to share this day with her. She thanked God for her parents who were obedient to the Gospel.

Other testimonies were given and Brother Jim Hufnagle gave the closing comments. We sang *The*

Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning. Brother Jim then closed the meeting with prayer. After the meeting, we continued our fellowship during a luncheon that was given by Sister Debbie's family.

FORGIVENESS continued . . .

repay, saith the Lord." Yes, forgiveness of ourselves and those who hurt us is an imperative, and if we fail to comply with this, we could be setting a higher standard than God.

We often hear this statement made, "I forgive you now but if you ever do it again, you could be suspended." This is not true forgiveness. It is rather forgiveness with intimidation. We use forgiveness as a bargaining chip telling the other person I will cash it in when it is convenient. We use this type of forgiveness as a strong method of controlling the situation and our relationship with the other person. This in essence gives us power. It is a form of terrorist activity. We virtually hold others in the prison of our unforgiveness. We do not realize that this kind of spirit also imprisons us. We must then set others free and in turn it will set us free. We also find some members saying, "I am not offended, rather I am hurt." This is many times a play on words or a covering of feelings. I also hear this kind of apology, "If I have offended you, please forgive me." When you say *IF*, it indicates that you may not be convinced that you have hurt the other party, and, therefore, perhaps it may not be a true apology. This is only a true statement if the offender truly believes he or she truly committed an offense. This in essence retains a level of control in the hands of the apologizer.

Forgiveness has been said to be the oil of relationships. If you know a person is unforgiving, you can never be truly open and vulnerable to him or her. Friendship without forgiveness will not last. We need to know that even when we have failed miserably, it will not change our relationship.

It is also very important that we fully understand that forgiveness is not governed by selectivity or chronology. We should not have different standards of forgiveness for pre-baptism and post baptism. We should also not place excessive burdens on those who are baptized—especially, the young. We must remember that baptism does not give us total perfection. We must also realize that the Church represents the last refuge for many people. We must not deny them the right to survive within the Church.

The Apostle John speaks to this issue as he refers to the Church calling them *"My little children . . ."* in I John 2:1. *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."* John also says to the Church in I John 1:8-9, *"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."*

As we have heard the words of John, let us now go to Christ the greatest authority of all on forgiveness. In Matthew 18:21, Jesus outlines the law governing offenses, and the Apostle Peter was concerned about how many times should he forgive his brother who sinned against him. Peter asked the question, *Should I forgive him seven times?* Jesus saith unto him, *"I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven."* It is quite apparent that Peter was referring to those within the Church as when he refers to a brother who sinned against him and the answer that Jesus gave placed forgiveness beyond the numerical scale.

As we conclude this topic, may we imprint the words of Paul in our minds and Spirit as he speaks to the Church in Ephesians 4:30-32, *"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and*

wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Paul also addresses the Church members on spiritual behavior in Colossians 3:12-13, *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any; even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye."*

I trust that the scriptural evidence as stated in this article will bring a greater understanding on what forgiveness is as taught by Christ, and that we may have the courage to implement this mandate in our lives.

school in Odumasi, where land has been donated and deeded to the Church.

ITALY

The time in Italy was spent primarily in Cala Gonone on the island of Sardegna and San Demetrio in Calabria. Brother Rosario Scravaglieri, who is in charge of the work in Italy, was able to be with them in Cala Gonone.

Besides holding services, the five Brothers traveled many miles in a van to see members scattered in various parts of Italy. They were able to pray and encourage them, most of whom are elderly and are very appreciative of being visited, receiving the Lord's Supper, and being anointed.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

People of different nationalities and races washing one another's feet! Baptized members, the young and the old, washing one another's feet. An Apostle washing a brother's feet. A brother washing an Apostle's feet. A deaconess washing a sister's feet. A sister washing a deaconess' feet. What a beautiful and glorious scene. What a beautiful way to show that we are all equal in the sight of God and Jesus Christ.

There was a sister who was physically disabled who could not bow on her knees to wash another sister's feet. Her feet were always washed, but many times she never had an opportunity to respond in kind and wash another sister's feet. At a particular feet washing service, a sister was prompted by the Spirit of God to sit on a slightly elevated platform which allowed the physically disabled sister to wash her feet. Imagine how this sister felt. She was able to wash another sister's feet. Oh God, what a blessing; what a spirit!

What a blessed and wonderful church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

(Continued on Page 12)

MESSAGE continued . . .

thirds of the cost was donated by a church member from the United States, while the other one-third was raised by members in Ghana." On "Dedication Day," three Ghanaian Brothers were ordained Teachers. There were 400 people in attendance at this meeting of members, local visitors, and dignitaries. Evangelist Lawson offered the dedicatory prayer, and Evangelist DeMercurio opened the service after which the other three followed.

Some meetings had to be cancelled because of heavy, lasting thunderstorms.

Projects and needs, as in Nigeria, were reviewed. Among them are a scholarship program also in effect and the desire to initiate a project to utilize a bus to raise money for church work, the latter being the kind of profitable venture employed by other buses in use. Incidentally, education is not compulsory in Nigeria and Ghana, so only children whose parents can afford to send them to school attend. Also discussed were requests to erect a combination church building and

Baptism

Shymiak Donielle (Mimi) Baldwin was baptized on May 7, 1995 by Brother Cleveland Baldwin and confirmed by Brother Eugene Perri, Jr., at the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Children Blessed

Christopher Jay Merrick, son of Wanda Wilson and Jarvis Merrick, was blessed in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch on March 5, 1995.

Kalpi Lynn Gosnell, daughter of Jessica Merrick and Buster Gosnell, was blessed on March 5, 1995 in the Lake Worth, Florida Branch.

Stephanie Ann Nagy, daughter of Brother Steve and Rosemarie Nagy, was blessed on April 30, 1995 in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch.

Amber Nishay Ramey, daughter of William Ramey and Shirley Green of Greenville, North Carolina, was blessed on May 30, 1995 in the Freehold, New Jersey Branch.

OBITUARIES

RALPH MERCURIO

Brother Ralph Mercurio passed on to his eternal reward on March 25, 1995. He was an ordained teacher in the Hopelawn, New Jersey Branch. He was very active in the branch and community. Brother Ralph is survived by his three sisters, Mary Feher, and Rose and Angie Mercurio.

JOHN B. "JACK" FORD

Brother John B. "Jack" Ford passed on to his heavenly reward on April 22, 1995 at the age of seventy. Brother Jack was an ordained Teacher and Minister in The Church of Jesus Christ and served faithfully in those offices for more than forty years. He was a member of the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. He is survived by his wife, Sister Mary Esther Corrado Ford, three sons, Paul, John, Joel and four grandchildren.

FLOSSIE BELLE MOLINATTO

Sister Flossie Belle Molinatto passed on to her eternal reward on May 2, 1995 at the age of ninety-two. She was baptized in 1925 and was a member of the Tampa, Florida Branch. She was preceded in death by her husband John and son, John David. She is survived by a daughter, Betty Lou (Marvin) Mote, four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

IRENE GRIFFITH

Sister Irene Griffith passed on to her heavenly reward on April 25, 1995 at the age of eighty-four. She was baptized on August 14, 1938 and was a member of the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch. Sister Irene is survived by two sisters, Josephine Joris of Allenport, Pennsylvania, Emma Aquilina of Lakeland, Florida, and several nieces and nephews.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

It is a blessing that in our lifetime we have met and obeyed the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. It brought back the true ordinances and the authority to perform these ordinances of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It restored the natural order of God's way. It restored the way to serve God. It restored the spirit of "a broken heart and a contrite spirit." It restored the pure love of God. It restored the spirit of humility.

Feet washing is a public expression of the love of God, of kindness and humility. What a blessed and wonderful ordinance; the ordinance of feet washing. It is difficult to comprehend The Church of Jesus Christ without the ordinance of feet washing. What a void would exist in The Church of Jesus Christ. But feet washing does exist in The Church of Jesus Christ. It always will exist in The Church of Jesus Christ.

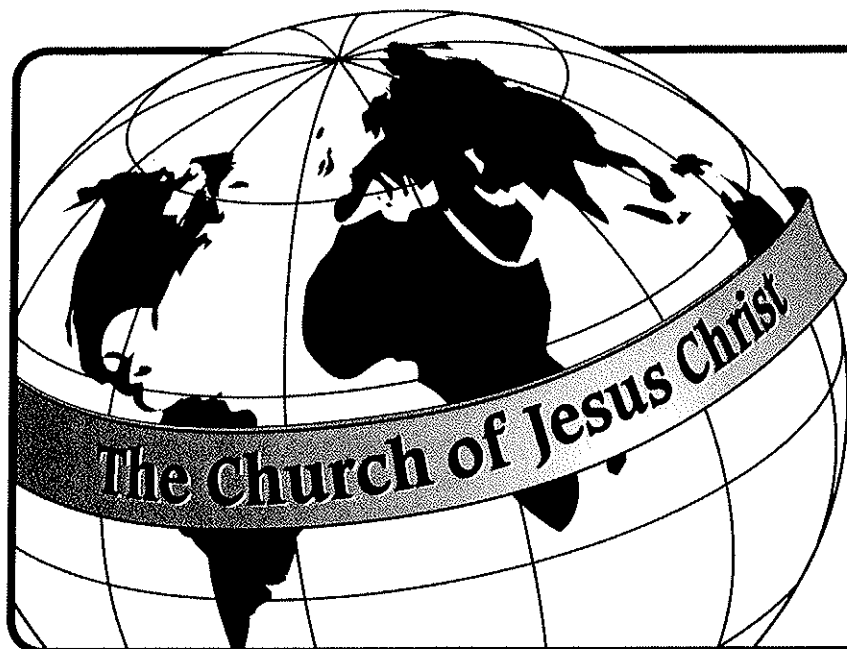
The day is coming when we will have the opportunity to wash the feet of those from every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. What a blessing! What a future! Thank God for the ordinance of feet washing.

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The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monroeville, PA, USA

August, 1995

Volume 51, No. 8

The Church of Jesus Christ April 1995 General Church Conference

By Brother Jeffrey Giannetti

"Ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).

The words above, uttered by Jesus Christ, more than any penned by man, capture the spirit and joy felt during the April 1995 General Church Conference. If you will remember, just prior to conference, we were asked by the Quorum of Twelve Apostles to engage in a week of fasting and prayer. This effort focused on a number of needs. One in particular, was the upcoming conference. We were asked to pray that God's presence and His gifts might be experienced in abundance during our two days together. Well, I'm sure all present would agree, we asked; we received and indeed, our joy was made full!! We praise God for a weekend blessed by His Sweet and Holy Spirit.

The conference began on Saturday morning with a welcome from General Church President, Apostle Dominic Thomas. Our Brother thanked the capacity crowd in attendance for making the effort to come and how God would

recognize their efforts with an outpouring of His blessings. Brother Dominic concluded his remarks by admonishing each of us to renew our love for God and His Church and dedicate our lives to Him completely and at all costs.

At this point, the service was turned over to the Quorum of Twelve. Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened the meeting and reminded us of the need to "get back to the basics of the Gospel in order to get closer to God." He also reminded us to "keep our identity." We then concluded the morning service enjoying a great blessing in partaking of the Lord's Supper.

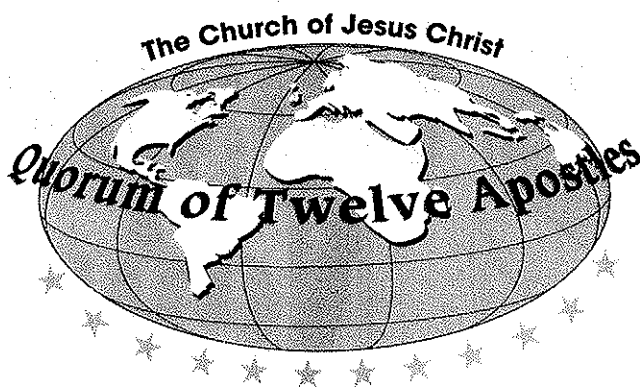
During the afternoon service, we heard from Apostles Joseph Calabrese, Robert Watson and Joseph Bittinger. Each brother spoke on a different topic as directed by God. Brother Calabrese spoke on the glorious story of the Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Brother Watson spoke of the necessity for each of us to have an effective prayer life. And, ninety-three year old, Brother Joseph Bittinger spoke on the topic of Freedom and

Responsibility. What a joy it was to see our brother speak with the vigor of a young man strengthened and inspired by the power of God. We concluded our service greatly uplifted by our brothers' words and looking forward to the program scheduled for Saturday evening.

Under the direction of Brother Larry Champine, a program highlighting the missionary work of the Church and the need for laborers in that work was performed and the glory of God was felt by all. Whether a solo, duet, scripture reading or the slides showing the many Church missions throughout the world, the Spirit of God was manifested. During the program, the gift of tongues was spoken and interpreted and each of us were motivated to do more for the great work of the Lord. We concluded the day rejoicing and looking forward to the blessings tomorrow would bring.

Once again on Sunday morning, the World Conference Center was filled to capacity with all anticipating a joyous day. Our service began with Evangelist Isaac Smith opening the service speaking from I Kings, the 18th chapter, where Elijah is used by God to defeat the prophets of Baal. Brother Ike explained how today is the day of the "evening sacrifice." The Gospel has been

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The Fear of God

By Apostle Joseph Bittinger

The fear of God means reverence for God which leads to obedience because of one's realization of His power, as well as His love for man.

Jesus said, "... *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*" (Matthew 10:28).

I have talked with people who believe that God is so merciful, loving, kind and compassionate that He should not be feared. This kind of thinking is not in harmony with the many Scriptures that are quoted



Apostle Joseph Bittinger

in the Old and New Testaments, and the Book of Mormon. One of ancient Israel's greatest weaknesses was the fact that they did not fear God. "*O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear*

Me, and keep my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and their children forever" (Deuteronomy 5:29).

"*And Moses said unto the people, fear not, for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not*" (Exodus 20:20).

Is it not just as necessary and important for the Saints of God in these latter days, to have the fear of God before their faces as it was in ancient times? To fear God is to honor and worship Him. To fear God is to have the utmost respect for Him. He is our heavenly Father, our very Creator. He is God Almighty (ALL POWERFUL). He is the Supreme Power that rules in heaven and earth, and all the universe, far beyond the wisdom and comprehension of men. He is Lord and Master, exercising His power and authority in both the terrestrial and celestial spheres of His creations. Hebrews 11:3 states, "The worlds were framed by the word of God."

By the word of God, the heavens were of old according to II Peter 3:5. Heaven and earth, and all of the universe were brought into being, and set in perfect order, by the infinite power of His command, His word.

"*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing where to I sent it*" (Isaiah 55:11).

"*Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written*

before him for them that feared the Lord, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them as a man spareth his own son that serveth him" (III Nephi 24:16-17).

"*For behold, the day cometh that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly shall be as stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of Hosts, that it shall leave them neither root or branch. But unto you that fear my name, shall the Son of Righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth and grow-up as calves in the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of Hosts*" (III Nephi 25:1-2-3).

Apostle Paul said, "*wherefore, we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear*" (Hebrew 12:28).

"*Fear God, and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment is come*" (Revelations 14:7). The same angel that carried the everlasting Gospel in verse 6, announced or proclaimed that the hour, the time of His judgment is here.

Note of Thanks

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the brothers and sisters throughout the Church for your many prayers, cards, and calls while I underwent major surgery for a serious aneurysm. The doctors in Houston, Texas and their team of experts never saw an aneurysm this large. They felt it was a miracle that I had survived this long. I know the greatest miracle is how through the prayers of the Church, "There's Not Anything That Jesus Cannot Do." Thank you again and may God bless you all.

Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr.

It Is Written



By Apostle V. James Loyalvo

Secularization and Culture: Their Impact on the Church

PART I

In this article, I will endeavor to show the impact and consequences that culture had—and has—upon Christianity, and how it has been secularized by its assimilation of, and conformity to the various elements of the culture with which it was—and is—surrounded. I do not say that culture is all bad. It has many nuances, both positive and negative. What seems good to one society may appear unacceptable to another. But when culture robs Christianity of its spirituality and individuality by the assimilation of, and conformity to its influence, then it has to be judged as sinister and destructive. I will attempt to show what the response of the Church should be when it is attacked by culture and secularization. First, some definitions:

Culture is defined in Webster's International Dictionary as: A particular stage of advancement in civilization, or the characteristics of such a stage or state.

Secular: Pertaining to the worldly or temporal as distinguished from the spiritual or eternal.

Secularize: To deprive of

religious character, observance, etc.

Richard Niebhur, in his book, *Christ and Culture* defines culture as the "Artificial, secondary environment which man superimposes on the natural. It comprises language, habits, ideas, beliefs, customs, social organization, inherited artifacts, technical processes and values."

The early Church was established in the midst of a Greco-Roman and Jewish culture. "Living in the world, but not of the world" created a tension for the early Christians. The struggle was whether to accommodate or invite persecution by non-resistance and refusal to bow down to government mandates. To the Christians, the world was evil and its pleasures were to be avoided.

The Christians' view of their life in the world was similar to a brief journey in a foreign land. They were in the midst of a society that hated them because they believed in what was considered a strange and unwelcome form of religion. They limited themselves to the fellowship of their own kind, foregoing the pleasures that the world around them afforded. Paul, the Apostle, admonished the Church not to be "*conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God*" (Romans 12:2).

In the subsequent Reformation period, some Christians, facing the same tensions, decided to emigrate to other lands rather than accommodate to the culture which surrounded them. History reveals how the church, in a few years, became secularized by its adoption of political and philosophical concepts. Changes in the form of church government added to its gradual declension from the original organization established by the Apostles. Bishops became proud, and demanded subservience from lesser officers of the church. Mosheim, the renowned historian, writes, "No man can speak in higher terms of the power of the Bishops and the arro-

gant Cyprian who is so condescending toward Presbyters, Deacons, and the common people.... He regards Bishops as successors to the Apostles, so that they are amenable to no one, but to God only" (Vol.1.p.588).

Love of God and man was replaced with ambition, internal strife and pride. Worthlessness had infiltrated the church to the extent that it was unrecognizable as the Church of the Savior. In his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire," Edward Gibbons writes:

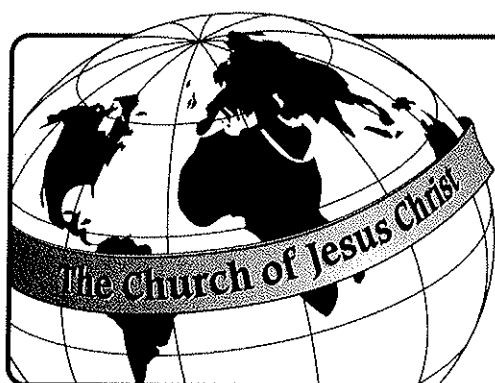
Fraud, envy and malice prevailed in every congregation. The Presbyters aspired to Episcopal offices, which every day became an object more worthy of their ambition. The Bishops who contended with each other for ecclesiastical pre-eminence, appeared by their conduct to claim a secular and tyrannical power in the church, and the lively faith which still distinguished the Christians from the Gentiles, was shown much less in their lives than in their controversial writings (Ch16).

Edwin E. Aubrey argues that, "Christianity absorbed into her church organization the political practices of secular order" (Secularization of Myth. P.82.). He also writes that Christians introduced pagan cultures into their religious festivals, and transposed the same to a "higher spiritual significance." He cites a few: "The Brumalia of their Romans with their holly, the world-wide celebration of the winter solstice; the Mithris pageant of the manger on December 25th celebrating the sun and the light of the world; the Teutonic pine tree; the Scandinavian Yule log and the Celtic mistletoe" (p.86).

PHILOSOPHY

In a culture where Greek philosophy, Roman polytheism, and the Jewish adherence to the Mosaic

(Continued on Page 10)



A message from the Seventy

Missionary Trip to Kenya

By Brother Frank Natoli, Assistant Coordinator for Kenya

Since the registration of The Church of Jesus Christ in Kenya, East Africa in 1993, the Church has experienced tremendous growth. In November 1994, 86 men and women were baptized; and, with the conclusion of the most recent trip from April 26 to May 12 by Brothers Phil Jackson (Chairman, Foreign Missions Operating Committee), Joel Gehly (Coordinator for Kenya), and me, the membership has risen to 150 Brothers and Sisters.

It is very encouraging to see the advances being made. We traveled toward Lake Victoria into the Kenyan bush to visit the eight established Church missions serviced regularly by Elders Elizaphan and Stephen Osaka (father and son) and witnessed the progress.

WONDERFUL NEWS

None of the villages had a permanent building in which to worship, so the services were held outdoors under trees or in a temporary banana leaf shelter. Brother Joel brought the wonderful news "that because of the generosity of the brothers and sisters in America, each village mission will be given assistance to build a shelter." The members were so happy and thankful that many clapped their hands with joy at this thought.

The need for permanent structures is critical to not only provide shelter during the rainy seasons, but

to demonstrate to the Kenyan government that The Church of Jesus Christ is sincere in her efforts to "bring" something to its people rather than "take" something from its people. Our sincerity as a Church was also visible as we toured three nursery schools, a poly-technical school for 37 young adults who are learning trades such as carpentry, masonry, and tailoring, and a secondary school with almost 200 in attendance.

CHURCH CONFERENCE

We were able to hold a church conference during our stay. It

brought together most of the brothers and sisters from each village. This was especially exciting, because many of the saints cannot travel easily to visit the other village missions. A distance of 20-25 miles separates each village; and because of the lack of means, walking is the only option. Visiting "another branch" as we might do is a far greater effort there. We hired small "buses" to bring the members to one location where they could fellowship and physically see that the Church is more than just their own village congregation.

Since the "buses" were small, many of the children could not be brought to the conference; but, because their hearts were so saddened by this and they wanted to attend, many walked as much as 25 miles to be with us in our conference! It was a wonderful blessing, as the saints received the Lord's Supper and witnessed the ordinations of three Deaconesses, five Deacons, and two Teachers.

In discussions, we found a great desire and determination to spread the Restored Gospel. Although many have felt persecution, it has strengthened the Church. In fact,

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A meeting in Kenya, East Africa



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The Church of Jesus Christ is very blessed in many ways. A most valued blessing is the Book of Mormon. We believe it is the Stick of Joseph in the hand of Ephraim.

This wonderful book informs us that the Tribe of Joseph, the Seed of Joseph is not lost. The Book of Mormon teaches us that the Seed of Joseph is actually the Native Americans in the western hemisphere. It tells us how they journeyed to this land, the promised land; why they left their original home. It captures their culture, their trials, their transgressions and their belief in God and Jesus Christ.

The Book of Mormon is in total harmony with the Bible. It teaches love, kindness, forgiveness, meekness, patience, the plan of salvation, and the doctrine of Jesus Christ. There is nothing in the Book of Mormon that contradicts the Bible in any way.

Consider the "plain and precious" things it brings to our attention. According to Nephi, in his writings, 1 Nephi 13:26, 28, "plain and precious" things were removed from the Bible. Because of this, 1 Nephi 13:29 states, ". . . *an exceeding great many do stumble pertaining to the things of God and Jesus Christ.*"

The Book of Mormon teaches us what the name of the Church must be. It teaches how to baptize and what the Ministry is to say when they baptize a convert. The greatest authority of all, Jesus Christ, taught His disciples what to name the Church. He taught them the proper mode of baptism. These instructions were not the teachings of men, they were the teachings of the Lord!

This great book, the Book of Mormon, instructs us about the reception of the Holy Ghost. It instructs us that little children are not to be baptized; they are innocent and not capable of committing sin. It beautifully describes the resurrection. It beautifully describes the state of the soul after death. It details for us the building of the New Jerusalem on this land. It informs us that this land is where the New Jerusalem that descends from heaven will reside forever. It teaches us about the Choice Seer who will be like Moses of old. It teaches us that the Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ is ordained after the order of the Son of God. It instructs us on the precise method of ordaining elders and teachers. It teaches us to use bread and wine for the Lord's Supper; there are no substitutes.

The Lord spoke to Nephi, a great prophet of old on the land of America. He told Nephi in 2 Nephi 29:8, "*Know ye not that the testimony of two nations is a witness unto you that I am God, that I remember one nation like unto another.*" The Lord of Hosts also informed Nephi in 2 Nephi, 29:10, "*Wherefore, because that ye have a Bible ye need not suppose that it contains all my words; neither need ye suppose that I have not caused more to be written.*" These statements, these instructions, confirm several Old Testament scriptures. Some examples are: Psalm 85:11, "*Truth shall spring out of the earth; righteousness shall look down from heaven,*" the entire twenty-ninth chapter of Isaiah, and Ezekiel 37:16-19 which speaks of the Stick of Judah and the Stick of Joseph, that become one in the hand of the Lord.

Nephi wrote in 1 Nephi 13:12, "*And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land.*" We believe this man was that great adventurer, Christopher Columbus. Nephi wrote this verse approximately 600 B.C. Within the past few years, several of Christopher Columbus' writings were discovered in Spain. They were found long after the Book of Mormon was translated and written. Writing in the Spanish language, Christopher Columbus testifies that he was moved

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Jan Steinrock



What Happened to the Jaredite Nation?

Dear Girls and Boys,

In the Book of Ether we learn that the Jaredite people grew in number until they covered the entire land northward, the land above the narrow neck of land that separates what we call South America from Mexico and North America. Where did all these thousands of people vanish to, and what caused their disappearance?

First we must remember that this land is a "Promised Land," God's own special land that is given to those who serve Him. It is a land choice above all others, a land rich in minerals and climate. God told the brother of Jared that He would give this land only to a righteous people. When the people of the land stopped serving Him, they would be wiped off the land and replaced by a people who would serve Him.

When the Jaredites forgot God's laws and began to fight for power, God used natural disasters like drought and famine, diseases and even poisonous snakes to make them remember the right way to live. Sometimes the kings of the land ruled their people fairly and taught them to serve God. Other times the kings murdered the people for wealth and led them away from the ways of God. The last Jaredite king we read about in the Book of Ether is Coriantumr.

Coriantumr was king of the whole land. He was a king who had studied all the arts of war and all the tricky ways of the world. When a group of mighty men rose up and

tried to destroy him with secret plans, he and his sons gathered their armies and fought back.

Years before these battles began, God had begun to send prophets across the land telling the people to repent of their evil ways or be judged by God and destroyed, leaving the land to a new people that God would bring from across the ocean. The people hated and rejected the prophets.

One mighty prophet who came forth in the days of King Coriantumr was Ether. Ether was a grandson of the past king, Moron, who had been overthrown many years before. Ether's father was a political prisoner all his life, and Ether was born to him in such a situation. Yet Ether did not hunger for the passing power of a king. He was moved by the many prophets which God had sent forth in the land.

Ether became a true servant and prophet of God. He preached to the people from morning until the sun went down. He told them of things to come and begged them to turn from their evil ways. Great and marvelous were the words of Ether, but the people did not want to hear him. He had such a powerful spirit of God that they could not stop him, so they threw him out of their city and he went to live in a cave. He hid himself there throughout the day and came out at night to view the people and their battles for the record he was keeping on twenty-four golden plates.

During the first year of Ether's hiding, the sons of King Coriantumr fought much and bled much. Many

of the people were murdered by the secret enemies of Coriantumr.

In the second year, the Lord sent Ether out to warn the king. If Coriantumr and his household would repent, the Lord would give him his kingdom and spare his people. If not, then the people would destroy each other until only Coriantumr was left alive, and he would see the new group of people that God would bring to the Promised Land. They would bury him.

Coriantumr and his household were furious. They tried to kill Ether for bringing them God's warning. Ether returned to his cave to watch and record the story of the Jaredite people.

(Continued on Page 12)

WORD SEARCH (Taken from Ether 12 and 13)

Find the following words hidden in the puzzle:

NATION	SIN
CORANTUMR	PROPHET
KING	ETHER
BATTLE	MAN
MEN	MORONI
WAR	SEER
MURDER	MORON
HER	HIDE
GOD	HID
SPARE	CAVE
JAREDITE	TWENTY-FOUR
PEOPLE	GOLD
REPENT	PLATES

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

Branch and Mission News

News from Palm Harbor, Florida

On Sunday, February 5, 1995, our meeting was opened by Brother Jim Speck who welcomed our visiting members and friends from around the district. We were fortunate to have two Apostles, Brothers Joe Calabrese and Nick Pietrangelo along with seven visiting Elders and their families. Brother Joe and Sister Colleen Pittius also were visiting from Hopelawn, New Jersey.

Brother Nick Pietrangelo opened with scripture from Ephesians, chapter 2; *"You hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sin. Not of works, lest any man should boast."* By grace are ye saved thus showing the great love of Christ.

As a special addition to our regular Sunday meeting with the Lord, the members along with their family and friends were able to witness the ordination of Brother Bryan N. Griffith into the office of deacon, and Sister Susan Davella into the office of deaconess.

Brother Sam Risola, Jr., read from Acts, chapter 6, regarding the office of deacon. He related knowing both Sister Susan and Brother Bryan for many years, seeing them grow up from little children. And having been a deacon himself, he knew the joy that Brother Bryan would have in serving the Lord in this office. A call was given for Brother Bryan to prepare himself and Brother Bobby Woods stepped forward and washed our brother's feet. Our brother was then surrounded by our Elder brothers kneeling with a prayer by Brother Saverio Risola. Brother Ike Smith then anointed our brother with the holy oil praying in his behalf. During his prayer, Brother John Griffith stepped forward, placed his hand on Brother Bryan and spoke in the gift of tongues. The interpretation was, "Thus saith the Lord, he has been

found acceptable, thus saith the Lord."

As we moved further into our meeting, Brother Saverio spoke on the duties of a deaconess from Romans, chapter 16. Sister Susan then came forward and her feet were washed by Sister Colleen Pittius. As Sister Colleen walked toward the rostrum, a visitor saw Brother and Sister Davella (deceased), walking with their daughter and they observed the ordinance. When Sister Colleen finished, she said to Sister Susan, "My parents are here with us." The Elders then knelt around our Sister Susan and Brother Duane Lowe prayed to the Lord in her behalf. Brother Jim Speck then anointed Sister Susan, praying that the Lord would continue to bless her in her future efforts to serve Him.

After their ordinations, Brother Bryan and Sister Susan gave their testimonies. They expressed their desires to do everything and all possible for the Lord in their office. We know the Spirit of God was present this day as He has been with the Palm Harbor Branch in the past. We all look forward to serving Him in this part of the vineyard.

Blessings Are the Reward of a Good Desire

By Sister Karen L. Progar

The Priesthood of the Imperial, McKees Rocks, and Aliquippa Branches desired to promote increased unity among the membership of the three branches. The result was a joint meeting held on Sunday, March 19, 1995, at the Aliquippa Branch. A wonderful time of fellowship and an outpouring of the Lord's Spirit was enjoyed.

Several brothers were visiting from throughout the U.S. due to Foreign Missions Operating Commit-

tee meetings which were held in McKees Rocks throughout the weekend. To begin our service, the Aliquippa Branch children sang, *Do Lord*, and the branch choir followed with, *Wonderful Grace of Jesus*.

Brother Steve Champine, of the Inner City, Michigan Branch opened the service. Using selected verses from the 34th, 35th, and 36th chapters of Exodus, Brother Steve advised us that the Lord does not expect us to do all things perfectly, he merely expects us to do everything willingly. He told us that when we desire to be inspired, the Lord will bless us. From the scripture, he reminded us of the fact that the children of Israel willingly brought the numerous items requested to build the tabernacle. He said that we too should give because we love God and the Church. The Israelites gave to such a degree that the workers received more than they could use to build the tabernacle. He asked, "Do we love so much and give so much that the Lord has to ask us to hold back?" He concluded by telling us that our willingness and inspiration to do good will make the work of the Lord progress.

Brother Sal Azzinaro of the Yucaipa, California Branch followed, stating that the Lord looks for a man who will speak His word willingly. He also stated that at this weekend's meetings, the brothers looked to God for enlightenment and inspiration. He continued saying that we can prepare and study, however, we cannot do anything without the Lord. The Lord will give us things to do equal to our ability to do them.

Our final morning speaker was Brother Joe Perri of the Freehold, New Jersey Branch. Brother Joe shared an experience which he heard while on missionary work in Italy. In the experience, a sister was struck down when, during a severe storm, her home was hit by lightning. It was required that her husband pray three times before the sister revived. Brother Joe chose the experience to explain to us that sometimes a continued effort is required to move the hand of God. He concluded by

(Continued on Page 8)

GOOD DESIRE continued . . .

requesting our prayers for the work of the foreign missions.

After the morning meeting, we enjoyed more fellowship during lunch that was prepared by the sisters of the Aliquippa Branch. We reconvened our afternoon service for communion and testimony service.

During the morning service, Brother Steve Champine also related to the congregation that for many years, he and his wife, Sister Kathy, had provided for a young man from India. It was Brother Steve's desire to meet him in person while on his recent missionary visit to India. Arrangements had been made, in that Brother Steve sent this young man, Buchi Babu, a copy of the brothers' itinerary, in the hope that Buchi could meet them sometime during their tour. As the trip progressed, it was necessary for the brothers to frequently deviate from that itinerary. It became obvious to Brother Steve that there was very little chance that he would have the opportunity to meet his "son" on this trip. On the final day, the brothers were entering the airport and a young man approached Brother Steve. The young man said to Brother Steve, "Father, it is I, Buchi." The two embraced and enjoyed a few minutes of fellowship prior to the departure of the brothers' flight. Buchi told them that he had waited by the door all day, hoping to see Steve and that he even had to pay an airport official in order to be allowed to wait by the door.

Brother Tony Ricci, ordained an Elder the previous week in the McKees Rocks Branch, likened Brother Steve's experience to the way in which Christ waits for us by the door. Christ too had to pay for the privilege of standing by the door, only He paid with His own blood. Brother Tony continued saying that Christ, as well, waits all day for us and still waits. Brother Tony compared Christ's love for His Father, which gives Him cause to wait patiently by that door, to the love which Buchi has for the man he thinks of as his father.

In addition to the wonderful

words of life, we were delighted to hear Brother Panfilo DiCenzo sing, in Italian, *Showers of Blessing*, the McKees Rocks Mens' quartet sing, *If That Isn't Love* and Brother Jim and Sister Jean Moore sing, *Take Some Time To Pray*. The testimonies which were shared also brought joy to the souls of those in attendance. We thank God for His many blessings and for the love and unity felt throughout the day.

Teacher Ordination Youngstown, Ohio

On Sunday, January 15, 1995, a beautiful service was held in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, during which the ordination of Brother David Pandone into the office of Teacher took place. Many visitors including Elders Ron Genaro, Jack Ford, and John Manes were present. The messages given were on obedience, unity, and laboring diligently with long-suffering.

Brother Mike Italiano read the duties of a Teacher in The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother David's feet were washed by Brother Dick Pandone. He was ordained through the laying on of hands by Brother Ralph Berardino. Brother David is an active and encouraging worker for the Lord. May God bless him in this new responsibility.

A Letter from Oklahoma City, OK

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My name is Sister Victoria Johnson, and I live in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. It is a few days after the bomb exploded here. I felt to write to you about this event and share some thoughts concerning it.

I was working in the emergency department at Childrens Hospital that day and was there to help with the children that were injured as they came to the emergency room. It was amazing and felt very unreal. I could

not believe what I was seeing or even comprehend the evil forces that could have injured so many children and adults. The hospitals and emergency crews worked like a clock and all was extremely well organized. I felt so proud to be able to see this effort by so many people to try to be as effective as possible. I felt privileged to be among such highly trained and skilled personnel but it was horrible. Maybe more so for me, or anyone who believes in the Church's teachings about the establishment of Zion and what that means to this nation.

I have lived in Oklahoma City for three years now. I came here to attend medical school of which I have one year left. My first year was very difficult and I was very unhappy to be here. One day I was driving to work downtown and suddenly remembered a dream I had about the downtown area. I saw it engulfed in flames, the very scenes you see on television about the bombing. I remember thinking that maybe the destruction of this land will begin in Oklahoma City. I did not think of this dream much after that. When the bomb went off, the subsequent events were surreal and it was not until late that night that I was able to go home. On the way home, I felt so scared. I pass the building that was bombed everyday to go home, and this night I felt as if Satan was in my car. It was raining horribly and the wind blew my car all over the road. I began to pray, "Oh Lord help me," and I began to cry as the Lord's beautiful Spirit descended over me and I felt so safe and warm. I knew that God would protect me.

It has taken many days for the magnitude of the situation to sink in and become real. I went to look at the building a few days ago. I cannot explain the magnitude of the destruction not only to that building, but to surrounding buildings as well. I feel like I could be living in Beirut. But this is Oklahoma City. How can this happen? The wake up call has started from the Lord. I hate to be pessimistic, but it will only get worse until this land is purified and sanctified.

What has happened to the

citizens of Oklahoma City is amazing! Everyone is participating in money, food, and clothing drives for the victims and firefighters. We all drive with our lights on everyday and night in unified support. Even on the highways, the traffic rush hours are much more friendly. People are actually letting you in front of them in busy morning traffic. In the stores, the feeling is one of good cheer. Is this the effect the Lord is looking for in us? I do not understand it all except to say that if ever there was a time to stand fast and united as a Church, it is truly right now.

I work only a few blocks from the explosion and God spared my life. I trust Him to continue to do so as I will continue to try to spread His Word. The mission here right now consists of me, but I have hope for the future.

Please pray for the victims and their families, and please pray for the Church here as I will continue to pray for you.

Your Sister in Christ,

Victoria Johnson
10220 Stoneham Avenue
Oklahoma City, OK 73120
405-748-5568

A Day of Sunshine in Saline, Michigan

By Peter Oestreicher

Even though Edison Lake was frozen, there was sunshine in the hearts of members, relatives, and friends from Saline and Detroit Branch #2, who gathered at its shore on February 19, 1995. They were there to witness the baptism of Holly Bologna. After singing, *Shall We Gather at the River*, a prayer was offered by Brother Leonard A. Lovalvo, Holly's uncle. Brother John Buffa performed the baptism and Brother Dominic Thomas closed in prayer.

Following the baptism, everyone

assembled at the Saline Branch. Brother Alex Gentile, Holly's uncle, provided the opening prayer and hands were laid on Sister Holly for the reception of the Holy Ghost by her grandfather, Brother Reno Bologna.

The meeting was opened by Brother Dominic Thomas who remarked about the blessing which had occurred. He called upon the Bologna family; Brother Richard and Sister Toni (Holly's parents), and Hope (Holly's sister), to testify. Sister Holly stated she was "overwhelmed, excited and cold." She had been contemplating her baptism about one and one half months, doing much reading and praying before being certain she was ready. The hymn, *He's Taken My Blindness* was then sung, the words of which kept coming to Sister Toni, who recently faced a serious illness and surgery. She has since received a clean bill of health, and thanked everyone for their cards, telephone calls, gifts, and prayers. She certainly had much to be thankful for that day.

Brother Reno and Sister Isabella Bologna and Sister Judy Salerno were also called to the front to testify, after which everyone sang *God Will Take of You*.

The meeting was then opened for testimony and song by Brother Kerry Carlini, Presiding Elder of the Saline Branch. The young people proceeded to sing *I Asked The Lord* at the request of Joann Cotellesse. After numerous testimonies by friends and family, Sister Holly stood up and thanked everyone for being with her on her special day. She talked about Brother Reno, and thanked him for spending many hours with her while contemplating her baptism. Sister Holly wanted it known that Brother Reno left the decision completely up to her, and he told her he loved her whether or not she was baptized. According to Sister Holly, "It was a good decision- it fulfilled my life even more. It is what I needed. I always felt there was something missing from my life, and now I feel fulfilled." Sister Holly also thanked her friends

Lynette and Peter Buffa, Brandon Phillips and her sister Hope.

The meeting then closed with the hymn, *He's Everything To Me*, and Brother Jim Cotellesse offered the closing prayer. Although it was cold outside, there was sunshine in everyone's heart on this blessed day.

News from Yucaipa, California

By Brother Roy Verstraete

Starting in the month of May 1994, the Yucaipa Branch went to the Morongo Reservation several times to help the Native American people there prepare for an upcoming celebration. The first day was hot and dusty as we performed several chores; pulling weeds, mowing the grass, removing broken fences, and generally, we cleaned the area. We all truly enjoyed what we were doing. Being blessed by God as we worked, we were able to get acquainted with some of the people that live there. They then invited us to help when the day of the celebration came. This extended our ability to meet even more people.

We were privileged to see their ancient culture brought forth in dances that they performed. Their music was the beat of drums, tapping on hollow turtle shells, and blowing into sea shells. They had bells on their ankles, and glorious feather headdresses adorning their heads. Their songs were all in their own native language. We could almost picture the ancient people in the Book of Mormon. We found it easy to connect the Native American people of today with the Seed of Joseph.

God is giving us an opportunity to be in contact with the Seed of Joseph so we can share with them of their heritage as we have found in the scriptures. This work may be slow and hard but doing the work of God is what we are all about in The Church of Jesus Christ.

We ask an interest in the prayers

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YUCAIPA continued . . .

of our brothers and sisters that we can continue earning the trust of our future brothers and sisters on the Morongo Reservation. That we will be able to do more with them and get to know more Native American people as we toil on their land doing whatever we are capable of doing. There have been several dreams about the work with the Seed of Joseph. The members and friends of the Yucaipa Branch continue to pray for the guidance of God to work with His people.

Summer Sale

The Print House is offering a 20% discount on *The Book of Mormon Dictionary*. This book is a wonderful reference guide for young people and very helpful when learning about the Book of Mormon.

If you are interested in purchasing one of these dictionaries, please contact the Print House at 313-429-5080. The sale price is \$8.00 plus shipping.

Announcement

For August 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.10%
2 years	5.30%
3 years	5.40%
4 years	5.50%
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.

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CONFERENCE continued

restored just as the altar of God had been rebuilt in the chapter read by our brother. Now, we like the people of God in the time of Elijah, must be willing to sacrifice all for our God and His Church. Our brother admonished us to be willing to give of our time, money, efforts and all we can for the work of the Lord. Brother Ike concluded by asking the Priesthood and the membership to stand if we were willing to sacrifice all for the Lord. What an awesome sight to see the entire congregation standing in demonstration of our willingness to sacrifice all for the Lord. While we were standing, the gift of tongues was spoken and the following interpretation was given: *"There is One God; One Lord; One Gospel; One Church. Whom do you wish to serve today?"*

During the balance of our service, the Gifts of God were manifested in such abundance, it would be impossible to capture them

all. The three Nephites were seen. Tongues were spoken and interpreted over and over again. Two young women asked for their baptism. Brother Paul Palmieri was inspired to call all of the young men and women who desired to work for the Lord to the front for special prayer. What a glorious sight as each group was prayed for separately that God would provide for each of them a work in His Kingdom on earth. Sadly, the service had to conclude, but not without all present receiving an overwhelming portion of God's blessed Spirit.

We praise God for His goodness in answering our prayers and allowing our "joy to be full." May we each work to bring the things we are privileged to experience to the souls of those who know not God. May God bless you is my humble prayer.

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

Law were current, the Christians faced insurmountable obstacles, and only through their unyielding faith in Christ were they able to survive. Their ethical and moral teachings which they exhibited in their lives were in direct contradiction to the culture and philosophy surrounding them. However, it was not very long before the philosophy of the time began to influence many Christians.

Joseph Milner writes,

Many in the church succumbed to the philosophy of the day.

Even Justin Martyr, by his fondness of Plato, adulterated the Gospel to some degree. . . .

Tatian, the Scholar of Justin Martyr, dealt largely in the merit of continence and chastity; and these virtues, pushed into extravagant excesses . . . obscured men's views of the faith of Christ, and darkened the whole face of Christianity (Century 2, ch. 5). During the latter half of the second century, the church became embroiled in a life and death controversy with the Gnostic over, among

other things, the origin of the creation (P.57).

Gnosticism was only one of the many philosophies which attacked the Christian Church. Some others were Platoism, Aristotolism, and Stoicism. Some of these philosophies found a lodging place in the church.

Mosheim writes, "War broke out between faith and reason, religion and philosophy, piety and intelligence . . . By degrees, those obtained the ascendancy who thought that philosophy and erudition were profitable, rather than hurtful, to religion and piety; and laws were enacted that no person entirely illiterate should be admitted to the office of a Teacher" (Century 2, part 2, p.2:13).

What happened in the early centuries has repeated itself in the latter centuries as well. Hasn't the philosophy of Bultmann and others gained popularity and followers?

Rodney Stark argues:

Social sciences have particularly excelled in predicting the impending triumph of reason over superstition. The most illustrious figures in sociology, anthropology and psychology have unanimously expressed confidence that their children . . . would live to see the dawn of a new era in which . . . the infantile illusion of religion would be outgrown . . . Fashionable opinion holds the trend toward secularism to be rapid and inevitable (p.1).

(To be continued)

MESSAGE continued . . .

just before our arrival, Brother Elizaphan had been threatened physically at the clinic, but the government officials were prompted to intervene and put an end to the threatening.

"Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.

"Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:

for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (Matthew 5:11-12).

As we met with the government officials, all of whom spoke very favorably regarding the Church's efforts and of the Osakas, I was reminded of the importance of living by the standards of Jesus Christ and seeking to never bring reproach upon the Church by our actions.



Brother Phil Jackson baptizing a new member.

BEAUTIFUL EXPERIENCES

Sister Nina Osaka, Brother Elizaphan's wife, received a number of beautiful experiences prior to and throughout the visit, confirming our arrival, God's blessings upon the work in Kenya, and the need to tell those who are lost about Jesus Christ. Their daughter, Margaret, was baptized during our visit, bringing great joy to the entire Osaka family.

Throughout our stay, we spent much time with our young Elder, Brother Stephen Osaka. His father has instructed him well and he is beginning to assume many responsibilities of the Church. Together, they are striving to teach and preach the Restored Gospel. Your prayers are requested that God's spirit and blessings would rest upon the saints in Kenya.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

upon and directed by the Spirit of God to seek a new world! He states, "It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel His hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures." Christopher Columbus quoted the prophet Isaiah in his writings. He gave God the honor and glory for his discoveries. After several centuries, Nephi's writings about this Gentile man are confirmed!

Several years ago, a man was baptized into The Church of Jesus Christ. He was an Italian by birth; he could not read the English language at the time of his baptism; his command of the English language was very limited. The Ministry of The Church of Jesus Christ gave him a Book of Mormon. He took it home and placed it on a table in his living room. A few days after his baptism, this Brother testified that he was sitting in his living room, thinking of the things of God, The Church of Jesus Christ and his conversion. He heard a voice say, "*Pick up the Book of Mormon and read it!*" The brother ignored the voice. Again he heard the voice say, "*Pick up the Book of Mormon and read it!*" This time the brother answered the voice and said, "Lord, I cannot read the book, it is written in English." The voice spoke to the brother again saying, "*Pick up the Book of Mormon and read it!*" The brother obeyed the voice, picked up the Book of Mormon and began to read. He read it in the Italian language! An instant translation by the power of God!

The Book of Mormon confirms that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It confirms the Lord's teachings in Jerusalem. It teaches us how we must live our lives for the Lord. It instructs us how we

(Continued on Page 12)

* WEDDINGS *

Lori J. Cardillo and William E. Sayavich of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch, were united in holy matrimony on May 27, 1995 at Old St. James Meeting House in Boardman Park, Ohio.

Angela Marie Williams and William Michael Rogers were united in marriage in the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch on May 20, 1995.

Children Blessed

Heather Elizabeth Lonkert, daughter of William (Mickey) and Melissa Lonkert, was blessed on April 16, 1995 in the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania Branch.

Emily Rose Ford, daughter of Brother John and Sister Sue Ford, was blessed on June 18, 1995 in the Kent, Ohio Mission.

Gavin Jeffrey Taylor, son of Estelle Husband and Tracey L. Taylor, was blessed in the South Bend, Indiana Mission on April 16, 1995.

OBITUARIES

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

JESSE I. KING

Brother Jesse I. King of the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch passed on to his eternal reward on May 27, 1995 at the age of seventy-one. He was baptized on January

15, 1950. Brother Jesse was an ordained Teacher and President of the MBA Local in Vanderbilt. He is survived by his wife, Helen; sons, Michael and Raymond; daughters, Susan and Jessica; and two grandchildren.

ANTONIETTA ROSATI

Sister Antonietta Rosati passed away to her eternal reward in early April 1995 at the age of eighty-nine. She was a member of the Lockport, New York Branch. Sister Antonietta was baptized in 1943 and ordained a deaconess in 1946. She is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Rita Bradfield of Atlanta, Georgia and Rosaria (August) Fragale of Lockport, New York; nine grandchildren, seventeen great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

must obey the commandments of Jesus Christ, strive to please Him in all things, and endure to the end.

The Book of Mormon offers this humble challenge to all its readers. In Moroni 10:4 it states, "*And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God, the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true; and if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost.*"

CHILDREN'S CORNER continued . . .

Ether's record was found later in a land covered with the bones of many men and the ruins of many large cities. These twenty-four golden plates were taken to the seer, Mosiah, who translated the words into the language of his people, the Nephites.

This translation was kept for hundreds of years among the sacred records kept by the Nephite people. Finally it was entrusted to a man, Moroni, whose job it was to read and abridge the marvelous record. Our shortened record is not even one hundredth part of Ether's work.

Yet, we see plainly the rise and fall of a great nation. When the people chose to serve God, they prospered wondrously. When they turned away from God, they were consumed by war and strife, and finally destroyed themselves off the face of the earth. Again, the Promised Land was left ready for a Godly people.

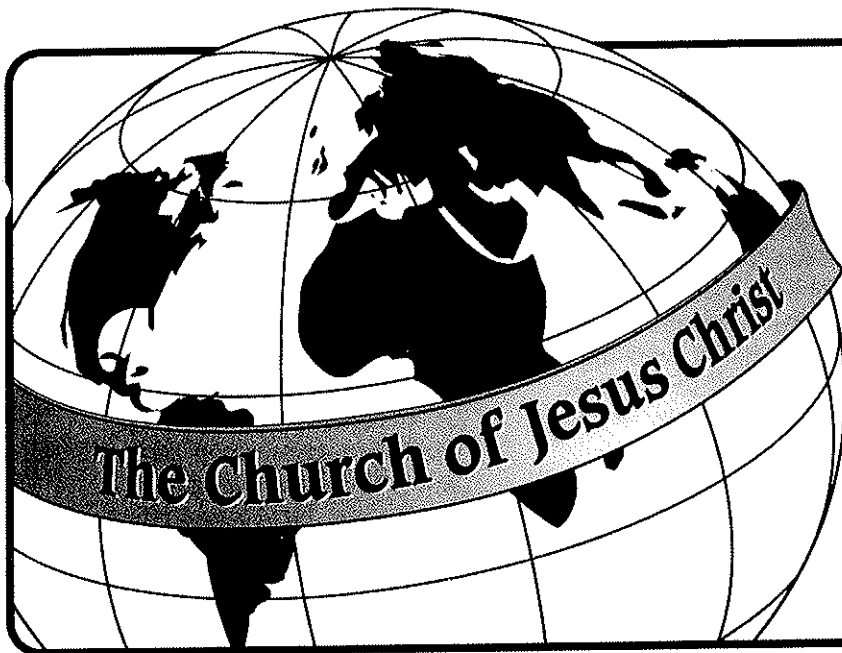
Sincerely,
Sister Jan

Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monaca, PA, USA

September, 1995

Volume 51, No. 9

The "First" General Ladies' Uplift Circle Retreat Love Builds Bridges

By Sister Joyce Ross

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17-19).

We gathered together from across the United States, all Areas of the Church represented, to ask the Lord's blessings on our spiritual well being and He answered our prayers.

The retreat was held June 1-4, 1995. It began with a "Welcome Program" presented by the Dallas Mission whose desire was to give something special to all attending, and that they did.

Sister Arline Whitton, President of the General Ladies' Uplift Circle, addressed the ladies on how Jesus Christ built the bridge to His Father for us with charity, the pure love of God. She spoke of Nephi in the Book of Mormon, how he loved all his children when they were good and when they were not. He did not discriminate, remembering that charity is long suffering.

The "Welcome Program" continued with much excitement on being together, renewing friendships, making new friendships, sharing laughter and tears.

Friday was spent in seminars. "Building Bridges to Greater Resiliency" by Sister Gail Santilli. Resiliency is the ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change. It is a positive response to inevitability of change and transition. God has given us the tools to move forward through whatever is before us. The Bible and Book of Mormon are full of examples and guidance on renewal, redemption, and hope. Remember, spiritual maturity = creativity = redemption = peace.

"Building the Gap to Other Cultures and Single Adults" by Sisters Judy Salerno and Kimberly Calabrese. Trust is important in building bridges. Do you love enough to trust God's word? What are those things that stop us from reaching out to someone different? Do we have hidden prejudices? Surrendering ourselves to allow the Holy Ghost to help us to respond in love will build the bridge to other

cultures. We can achieve this by having a strong desire, prayer, and a willingness to persevere.

"Building Bridges to the Discouraged" by Sister Jan Cornell. Solutions: (1) the message of hope; (2) focusing on Jesus Christ; (3) reaching out in love; (4) empathy, not sympathy; (5) understanding, not judgment; (6) commitment to care; (7) compassion makes a difference.

"Building Bridges Between the Generations" by Sister Sarah Watson. Communication is the key. Older women should initiate the relationships. How do we communicate with so many differences? We communicate with love and warmth; understanding; sharing experiences; trusting; common ground; patience; role models; and teaching values.

"Building a Bridge to the Community" by Sister Kim Alberta. Be a symbol of hope through Jesus Christ. "When ye are in the service of your fellow being, ye are only in the service of your God." Service is exciting, so let us go out and serve and support as abundant living is our reward.

"Building a Better Bridge Between Our Mind, Body, and Spirit" by Sister Kathleen Furitano. Strategies for building a healthy bridge between body, mind, and spirit are: prayer; meditation; time

(Continued on Page 11)

It Is Written



By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

Secularization and Culture: Their Impact on the Church

Part II

NEW MORALITY

In the twentieth century, Christianity, to some degree, has accommodated itself to the "New Morality" philosophy. It has penetrated the minds of much of the Christian world; and like a contagious virus has eaten away its very core. Jacques Ellul, in his book, *The Subversion of Christianity* writes:

Yesterday the church sponsored monarchy, today it's for democracy. Yesterday it supported patronage, today it favors the union. Yesterday it claimed to have absolute truth and was dogmatic, today it lets the people believe what they like. Yesterday it championed a fierce and rigid morality, today it is for abortion, homosexuality, etcetera. . . . The church has simply adopted wholesale the ideas and manners of modern society as it did in past society (p.8).

In my opinion, the media such

as television (especially the talk shows), radio, the press, and magazines have secularized the church. In almost every Christian home, the media influences the household. Young children, teen-agers, and adults are subjected to viewing and listening to immoral love scenes, divorces and remarriages, living together without being legally married, and above all, listening to some rock and roll music which invades the senses like a plague. Right is considered wrong and evil is accepted as good. These elements which assault Christian households are presented with little or no regard for morality, but rather with a sense of rebellion against everything which some years ago would have been censored uncompromisingly.

Promiscuity and alcohol are displayed in the majority of TV commercials and programs without regard for the viewer's feelings. "You can turn off the TV if you don't want to see it" or "Evil is in the eye of the beholder" are the terminology used by the defenders of the "new morality" concept.

Rock music has, to a great degree, destroyed the moral fiber of the youth (and many older people) of America, stretching its tentacles to other parts of the world as well. This music shatters the senses. It glorifies illicit sex, drugs, demon worship, necrophilia, and the most abject form of immorality. Bob Larson, a "born again" Christian who once was a "Rock and Roll" player writes, "Lyrics of today's rock songs are a large part of the tidal wave of promiscuity, venereal disease, illegitimate births and political upheaval (Rock and Roll: The Devil's Diversion, P.22).

The lyrics of many "Rock" songs are so vulgar that I would blush to write them. Hence, I will refrain from doing so. Suffice it to say that this kind of music has affected young and old psychologically, physiologically and morally. It has impacted churches to the degree that the pure and simple Gospel hymns are written with a "Rock" beat. It has adulterated the

purity and solemnity of traditional Gospel music. It is similar to Circe who enticing unwary seamen, extending to them the delights of sensual pleasure, drove them instead to utter destruction.

Christianity must awaken; the Church must awaken. If not, it will be seduced by the media who clothed in garments of respectability and with the facade of its false magic—the New Morality—will cause many to destroy themselves upon the reefs of its enchantment.

Unfortunately, this New Morality has subverted Christianity to some degree. Never, in the history of the Church(es) has there been as many divorces and remarriages. Movie stars and political figures who divorce and remarry indiscriminately are used by many as role models. Some of the above have had as high as eight—or more—husbands and/or wives. Although condemned by the Scriptures, it's considered acceptable by many people. Homes are broken up, and, in many instances, children are the ones who really suffer and pay the price. It seems that the fear of the Lord has departed. Secularization has invaded Christianity and victimized it.

Immorality, not only sinks its fangs into Christian communities, but, like a vampire, draws its life blood from it. Scripture is given an adulterated interpretation to suit the self, and the Word of God is forsaken in lieu of individualism, corporate or otherwise. True Christianity has contributed much to the world in art, literature, music, and science, which has shaped the thinking, and, to some extent, the culture of the world. However, in spite of its contribution to society, Christianity has in turn, yielded much of its spiritual dignity by immersing itself in the culture which surrounds it.

The results are obvious. Churches have become sophisticated, accommodating, and conforming. And there lies the rub. Christianity has become the victim instead of the victor. Os. Guinness, in his book,

The Grave Digger File argues, "While Christianity contributed to the rise of the modern world, the modern world, in turn, has undermined Christianity; Christianity has become its own grave digger" (p.15).

MODERNITY

Modernity has had a hand in secularizing Christianity to some degree. Modernity, in the context of technology, science, philosophy, ethos and mores has had quite an affect upon the Christian churches. One of the phases of modernity which has secularized the churches is the unethical practice of competition. Churches try to outdo each other by building larger structures, bigger and better choirs, etc., even if they have to hire professionals to achieve their purposes. Competition is not what the Lowly Nazarene had in mind. Jesus, certainly did not intend for His Church to indulge in rivalry. Guinness continues:

The odds are stacked against the church. In terms of the burdens of its past, she will soon, like the builders of Babel, be buried under the rubble of her own towering achievements; while in terms of the seductions of today, she is about to be drowned. Narcissus-like, in the exceptions created by her own undisciplined brilliance, wealth and enterprise. The great survivor of the centuries, the proud tamer of empires, nations, faiths and ideologies is being savaged by modernity (p.223).

Should not the experience and the trauma of the church in its state of apostasy, because it yielded to the culture and to the modernity of its time, be a stark reminder to The Church of Jesus Christ to keep His commandments, and in deep humility and alertness be on the watch lest it be invaded and secularized by culture and modernity?

SCIENCE

Another element which secular-

izes Christianity is science. Many have forsaken their belief in the supernatural powers of God, and the power of prayer to heal or change things, on the premise that science has the answer to all things which once were attributed to the Almighty. It is said that there are no such things as "casting out devils, miracles, parting of the Red Sea, Jonah swallowed by a whale, etc." It is argued that all of the above can be answered scientifically. Science is a cultural force, and has a great impact on Christianity. Science, no doubt, is a major element in modern secularization, causing believers to withdraw from explanations of heavenly or supernatural phenomena, as science has the answers to these phenomena. "Creation, the flood are myths," science says. Secular knowledge has relegated these to oblivion. Secularization has already been introduced as lawful and justifiable. Will science also dictate someday what Biblical doctrines can be accepted? God forbid.

Science is a marvelous thing. Without its extraordinary discoveries and achievements, society would still be in the dark ages. But when science attempts to explain the supernatural powers of God, it is hitting its head against a block wall. There are many things that science cannot explain away so glibly.

Science cannot accept the mysterious and inexplicable concept of God being forever, without beginning or end. Yet it accepts the fact that the entire universe is also without beginning or end; similar to a perfect circle. Science cannot explain how a Native American woman, blind for forty years, received her sight as she came up from the waters of baptism (I was a witness to this exceptional experience), nor how a person afflicted with terminal diseases can be healed by prayer alone. It can neither explain how a child pronounced dead by a doctor and a Registered Nurse arose, within an hour, from the gurney upon which she laid, alive and healthy. When science says, "It

is impossible, it cannot be done, God steps in and makes the inconceivable possible. Samuel Miller, in his book, *The Dilemma of Modern Belief* writes:

Prayer is no longer the first resort in an emergency but the last, after all the scientific possibilities have been exhausted. The fear of the bomb is more intense than the fear of God. Conversion and redemption have been replaced by education and adjustment . . . There is no doubt that the objective habit of science, the routine character of industry, the mechanistic influence of the machine, have all heavily encouraged the increasing secularity of the West . . . In man's life, everything has been denuded of its religious quality. Birth, marriage, sin, death—once the pivotal points of spiritual significance—have now lost their sacramental depth. Everything has become natural, biological, social, and quite clinical (pp.6,8).

(To be continued)

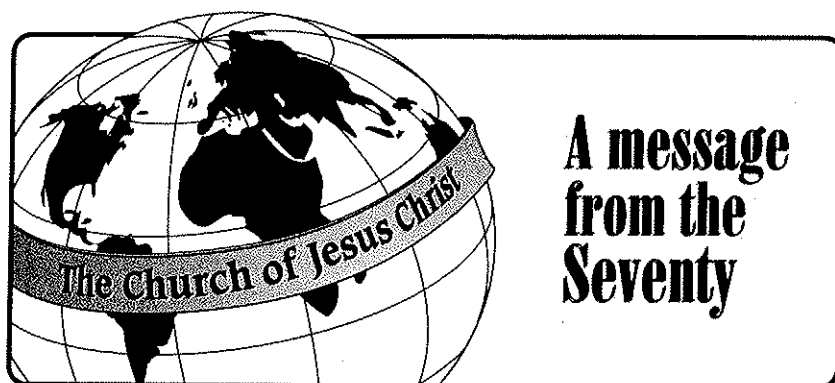
Announcement

For September, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.10%
2 years	5.30%
3 years	5.40%
4 years	5.50%
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.



Mexican Trip June 7-14, 1995

*By Evangelist Richard Lawson
Chairman, General Church Trustees*

The purpose of this week-long trip was to look at all the properties of The Church of Jesus Christ in Mexico, as the Mexican government changed the land ownership laws in July 1993 which now mandate certain requirements. The results of these changes were not clear as to what had to be done to bring us into compliance.

With these thoughts in mind, three General Church Trustees, Brothers Joseph Ross, Bob McDonnell and I, along with members of the Pacific Coast District Missions Operating Committee, Brothers Paul Liberto and Joseph Ciarolla, and Brother Chilo Gonzalez, made this tour. Brother Bruce Jones, Treasurer of the Americas Missions Operating Committee, joined us in Mexico City. There are often unknowns in any trip, and this was no different.

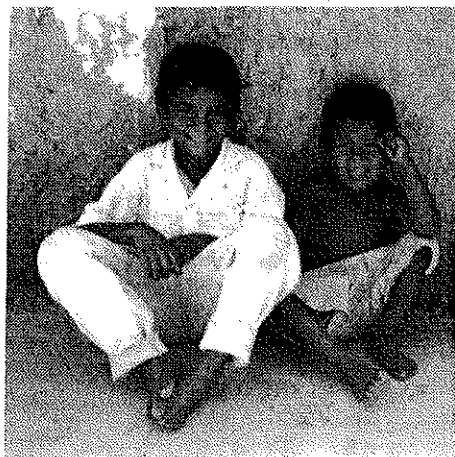
We were pleasantly surprised, since we were able to fellowship and meet many of our wonderful Mexican brothers and sisters. This gave us great joy and more than compensated us for the efforts and expenses put forth to make this journey. We found the saints there love the Lord and love to sing His praises.

We were privileged to meet with the flock in San Isidro Thursday evening, June 8, and listened as they praised God in song. It raised our hearts and spirits and almost lifted

the roof of the little building they presently meet in. It seemed the walls shook, as they expressed themselves in singing and the different groups came up front. When we were introduced to the congregation, a young deacon, Brother Ignacio Valdez Vennera, saw Brother Ross and me in a vision the day before we arrived.

A new building is under construction which will help the members considerably. They have waited for quite some time for this structure which is expected to be completed later this year. The joy the brothers and sisters expressed was very noticeable. What they may have lacked in material possessions was made up for in the joy expressed in their singing.

The picture that accompanies this article captures more than what my words can accomplish. As we looked at the building being constructed in San Isidro, these two boys were always with us. We were drinking some soft drinks, and I felt their eyes looking at me. When I looked down, the smaller boy was



quietly watching me drink. He eagerly accepted the bottle, as well as the candy Brother Ciarolla distributed. Small pleasures which we take for granted were treated as great gifts by these two little ones.

AHOME

We were in Ahome on Friday night and again were in for another treat prepared by our brothers and sisters, as we listened to their beautiful singing and heartfelt testimonies. Brother Hector Gastelum Carlom, who is the Presiding Elder of this mission, also plays the casio, writes wonderful hymns of praise, and is the contractor building the San Isidro branch building. He is a man of many talents who is blessed by God. A sister told of a vision in which she saw all of us prior to our arrival. These experiences gave us to understand we were doing what God wanted.

On Sunday, June 11, we worshipped with the saints in Mexico City. Although the congregation started out small, we eventually ended up with almost twenty-five in attendance, including the children. We each expressed ourselves, with Brother Chilo serving as our interpreter (as he was throughout our trip) and were blessed again with the singing of our brothers and sisters. Our hearts were blended as one by the love and joy we shared. After the meeting, we also enjoyed some fruit prepared by our sisters. Brother Arturo Martinez, the Presiding Elder of this mission, lives in two rooms with their family of six children. As you can imagine, it is crowded. We left Sunday evening for Pedernales and finally arrived at our motel late in the evening.

PEDERNALES

The next morning, we finally met up with the saints from Pedernales, since communications got mixed up on Sunday. After breakfast, we left for the mission, which is about a two hour drive. Some of us

(Continued on Page 11)



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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

"If you want the Lord to use you, you must know His word." This statement, these words of counsel were spoken by Sister Mabel Bickerton to a young sister at the recent General Ladies' Uplift Circle Retreat held in Dallas, Texas. They are words of experience, they are words of wisdom.

We often hear people say how they want to be used of the Lord in some capacity, how they want to tell others of The Church of Jesus Christ. Can the Lord use you if you do not know the Holy Scriptures? It is difficult if not impossible for the Lord to use us if we do not know His word. All of us must be students of the scriptures, both Bible and Book of Mormon.

How do you expect to tell others of the Apostasy and Restoration? How do you expect to tell others of our beliefs, our faith and doctrine? Can you tell others what is required of them to obtain salvation and eternal life with God and Jesus Christ? How will you explain the requirement for faith, repentance, baptism, and the reception of the Holy Ghost? Are you able to articulate that the angel has flown in the midst of heaven?

The Lord in John 14:26 states, "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*" How can anything be brought back into memory, remembrance, if it is not there in the first place?

The Apostle Paul gave wonderful, Godly instruction to Timothy on the importance of knowing the word of God that he would be used by God. He acknowledged that Timothy knew the Holy Scriptures from his childhood and this made him wise toward gaining salvation through his faith in Jesus Christ. We read in II Timothy 2:15, "*Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*" The Apostle Paul continues his instruction to Timothy in II Timothy 3:16-17, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*"

The Bible and Book of Mormon were not written to be put on a bookshelf to gather dust and be part of the decor. They were written to be worn from use; they were written to be searched, studied, and read everyday. They were written that we, that people everywhere, that the whole world would know the truth.

In John 8:31-32, the Lord states, "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*"

How do you continue in His word if you do not know His word? If you do not know His word, how will you know the truth and be made free? If you do not know His word, how will you be an ambassador, a missionary for Jesus Christ and His Church? Our mission, our goal, our objective is to tell others of The Church of Jesus Christ, the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ. How do we realize our mission, our goal, our objective if we do not know His word?

When Lehi left Jerusalem, God made sure he had the brass plates. These plates not only contained their genealogy and history, they contained the Holy Scriptures that Moses wrote. They also contained the writings of the prophets, including Jeremiah. Why were these plates important? In I Nephi 3, Nephi tells his brothers they were important to preserve their language. Nephi also stated it was very important to have the plates so they could preserve the words of the prophets. This would allow them to live righteously and be made free.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear friends,

How much do you know about your parents' and grandparents' beliefs? Do you know what moved them when they were your age or what they did about their problems? Do you know what rules they lived by and how much they knew about God? Do you have records that they, or your parents wrote to tell you how to tell right from wrong? What have you seen them do?

Today it is getting harder than ever to tell right from wrong. Sin has speeded up. It's the same old sin being shown on television with divorce, adultery, stealing, swearing, and breaking all of the Ten Commandments. It is shown as being funny in cartoons or in the afternoon shows as being uncontrollable. It's not. Sin is not funny, uncontrollable, or something everyone has to go through.

Sin is sneaky. If we ever saw the whole picture of how terribly it finally hurts people, deep inside, we'd never start sinning. We'd be so careful about everything we watch on television and everything we picked up to read and every movie we brought into our homes. We'd also stop ourselves from saying mean things about others and judging them. We'd see the good in everyone and we'd forgive.

Have you helped anyone lately? King Benjamin lived in the Americas before the days of Christ. He could have made people pay him taxes, give him money, or have many wives. He didn't. He helped people. He was a great man and king but he did not think he was better than other people.



He called his nation together and spoke many wise words. He taught us, *"when ye [you] are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God"* (Mosiah 2:17).

So many people came to hear his words that they could not all get close enough. So his words were written down and read to the others whose tents were further out. King Benjamin had also been the religious leader who took care of brass plates brought by Lehi from Jerusalem. These brass plates were written in a type of Egyptian so the king had his sons and others study to learn how to read the ancient writings. The brass plates included the five books of Moses including the Ten Commandments. The king followed God's laws as he had learned from reading scripture and he told others to do the same.

Today we are so rich in the written word of God. Every home can have a Bible and a Book of Mormon. They are only on paper though, and this paper does not last for hundreds of years. Our job is to write these words in our hearts too. That way, our lives will show it, our friends will know it, and some day, our grandchildren will live it too.

With much care,
Your friend, Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

KING	PEOPLE
BENJAMIN	WHEN
TAUGHT	YOU
HIS	ARE

IN	YOUR
THE	GOD
SERVICE	MOSIAH
OF	SECOND
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S	V	Y	O	U	R	S	H	T	D	U

Note Of Thanks

We want to express our sincere thanks to the many brothers, sisters, and friends for your numerous cards, many, many phone calls, and especially your prayers. Your expressions of love and concern have been a wonderful experience in our lives. We thank God for sustaining us thus far and continue to look to Him for our needs. We ask for your continued prayers. Without your prayers, without the help of God, it would be very difficult. Please continue to remember us. We love you all. God bless all of you.

Bro. Nick and Sis. Harriet Francione



Our Women Today

Virtuous Women

By Sister Terri Bravo

Virtue is a special word with a special meaning. The Webster's Dictionary defines virtue as "a special type of goodness." Virtue is so valued that the writer of Proverbs creates a word picture of a woman whose daily activities are virtuous. We would like to share with our readers, our experience with two sisters who are living examples of those who have "a special type of goodness."

The Ladies' Uplift Circle of the Edison, New Jersey Branch and Sisters Mary Perri and Sophie Van Bree gathered on May 2, 1995 for a special meeting to recognize sisters who have spent a lifetime serving God and their fellowman. Sister

Theresa Venuto, the caring head deaconess of the Edison Branch has faithfully served God for seventy years. Sister Margaret Benyola, known for her warm hugs and cheerful personality, has served God for sixty-five years.

Our meeting began with Sister Betty D'Orazio, our teacher, asking us to each read a verse of Proverbs 31:10-31. The scripture begins with the piercing question, "Whom can find a virtuous woman?" As each verse was read, we realized that the verses, like robes of righteousness, suited our sisters' lives.

The meeting was opened for us to tell our sisters how we feel about them. Our expressions of love started with Sister Katie Sgro reading a poem she was inspired to write. We felt the Spirit of God descend on us as we told Sister Theresa and Sister Margaret how their love and care has made a difference in our lives. One sister stated, "They show us that serving God is the right thing to do."

Sister Theresa and Sister Mar-

garet testified of how they met the Church and gave their lives to Jesus. As in the past, they are relying on the Lord and He is ever present in their lives. When we view their lives, we confirm that God is more than able to deliver us from trials. They give us hope that we too, can endure.

We closed our meeting by forming a circle around Sister Theresa and Sister Margaret and offering prayer.

At milestones like these, we reflect on the importance of the elderly sisters of The Church of Jesus Christ. We understand and recognize the importance of their lifetime of faithfulness and service to Jesus Christ and His Church. Their prayers, their good deeds, their adherence to basic doctrine has deeply affected our lives. They are an important part of the body of Christ and we thank God for them. They possess that "special type of goodness" that we strive for. And as the scripture states, "We arise up and call them blessed."



Branch and Mission News

Dedication of the San Carlos Mission

By Sister Judy Van Allsburg

The first week of November 1994 was very busy for Brother Dan and Sister Dolores Picciuto and family. The hard work that many put into the construction of the new building was over. Now it was time to sing praises to our Lord and ask for His blessings, that His will may be done with the work at the San Carlos, Arizona Mission.

Saturday night, November 5, a singspiration was held and the following day, November 6, the new building was dedicated. The church

building was overflowing as many of the saints and friends came from all over the country to be a part of the dedicating of this building for the honor and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Several Apostles were present: Brothers Dominic Thomas, Joseph Bittinger, Joseph Calabrese, Paul Benyola and Paul Palmieri.

Sister Deloria Bonito started off the service singing, *Send The Light* and *I Feel Like Traveling On*.

Brother Leonard Lovalvo lead the congregational singing for the day. Brother Rudy Meo opened in prayer.

Pastor Pechuli from the World Wide Evangelism Church accepted the invitation, and gave a few words to wish the mission well. He reminded us that we are all brothers and sisters in the Lord.

It was a special day for Sister Tina Picciuto and Sister Lori Picciuto as they were ordained deaconesses. Sister Vanessa Watson washed the

feet of Sister Lori and Sister Bennie Jones washed Sister Tina's feet as they were prepared to be ordained. Sister Martha Picciuto sang *How Great Thou Art* in English and Spanish for her sisters-in-law. Hands were laid on the sisters; Brother Wally Cihomsky ordained Sister Tina and Brother Dan Picciuto ordained Sister Lori. Sister Bennie Jones testified that she saw a bright light surround the sisters as they were ordained.

Marvin Mull, Jr., Vice Chairman of the tribe, reminded us to put God first. He asked our prayers for the tribe. Mr. Mull also commented that for every casino that is built, he wished that ten churches would go up!

Brother Ronald Edwards, the previous Vice Chairman, thanked the San Carlos Mission for their efforts to establish the foster parent program, and for being a refuge for the tribe's children.

(Continued on Page 8)

DEDICATION continued . . .

Brother Dan Picciuto recognized Sister Lena Edwards for her work in the Social Services with the children and the foster care program. Brother Dan asked that the Church give their attention to the needs of the Native American Youth Development Program. This program aids in sheltering and feeding those children who would otherwise have no home.

Brother Dan thanked the numerous individuals and companies who contributed financially, supplies, labor, and prayers.

Brother Dominic Thomas addressed the congregation concerning the importance of missionary work. He reminded us that it is the blessing of The Church of Jesus Christ to work among the seed of

thus saith the Lord."

Brother Dan spoke about his experience which brought him to San Carlos. In a dream he saw the arm of God with His hand pointing to three mountains to the Northeast, plateaus to the West and a river in between. When returning to Ohio after a visit in California, while traveling down Highway 70, Brother Dan saw the valley which God had revealed to him in his dream. He stopped to pray and took a stone from the ground and made a promise to God that he would return it. That stone is now part of the stone wall in the new church building.

Brother Dan also related an experience had by Mrs. Steele, a neighbor, many years ago when the mission was first being built. Mrs. Steele told Brother Dan that she

Cihomsky was asked to pray for the blessing of the baby. It was a beautiful blessing and we pray that many more parents on the reservation will turn to The Church of Jesus Christ to ask for the blessing of their children.

The Tse Bonito Choir sang, *Stand Up For The Restoration and Great Is Thy Faithfulness*. The Tse Bonito group presented Brother Dan with a Bible for the pulpit, and Brother Terry Ross, chairman of the trustees, with a beautiful Navajo tapestry for the communion table.

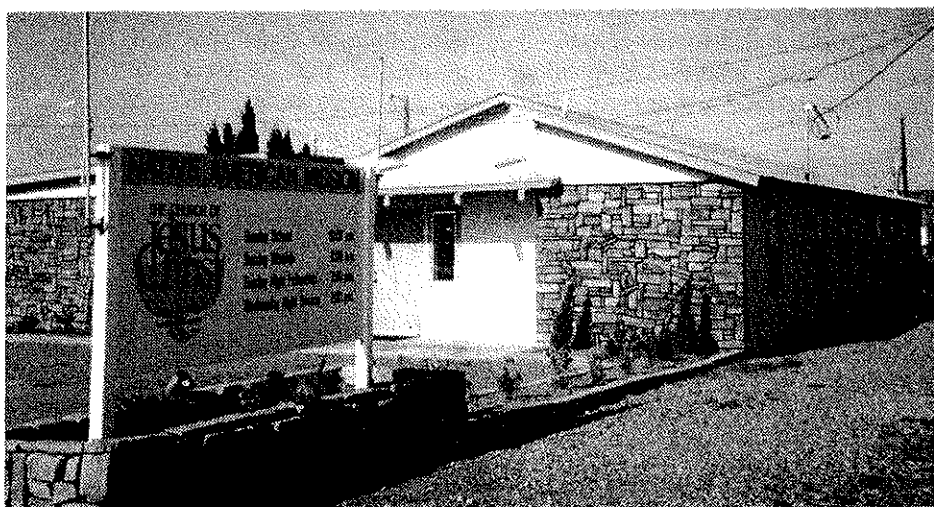
Brother Terry extended his welcome to all, and said, "I recall my childhood being raised here in the Church. My mother Mary Ross, who was faithful until the Lord called her home, taught me that once you make a commitment, you keep it." Brother Terry said to his people, "Open your eyes and see the love and care this Church has for you . . . this is a new era for the seed of Joseph."

Brother Jack Kayson along with his wife and daughter, from the San Carlos Mission, sang a few selections.

Brother Paul Benyola expressed himself briefly stating he was glad to be here representing the Apostles and the Missionary Foundation Committee. He extended a word of appreciation to those who had contributed both financially and prayerfully, for what we can see today has been accomplished in the completion of this building.

Brother Virgil Link, a teacher from the San Carlos Mission, expressed how well he enjoyed being a part of this mission, and appreciated the contributions of those who have made sacrifices whereby our people here at San Carlos might have this place of worship.

Brother Dwayne Jordan who had conducted the dedication service gave the closing remarks, appreciating the attendance of those who represent the Apostles, the Evangelists, the Missionary Foundation Committee, the Missionary Operating Committee, the General Board of Trustees, and all who attended. The congregation sang *An Angel Came Down*. Brother Thomas Liberto closed in prayer.



Joseph. Brother Dominic said "this effort here—the San Carlos Mission—should be considered a model for other works throughout this land as the kind of work that is required to be successful among the seed of Joseph."

Brother Paul Palmieri read from the 16th chapter of Jeremiah which tells us that we are all commissioned to build the kingdom of God upon the earth.

The dedication prayer was offered by Brother Joseph Calabrese. During the prayer, Brother Isaac Smith spoke in tongues. The interpretation was had by Brother Phil Van Allsburg as "This is My house,

looked across the road to where the mission is today, and saw balls of fire fall from heaven and roll across the ground, but nothing would burn.

Brother Joseph Bittinger sang *This World, This World Is Not My Home* for the congregation. Isn't it wonderful that at 92 years of age our brother can still praise God in such a manner! Brother Joe also gave thanks for all those who serve God.

Sister Cheryl James sang, *I Will Meet You*. She and Sister Ophelia James were then reinstated as members of the Church.

Reyes Marie Tom was the first baby to be blessed in the newly dedicated Church. Brother Wally

It was a full day! Full of blessings and full of prayers that The Church of Jesus Christ may spread the Gospel and reach the seed of Joseph through the work of the San Carlos Mission. May we all keep the goal of the Mission in our prayers and strive to support them in any way we can.

News from Freehold, NJ

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

So far this year, our theme has been to "Come Alive in '95." We have seen great miracles, healings, revelations, and this has caused a great stirring of the Holy Spirit amongst us, for which God deserves all the glory.

On March 12, 1995, Brother Dominic Thomas visited our branch on our Tuesday night meeting. The meeting was truly run by the Spirit as we sang, testified, prayed, and were taught by Brother Dominic of the great hope we have as the Church for a time of great peace while men and women are in the flesh. Brother Dominic read an article by Evangelist George Neill, written back in 1969, regarding the establishment of the Peaceful Reign upon this land. Many beautiful experiences were related and at the close of the meeting, a sister had a vision of a woman dressed in white on her hands and knees digging a hole. In the hole she saw many people trapped underground, but saw the light of day shine through the hole upon them. The Church is digging out those lost in sin, praise God!

As we entered into spring, we began to become very active as a branch in helping one another and reaching out to others. This included picnics and meetings with our young people, lessons and singspirations with our Spanish speaking congregation of the Seed of Joseph, and even a work party on Memorial Day during which nearly the entire branch showed up and worked in harmony,

laughing and singing for nearly twelve hours. Many residents in the community came by and offered their help, and many others, including the local police were so impressed that black, white, and Latino people could come together in a display of harmony to fix their church building on a holiday, for the entire day together. The scripture teaches us that others will know we are God's children by the love we show towards one another. One neighbor commented that when he and his wife saw what was going on, they agreed there was something different about this Church.

Also, during this weekend, Brother Miquel Bicelis from Florida returned and had meetings with the Seed of Joseph every day and night from Thursday through Sunday. He taught them more of the *Songs of Zion* in Spanish. On our Saturday night meeting as we closed in prayer holding hands in a circle, a sister saw darkness all around us and many people in the dark looking to us where there was a great light. On Sunday, Brother Miquel spoke to us about the great miracles we see in the Church. In our branch alone, Brother Carl Huttenberger, Sr. was healed of an enormous aneurysm which according to doctors should have taken his life long ago. Brother Bob Venuto has had bone grow out of thin air in his leg to fill in the gaps which the doctors cannot explain. Thank God for His healing power. Recently, another vision came forth in which a sister saw a man fishing and saw all the saints on the shore. Just then his line began to tug so greatly that the saints rejoiced seeing a great number of fish being caught. Another recent meeting as Brother Joe Perri was preaching about being a missionary for the Church, a brother spoke in tongues and two people had the interpretation which was, "Jesus will give."

Also, as our young people recently were up front singing *Wave the Flags of Zion*, a sister had a vision in which she saw them all dressed in white robes.

We are so thankful for all the visitors we've had this spring from many branches throughout the Church and from foreign lands. Over the years our branch has spawned works in Spartanburg, South Carolina; Quincy, Florida; Kentucky and West Virginia, and now many experiences are coming forth concerning our work in Avondale, Pennsylvania. Pray for us as we have a desire to do a work there as well.

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:11). God bless you all.

Experience in Anaheim, CA

By Sister Dorothy Henderson

I had a wonderful experience on Sunday, March 19, 1995 when Sister Lucy Hemp was annointed for strength and her physical needs. I realized she put in a hard week helping with her sister Mary who was also very sick.

As our Ministers put the oil on Sister Lucy's head and began to pray, I closed my eyes and saw the following: "As the oil touched Sister Lucy's head, it went straight through her head into her blood vessels. I could see all of her vascular system (veins, vessels) and even her bronchial tubes. I could see Sister Lucy's red blood flowing through her veins. As the oil came through Sister Lucy's head and touched her blood, all the red blood turned to gold and the gold blood filled and replaced all the red blood in her system."

Sister Lucy, I love you so very much and your sister Mary too. You both are such a strength to me and have taught me so much by your experiences. I also think you were blessed with a wonderful husband who I think is an angel sent by the Lord. You have much love to give and share with others as well as the love you give to your wonderful son. God bless you always.

News from Bell, CA

By Sister Virginia Surprenant

Sunday, April 23, 1995, brought together previous members of the Bell Branch as well as family and friends to say good-bye to Brother Omar Morales who was leaving that evening for duty in the United States Marine Corp. Brother Harry Marshall spoke from the first chapter of Mormon. He related his experiences of when he left for the Army and how he felt. He said he felt protected and knew he would return. He spoke to Brother Omar and told him to trust in the Lord and the Lord would bring him back safely.

Brother Bob McDonnell followed by saying that because we are God's children, we are protected wherever we are, be it the Armed Forces, at work, or at school.

Songs were sung by our Spanish brothers and sisters. Testimonies remembering Brother Omar as a child and adult followed in Spanish and English and God's love touched us all. Brother Jim Scalise asked Brother Omar to come forward and lay hands on him for protection and guidance. Following the prayer, Brother Jim asked Brother Omar's grandmother, Sister Baraja's, who is a deaconess and was visiting to bring up the new table linen for consecration. Brother Jim Scalise offered prayer over the linen and followed by telling us of a small miracle which he said happened to him that week. He had a desire to call Sister Eleanor from Yucaipa and invite her and her family to come visit this Sunday, but time got away and he never called. He was so happy to see her walk in with her whole family that morning; to him, this was truly an example of God's work.

A month ago, Brother Paul Gray was visiting our branch and after speaking, testimonies followed. Sister Rafaela Martinez in her testimony asked us to pray for a young 13 year old Korean girl who she had known since she was a baby. The girl had given up eating, her weight

was down to a dangerous level, and she told her mother the devil was making her not eat. The doctors had given up hope, but Sister Rafaela had a strong desire to ask us all to pray for this young girl. Brother Paul Gray immediately got up and anointed a hankerchief. His prayer was so intense, we all could feel God's presence and knew God was hearing Brother Paul's prayer. That evening, Sister Rafaela delivered the hankerchief to the young girl. The girl immediately clutched the hankerchief to her breast and cried. She said she had faith that God was going to heal her.

Two weeks later, Jenny (the Korean girl) visited our Church and got up to thank each of us for praying for her, she is better, eating and on her way to recovery. She listened intently to the preaching of our Brother Jim, it was as though God was speaking to her through our brother. Praise God, I was so touched to see her in our midst and doing so well. I must confess that as Brother Paul was praying, I was praying just as intensely and for a small second wondered if God still healed through an anointed hankerchief. Oh me of little faith! I hope I never doubt God's powers again.

After Sacrament was served, we adjourned and met in the fellowship room for a wonderful lunch and cake prepared by our sisters in honor of Omar. Brother Jim Scalise presented Omar with an engraved Bible and these words of encouragement. "Go with God Omar, wear proudly the uniform of the United States of America and the uniform of The Church of Jesus Christ so others may see your light. We pray you will come back soon." Anyone wishing to write to Brother Omar, his address is:

REC Omar Morales 553298709
3rd ARTBN, MCO PLT 3118 Unit 5
39001 Midway Ave MCRD
San Diego, CA 9214

God bless you all.

Attention

Every time a *Gospel News* is returned to the Print House because of a change of address, the Print House is charged a \$.50 Postage Return Fee. In order to insure that you receive your *Gospel News* and also save the Print House the Postage Return Fee, please inform us immediately of a change of address.

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Notice

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to hear from anyone who knows anything about the Palentine Bridge, New York Mission that was set up in the 1940's. If someone knows or has any history about this mission, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sister Judy Venuto
16 Bentley Road
West Grove, PA 19390
610-869-8870

CIRCLE RETREAT continued . . .

management; and relaxation. Support is given through the Church, family, and friends. Emotional well being is based on hope, optimism, and control. Let go of unhealthy emotions and attitudes such as not being able to forgive ourselves and others, guilt, and anger.

The Ladies' Uplift Circle celebrated its 75th anniversary. Sister Arline Whitton spoke concerning the women in The Church of Jesus Christ who are making a difference with the help and direction of the Lord. She also mentioned women in the scriptures such as: Eve, a woman of curiosity; Deborah, a patriotic woman; Ruth, a woman of excellence; Esther, the self sacrificing woman; Elizabeth, the humble woman; Mary Magdalene, the transformed woman; Mary, the woman chosen of God; Martha, the worried housekeeper; Dorcus, the benevolent seamstress; Lydia, the business woman. We must all remember we are all His children. Thank God we can call Him Father.

Sister Mabel Bickerton addressed the ladies, telling us of the history of the Ladies' Uplift Circle and its founder, Sister Sadie Cadman. She related many wonderful experiences which were an inspiration to all. This author feels very strongly that it is unlikely you will know where you are going, if you haven't learned where you have been—so our history and those who have started the bridges, hold much for us to grasp on to. A program was given on "Love Lifted Me and The Mercies of God" in honor of this occasion.

We next held our Memorial Service in loving memory of those who have departed. The Memorial Fund was started in November 1959 at the suggestion of the Cadman family. It was accepted by the Ladies' Uplift Circle and adopted on June 25, 1960. Circles or others wishing to contribute, may do so in memory of departed ones. *"I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, I will*

come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2-3).

The keynote speakers for our Saturday afternoon service were Sisters Darlene Ignagni and Lynette Huttenberger. Each gave an inspiring and motivating testimony of how the Lord brought them to The Church of Jesus Christ, and how He had changed their lives.

On Sunday, Apostle Dominic Thomas, President of The Church of Jesus Christ, spoke to us, admitting that this was a unique and challenging experience for him to address so many ladies. He commented on how much the Ladies' Uplift Circle has given to the Church, especially to each individual branch. He encouraged us to spur each other on to greater love for Christ and greater deeds. Charity, the pure love of God, will assist in solving our problems or differences. Our Lord built the greatest bridge of all when He sacrificed His life. Before the Lord resurrected, there was no access to God since Adam and Eve.

We were glad to have Brother Dominic in our midst and to share the wonderful spirit of testimony that followed. The Spirit of God flowed, for we knew that in this very room, there was quite enough "love," quite enough "joy," quite enough "power," quite enough "hope," for "Jesus, Lord Jesus," was in this very room.

This author can only express that her heart was filled to overflowing with the Spirit of God, and the wonderful blessings of fellowship that we have come to expect in the Ladies' Uplift Circle, and that can only be had through The Church of Jesus Christ.

MESSAGE continued . . .

rode in a rented car and the others were in the back of a small pickup truck. Except for a flat tire on a very narrow road, the ride was uneventful. The good thing about the flat tire was it made the driver slow down. We

spent the balance of the morning and afternoon at the mission and also visited some of the members.

Brother Chilo plans to relocate to Pedernales with his family if all things can be worked out. He can be quite an asset to the mission but the living quarters need to be made more suitable for a young family. The sisters prepared a very good meal, after which we took two taxis back to our motel, another two hour hasty trip.

Sister Lydia Mora met a man from the government who says the government will donate a parcel of land to the Church if we will build and operate an orphanage. She had an experience about this some time ago. Many details must be considered and worked out if this is to become a reality.

Tijuana was the final stop on our trip. Although we were not able to meet with the members in all of the missions in Mexico, we were blessed to at least meet some in each place. There are two locations in Tijuana since they have outgrown the original building. This is the type of problem the Church likes to have.

We believe and are confident God will continue to bless the work in Mexico. All of us need to support this effort with our prayers, as well as our finances. If possible, please plan to attend the dedication of the San Isidro building which is tentatively scheduled for November.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

Nephi wrote many beautiful things about His Saviour. Do you know why Nephi wrote? Was it only for his family's sake and salvation? Nephi's reason for writing is clearly stated in I Nephi 6:4, *"For the fulness of mine intent is that I may persuade men, to come unto the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, and be saved."* In this same chapter, Nephi said he would give his seed a commandment that they would not record

(Continued on Page 12)

WEDDINGS

Jared Paul Griffith and Jamery Lynn Becker were united in holy matrimony at the Desert Rose Wedding Chapel in Peoria, Arizona on March 2, 1995.

Sandra Gail Jackson and George Louis Allen were united in holy matrimony in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch on July 8, 1995.

Children Blessed

Janis Lee and Alexandra Marie Plonka, daughters of Joe and Sherry McGill were blessed on July 2, 1995 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Victoria Elaine Gibson, daughter of Brother Jason and Valerie Gibson was blessed in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch on May 28, 1995.

Jared Anthony Scolaro, son of Brother Tim and Sister Renee Scolaro was blessed in the Phoenix, Arizona Branch on June 4, 1995.

Aaron Andrew Ty Collison, son of Dave and Cheryl Collison was blessed in LaSalle, Ontario on February 5, 1995.

Hunter Aaron Stanek, son of Sister Gillian Stanek, was blessed on April 16, 1995 in LaSalle, Ontario.

Jessica Joanne Young (Cuerrier), granddaughter of Brother Fred and Sister Maureen Cuerrier, was blessed on April 16, 1995 in LaSalle, Ontario.

Hayden Martin, son of Nancy and Dave Martin was blessed on May 7, 1995 in LaSalle, Ontario.

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.

FRED CAPELLARO

Mr. Fred Capellaro of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed away to his eternal reward on February 13, 1995. Left to mourn are his wife, Sister Angie; daughters, Sisters Pierina DiFalco and Elaine Caruso; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

GRACE THOMAS

Sister Grace Thomas of the Sterling Heights, Michigan Branch passed on to her eternal reward on November 10, 1994. She was baptized on September 23, 1934 and was a faithful member for sixty years. Sister Grace is survived by sons, Brothers Richard and Robert Thomas, their wives, and seven grandchildren.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

anything that was not of worth to the children of men.

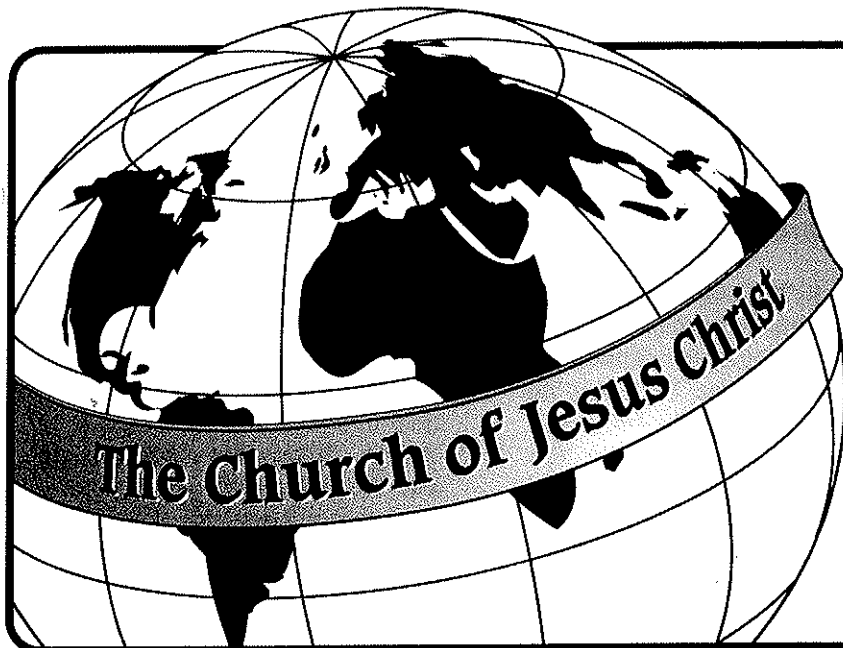
When the Lord spoke in the synagogue in Nazareth, do you know He used the Holy Scriptures? We read in Luke 4:17-18 that the Lord used the Book of Isaiah, more specifically, Isaiah 61:1 for His scriptural text.

In school, in order to pass an examination, it is necessary to study. In school, in order to obtain a degree, it is necessary to study. On our jobs, education is constant in order to be effective. The same logic applies to our service to God and our membership in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ gave us a commandment. He states in John 5:39, "*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.*"

This commandment uses the word search. It does not use the word read, although these words are very similar. According to the dictionary, the word search means, "to make a thorough examination of or look over carefully in order to find something; explore, probe."

It is important that you consider a few questions. Do you want to be saved? Do you want to be a good brother in the Church? Do you want to be a good sister in the Church? Do you want to see your branches and missions grow? Do you want to see the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ spread to every continent, to every nation? Do you want to be used of God? There is one answer to all of these questions. "You must know His word."



The Gospel News

World Headquarters Monongahela, PA, U.S.A.

October, 1995

Volume 51, No. 10

Boy Is That Tempting

By Evangelist John R. Griffith

Temptation, as defined in the dictionary is a testing, an act of allurements, enticement, seduction, attraction. As presented many times to the saints, it carries a negative connotation because it is a forerunner to sin. But it doesn't have to be. Temptation in itself is not sin, nor does it necessarily need to end in sin. Jesus Christ himself was tempted by the devil, but He never sinned. Sin only occurs when we give in and disobey God.

Our first remembrance of temptation takes us to Genesis 3:1-7 and what we recognize in this passage is the cunningness of the devil. Verses 1 and 4, "Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made . . . and the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."

Because Satan rebelled against God and was cast out of heaven, it has become his purpose to turn God's creation away from Him, our Creator. The tool used by this fallen angel is temptation. He appeals to our natural desires. But Satan has limitations and will not be the final victor. Eve fell to temptation because of the seductive,

seemingly attractive and alluring ways of Satan. Eve didn't fall because she was an evil person. He appealed to her weakness, possibly to her physical need or desire, possibly to her want for possession or power, possibly to her pride.

Temptation is Satan's open invitation for us to become self-serving. That's his kind of life. The serpent wants us to become self-reliant. Eve forgot for the moment who she was and who God was. She forgot for the moment what God had provided her and how He sustained her. For the moment, she was caused to doubt God's good intent for her. Her focus on God became distorted and she sinned.

"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; and that thou inquire not after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise" (Deut. 12:30).

How patient God was with Israel, endeavoring to bring this select nation to serve the true and only God. Amazingly, they seemed always ready to accept other gods, to turn easily away from Him, He who through miracles and signs established Himself as God. Sometimes at first glance, temptation seems harmless. Sometimes curiosity can get the believer into trouble. Knowledge of evil is harmful if the

evil becomes too tempting to resist. When pagan gods are close around, when idolatry permeates the land around us, when our resistance to temptation and sin is low, that is when we need God most.

Reading I Kings 11:1-13 gives the reader understanding how even a great man such as King Solomon could fall to temptation. Temptation often strikes hardest in our areas of weakness. The King's love for foreign women brought him down, even though he was warned. All of his wisdom couldn't save him. You may have strong faith, but you must also recognize your weak spots because that's where the devil will strike.

"And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

How could Eve have resisted temptation? The same way we can. By first realizing temptation is not a sin until we give into it. Second, to pray for strength to resist it. Third, to literally run away from it when you recognize it, and fourth, to say "NO" to temptation through Christ in you when it confronts you.

"Blessed is the man that

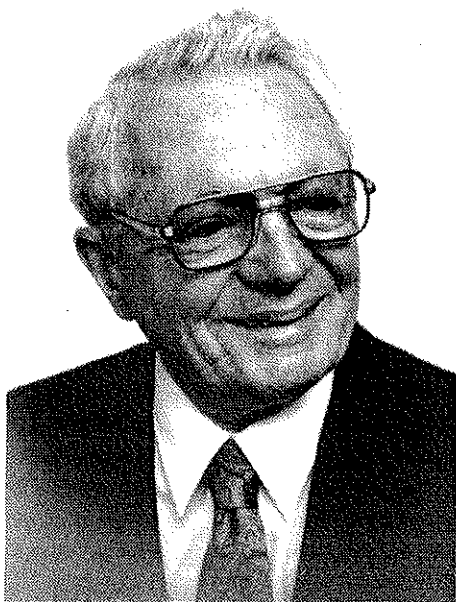
(Continued on Page 11)

Apostle Gorie Ciaravino

By Apostle Nicholas Pietrangelo

On April 7, 1995, The Church of Jesus Christ lost not only a Brother-in-Christ, but a dedicated worker and friend, Apostle Gorie Ciaravino. He was baptized into the Church in 1932. He served the Church as Executive Secretary, First Counselor and President of the General Church. He held many other offices in the auxiliary units. He never relented in his responsibilities that he was called upon to perform. I recall many times on the weekends, he would be on the road, visiting branches and missions and on many occasions, I would accompany him.

He will be sorely missed by those who knew him, but especially those who drew comfort from his



Apostle Gorie Ciaravino

counsel, strength and his encouragement. Brother Gorie was able to accomplish many things due in part to his lifelong wife of fifty-seven years, Sister Antoinette and his wonderful family. One of his nieces wrote, and I quote, "He was a man who was respected and admired for his numerous, positive personality

traits. He accomplished much from a humble beginning and left the world a better place than he found it."

One of the interesting facets of Brother Gorie's Church work was done in the area of the General Church publications, including the Ministerial Manual, the Faith and Doctrine, the Law and Order, the Saints Hymnal, the second printing of the Book of Mormon and also all the forms used by the General Church and designed by Brother Nicholas Pietrangelo.

Brother Gorie traveled extensively for the Church throughout the United States, Italy and Nigeria, Africa. In 1974, he went to Nigeria to dedicate the Technical Secondary High School and the mission home of The Church of Jesus Christ. May I add this also, that there were two brothers of the Church who had a great influence on Brother Gorie's life. They were Brothers Joseph Corrado and Charles Ashton. Many times Brother Gorie accompanied Brother Corrado on his ministerial and missionary endeavors. Brother Ashton was instrumental in bringing Brother Gorie into the office of General Church Secretary.

I would like to quote the experience of his accident as related by Brother Gorie from his autobiography. I feel that there are those that have heard about it but a lot of the young people have not. It will be good for them to know.

"The year was 1932. I arrived in Youngstown, Ohio on Saturday morning and I stopped at Sister Ann Damore's home. After a short visit, I left her home to go to conference, which was held in the old building on Forest Avenue. I remembered getting on the motorcycle, starting it up and going down the hill at Elderron Street, but at that point, I blacked out and the next thing I knew I was at the Southside Hospital. When the brothers and sisters heard of my accident, Brother John K. Penn led the congregation in prayer on my behalf. Shortly after, I was anointed by Brother Joseph Corrado. The doctor's prognosis

was that I had five hours of life at the maximum and there was no attempt made to repair any of the extensive injuries which I had sustained, which included internal injuries and a back which was broken in three places. After I received the miracle of healing, the doctor inquired of the nurse in charge, 'What time did the young man die last night?' The nurse replied that I was still alive and the doctor was so amazed that he started to give orders to the staff to take care of me. During my six weeks stay at the hospital, Brother Anthony Corrado ministered to me constantly and the saints of that locality rose to the occasion and rallied around me and my family."

The last line of his autobiography reads: "These fifty years that I have been in this beautiful Church, it seems like a dream. I have tried to serve this wonderful God of ours to the best of my ability. But, let me tell all of you, this is not the end. I plan to serve Him all the days of my life." He accomplished that and is now enjoying the rewards of his labor.

Announcement

For October, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.10%
2 years	5.30%
3 years	5.40%
4 years	5.50%
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 814/227-2421.

Apostle Paul D'Amico

By Apostle Paul Benyola

Brother Paul D'Amico dedicated his life to The Church of Jesus Christ. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, apostle, brother and a friend. We will quote Brother Paul from his very interesting and inspired pamphlet, *The Lord is my Shepherd*:

"My name is Paul D'Amico. The son of the late brother Ishmael and the late Sister Julia D'Amico. I was born on June 26, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan, the youngest of six children. When I was only a few months old, I became seriously ill, even nigh unto death. During this illness, a sister saw a vision. She saw a man dressed in white take me from my crib and, as He reached the door, He lifted his eyes toward



Apostle Paul D'Amico

heaven in silent meditation; He then returned me to my crib. The good Lord saw fit to heal me from this affliction, for which I praise the Lord."

Brother Paul was spared for many good reasons. In God's great plan for this wonderful brother, we remember his testimony of how God

called him to The Church of Jesus Christ when he was fifteen years old. On January 26, 1943, he was drafted into the United States Army to enter World War II. His observations were, "Perhaps the most prominent period of time during which occurred His guidance, protection and the encouragement was while I was a member of the Armed Forces during World War II. Many times, I did not know what course to follow or how to proceed. Each time the Lord intervened in my behalf."

Brother Paul was discharged on February 27, 1946. He was engaged to Grace Simone in June 1946, ordained an elder in July 1946, moved to Brooklyn, New York with his mother and father in April 1947, and helped establish the Church on Clifton Place in Brooklyn. On September 6, 1947, he married Grace, who supported Brother Paul throughout the forty-six years of marriage in the responsibilities that he had in his ordained and elected offices in the Church. They moved to Lockport, New York and were blessed with four children, Gary, Sharon, William and Richard, and ten beautiful grandchildren.

In July 1949, he was called to the office of evangelist and in April 1953, at the age of 29, was ordained an apostle of The Church of Jesus Christ. Brother Paul traveled throughout the Church, encouraging and uplifting the saints. He gave his testimony and preached inspired sermons in his very distinctive voice that I still remember clearly. Brother Paul had a deep love for the young people and much respect for the older members of the Church. He fully supported all aspects of the Church.

He served as Presiding Elder for many years in Lockport, New York and was secretary to the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. We all miss Brother Paul's spiritual leadership and sense of humor.

Brother Paul was a humble brother who, when called to be an apostle wrote, "Words cannot possibly describe how humble and

unworthy I felt in this calling. Years have gone by, and we have had many experiences in which the Lord blessed us. We have spent our entire life in the service of God. My entry into and time in the Gospel of Christ have been the most important things in my life. There is just nothing to compare with the wonderful life we experience in the service of GOD."

Brother Paul always had his priorities in place: God, family, country and everything else. His closing words in *The Lord Is My Shepherd* are, "... it is my faith and firm determination to continue on in the Gospel of Christ, so that some day, beyond this veil of tears, we may go to a far better place and exchange our cross for a crown. God bless you all is my prayer."

Words well spoken and a life of seventy years that reflected the sermons he preached. May God continue to bless Sister Grace and all of his family.

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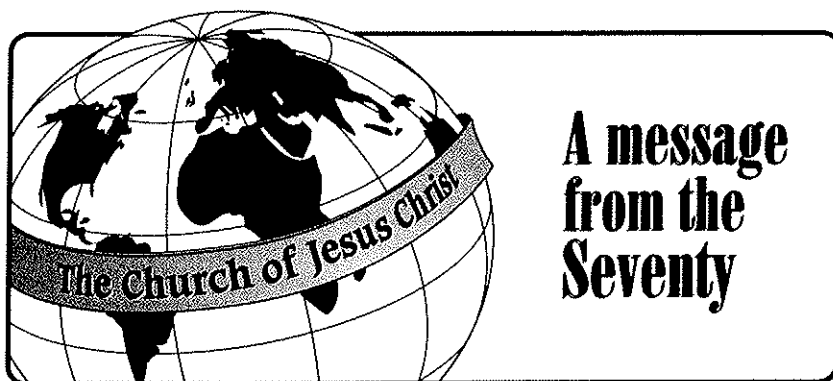
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1995 GMBA Youth Program Expanded to Three Sites

*By Carl J. Frammolino
Evangelist Editor*

The General Missionary Benevolent Association's Youth in Action Program was expanded to include three sites in 1995. The locations designated were the Brooklyn, New York Branch from August 3-13; the Homestead, Florida Mission from August 10-16; and the Harrison, Michigan Mission for a weekend in the fall.

Now in its second year, the program utilizes the energy, enthusiasm, and availability of the Church's young people to provide assistance in the building up of small branches and missions. Participants are asked to ideally dedicate one or two weeks of their summer vacations to work with the Ministers and membership of these places on well-defined outreach tasks.

Last year's assignments in Dallas, Texas and Harrison benefited the locations and afforded considerable spiritual growth for the young people involved. Some prospects for the Church were identified in both communities and several visitors attended services. This year, reports to date indicate that Brooklyn and Homestead, where the segments have been completed, have similarly experienced many blessings.

BROOKLYN

Brooklyn, one of the New York City's five boroughs, has been a

branch of the Church for over sixty years. Brothers Dominick Rose and Matthew Rogolino, who are the elders there, directed the project and expressed their gratitude for the inspiring workers.

In helping, the young people distributed many fliers and invited individuals, including those who live in nearby apartment buildings, to attend services. There were two Sunday and two weeknight meetings during this period. The schedule included Brother Matthew's taking the group to the Bowery on Sunday afternoon, August 6, where he has conducted services for some years.

Most of the team members are musically inclined. They decided individually to bring their instruments with them, and they were asked to play them at various times.

On Friday afternoon, the group assembled in a Brooklyn park, played their instruments, sang hymns, distributed fliers, and answered questions about the Church. Some people sitting on the park benches sang along on the hymns they knew.

Youth volunteers traveling to Brooklyn were Timothy Mott from Ohio; Tanya Wood from Michigan; Mitzi Yoder and Patrick Monaghan from Pennsylvania; and Byron Yount and Jennifer Kowalsky from the Atlantic Coast. The coordinator from the YIA Committee was Brother Jerry Valenti, who was also on site. Offering assistance were Brothers Phil Arcuri, James Link, Sr., Donald

Ross, and Jim and Sam Sgro of the Atlantic Coast Region.

HOMESTEAD

Homestead, located in southern Florida, is a mission currently under the direction of Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., assisted by Brother Miguel Bicelis, a recently ordained elder. Services were held in a church building, which is a remodeled house, among approximately 300 homes in a Spanish speaking community.

Meetings during this tour, however, were held in a rented tent at the site over the weekend. On the Saturday, four souls from the mission were baptized. Two had asked for their baptisms beforehand and two declared their intentions at the waters edge. They were Raul Bicelis (Brother Miguel's cousin), Liliana Penaranda, Damasa Vistalia Bicelis (Brother Miguel's mother), and Margarita Vasquez (Sister Victoria Lopez's niece). They were confirmed at the beginning of an Area MBA Singspiration conducted there that night.

The young people distributed fliers and knocked on doors in the community to invite individuals to Church. They befriended the loveable children at the mission, telling them about God and Christ and teaching them songs which they sang at the services.

The youth participants included Deanna Nuzzi, Mandy Genaro, Megan Jackson, and Angelo Licata from Ohio; Rachel Straccia and Alison Cotellesse from Michigan; Jason Monaghan and Daniel Yoder from Pennsylvania; Justin Paxon from Georgia; Christina Benyola, Ike Smith, Bryan Griffith, Kristie Kirschenphad, and Tony Moraco from Florida; Jeremy and Julie Schroeder from Kansas; and Jonathan Rogalla from Virginia.

YIA Committee members there were Brothers Mario Zaccagnini from Michigan and Mike Nuzzi from Ohio, who drove a van with thirteen volun-

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

Since our conversion into The Church of Jesus Christ, we have come to know the Lord. What kind of person was He? What kind of person is He? The Word of God tells us He is the same, yesterday, today and forever.

He was kind and gentle. He was tender and patient. He was the most sympathetic man the world has ever known. The Lord truly loved people. He was forgiving and He loved to help people. He performed miracles to feed and heal people. Thousands that were weary, hungry, racked with pain and sickness, came to Him. They found healing and relief.

The Bible tells us that the world cannot contain all the books that are necessary to capture and record His deeds of kindness. We read in John 21:25, *"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen."*

His name is Jesus Christ. Jesus in the Greek language signifies "Saviour." Christ in the Greek language means "Anointed One" and the Hebrew equivalent is "Messiah." It is no wonder our Church, The Church of Jesus Christ, bears His name. The name, The Church of Jesus Christ, is based on His commandment, His instructions found in III Nephi 27:7, *"Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name that he will bless the church for my sake."*

Please consider the character of the Lord. He was sinless in life. We read in I John 3:5, *"... in him is no sin."* He was the epitome of love. John 15:13 states, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* He was obedient. It states in John 4:34, *"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work."* He was forgiving. We read in I Nephi 7:21, *"... that they would pray unto the Lord their God for forgiveness."* The Lord was kind. It is recorded in I Nephi 19:9, *"Yea, they spit upon him, and he suffereth it, because of his loving kindness."* It is our duty as saints of God to become Christ like in all that we do, all that we say, and all that we represent. It states in Philippians 2:5, *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."*

Jesus Christ, in the Sermon on the Mount, instructed the multitude. He taught them that new attitudes, new characteristics were required of those in His Gospel. The Lord told them who would receive His blessings. They are those who are poor in spirit, those that mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those that are persecuted for righteousness sake, and those that are reviled by men.

When the Lord appeared on the land of America, His instructions were just as plain. He gently got right to the point. In III Nephi 9:20 the Lord said, *"And ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit."* No other sacrifice was necessary, no other sacrifice was acceptable.

We must be new creatures. We have to abstain from the very appearance of evil. Our love must be without dissimulation; it cannot be conditional. We must love all people, including the sinner. We must be kind to one another, tenderhearted and forgiving. We have to become as a child: submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things. We must be gentle, long suffering and temperate. We have to be sensitive to each other; be careful what we say. The tongue can praise God, but if not controlled, if not used properly, can cut and hurt.

(Continued on Page 11)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

Dear Boys and Girls,

Today, I heard the most astonishing story. My neighbor has been trying to sell her house. Someone told her that if she would buy a certain plastic statue in the store and bury it upside down in her garden, her house would sell.

This is a good woman who trusts God and who takes good care of her family. Many times she has asked me to pray for her loved ones and I have. This time, I gently told her that it was "not" the piece of plastic statue that answered her prayers, but it was God. I told her that since Jesus came, we can talk directly to God and ask in the name of Jesus.

In the Bible days they needed the priests at the temple to burn a sacrifice of food or animals when they prayed. Once Jesus came, He was the last sacrifice. Now we only need to think of Him and as we pray, and ask in His name.

A piece of plastic cannot hear you. A pretty piece of crystal rock cannot bring you good luck. A little pin of an angel will not make us safe. What will? God. God will hear you, protect you so well that others will call you lucky, when we know you're blessed. God will watch your footsteps, deliver you from evil and open the right choices for you. All we have to do is ask with a broken heart, be sorry for our sins, and ask Jesus to help us.

The scriptures in the Book of Mormon and the Bible are full of warnings "not" to worship, pray to, or count on graven (engraved or carved) images (statues).



Heavenly Father directly and tell Him that we ask it in Jesus' name. He really does care for you. He hears you. He sees you. If you will pray and then listen quietly to that little voice inside you, He will direct you in all your paths.

With much care,
Your friend,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

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When God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses, He clearly stated, "Thou shalt [shall] have no other God before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee [for yourselves] any graven image [statues or carvings], or any likeness [copy] of things which are in heaven above, or which are in the earth beneath, or which are in the water under the earth. And again: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for the Lord your God is a jealous God" (Mosiah 12:36 and 13:12-14).

Years later when the king of Persia tried to force Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego to bow down and worship a statue of himself, they refused. They remembered God had told Moses not to do this. God sent His Son to save them.

We have also been told never to eat food that has been offered to a statue or idol. We are supposed to ask God to bless our food before we eat every time, not evil spirits.

In the Book of Mormon, Mormon tells us how the people started loving their riches more than God. They made statues of gold and began worshipping them. After horrible battles, they brought the captured enemies, mothers and children, and murdered them as offerings to their idols, their statues. They were still doing this when Cortez landed. Idol worship destroyed a nation.

So be careful. Our God is a jealous God. He does not want us worshipping any other thing on the earth. We don't need "lucky stones," plastic statues or little angel pins to pray to. We can ask our

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It Is Written



By Apostle V. J. Lovalvo

Secularization and Culture: Their Impact on the Church

Part III

THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE

Of a certainty, some churches have not succumbed entirely to secularization or become totally acculturated. But, like it or not, all churches are victims, one way or another, of the culture which surrounds them. In some cases, it's a losing battle, especially when ultra-liberal thinkers are at the helm. A secular church is a weak entity, by the very fact that it is no longer different than the world about it.

This begs the question: Does culture have the tendency to corrupt moral ethics in a Christian community, and secularize it? The answer is not difficult. "Departing from the faith, changing the Words of Christ to suit self-interest," makes it easier for it to become assimilated and acculturated. The above two elements were contributing factors in the apostasy of the early church. If the "watchmen on the walls" (the leaders at the helm) are not alert, the above components can be instrumental in secularizing any Christian commu-

nity. "Contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," is the watchman's cry (Jude v.3).

Can The Church of Jesus Christ transform the world and be victorious over modernity? To this, I answer with an emphatic "YES." If the Church clings to the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, preaches it, teaches it, and role-models it, a spiritual sub-culture can be created. It can develop a moral and ethical culture that will transcend all other cultures. It is written: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). The Church must recognize Paul, the Apostle's warning. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

The Church can continue to develop, among other things, individuality by its own uniqueness (being different than others, keeping the commandments, etc.). It must continue to seek autonomy (responsibility when making decisions for itself), and self-development (responsibility to take care of its own growth). It must avoid individualism as this engenders self-righteousness. Conversely, individuality (character) can help stem the invasion of secularism.

CONCLUSION

Of course, modern technology is not all bad. All people enjoy its blessings, more or less. They enjoy electricity and its attendant functions: lighting, air-conditioning, computers, televisions, refrigerators, airplanes and automobiles, to name a few. The argument is not with technology, per se, or with science and philosophy, but with the fact that Christian churches have allowed themselves to be secularized by the above which have tended to destroy the image of a powerful and creative God.

Churches have allowed themselves to be acculturated to a degree

of lethargy and irresponsibility. Calvin Reeked, in his book, *The Free Church and the Seductive Culture* writes, "The Christian church has failed to be the true incarnation because it has moved so far in identification with culture that it is an expression of it. The Christian church has been seduced into thinking that its social form is its transcendental nature. This is the most tragic type of consciousness conceivable." (P.43)

The Church of Jesus Christ cannot allow itself to develop a blind spot. It has to awaken to a realization that it must take a leadership role in society, and strive to continue to be the "Standard of Righteous Living" which the Lord intended it to be. Following are some suggestions:

- a) Keep the basic principles of the Gospel intact.
- b) Let ministers preach, teach and role-model righteousness.
- c) Let presiding elders (pastors) be given to much prayer, fasting and study of the Word of God.
- d) Let presiding elders be chosen for their spiritual merits.
- e) Let ministers speak out boldly against sin in all its forms.
- f) Let the Church be diligent and constant in solemn and sacred worship.
- g) Keep the commandments of Christ, to fear the Lord and love one another as Christ loved us all.
- h) Teach parents to be alert to their children's activities, and instruct them to be selective in the things they watch and listen.
- i) Have youth groups chaired by competent leaders who model righteous living.
- j) Let ministers teach the members to strive to be witnesses for Christ, for "The harvest is plenteous, but the laborers are few."

It takes conservative leadership to combat secularization. History proves, without a shadow of a doubt, that when the early church leadership lost sight of the simple and pure commandments of Jesus Christ, secularism seduced it, and blinded it,

(Continued on Page 12)



Branch and Mission News

Ordinations in McKees Rocks, PA

By Sister Carol Monaghan

Malachi 3:10, *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."*

On December 31, 1994, the McKees Rocks Branch gathered together for our New Year's Eve Service and annual dinner. That evening, we also dedicated our new Sunday School rooms. Since we dedicated our new addition, the Lord has added, even multiplied our blessings, as He promised.

On February 19, 1995, the Lord saw fit to call seven laborers into His Church. There were many visitors from various branches of the Church. As we anticipated the ordinations, our Brother Paul Palmieri opened our morning service wherein he admonished us that The Church of Jesus Christ has one mission and one only, and that is to preach the Gospel throughout all the world. Know where you are going, know who you serve. What song do you sing—the song of Redeeming Love, a new song, a song of love, knowing there is a Saviour and a friend—Jesus Christ. After those inspiring words, Panfilo DiCenzo was asked to sing. Panfilo expressed himself as to how his life had been the past many years. He had many dreams and expectations for his life, and he achieved many of them, but they were taken away from him. At that time he made his wishes known, he wanted to be baptized! Praise God! Brother Panfilo then sang his song, *Thou Who Art Mighty To Save*. We praised God for only He is mighty to save and

give us the song of redeeming love.

After lunch, we proceeded with our afternoon service and the seven ordinations. Brother Mike Italiano from Youngstown, Ohio read from Romans 12:1, *"I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."*

Brother Bill Colangelo read the duties of a deaconess. The sisters to be ordained were set apart by the washing of feet: Sister Erme Lawson—feet washed by Sister Fannie Casasanta (mother), Sister Arlene Ciotti—feet washed by Sister Chris Colangelo (mother), Sister Nina DiCenzo—feet washed by Sister Betty Ann Manes.

Brother John Manes then read the duties of a deacon. Our two brothers to be ordained came forth. Brother Patrick Monaghan and Brother Jason Monaghan had their feet washed by their grandfather, Brother Frank Di Antonio.

Brother Ralph Ciotti read the duties of a teacher. Our brothers' feet were washed according to Christ's teachings. Brother Walter Laird's feet were washed by Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. Brother Chester Nolfi's feet were washed by Brother Anthony Ricci.

Special prayer was offered before the ordinations by Brother Jim Gibson. Brother Richard Lawson ordained Sister Erme Lawson, Brother Bill Colangelo ordained Sister Arlene Ciotti, Brother Carl Frammolino ordained Sister Nina DiCenzo, Brother Ralph Ciotti ordained Brother Patrick Monaghan, Brother John Manes ordained Brother Jason Monaghan, Brother Bill Colangelo ordained Brother Walter Laird, and Brother Paul Ciotti Sr. ordained Brother Chester Nolfi into the office of a teacher.

The following weeks brought additional blessings. Sunday, February 26, we met at the waters for the baptism of Brother Panfilo DiCenzo by Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr. That afternoon, Brother Panfilo was confirmed by Brother Ralph Ciotti.

After his confirmation, Brother DiCenzo sang *Driftwood*. Immediately following his song, Brother Tony Ricci spoke under the spirit: "I have called my prodigal back, I have called my prodigal back!"

During the course of the coming week, the Lord was working on the heart of Randy Mitchell, who also made his desire known that he wanted to be baptized. Once again, we met Sunday morning to witness another soul coming to the Lord's service. Brother Randy was baptized by Brother Ralph Ciotti and was confirmed by Brother Bill Colangelo. While Brother Randy was being confirmed, Sister Jan Cornell saw the word "faith" blinking as a neon sign.

On March 12, 1995, we met in the Lord's house once again for the ordinations of Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. and Brother Anthony Ricci into the Ministry. Also, we had the blessing of Rebecca Elizabeth Zane, daughter of Paul and Linda Zane. Rebecca was blessed by her grandfather, Brother John Manes.

Brother Art Gehly of Fredonia opened our morning service saying: "Two of the greatest acts the Saviour performed on this land were the

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blessing of a child, and the ordination into the Ministry. We focus on today—a reminder to us to be as a child. If we think we are something, we are nothing; we are all dependent upon Him and His Spirit.”

Matthew 28: 19, 20 state, “*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 alway, even unto the end of the world.*” After a break for lunch and fellowship, we went into our afternoon service. Brother Carl Frammolino read the duties of a minister in The Church of Jesus Christ. Our brothers were set apart by feet washing. Brother Dick Lawson washed the feet of Brother Anthony Ricci. Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr.’s feet were washed by Brother Bill Colangelo.

Brother Paul Palmieri offered a special prayer before the ordinations. Brother Russell Cadman ordained Brother Anthony Ricci, and Brother Paul Ciotti, Sr., ordained his son, Brother Paul Ciotti, Jr. into the Ministry. We then had communion, and our newly-ordained elders participated for the first time. It was a great blessing, and a beautiful spirit was felt.

Luke 4:18-19 states, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.*”

Ordination

By Sister Terri Bravo

Brother David Catalano of the Metuchen, New Jersey Branch was ordained an elder on April 30, 1995. Many brothers, sisters, and friends gathered to witness this milestone in

our brother’s spiritual life. The meeting was hosted in the Edison, New Jersey Branch due to the renovations being done in the Metuchen Branch.

The Spirit of God was evident in the preaching of Brothers Phil Arcuri, Ken Lombardo, Jim Sgro, Paul Benyola and Tony Vadasz. They spoke on the calling and responsibilities of the Ministry to profess Christ and uphold the Gospel. The example of Moroni raising the Standard of Liberty in Alma 46:12-13, was very powerful.

The inspiration of the Spirit was evident in the ordination prayers as well. Brother Joe Faragasso washed Brother David’s feet. Following was Brother Paul Benyola, with the laying on of hands. They prayed that Brother David would be blessed with wisdom and faith, liberty to profess Christ and convincing power. They asked that people would see the Spirit of God in him and his family.

A group from the Edison Branch was inspired to participate by singing the hymn, *The Standard of Liberty*.

Sister JoAnn, Brother David’s wife, was called up for prayer. She later testified that it had been the desire of her heart to receive prayer. Brother Joe Benyola’s prayer blended with the prayers offered for Brother David. He asked for wisdom and patience. He also prayed that God would bless her as a deaconess, wife and mother. Sister JoAnn is expecting another child and prayers were offered for the new baby. Sister JoAnn is the daughter of Sister Susan Arcuri and the late Brother Joe Arcuri, a hard worker for the Lord who was remembered fondly.

A season of testimony followed, in which Brother David’s family praised God and offered David their support and prayers. Especially touching was the testimony of his mother, Sister Betty Catalano. Just as Hannah did so many years ago, on the day of David’s birth, Sister Betty offered him to the service of the Lord.

Brother David’s ordination day was a special day, in which family, brothers, sisters, and friends were

privileged to participate. The preaching, prayers, and songs set the theme of the responsibility of an elder to profess Jesus Christ. As Jesus Christ came into the world to bring salvation, our brother must proclaim salvation. As the family of God, we offer him our fullest support. We pray that God will bless him, JoAnn and their family with His care and keeping.

Child of the King

By Sister Phyllis Kovacic

When we take that walk to the water’s edge and make our covenant with the Lord, we become a “Child of the King.” On Sunday, March 26, 1995, in Erie, Pennsylvania, Sister Sally Dyer (wife of Brother Bob Dyer) stood and made her wishes known, humbly asking for baptism.

Several weeks prior, Sister Sally was blessed with the following dream. In her dream, she awakened early in the morning and proceeded outside to begin working in her yard. In her mind, she was contemplating the need for baptism. Before her appeared a light the size of a small bug that glowed brightly. This light was nice to look at and seemed harmless. As she continued to question baptism, the light began to converse with her, telling her that she was not a bad person, that she was not a murderer, and had not done bad things in her life. Instead, she should consider all the time she had spent standing beside her husband through all his difficulties and problems. Surely, she had no need to be baptized. Suddenly, a loud noise began to approach the woods, sounding like a truck rushing down a mountain. Upon reaching the woods, the noise became a bolt of lightning that sizzled and crackled as it struck the ground. A voice then commanded, “Sin is sin!” After the voice spoke, the little bright light turned into black liquid and melted into the ground.

Sally obeyed the voice of the
(Continued on Page 10)

KING continued . . .

Lord and became Erie's newest sister on Wednesday, March 29, 1995, at 6:30 PM. She was baptized by Brother Joel Gehly and confirmed by Brother Harold Burge. This ordinance of baptism not only washed away the sins of our repentant sister, but also served as a renewal for each one of us beholding its glorious sight. May the Lord bless Sister Sally and Brother Bob as they are united together in serving God as a family.

Branch Reunion Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania

By Sister Peggy Stroko

The Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch held its branch reunion on Saturday, June 17, 1995. There was much fellowship, reminiscing, singing, food, games, and an overall good time enjoyed by everyone. There was over one hundred in attendance. Many branches of our Church were represented including Aliquippa, Glassport, Greensburg, Monongahela, Levittown, all in Pennsylvania; Herndon, Virginia, and Bell, California.

The oldest gentleman and the one who traveled the greatest distance (2,800 miles) was Brother Harry A. Marshall who lives in Bellflower, California and is a member of the Bell, California Branch.

Brother Marshall is seventy-nine years young. He was baptized in 1937 near Vanderbilt. At an early age, he had a desire to be a professional fighter, but instead, he says he is a "fighter for the Lord."

Our Sunday Service began in lieu of Sunday School classes with a history of the branch given by our Presiding Elder, Brother Richard Lowther.

The first meeting was held in the summer of 1929 in Brother Oran Thomas' yard. Several buildings were used for meeting places over the first few years. In 1938, we got our first church building.

On May 28, 1953, excavating began on the present property. The building was dedicated in September 1958. After much remodeling, the building was rededicated in 1986 as we see it today.

Sunday Services continued with Brother Harry A. Marshall speaking on Acts, chapter 2 and Revelations, chapter 12. Other speakers were Brothers George Timms and John Kendall.

Baptism, Blessings in Roscoe, Pennsylvania

On June 4, 1995, the Roscoe, Pennsylvania Branch was happy to have several brothers and sisters of the Pennsylvania Youth Summit Team from Aliquippa and Monongahela come spend the day with us. Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri opened the morning service, speaking from the 10th chapter of Mark beginning with the 17th verse of the rich, young ruler who ran and kneeled before Jesus and asked, "*Good Master what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?*"

Brother Paul brought out how it is written that Jesus beholding him, loved him as He told him he lacked one thing and to sell what he had and give to the poor. He said that even though we may come up short a little bit, Jesus loves us, and as Jesus told him to take up the cross and follow Me, He is telling us today to take of the Gospel and follow Him. Brother Paul said that Jesus doesn't want us to give up everything and live in poverty, but to give up our will and try His will; how life is about having your name written in the Book of Life, where no one can erase it but you, by your actions. He quoted a saying he remembered hearing spoken by the late Brother William Cadman, *The only successful man is a man that saves his soul.*

Brother Paul Aaron Palmieri gave the invitation to those not baptized, reading from the 5th chapter of Alma, "*Come and be baptized that you may also be partak-*

ers of the tree of life." He encouraged those who were baptized to hold onto the Gospel, endure to the end and work harder for the Lord because He loves you.

Brother Chuck Kogler followed by asking what life means to us today and encouraged all to serve God, giving a beautiful testimony of how God worked with him and brought him into the Gospel. In closing our morning meeting, Brother Pete Giannetti sang a very moving selection entitled, *You Gave Me Love*. As soon as the service ended, Sister Carol Lunt made it known that she wanted to be baptized, that she felt the Lord calling her, and how she was deeply touched by the word that was spoken and the hymn that was sung by Brother Pete. During our afternoon meeting, many beautiful selections were sung and inspiring testimonies were given by our brothers and sisters.

On the following Sunday, June 11, 1995, Sister Carol Lunt was taken to the water and was baptized by Brother James Abbott. Upon returning to the Church, Sister Carol received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands by Brother Abbott. All welcomed our new sister into the fold as we sang, *A New Name Written Down In Glory*, and many joyful testimonies followed. Sister Carol testified that since stating that she wanted to be baptized, hymn #83 in the *Songs of Zion, He'll Take Care Of Me*, was continuously with her, and how during the morning service this day, she looked up and saw a personage watching over her. She was given to understand that the Lord was going to take care of her.

We are thankful to see another soul render obedience to the Lord and take heed to His word to lay up our treasures in heaven and follow Him. May God bless our new sister and our visiting brothers and sisters who came to share God's blessings with us.

The Roscoe Branch

Note of Thanks

I want to take this opportunity to thank the brothers and sisters for the many prayers offered in my behalf and for the anointings by our elder brothers. Your beautiful cards, gifts, phone calls and visits are greatly appreciated. My healing process will take time. Please continue to pray for me. God bless you all.

Brother Tony Arcuri and Family

TEMPTING continued . . .

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).

Do you have a plan for resisting temptation? Just as you know how to flee from a burning building, your plan to flee temptation should be set. Ask God to help you stay away from anyone or anything that may tempt you. Memorize or meditate on scriptures that combat your particular weakness. Talk with a trustworthy Saint with whom you can share your struggle, and call this person when temptation strikes. And lastly, don't blame God for being tempted.

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man" (James 1:13).

No one person is alone in this life's struggle. Together, step by step, victory by victory, we are becoming perfected in our desire and will to serve God through His son Jesus Christ. Have faith in Him and He will see us through to that eternal happiness and joy. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and He will guide us through if we permit Him. Praise God who makes all things possible.

MESSAGE continued . . .

teers aboard. The YIA coordinator was Brother Ron Giovannone. Also

involved from the Southeast Region were Brothers John Griffith, Dennis Moraco, Paul DiNardo, and Ike Smith.

Brother Catone, very appreciative of the assistance given, said that the young people had been an inspiration and a tremendous help to the mission.

COMMENTS

Among the comments made by the volunteers from both locations was the statement that, in going into the community, they were able to better understand the needs of the people and to address questions with beneficial information about the Church and the Restored Gospel. It is interesting to note that some of the laborers had also participated last year and they found the experience additionally elevating in their walk with Christ.

One worker who was active both years stated that these visits have changed her spiritual life. A young brother said, "You can really see how there is such a need to spread the Word and the Gospel."

Brother Valenti, who is the Chairman of the YIA Committee reflected, "I am very thankful to God for the success of the Youth in Action Program to date. The program has allowed many young people to demonstrate their dedication to working for the Lord and seeing the Church grow. We are developing young missionaries . . . these resources will be invaluable to the Church in years to come."

He continued, "Looking ahead to next year, the challenges of the program include continued expansion of our base of young missionaries, identification of sites which can best utilize this service, and continued refinement of the outreach activities. Stated another way, we would like to use as many young people as possible to go to as many places as possible to reach as many lost souls as possible and introduce them to The Church of Jesus Christ. I would request the prayers of the Church membership for God's assistance in this plan."

EDITORIAL continued . . .

We have to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and keep ourselves spotless from the world. We are in the world. We must not be of the world. It is our duty, our role as saints of God to administer relief to the sick and afflicted; to clothe the naked, to feed the hungry and liberate the captive.

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ are His instruments to declare the truth. Remember, the truth shall set you free. We must bring others the free Gospel, the free and pure religion, The Church of Jesus Christ.

We cannot be comfortable. We must be uncomfortable, concerned and possessed with the spiritual drive to bring this Gospel to everyone. We cannot relax. We cannot be idle. We have to be busy, doing the work of the Lord. It is not enough to believe. Faith alone is not sufficient. Without works, faith is dead! We will be judged by our works. Are we to work just for ourselves, our own salvation? Not according to the Lord. He told his eleven remaining disciples in Mark 16:15, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."*

Suppose the Lord asks you, what are you doing for me, what are you doing for the Church, what are you doing for your branches and missions? How will you respond? Are you able to say you are laboring diligently, feverishly for Him and His Gospel? In the Parable of the Great Supper, they all made excuses. Excuses are not advisable, they are not acceptable with the Lord. He wants workers, He needs workers for His Church.

Let us strive to be like Jesus Christ. May we be bold but not overbearing. Let us strive for His Church and His kingdom. If we do, our reward is sure. If we prove faithful, if we work for Him, we have a mansion waiting for us that is built on a solid foundation, it has no leaks, will never need to be repaired and is flawless in its construction. It is built by the greatest carpenter that ever lived, Jesus Christ.

*** WEDDING ***

Brother Dane Obradovich and Sister Kelly Haggerty were united in marriage in the Hollywood, Florida Branch on February 11, 1995.

Samual Altomare and Dorothy Crawford were united in marriage on February 14, 1995 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Timothy Don Denney and Angela Carol Duncan were united in marriage on July 8, 1995 in Sheffield, Ohio.

Children Blessed

Stephanie Carol May Brumfield, daughter of Karl Dexter, was blessed on July 9, 1995 in the Rochester, New York Branch.

Brandon David Carr, son of David and Brenda Carr, was blessed on June 18, 1995 in the Erie, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sarah Kathryn Schafer, daughter of Sister Kim and Robert Schafer, was blessed in the Youngstown, Ohio Branch on June 25, 1995.

Kyle Jonathan Yeager, son of John and Rachel Yeager, was blessed on July 23, 1995 in the Kinsman, Ohio Branch.

Blake Hunter Dice, son of Robert and Dawn (Cocco) Dice, was blessed on June 11, 1995 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

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.

CLIFFORD SPROUL

Brother Clifford Sproul passed on to his heavenly reward on April 19, 1995. He was 93 years of age and was a member of the Fredonia, Pennsylvania Branch. Brother Clifford is survived by his wife, Sister Eleanor (Cadman) Sproul; two daughters, Shirley and Patricia; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

LORETTA MAZZEO

Sister Loretta Mazzeo passed on to her eternal reward on July 3, 1995 at the age of 76. She was one of the original members of the Phoenix, Arizona Branch. She is survived by her husband, Anthony Mazzeo; three sons, Barry, Ronald and Roger; a daughter, Denise Chevez; a brother, Daniel Moroni; a sister, Mary Lombardo; and two grandchildren.

LOUIS ARANYI

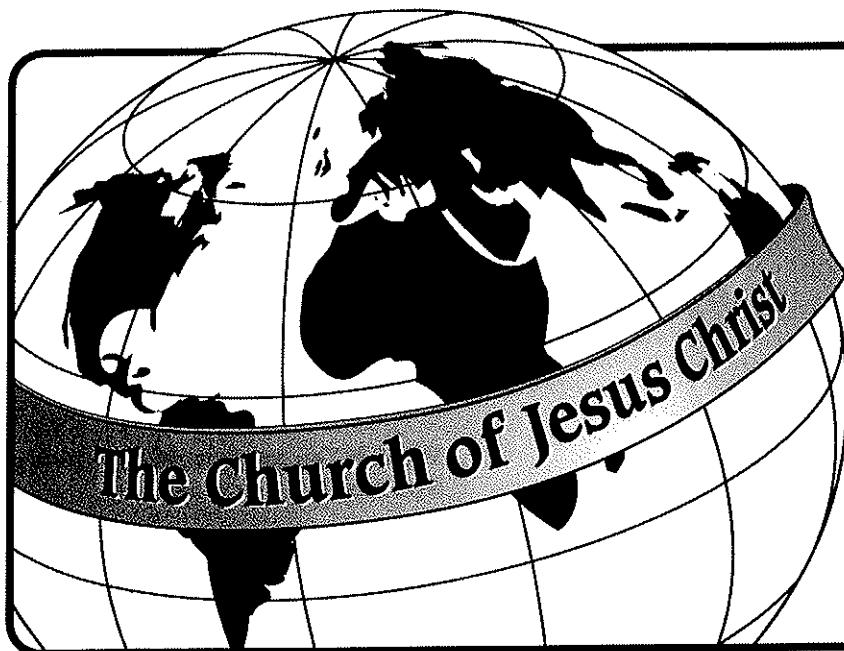
Brother Louis Aranyi passed on to his eternal reward on April 23, 1995. He was a member of the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He is survived by his wife, Sister Elizabeth Aranyi, five sons and two grandchildren.

IT IS WRITTEN continued . . .

with apostate results. The Church of Jesus Christ has been restored to be the young, chosen "David" which can overcome the "Goliath" of secularism. It can be the "Ulysses" tied to the mast of the Word of God that can withstand and defeat the "Circe" of worldliness.

It is the eschatological hope of true believers that the church will eventually be that "mountain of the Lord's house, established on the top of the mountains and exalted above the hills, to which all nations shall flow. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

"And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:2-4). To this, let there be a resounding, Amen.



The Gospel News

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Volume 51, No. 11

Thanksgiving Day

By Apostle Paul Palmieri

Thanksgiving Day in the United States is set apart to give thanks for the blessings of the year. It is the one holiday that has maintained a semblance of a religious feeling with the day.

The original Plymouth Thanksgiving was held under peculiar circumstances in 1621. The first corn crop had been gathered and Governor Bradford decided to have a feast of ingathering—a day of thanksgiving. To help celebrate, he invited the friendly Massasorte Indians.

The Indians brought venison and wild turkeys and the surrounding woods yielded the wild fruit and the waters supplied fish and clams. Tables were set under the pine trees because of the large group. There were 90 of the Massasorte and 55 English-speaking people present. What with the preaching, feasting, talking and games, the exercise lasted three days. Sickness had told heavily on the colony. Over 40 of their band lay under the sod. Of the group that had assembled, there were but four women. These, with the young girls and one servant, prepared for all that large company.

THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

As new colonies settled in the land, the custom of a yearly Thanksgiving Day spread throughout the country. In 1789, President George Washington expressed the spirit of his day.

"Whereas it is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits and humble to implore His protection, aid and favors . . . Now, therefore, I do recommend and assign Thursday, the twenty-sixth day of November next to be devoted by the people of these states to the service of that great and glorious Being who is the Beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be; that we may then all unite in rendering unto Him our sincere and humble thanks for His kind care and protection of the people of this country, and for all the great and various favors which He has been pleased to confer upon us."

In 1864, President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation appointing Thanksgiving Day as a Holiday on the fourth or last Thursday of November.

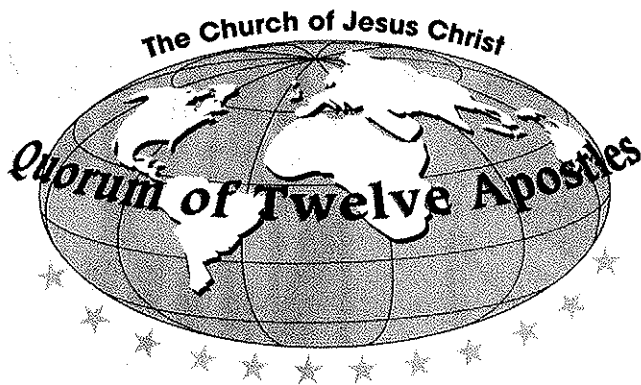
STILL BLESSED

Three and a half centuries later,

we are still enjoying the blessings of the "Almighty God" in this land of these United States. So blessed are we that limitations must be set on the bountiful supplies to stabilize our economy. Reports are compiled every year that, with the production in this country, we could feed half of the entire world. It is only with the fear of wrecking other countries and their governments' restrictions that the surplus in this country is not used to help underdeveloped countries and feed the millions starving. Duplication of our corn from the corn belt regions has been tried by many countries, but all have been unsuccessful. Is it our know how or the blessings of God? The Book of Mormon states that this land is choice above all others and would remain as such as long as the people live righteously. Our role to feed the world and make countries free has undoubtedly found favor in the sight of God. Nephi, speaking in the Book of Mormon, says: "*And it came to pass that I beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them.*"

We are the recipients of His blessings to this day. Winston Churchill termed the United States as

(Continued on Page 7)



What Is the Book Of Mormon?

By Apostle Joseph Calabrese

In the October 1994 issue of *The Gospel News*, I submitted an article entitled "What is the Book of Mormon?"

Briefly, I commented on its authenticity, quoting many scriptures. I also included information on the apostasy that took place after The Church of Jesus Christ which Jesus Himself set up fell away, and finally, giving many scriptures that

principally involved in that history, and God's dealing with them.

What is the Book of Mormon?

The book is a collection of ancient, sacred writings telling about God's dealings with *three groups of people* which He led to the new world. It is named after *Mormon* (A.D. 310-385) who was the chief "editor" of the record.

Two groups kept records. *The Jaredites* came from the Great Tower at the time of the confounding of languages around 2300 B.C. Their civilization lasted over 2000 years. Their highly condensed story is told in the book of Ether.

The Nephites, a branch of the House of Israel, came from the land of Jerusalem about 600 B.C. They divided into two groups: *Nephites* and *Lamanites*, shortly after their arrival in the new world. The *Nephites* were the *more righteous group*, and their story is contained in "14 of the 15 books" making up the Book of Mormon.

The *Nephite Record* tells of Christ's visit to them after His resurrection. They were destroyed as a people by the Lamanites in A.D. 385 because of their *willful disobedience*.

One group did not keep records.

The people of Zarahemla (Mulekites) were also of the House

of Israel and are mentioned briefly in the Book of Mormon around 586 B.C. (References, Omni 15th verse, Helaman 6:10, Helaman 8:21). *Mulek* was the son of King Zedekiah of Judah. The *Mulekites*, as a people, merged with the *Nephites* around 200 B.C.

What is the purpose of the Book of Mormon?

- * To tell the Seed of Lehi about their heritage as part of the House of Israel.
- * To witness that Jesus is the Christ.
- * To give this warning to the inhabitants of the Land of Promise: Serve God or Be Destroyed.
- * To reveal that a New Jerusalem is to be built in the Land of Promise.

How did we get the Book of Mormon?

- * Mormon abridged a thousand years of history.
- * He gave the abridgement to his son Moroni to finish (A.D. 385).
- * Moroni hid it up as directed by the Lord sometime after A.D. 420.
- * The Angel Moroni gave it to Joseph Smith Jr. in 1827.
- * Joseph translated it by the "Gift and Power" of God.
- * It was first published in March 1830.

Why read the Book of Mormon?

- * It contains the words of Christ and confirms His identity as the Only Begotten Son of God.
- * It contains "many plain and precious" truths not found elsewhere, including *some which have been removed from the Bible during its many translations*.
- * It contains *firsthand accounts of the ministry* of the resurrected Jesus and *gives additional insights into the principles of the Gospels*.
- * It contains *firsthand testimonies of God's vast love and compassion for us, His children*.
- * It contains *prophecies* about the restoration.



Apostle Joseph Calabrese

provided that a Restoration of the same church, The Church of Jesus Christ, would be restored.

Following, I have compiled information giving in greater detail the history of the people that were

a) *Historical Note*

This portion of the abridgement from the large plates of Nephi was translated by Joseph Smith making 116 pages of manuscript. Martin Harris was directed *not* to translate them again, *but to go on to the small plates of Nephi which covered the same time period (600 B.C. to 130 B.C.).*

b) *Unabridged*

About 30 years after leaving Jerusalem, Nephi was commanded to make a second set of plates called the Small Plates.

The Small Plates were used to record the *sacred history* of the people.

Mormon was directed to include the small plates with his *abridgement* of the large plates of Nephi.

The small plates covered the *same time period as the 116 pages* of manuscript lost by Martin Harris.

The small plates contain the books of *First Book of Nephi, Second Book of Nephi, Jacob, Jarom, Omni, and Enos.* Read Jacob 1:3-9

c) *Words of Mormon*

Editorial comments written by Mormon in A.D. 384 explaining why he included the small plates with his abridgement.

d) *Abridgement from the Large Plates of Nephi*

Nephi was commanded to make a set of *plates for keeping a history* of the people. They are called the *large plates of Nephi.*

The large plates contain the *civil records* of the people up to the time of King Benjamin. *Both the sacred and civil accounts* of the people were kept after the time of King Benjamin *because the small plates used for recording the sacred history were filled.* Mormon abridged the large plates of Nephi and gave the abridgement to his son Moroni to finish.

The books of *Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, Third Book of Nephi, Fourth Book of Nephi, and Mormon* are abridgements from the large plates of Nephi.

e) *Abridgement from the 24 Gold Plates (Book of Ether)*

The last Jaredite prophet, *Ether, wrote an abridgement* of his *people's history* on 24 gold plates.

The record was found by Limhi's search party and given to King Mosiah to translate by means of the interpreter. Read Mosiah 8:9-13.

Moroni was commanded to make an *abridgement* of the Jaredite record and *include* it with his *father's abridgement* of the *large plates of Nephi.* The promise is given that *whosoever finds the 24 gold plates will have power to obtain the full account.* Read Ether 4:7.

f) *Book of Mormon (Actual)*

Written by Moroni after abridging the Jaredite record (24 gold plates) by the way of *conclusion to the records.*

g) *Sealed Portion (Yet to Come)*

Contains the vision of the brother of Jared from the beginning of time to the end. Read Ether 4 & 5.

The Lord commanded the brother of Jared to write the vision and seal it up with two stones to be used for translating.

The Lord said *it was not to be revealed until after He should come in the flesh.*

Jesus Christ revealed it to the people during His appearance in the Land Bountiful.

Moroni was commanded to include it with the *abridgement of the large plates of Nephi.* Joseph Smith was instructed *not to translate it.*

The sealed portion will be *revealed again when the Gentiles exercise faith and become sanctified.*

OTHER RECORDS

The Brass Plates (1 Nephi 5:11-22; Mosiah 28th chapter)

- * Lehi brought the brass plates from Jerusalem.
- * They are written in the Egyptian language.
- * They contain the five books of Moses (including an account of the creation and Adam & Eve), a record of the Jews down to King Zedekiah (including the records of the holy scriptures), prophecies of the holy prophets (including Jeremiah and Joseph of Egypt) and the genealogy of Lehi's father.
- * They shall go to all nations, tongues and people who are of the Seed of Lehi.
- * They shall never perish or be dimmed by time.
- * The records of the Book of Mormon were received by Joseph Smith on September 27, 1827.

I trust that this information has been of interest of you.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given to him" (James 1:5).

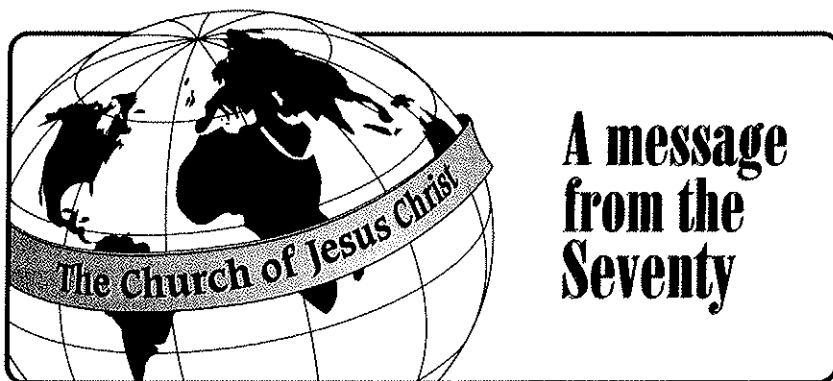
Announcement

For November, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.10%
2 years	5.30%
3 years	5.40%
4 years	5.50%
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 814/227-2421.



Exploratory Trip Made To Poland

By Carl J. Frammolino, Evangelist Editor

At the invitation of a group of people who were interested in hearing about The Church of Jesus Christ, a team of elders took an exploratory trip to Poland in late August. Church members were visited in Germany and Italy during this European journey, as well.

The itinerary began when Brother John DiBattista from America and Brother Patrick O'Callaghan from England met in Frankfurt, Germany on Saturday, August 26. They had services with Brother Giovanni and Sister Maria Marino of that city on Sunday. The next day, they began their drive to Warsaw where they eventually met Brothers Paul Palmieri and Phil Jackson from America on August 31.

Along the way, however, they visited other people in Poland who had been in touch with the Church. They were welcomed warmly by these individuals, and they spent considerable time talking to them about the Restored Gospel. They left them with the thoughts that they should pray about what they were told and that they could return in the future as the Lord would direct. There were many blessings and some experiences were related during their stay. One of them had visited the Anaheim, California Branch several years ago, and she told her sister and brother-in-law who were very receptive to what was being presented.

TRAVELED TO AREA

After meeting in Warsaw, the four brothers drove to the area where the group was located. Phone contacts and correspondence had been maintained with this contingent for about six months.

Although there was the need for interpreters to permit verbal communication and there was difficulty in being able to speak directly to the person who had been the spokesman for the people, the Spirit of God could be felt as efforts were being made to spread the Gospel. Brother O'Callaghan had a vision in which he saw a great spiritual conflict being waged.

The brothers held a meeting Sunday, September 3, the first ever of The Church of Jesus Christ in that nation. The Lord made His presence felt in response to Brother Palmieri's request in prayer to Him that John, the Apostle, be sent to assist with the work. Brother DiBattista said he had a vision of a person kneeling beside Brother Pat and he was praying. Brother Pat stated that he had felt that person next to him.

The leader of the group had originally contacted Brother Palmieri by phone after he had obtained the name and number of the Church from the U.S. Embassy after reading about Brother William Bickerton and the identification of the Bickertonites in some literature. Subsequent exchanges led to the trip.

In assessing the situation, Brother Palmieri said that there was good interest shown and that some were desirous of coming into the Church. Prayer and direction are being asked of God at this point. This could prove to be a major thrust in Europe and much progress could be made from such a beginning.

STARTED THROUGH CORRESPONDENCE

Historically, some of the major mission fields that the Church has today were started through correspondence. The large mission field in Africa was begun in response to some wishes of correspondents to the then General Church President, Brother William H. Cadman. He, along with Brother Joseph Bittinger, traveled to Nigeria in 1954 to begin what has become a solid, far-reaching part of the Church. Similar contacts were also responsible for the starts in Ghana and Kenya.

Letters sent from India to the General Church Correspondent, Brother Joseph Calabrese, were the contacts which set in motion the subsequent establishment of the Church in that nation in the early 1980's. Since then, there has been a vast increase, and the numbers continue to grow.

Correspondence from different parts of the world is being received regularly. Our present General Church Correspondent, Brother Richard Lawson, has reported on many of these, and information about them has appeared in this column in the past.

BACK TO GERMANY

From Poland, the brothers went back to Brackel, Germany where they visited with Brother Detlev Rucks who was baptized last year. He, too, had been corresponding with the Church before the trip there for his baptism. Brother Rucks related some wonderful experiences he has received since he came into the Gospel. He said he felt the power of God in them.

(Continued on Page 7)

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Editorial Viewpoint . . .

The month of November of each year is when we recognize and celebrate the Thanksgiving Holiday. The essence and spirit of this holiday is captured in the article written by Apostle Paul Palmieri that appears in this issue.

It is celebrated once a year. How sad that only one day a year is designated to give thanks to God for His mercy, His care, His protection and His rich, rich blessings. Imagine, only one day out of three hundred and sixty-five days is set aside for thanksgiving.

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ are taught to give thanks every day of our lives. Why? Because the scriptures teach us that giving thanks must be far more numerous than once a year. The scriptures instruct us to give thanks daily to the Lord and God Almighty.

We read in Alma 34:38, “. . . and that ye live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you.” Alma 7:23 states, “. . . always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive.” Apostle Paul in I Thessalonians 5:18 wrote, “In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

How do we give thanks? How are we to give thanks? We give God thanks in our sincere, righteous and daily Godly living. We give thanks to God in daily prayer. We should also give the Lord our thanks through our donations, our giving and our sharing of the rich abundance that we have received from Him.

Are we donating, giving and sharing enough? The financial report for the first six months of 1995 shows that we have to be a little more generous in our giving to the Lord and His Church, The Church of Jesus Christ.

A vehicle containing an individual's possessions has never appeared in a funeral procession. When we pass away, we are absolutely penniless. We cannot take our cars, clothing, finances or homes. Life insurance does not even benefit the deceased.

The Lord put it in perspective in the Parable about a Rich Man in the 12th chapter of the Gospel of Luke. The rich man tore down his barns to build greater barns because of the abundant growth of his crops. What he failed to realize is that his soul was required that night! The things he left behind were now claimed by someone else!

There are many beautiful examples of people in scripture who gave and were blessed beyond their giving. Let us consider at least two wonderful scriptural examples.

The first example is Job. He was extremely wealthy, yet lost it all! Because his faith, his service to God never faltered, whatever he lost was restored to him. It was not restored like for like. His natural blessing was double what he lost! He also gained his spiritual blessing and reward.

The second example is the widow woman in I Kings 17th chapter who provided for the prophet Elijah. All she had was a handful of meal in a barrel and a little oil in a cruse. She was planning to prepare one last meal for her and her son and then they would die. Elijah told her to prepare him a cake first and then prepare for herself and her son. The widow woman followed Elijah's instructions. This brought the blessings and reward of God to her home. The widow woman, Elijah and her house ate for many days! Do you know how this happened? Do you know what God did? In I Kings 17:16 we read, “*And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord.*”

(Continued on Page 7)

The Children's Corner

By Janet Steinrock

"Angels Among Us"

Dear friends,

Today, people in the world are fascinated by stories about angels. There are new books, songs, and pictures of angels in every gift store. It surprises me sometimes to realize that other people and churches are just now learning about angels. We always had them around us in The Church of Jesus Christ.

Many years ago, I got to travel on Sundays up to teach children on the Muncey Indian Reservation about Jesus. Our presiding elder was Brother Mario Coppa. He never let bad weather stop us. We drove two and a half hours each way, every week, in every kind of weather.

We'd meet early in the morning at the tunnel that goes underground between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario. In the winter, it was dark at 6:00 AM. There wasn't cable television in those days to give us the latest update on the weather; our drivers drove no matter what the skies were doing.

One cold, dark winter morning we crossed into Canada as icy sleet started to hit our windshield. We prayed and drove steadily on. Many times we sang hymns and talked about God's goodness to us.

Halfway to Muncey, we always stopped to pick up a sister who lived in Chatham, Ontario. To drive into her city, we had to exit onto a side ramp and cross over a bridge above the highway.

As our driver guided us onto the overpass, all of a sudden we hit ice! Our car whirled into a circle, around

we went! Once, twice, three times our car skidded dangerously near the edges of the overpass bridge, and across the other lane in the road.

Then, all of a sudden, we came to a complete stop! There was still ice, but our car stopped perfectly. Praising God, we inched our way across the bridge and carefully went on to Muncey, and then back home.

That night, Brother Mario returned in time to go to an evening meeting at Branch #3. An older sister who had the gift of seeing visions was a member of his branch. When she saw Brother Mario, she said, "Tell us about the angel, Brother Mario."

He was surprised and asked her what she meant. She told him she'd been praying that morning and all of a sudden saw a vision of the little group of people traveling to Muncey. She saw the station wagon as it hit the patch of ice and spun out of control.

She also saw an angel appear. He reached out and stopped the spinning car. No one had told her beforehand about our experience. We in the car did not even see our heavenly rescuer. We merely felt the wonderful presence of God and drove on our way, peacefully, rejoicing and trusting, and praising God for watching over us.

Many times God has sent His angel to help His people. Ask your grandparents and parents. Take time to remember what God has done for you. In Daniel 3:28, God sent an angel to shut the lions' mouths. In the 1970s, He sent an angel to keep a



carload of his servants from crashing on an icy highway.

How has He helped you? When has there been an angel among you, guiding you and protecting you on your way?

With care,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

READ	HIM
HEBREWS	SOMEONE
THIRTEEN	MAY
VERSE	SEE
TWO	YOUR
SOME	ANGEL
HAVE	IN
ENTERTAINED	A
ANGELS	VISION
UNAWARE	TRUST
GOD	YOU
PROTECTS	MAY
HIS	ONLY
OWN	FEEL
CALL	HIM
ON	NEARBY

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

Note of Thanks

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

We wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for your prayers, many phone calls, cards and visits. Your concern and thoughtfulness about our well being is deeply appreciated and will never be forgotten. We ask a continued interest in your prayers. We need them very much. We will pray for all of you. May God bless you and reward you for your goodness.

Brother Tom and
Sister Josephine Ross

THANKSGIVING continued . . .

the "Arsenal of Democracy" when we entered World War II to stop the tyranny of the conquering enemy. God has kept His promise to bless this country above all others. It is our responsibility as people who have received so much to offer thanks unto such a Benevolent Provider.

Thanksgiving Day gives us an awareness of the riches of this country, not only in life's sustenance, but in the rights of an individual to be himself and pursue his own happiness. Our forefathers were thankful for little; let us be thankful for so much.

Announcement

The new General Church Directory is now available. The cost is \$8.00, which includes shipping and handling. If you wish to purchase a directory, please send your check and order to:

The Church of Jesus Christ
Print House
8282 Boettner Rd.
P.O. Box 30
Bridgewater, MI 48115

1995 Six Month Financial Results

Dear Readers:

These are the figures for the first six months of 1995. This is an on-going effort to keep the members of the Church aware of the financial situation of our Church.

We do have good news to report at this point and that is we are ahead of where we were at this time last year. Our total donations for the first six months of 1995 are \$209,377 while the corresponding figure for 1994 was \$191,024. We are \$18,353 ahead. This is good and we need to continue on this course.

There is some slightly bad news and that is the Spending Plan for the first six months of this year indicates our donations should be at \$268,907 which means we are \$59,530 behind the Spending Plan.

The figures that follow are a comparison of the six month totals for each region.

REGION	1995	1994
Atlantic Coast	\$ 21,142	\$ 28,553
Michigan/Ontario	46,516	45,654
Ohio	31,564	23,918
Pacific Coast	28,657	21,794
Pennsylvania	48,244	45,740
Southeast	24,350	17,607
Southwest	8,904	7,758
Totals	\$209,377	\$191,024

II Corinthians 9:7, "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

MESSAGE continued . . .

Brother O'Callaghan returned to England and the other three brothers flew to Italy where they were met in Sardegna by Brother Mike LaSala who had been there for almost twenty-five days. They stayed in the new apartment in the back of the church building.

They fellowshiped with the members there and went over future plans with Brother Rosario Scravaglieri who is in charge of the work in Italy.

The return trip to America was begun on September 8, amid hopes and prayers that God would remain with the brothers and sisters and that the Gospel would be going forth in greater power in Europe.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

There is a modern day example of giving. This experience occurred about thirty years ago. A brother and sister had company one weekend from another part of the Church. The company was not expected; they arrived unannounced. They made no plans with the brother and sister to visit with them for the weekend. The brother and sister welcomed them into their home. They had to provide

(Continued on Page 12)



Branch and Mission News

Testimonies at Branch 1 Chesterfield Township, MI

By Sister Stephanie Rado

In October, 1994, Sister Frances Palposi went for a routine mammogram and the test showed a mass the size of a dime. Her doctor then sent her to a surgeon who scheduled her for a biopsy. At that time, they would perform another mammogram and pinpoint the exact location of the mass in order to perform surgery.

Sister Frances and her family took the matter before the Lord and laid it at His feet. Brother Edward Palposi, her husband, was given a dream. In the dream, he was working with Brother Peter Scolaro. Brother Peter asked Brother Edward if he heard the good news. Brother Edward said, "No." Brother Peter Scolaro then said, "There is no cancer."

As I, her daughter, was praying one day, I saw myself in the hospital lobby standing next to my mother who was smiling, my voice raised in praise to the Lord, thanking Him for her healing.

The following Sunday, Sister Frances went under the hands of the Ministry. Brother Larry Champine anointed her and asked the Lord for a healing, that even when the doctors saw her again, the mass would be gone.

Visiting our branch that Sunday was Kathy Cook, (niece of Sister Jean DePerno), Kathy's husband Mike, and their daughters, Dina, Mindy and Candy, from Lansing, Michigan. Kathy requested to go under the hands of the Ministry because the doctors had found a lump and planned for surgery. She had to go back for further tests.

During our testimony meeting, Dina Cook stood on her feet and related an experience of when her

sister Candy's appendix ruptured. The doctors were very frightened and concerned over the serious consequences. They called Brother Lou Pietrangelo from Branch 1 to anoint Candy. The poison from the appendix did not spread throughout her abdomen, but stayed localized. Dina went on to say, "... whenever something comes up, we run to the Church and we always receive."

Mike Cook testified that his wishes were that they could attend our Church meetings more often. They travel a great distance to get to any branch. He said that in times of trouble, they can always come to the Church and know that the Lord will take care of them.

Sister Frances went for her biopsy. The technician tried to locate the mass. There was no mass to be found! The technician showed Sister Frances the old film which showed the mass and the new film showing no mass at all! They took three pictures, all showing a clear result, just as Brother Larry Champine had asked of the Lord.

The next Sunday, we learned more good news. Kathy Cook's tests were negative and surgery was not necessary for her either.

We thank the Lord and praise His name for this miracle of healing. As in the days of old, when Jesus touched the sick and afflicted and they became whole, He does the same today for those who have faith and believe in Him. Sister Frances Palposi and Kathy Cook express their thanks to the brothers and sisters for all their prayers. God bless you all.

News from Spartanburg, SC

By Sister Connie Rossi

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I would like to share an experience with you that demonstrates God's love and constant protection of His saints and their children.

Brother Darrell and I and our

five children recently moved from North Carolina to South Carolina in June to be closer to the Church in Spartanburg, living only a few minutes from Brother Harold and Sister Gerri Littlejohn. On Sunday evening, June 11, 1995, after the evening service, our children rode home from church with Brother Harold and Sister Gerri and their two children. Having driven two cars that night, Brother Harold drove home with his son, Teco and our son and daughter, Jonathan and Leslie. Sister Gerri drove home with her daughter Sister Renee and our three other daughters, Sister Nikki, Nina and Melissa.

After arriving home, I called Sister Gerri to tell her Brother Darrell would be there in a few minutes to pick up our children. Sister Gerri and I talked for about ten minutes on the phone and hung up and Brother Darrell left to pick up the children. A few minutes later, I heard sirens pass our house and go down the road. Thinking it strange to hear sirens way out here in the country, I soon dismissed the sounds and waited for everyone to come home; but, for some reason, I was prompted to say a short prayer for the safety of my family. After waiting almost an hour for everyone to come home, I began to wonder why it was taking so long, but I thought maybe Brother Darrell was visiting.

Soon after, everyone came home all trying to tell me at once, one amazing—and somewhat-scary—story. Once Brother Harold and Sister Gerri and all the children arrived at their home and went inside the house, Brother Harold's car went up in flames from a faulty wire and began to burn—even as Sister Gerri and I were speaking on the phone. After we hung up, she said she heard a loud explosion and looked outside and saw the car on fire. She immediately called 911 and told everyone to run outside, away from the car not knowing if the gas tank would explode and catch the house on fire. Brother Harold and Teco tried to douse the flames but to no avail.

Before the fire department arrived and put out the fire, Brother Harold realized that his Book of Mormon, his Bible, his Minister's Manual, and Saints Hymnal were still in the car. He immediately threw open the front door of the car and retrieved the books. Brothers and sisters, the car was engulfed in flames and let me say this, not one of the books had a burn mark on them! I saw the books myself and they are not even singed! That is truly a miracle of how God preserved those books like that. However, the greatest miracle was God's preserving the lives of Brother Harold, his son and our son and daughter. They rode home in the car and God protected them by not allowing them to be in the car when it caught on fire. They were all safely in the house when the car exploded into flames.

I want to praise God for His goodness and His mercy for protecting the lives of everyone involved, not only of those in the car but Sister Gerri, her daughter, and our three other daughters as well because the house was protected from the flames, too.

We sometimes take prayer for granted but I was prompted to pray while waiting at home for my family. We must pray always for the safety of our loved ones as well as our brothers and sisters in Christ. And when we fail at times to pray, God's love and mercy for us are there in spite of our shortcomings. He watches out for His own and, again, I want to thank the Lord for extending His hand and preventing what could have been an awful tragedy. Instead it turned out to be a wonderful testimony to the honor and glory of God. Thank you Lord.

News from Imperial, PA

On February 25, 1995, our branch enjoyed the ordinations of two deaconesses, Sisters Mary Lou Buffington and Becky Tarbuk. Apostle Paul Palmieri opened the meeting by speaking of the three Hebrew young men and their dedica-

tion. Brother Bob Ciarrochi followed and spoke on being a worker for the Lord. Comments were also made by the elders of our branch.

Our sisters were asked to tell the experiences they had concerning their calling. Sister Mary Lou dreamed that she and Sister Jean Moore were measuring the communion table to make a new and larger cloth. There was a small bowl with beautiful fruit on the table. She and Sister Jean worked together, removing the small bowl and replacing it with a larger one, filling it with even more of this fruit.

Sister Becky dreamed that we were in what seemed to be an ancient church, all made of wood with only deaconesses present. Sister Margaret Roscart was setting the communion table. She was dressed in purple clothing and it was also of ancient style. She turned to Sister Becky and handed her a bolt of this same fabric to dress herself in.

Brother Jim Moore invited all deaconesses that were in attendance to come and occupy the first two pews. Whoever felt the prompting of the spirit would come forward to wash Sister Mary Lou's feet, then Sister Becky's. Sister Marty Jumper testified that when she heard of the ordinations earlier that week, she felt a blessing when hearing Sister Mary Lou's name. She had no intention of visiting the Imperial Branch that Sunday morning but awoke, feeling a strong desire to go to Imperial. She came forward and washed Mary Lou's feet. Sister Eva Moore, Becky's grandmother, came forward to wash her feet. It was so sweet and beautiful. Sister Eva is eighty-two years of age, and she stood behind the sisters and said, "You will increase and I will decrease." Then our sisters were confirmed. It was a beautiful morning.

On Wednesday, May 10, 1995, Jeff Buffington was baptized by Brother Jim Moore. It was a stormy night but the saints had joy seeing one who had tarried thirty-eight years finally answer the Lord's beacons call. When asked by Brother Jim, "How long have you been thinking of

getting baptized?" (expecting Jeff to reply "a week" or something like that). Jeff said, "Oh, ten or fifteen years." We laughed but then thought how many there are, like he, who are still waiting.

We had Bible School during the week of June 19. Our theme was "TELL THE TRUTH." Our lessons were on the Faith and Doctrine of this Church, Ananias and Saffira and let your light shine. We had a wonderful time and made all kinds of neat things, including a T-shirt reading on the front, "TELL THE TRUTH" and on the back, "I BELONG TO THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST AND THAT'S THE TRUTH."

A few years ago, we were wondering if we should have Bible School with only a few children and even fewer adult helpers. Then a sister told of a dream she had, her branch being in the same situation. In the dream, there were tables set up with a display of lessons, crafts and projects for children of all ages. A brother appeared and said, "Don't forget the children." From this time on, we don't ask ourselves if we should. We feel sure it is something we ought to do. May God bless all of you.

Ordination Sunday Kinsman, Ohio

Sunday, July 9, 1995, was a very memorable day for the Kinsman, Ohio Branch. There were visitors from Niles, Kent, and Lorain, Ohio; Ann Arbor and Detroit, Michigan; and McKees Rocks and Erie, Pennsylvania.

The words of the poet came to mind as I pondered the congregation:

His Saints are lovely in His sight;
He views His children with delight;
He sees their hope, He knows their fear,
And looks and loves His image there.

A very fitting hymn was sung at

(Continued on Page 10)

ORDINATION continued . . .

the opening of our service, *How Great Thou Art* and surely He is great!

Brother Nephi DeMercurio was our speaker for this service. His theme was, "We Become What God Gives Us" and this requires a starting point. Referring to Acts 6:3, *"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business."* This is the starting point (or calling) for all offices. He also likened the body of Christ to Jesus as he fulfilled all offices in humility. He further explained the "purpose" of these offices as stated in Ephesians 4:11-13, *"And he gave some, 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: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ."*

Along with the offices comprising the body of Christ, Brother Nephi further expounded concerning the spiritual gifts as mentioned in I Corinthians 12th chapter. In explaining the office of deaconess, he referred to Phebe (Romans 16:1-2) where Paul states, *"I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also."* After his very inspiring preaching and teaching on the offices of the Church, we then proceeded with the ordinations.

Brother Philip Jackson read the duties of each office, to each candidate, before their feet were washed.

Our new deaconess is Sister Rosalie Mott. Her feet were washed by Sister Esther Ford and she was ordained by Brother Howard Jackson.

Our new deacon is Brother

Timothy Mott. His feet were washed by Brother Mike Nuzzi and he was ordained by Brother Paul Ciotti.

Our new teacher is Brother Chuck Krump. His feet were washed by Brother Attilio Trovarelli and he was ordained by Brother Nephi DeMercurio.

A very good feeling prevailed throughout the ordinations and while the new officers were shaking hands with the Priesthood, Brother Paul Ciotti spoke in the gift of tongues. The understanding was given to Brother Mike Nuzzi, "Get behind me Satan for these are my servants."

The Lord's Supper was administered and time was spent in testifying to the glory of God.

Brother Paul Ciotti made a few closing remarks referring to the ordinations as, "All the building fitly framed together growing unto a holy temple unto the Lord."

After the service, we all enjoyed lunch and fellowship outdoors. It was a beautiful day in the service of God. We thank all who came to support us in this spiritual event. Our building in Kinsman is small but our hearts are large and open for visitors at all times. We welcome you!

Thank You from Avondale, PA

The Avondale Mission would like to thank all the brothers, sisters and friends for all their prayers and support for our singspiration on July 8 and our July 9 Sunday service. We would also like to thank everyone for coming out on July 1, helping us hand out over 300 flyers and talking to people about our Church.

On Saturday, we had about 100 people, ten of them being visitors. Three men from the Seed of Joseph, either walked or rode their bikes four to six miles to get to our mission! May God bless them for their effort. Sunday, we had about fifty people, including the three Seed of Joseph men.

We all enjoyed the singing and

fellowship at the evening meal break. We were very happy to hear on Monday from one of the men, asking when the next meeting was, so he could bring some friends and give his testimony.

Brothers and sisters, please continue to keep us in your prayers. We will, as God directs us, continue His work and thank Him for all the blessings He has bestowed on us.

Love to all our brothers, sisters, and friends,

The Avondale Mission

News from Modesto, CA

By Sister Valerie Dulisse

On June 4, 1995, we welcomed our Brother Kenny Brown back to the Modesto Branch after his heart attack which had occurred two weeks before. Brother Ken gave a very moving and beautiful testimony of the great love he had felt from the children of the branch's Sunday School who had individually created get well cards for him. He also told of God's presence with him while he was suffering the attack, from the moment he began to drive himself to the hospital until he was released. The love and caring of the brothers and sisters has always been such a comfort to all of us, whether our sufferings are physical or spiritual, and our brother was overwhelmed by the prayers and expressions of concern he received.

On this bright summer day, we saw a young family reunited. Our Sister in Christ, Regina Gomes brought her husband and son with her to be prayed for by the Ministry for their marriage. Such a beautiful spirit was felt as we saw the hope and the true joy on their faces at being brought together again, with the blessings of the Lord to accompany them.

Our Ministry was speaking with the power of God this day. Brother Matthew Picciuto opened with the 14th chapter of Revelations, stating

an angel has flown, having the everlasting Gospel. Our brother gave a call to action for God's people to get out and share our testimonies to glorify God's name. He asked us, "Where do we stand today in our personal relationship with God, and as a people? Do we fear God? God's work will be accomplished, with or without us." Brother Matthew exhorted us to not forget that we have been chosen and to serve God with all our hearts. Do we just come to Church or do we have a role to play in the Gospel going forth? This message was delivered in a way that truly caused us to search our hearts.

Brother Joe Ciarolla followed, reminding us of the 1260 years described in the 14th chapter of Revelations during which God's blessings of wisdom and knowledge, along with the Priesthood Authority were taken from the face of the earth. The understanding of the scriptures, where we are going as a people, and our responsibility to the world, are blessings granted only to Christ's Church in these Latter Days. "Either we become a blessing to the Church, or we become a hindrance." There is work for each of us to do. Do we give our reasonable service to God? And our example to others is one of our most effective testimonies.

Our brothers' sermons were a firm reminder of our identity as God's chosen people, as well as of the responsibility which comes with it. May we accept this responsibility, and may the revival become greater within each of our hearts as we prepare to march into Zion.

News from Rochester, NY

By Sister Carmella D'Amico

During the past few months, the Rochester, New York Branch has been blessed with many visitors. It was a blessing and is a blessing to have visitors with us in Rochester.

On May 28, 1995, Brother Anthony Ricci and his family from the McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania

Branch and three carloads of friends from Mt. Moris came to worship with us. Brother Tony chose for his text, I Kings, 19th chapter. He spoke how Elijah obeyed the commandment of the Lord to go to the wilderness, find Elisha and anoint him a prophet. Not only did Elijah anoint him a prophet, but as Elijah passed by Elisha, he cast his mantle upon him. If we obey the Lord, we will enjoy His mantle upon us as well. Brother Tony stated that God is still the same today. A wonderful spirit prevailed all during the service and God's blessings were truly felt by all at the service.

We enjoyed a large crowd from Sterling Heights, Michigan on July 9, 1995. There were two chartered buses that came from Sterling Heights with brothers, sisters and friends who came to see the Hill Cumorah Pageant. They visited with us in Rochester and what a beautiful fellowship we had with this large crowd of visitors. Brother John Straccia opened our service and chose for his text, II Nephi 31st chapter. Brother John spoke on the baptism of Jesus Christ. Brother John spoke on why Jesus was baptized and what a great example He showed for us, that we must also be baptized to receive eternal salvation. We were exhorted to follow the examples of Jesus Christ and live our lives like Him and for Him. We must follow the straight and narrow way just as our Lord and Saviour did before us. Our testimony meeting was simply beautiful. Several were anointed and we had communion. A child was blessed and one asked for baptism and would be baptized in Sterling Heights, Michigan. We had a wonderful day in Church, with our visitors and their families.

Sunday, July 16, 1995, we had visitors from New Jersey, New York City and Lockport, New York. There was a chartered bus from the New Jersey, New York City area and six carloads of visitors from the Lockport, New York Branch. Brother Philip Arcuri opened our preaching service. He read and spoke from the 4th chapter of Luke,

the 18th and 19th verses, that state, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."* Brother Phil spoke of the many wonderful miracles that the Lord performed when He was on the earth. He said we have the same power in the Church today, it is up to us to exercise it through faith on the Lord. Brothers Dominick Rose, Arthur Searcy, Sam Dell and Robert Pizzai followed Brother Arcuri's opening message. We then had our testimony meeting and it was a blessing. We enjoyed the communion of the Lord.

We thank God for the visitors to the Rochester, New York Branch. All are welcome. We love you all. God bless you all.

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Children Blessed

Ashley Marie Love Gray, daughter of Crystal Hogue and Mike Gray was blessed on June 18, 1995 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Joshua Harley Dillon, son of Kenneth and Karen Dillon was blessed on July 16, 1995 in the Lorain, Ohio Branch.

Danny Govan, son of Jim and Sue Govan was blessed in Branch #1, Chesterfield Township, Michigan on June 22, 1995.

Alicia Yvette Palacios, daughter of Brother "Flip" and Sister Alma Palacios was blessed on June 11, 1995 in the Inner City, Michigan Branch.

China Brittany Davis, cousin of Sister Dellarie Harrison was blessed on June 11, 1995 in the Inner City, Michigan Branch.

Joseph Anthony Appleton, son of Gloria Patterson and Kenneth Appleton was blessed on June 11, 1995 in the Inner City, Michigan Branch.

Zachary Carl Stelzer, son of Sister Diann and Hank Stelzer was blessed at Branch #3, in Sterling Heights, Michigan on April 2, 1995.

Maria Jean Cunningham and her sister, Margaret Elizabeth Earl, grand-daughters of Sister Sally Looney, were blessed in Spartanburg, South Carolina on September 17, 1995.

BAPTISMS

Samual Vito Altomare was baptized on June 4, 1995 at the Lorain, Ohio Branch. He was baptized by Brother Frank "Flip" Palacios, Jr., and confirmed by Brother Joel Calabrese.

Roger Ott was baptized on June 25, 1995 at Branch #3 in Sterling Heights, Michigan. He was baptized by Brother Joe Furnari and confirmed by Brother Gary Coppa.

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.

JULIE ALESSIO

Sister Julie Alessio of the Lorain, Ohio Branch passed away to her eternal reward on July 5, 1995. Sister Julie is survived by her husband, Brother Ernest Alessio, two sons, Leonard and Ernie, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

ROBERT H. MORRIS

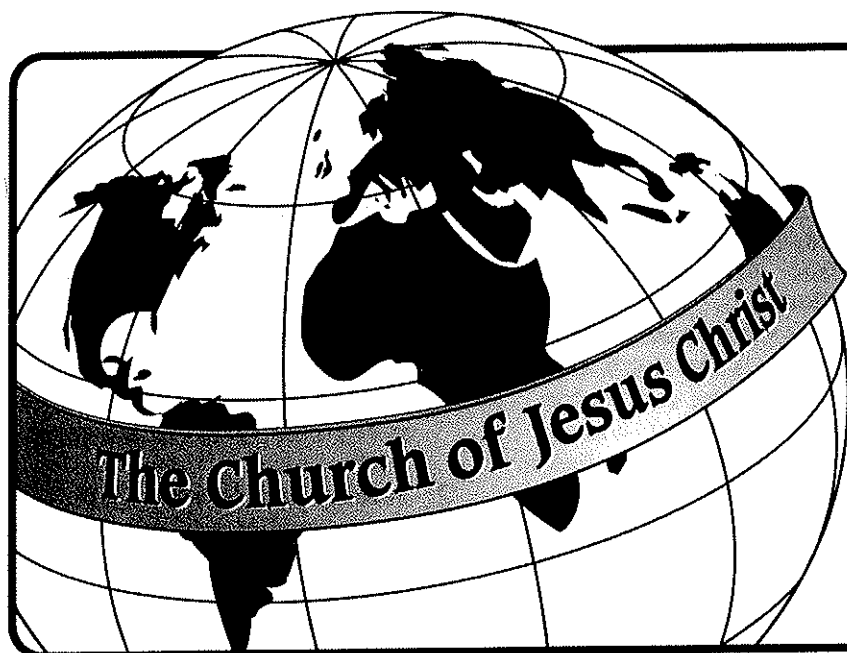
Brother Robert H. Morris of the Quincy Florida Mission passed away to his heavenly reward on August 3, 1995. Brother Bob is survived by his wife, Sister Ruth Morris, three sons, one daughter, one brother and two sisters.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

for and feed their visitors. What were they to do? The brother and sister had \$100 in a dresser which was their grocery money for approximately two weeks for them and their children. They never hesitated. They did not complain. They did not criticize or find fault with the situation. They took the money and bought food for their company. The weekend was beautiful. It was full of saintly conversation, sharing of experiences and the love of God. Monday morning, the brother prepared to go to work. He opened the dresser drawer for clean, fresh clothing. Do you know what he found? The brother saw five, brand new, twenty dollar bills neatly placed on top of the clothing. How did they get there? Where did they come from? They came from the Print House of the Lord!

A great deal of the Church expense is for missionary work. We are a missionary Church! We must reach out to the souls of men and women everywhere, in all walks of life. Travel, food and lodging is necessary and it is expensive. Airlines, hotels and restaurants are not charities. It would be tragic if we cannot respond to missionary requests from around the world to hear the Restored Gospel.

Let us be thankful and live in thanksgiving daily by giving willingly; by giving more. Whatever we have, we received from the Lord. Whatever we have, belongs to the Lord. As individuals, as couples, as brothers and sisters, let us give more. From our Sunday Schools, MBAs, Ladies' Uplift Circles and Branches, let us give more from those treasuries. Matthew 10:8 states, "... *freely ye have received, freely give.*" The more we give, the more we will receive!



The Gospel News

World Headquarters: Monroeville, PA, USA

December, 1995

Volume 51, No. 12

The Meaning of Christmas

By Brother Jerry Valenti

You might think that the meaning of Christmas is a fairly obvious concept but I would guess that if you asked five people to describe the meaning of Christmas, you would most likely get five different descriptions.

Some will complain about the commercial aspect of the season and how Christmas merchandise is displayed in stores before the bathing suits are even put away. Some dread the pressure of having to buy gifts for everybody on their Christmas list while others enjoy the giving attitude that pervades the season. Many people, especially churchgoers, will point out that Christmas is the time of year to remember the birth of Christ, possibly even quoting the "peace on earth, good will toward men" scripture (Luke 2:14, actually worded slightly differently). The scholars will tell you that Christ wasn't even born on Christmas and some will trace back the various Christmas traditions to pagan origins.

So what is the meaning of Christmas? Is it in fact the birthday of Jesus Christ? Should we be acting more like Jesus (loving,

giving) during the Christmas season? If not, why recognize it at all?

Let's start with the date itself. Is December 25 actually the Lord's birthday? Scripture tells us it is not. In III Nephi, the Nephites received signs of Christ's birth (Chapter 1) and His death (Chapter 8). They reckoned their time from the sign of His birth (2:8) and then recorded that the sign of His death was given "in the thirty and fourth year, in the first month, on the fourth day of the month" (8:5). This means that Jesus was crucified four days after His birthday. The New Testament tells us that the crucifixion occurred during the Passover season which has always been in the March/April time frame, so we know that Christ was actually born at that time of the year as well.

Is Christmas the time for peace on earth and good will toward men? Putting it that way makes it sound like we put aside peace and good will for the rest of the year. It sort of reminds me of the signs that pop up in September that say "School's Open, Drive Carefully." I used to expect signs to be posted in June, saying "School's Closed, Please Drive Recklessly." When Jesus told

us to love our neighbor (Mark 12:31), He didn't say to just do it at Christmas time. As members of the Lord's Church, we should be doing our best to be like Jesus all year round.

So does Christmas have any special meaning to us? Well, even though December 25 is not the actual day it happened, the birth of Jesus Christ did in fact occur as documented in the New Testament, including His conception in the womb of the virgin Mary, His birth in the manger in Bethlehem, the angels appearing to the shepherds and the new star which led the three wise men to the place where He lay. Although it's not inappropriate to tell the story of Christ's birth any time of the year, setting aside one day out of the year to commemorate it gives us humans the incentive we need to rehearse it at least that often.

And how critical is the birth of Christ to mankind? When Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, people were cut off from God with no real hope of salvation. Yet, God showed His love for mankind by sending His only son (John 3:16) to be born as a human, live among us and then be put to death in a cruel fashion to atone for the sins of us all. During His time on earth, Jesus left many teachings which guide our lives

(Continued on Page 11)

God in America Again

By Sister Lorie Ciarrochi-Prokup

I want to relate an experience that I had in a communications class that I am presently taking in college. One of our assigned speeches was to be an argumentative speech. When we chose our topic, we had to let the professor know what it was so no one else would repeat the same speech. I decided to do my speech on how our government has removed God from our country; specifically, eliminating prayer in the schools. When the time came to turn in our subject, I leaped out of my seat to give it to the professor because I did not want anyone else to choose this theme. I thought, "Now's my chance. It's my speech and they're going to have to listen to me, a captive audience!"

A couple weeks after giving my speech one of my classmates came up to me and told me how much she enjoyed my speech. She began to tell me that this was the same topic she had selected and had already started working on it. This was the first time I had ever really talked to her. In the middle of our conversation she said, "I've always liked you even though I've never really talked to you. There is just something about you. Are you a Christian?" The first thing I thought was "a Christian? If only she knew." We began to talk about God and I had the opportunity to tell her about our Church and extend an invitation to her. I felt so good after our conversation. It was a wonderful way to start my day. I shared my speech with a few of the brothers and sisters and they felt that others would like reading it also:

"Something happened since Jefferson called the Bible the cornerstone. For American liberty then put it in our school as a light. Or since 'Give me liberty or give me death' Patrick Henry said, Our country was founded upon the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We eliminated God from the equation of American life, Thus

eliminating the reason this nation first began. From beyond the grave I hear the voices of our founding fathers plead, 'You need God in America again.'"

This is a verse from the song *America Again*. I feel that it says a lot about the way our country has dictated to us and has taken away our freedom of speech and religion. These two go together. How can they be separated? I believe that prayer should be reinstituted in our country's public schools.

There are two issues that I want to bring forth concerning this:

1. Things are happening in our nation that were unimaginable 30 years ago. All because of an event that took place in 1962 that changed the course of American history forever.

2. Our forefathers founded this nation on a religious foundation. The famous saying, *"The first amendment has erected a wall of separation between church and state"* is not in the Constitution. What our government has done is erect a wall between us and God.

In 1962, the Supreme Court, in a session that opened with a prayer, ruled that prayer in the public schools was unconstitutional. This decision was monumental in that it was the first time in the history of our nation, 342 years since the Pilgrims and 173 years since the Constitution, that America took a verbal public stance against God. Abraham Lincoln said, *"The philosophy of the school room in one generation will be the philosophy of the government in the next."* Mr. Lincoln did not realize what he was predicting to our generation. In 1980, the Supreme Court decided in *Stone v. Graham* that *"... if the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any effect at all, it will be to induce the school children to read and meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey. The Commandments are not a permissible objective."* Which one of the Ten Commandments is not a permissible objective? Not to steal or not to kill? Now we are seeing the first

fruits of a generation that does not even know the difference between right and wrong.

Statistics given in *Raising the Standard* are mind boggling. Since 1962, our nation began an unprecedented rise in immorality:

1. Sexually transmitted diseases among ages 15-20 has increased 226%.
2. Teenage suicide is up 253%.
3. Unwed mother birthrate, ages 10-14, up 553%.
4. Violent crime up 794%.
5. Sexual abuse of children is up a horrifying 2,000%.
6. Serious crimes (murders, rape, robberies) up 332%.

In the 40's and 50's, student problems were chewing gum, running in the halls, and talking. I sincerely feel that not having prayer, or even a moment of silence in the school, has brought up our children to think that God is not important. According to John Sexton's writings in *How Free Are We*, he tells how in 1985 the Court declared that an Alabama statute that authorized a period of silence at the beginning of every school day, "for meditation or voluntary prayer," was also unconstitutional. Its sponsor had inserted in the legislative record a statement that the statute "was an effort to return voluntary prayer to the public schools. It conveyed a message of State endorsement and promotion of prayer." Isn't it odd that the same Court 100 years earlier stated, *"... Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and must embody the teaching of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible for it to be otherwise. In this sense, to this extent, our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian."*

Students should possess a freedom of speech in our public schools. As the Supreme Court held in *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District*, *"It can hardly be argued that either students or teachers shed their constitutional right to freedom of speech or expression at the school house gate."*

When prayer was taken out of

the classroom, that decision by the Supreme Court started a process of erosion. In 1962, the Supreme Court ruled that a prayer read over a public address system in an elementary school was unconstitutional on the grounds that it "violated the separation of church and state." The First Amendment states, "Congress shall name no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Separation of church and state does not appear in the Constitution of the United States.

James Madison, one of the chief architects of the Constitution stated, and I quote: "We have staked the whole future of American civilization, not upon the power of government, but far from it. We have staked the future of all of our political institutions upon the capacity of each and all of us to govern ourselves according to the Ten Commandments of God." Does his seem like the writing of an individual that does not want the teachings of God in government or in the schools?

According to Sexton, The Establishment Clause is based on the premise that "a union of government and religion tends to destroy government and degrade religion." The clause also forbids public high schools and elementary schools from providing classroom space for prayer but college students are not included in this group. The government's reasoning was that children of these ages were more impressionable than young adults. Isn't this when we want to teach our children good morals, when they are impressionable? When they are still growing and we can shape and mold them into fruit bearing trees, instead of barren trees?

When I graduated from college, my class asked me a question that meant more to me than they ever realized. They asked me if my father would say a prayer during our ceremony. This act not only meant a lot to us as a family but to the graduating class as well. After graduation, my classmates expressed

their genuine gratitude to my father for "offering a beautiful prayer." That was in 1984. On June 24, 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court decided the case of Lee v. Weisman. In a 5:4 decision, the Court held that when a public school official invites a member of the clergy to deliver graduation prayers, and when the official advises him or her on how to deliver such prayers, The Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution is violated. If this would have been my high school graduation and if I would have graduated after this decision, my father would not have been able to say a prayer or present me with my diploma as he did.

Fortunately, there have been many hearings and decisions where prayer at graduation has won over the Weisman case. The recently enacted Education Reform Act of 1994 makes clear Congress' intent to protect prayer at least at graduations. One scenario of constitutionally protected prayer would be student-planned graduation ceremonies. Clearly if there is no coercion by a school official, where all students are aware of, and through a democratic process have chosen to, a student-initiated prayer is acceptable. A student representative must assume responsibility for planning the program. One or more student speakers are selected for the graduation ceremonies and the student speaker may offer his or her own initiated prayer. However, a school official must make a disclaiming statement that words that are spoken by the student body are not necessarily the belief of the school or its officials. Then the school does not violate The Establishment Clause by accommodating the student.

In our government and schools, God is not acknowledged. Consequently, God removes the restraining force from our nation and things begin to come unglued. "In the 40's and 50's, student problems were chewing gum, running in the halls, and talking. In the 90's, rape and murder are the trend. The only way this nation can even hope to last this decade is to put God in America Again."

Greetings in Christ



By Brother Mark Randy

In Matthew 1:21, the angel said to Joseph, "... thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

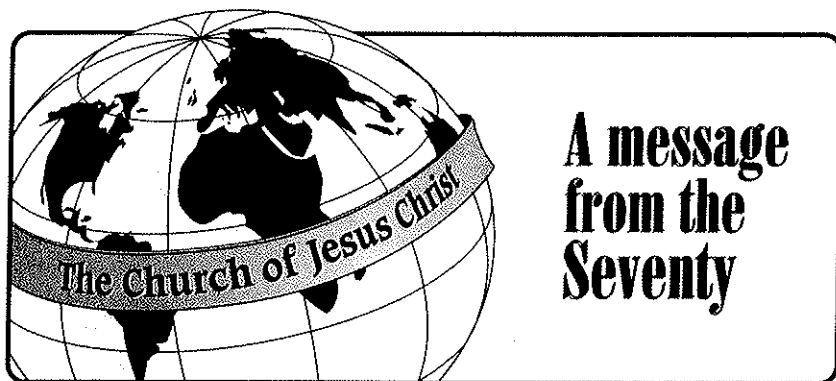
It has been reported that over one hundred thousand Jews living in the United States now believe that Jesus is the Christ, and that number is growing. It behooves us to be more dedicated to our faith in God, the Father and Jesus, God's Son. Jesus has opened the door of grace; for by grace are we saved and not by anything we have done lest we should boast.

Christian nations need to take another look at their behaviors, both at home and at Church. The love of God is still pure and the family structure is still a place to practice God's love. When we practice the love of Jesus at home, there is a solid foundation.

Pure love begins at home and as the old saying goes, the family that prays together, stays together. The family of Martha and Mary is that example. Jesus often went there to rest. When their brother Lazarus died the neighbors cried, and four days later "Jesus wept." Those present were moved as they saw Jesus weep.

When we make Jesus part of our life, He will weep also over our sorrows. We may not see Jesus weep over our losses, but this is written, "In the world you shall have tribulation; but be of good

(Continued on Page 11)



Working Together in Unity

*By Evangelist Paul Liberto, Chairman
Pacific Region Missions Operating Committee*

"Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord." Although these are the words of the ancient prophet Isaiah written 700 years before Christ, they have remained a valid prescription for the spiritual well-being of God's people to this day. This was made plainly evident at the Conference of the Americas, held in Tijuana, Baja California, Mexico, July 18-23, 1995.

The Conference is held annually to provide for the spiritual development of our brothers who have been ordained to preach the Gospel in Mexico and Guatemala. In the early years of this missionary outreach, the brothers were not expected to make many decisions on their own, as they were young and inexperienced. Over time however, they have been given

greater responsibility and are being trained to govern their own affairs. As is normal with any growing missionary endeavor, the Church in Mexico is learning how to deal with differences of opinion.

With this in mind, the theme selected for the conference was **Working Together in Unity**. The scripture used to illustrate the need for unity, and the power unity brings, was Nehemiah 4:6: *"So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work."*

Throughout the conference, the brothers struggled with different opinions regarding customs and cultural differences. Although several elders and evangelists were present to exhort the brothers, and

Apostles Robert Watson of Tse Bonito, New Mexico and Paul Palmieri of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania were in attendance and gave inspiring seminars dealing with the need for unity and why it is necessary to obey the law and order of the Church, the Spirit was not evident in power until the Saturday afternoon praise and worship meeting.

The meeting began at approximately 1:30 PM. During this meeting, there were many beautiful hymns sung and many wonderful words spoken. At about 4:00 PM, it seemed that the Lord had finished with us for the day, and we were about to dismiss the meeting. Although we had not experienced an overwhelming outpouring of the Spirit, we were content that God had spoken and that He would provide greater blessings on Sunday. As Brother Daniel Mora, the Presiding Elder of the Tijuana Mission, was leading the congregation in song, he began to exhort them to sing out in praise. After the song was finished, he began to preach in power, calling the Church to unity. He told the congregation that this is the Church set up by Christ, with twelve

(Continued on Page 11)

New Quorum of Seventy Officers

Because Evangelist Thomas Liberto, President of the Quorum of Seventy Evangelists, was called into the office of an Apostle at the October General Church Conference, the following changes were necessitated.

Evangelist Leonard Lovalvo, who was the Seventies Vice President, assumed the Presidency and Evangelist John Griffith was elected the Vice President until the next regular election in October 1996.

The Quorum gave Brother Liberto a standing vote of thanks for his twenty-five years as an Evangelist and assured him their prayers will be with him in his new calling.





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The Holy Scriptures and history record that 1995 years ago, a great event happened for the benefit of the entire human family. It benefited those in the past, those who were present at that time and those who were to come in the future. That event was the birth of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

The tone of the Lord's life and mission was set from the beginning. The event was announced by an angel of God. The announcement, the proclamation was not made to the well known, the rich and the famous, the elite or the political leaders and rulers. It was made to shepherds who were tending their flocks. We read in Luke 2:10, *"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people."*

The angel was joined by others, a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God and saying in Luke 2:14, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."* No one was excluded in the announcement. The peace and good will was for everyone, not just a select few! The peace and good will was and is for every nation, kindred, tongue and people. God did not discriminate against anyone or any people. His Son, Jesus Christ, came for all! What a great and wonderful God! What a great, wonderful and merciful Lord!

Prophecies and signs were given to people so they knew the exact time of the Lord's birth. There would be no room for doubt, no opportunity for any denial or for any excuse. It states in Helaman 14:4-5, *"Therefore, there shall be one day and a night and a day, as if it were one day and there were no night; and this shall be unto you for a sign; for ye shall know of the rising of the sun and also of its setting; therefore they shall know of a surety that there shall be two days and a night; nevertheless the night shall not be darkness; and it shall be the night before he is born. And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have beheld; and this also shall be a sign unto you."*

There were many other signs and wonders in heaven. Many were amazed, awe-struck and totally overcome. Can you imagine a new star simply appearing in heaven? Can you imagine no nightfall, no darkness? Can you imagine a thirty-six hour period of complete light?

The Lord overcame the laws of physics and nature. The Lord overcame that void of great darkness. In effect, He was that *new star* that provided light for heaven and earth. Jesus said in John 8:12, *"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."*

What a way to walk through life! Spiritual obstacles no longer hidden but in full view. The steps, stairs and walkways of life always visible. Always able to see where you are, where you are going. No need to stumble or trip! The path of Jesus Christ is straight and narrow but well lit.

Jesus Christ came to light up the world. He came to overcome the world. He came to give His life as the great and last sacrifice that men and women might overcome the darkness and finality of death.

There is no reason to be in darkness. Jesus Christ will not allow us to be in darkness if we allow Him to be our guide, our protector, our Saviour. Consider what the Lord did for the Brother of Jared. After constructing eight ships to cross the great sea, light was necessary in the ships so they would not travel in darkness. The Brother of Jared realized the problem, but he knew the Lord could and would provide the light within the ships. The Brother of Jared simply cut out sixteen stones from a mountain and asked the Lord to touch

(Continued on Page 12)

*Merry Christmas,
Bro. Joe*

The

Children's

Corner

By Janet Steinrock



through all time, He was truly to be the Savior of the world who would teach us the right way to live in all things.

Jesus returned home with His parents obeying them as He grew. Luke 2:52 tells us that "he increased in wisdom and stature, and increased in favour with God and man."

Sincerely,
Sister Jan

WORD SEARCH

CELEBRATE	MASSACRE
THE	GIFTS
BIRTH	OF
OF	GOLD
OUR	FRANKINCENSE
KING	MYRRH
JESUS	HE
WHO	TAUGHT
GREW	US
UP	HOW
IN	TO
EGYPT	LIVE
AND	LOVE
FLED	ONE
KING	ANOTHER
HERODS	

The Boy Jesus

Dear Boys and Girls,

At Christmas we celebrate and study the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Let us also look at Jesus as a young boy.

You will remember that the wicked King Herod learned from the Wise Men that a baby, the King of the Jews, was born. King Herod was so afraid that this baby would grow up and take over his small country that he ordered his soldiers to slay all the children in Bethlehem and the coasts around that were two years old or less. There was great weeping and mourning from the families of those babies.

Jesus would have been one of those murdered babies, but after the Wise Men found Him and gave their gifts of frankincense, and myrrh, and gold, an angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a dream. He told Joseph, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word, for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him." When Joseph arose, he took the young child and His mother and departed into Egypt by night.

Jesus grew up in Egypt, a foreign child of a different religion and nationality. His family spoke a different language also. Joseph was not a rich man. Perhaps he sold the gifts of gold, or frankincense, a sticky resin from special trees that smelled good when burned, or the

myrrh which was resin used in making perfume and medicine. Their family stayed in Egypt until Herod died, returning then to Nazareth, a city in Galilee.

The Bible, in Matthew 13:55 tells us that Jesus had sisters, and that His brothers were named Joses, James, Simon and Judas. Counting Jesus, there were at least seven children in His family. It's not always easy being the oldest. We can imagine there was a lot of responsibility on the shoulders of the oldest child, the boy Jesus.

We do know that at the age of twelve, Jesus was allowed to go with His parents to celebrate the feast of the Passover at the great temple. When it was time to leave, His parents traveled a day towards home thinking that Jesus was also walking somewhere nearby with their relatives or friends. When they found Him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem very upset. They were amazed to find Him sitting in the middle of the great men listening to them and asking them questions about God. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have looked for you sorrowing." Jesus said unto them, "How is it that you sought me? Don't you know that I must be about my Father's (God's) business?"

The Bible tells us that His parents didn't understand what He said unto them. Perhaps they didn't understand that, from that day

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

Southeast Regional Conference Miami, Florida

By Sister Eileen Katsaras

On July 15 and 16, 1995, the Southeast Regional Conference was held in Miami, Florida, at the Miami Branch's meeting hall. Saints from Atlanta, Georgia to Homestead, Florida were represented in the one hundred and sixty-five in attendance for Sunday Services. The highlight of the weekend was the ordination of Brother Miguel Bicelis into the Priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Saturday was started with committee meetings in the morning and the general session in the afternoon. All business was transacted in an orderly fashion accented by the continued presentation of the Accountability Program by the Regional Presidency and the Branch and Mission Spiritual Welfare reports by each presiding elder.

The evening meeting was started with a singspiration. Testimonies from the most recent converts were included and the young people sang a couple of inspiring selections. Also testifying was Brother Miguel's mother, Vistalia and his two sisters, Helen Catone and Heylen Bicelis. The evening was finished by the children from the Homestead Mission singing, *Don't Let Anybody Take Your Crown*.

Sunday morning started early with congregational singing and some special numbers by saints from various branches. The Homestead Mission children sang again, including *Wave The Flags of Zion*.

Brother John Griffith, Region President, opened the Sunday meeting using scripture from Matthew, the 16th chapter when Simon Peter answered Jesus that, "*Thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" He noted that it was upon this rock, revelation, that Jesus built His Church to gather the believers. Brother John then stated that this

Church is the same and so "Welcome to the Church of Jesus Christ."

Brother John continued by saying, "One God, one Son, one Church, one Gospel." Then he added, "Who do you serve?"

Brother John then explained that there was to be the ordination of Brother Miguel Bicelis into the Ministry and he commented that Brother Miguel was not chosen by the brothers of the region, but by God, as he quoted John 15:16, "*Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you.*"

Brother Miguel's feet were washed by Brother Frank Rogolino of the Fort Pierce, Florida Branch, setting Brother Miguel apart. During the feet washing, a member saw a beam of white light come down from heaven and a Personage appeared and stood next to Brother Miguel saying, "In this I am well pleased."

Next, the brothers of the priesthood encircled Brother Miguel and Brother Ken Staley offered a prayer that God would bless the ordination about to take place. Then Brother Joe Catone, Sr., the Homestead elder in charge, anointed and consecrated Brother Miguel into the priesthood. The Spirit spoke saying, "Thus saith the Lord, My will be done, thus saith the Lord." There was a great outpouring of the Spirit of God felt by all, including a first time visitor (a friend of Brother Miguel.)

Brother Paul Benyola, visiting apostle from the Atlantic Coast Region, spoke about the Ministerial Board meeting held the day before and how they felt the Spirit of God as Brother Miguel answered each question posed to him by the brothers. Brother Paul related how Brother Miguel had an experience in 1987 that he was called of God, but he just waited to see what God's timing would bring. Brother Paul also noted that the singspiration held Saturday evening sounded like a large, wonderful family. He then paraphrased the words of Alma at the waters of Mormon; "Are you willing to mourn with those that mourn and stand in need of comfort, to stand as a witness of God in all things and all

places?" He added, "Hold on to the rod of iron, even though it's not easy to do when you are put to the test, but God can bring us through the wasteland to a glorious rest."

Brother Miguel then testified of God's goodness and he thanked many of the brothers and sisters who were so instrumental in bringing him to the Gospel and nurturing him over the years. He was thankful that on his 19th birthday, he met The Church of Jesus Christ. He noted that he left his native country of Venezuela at the age of seventeen, leaving behind what he thought were important things, but remembering how God promised his mother that God would bless them with a spiritual house in the United States. He concluded by saying that he was now our servant and that the saints should feel free to call on him for anything. He then sang, *He Planted Me Deep* as a duet with sister Melissa Christman from the Phoenix, Arizona Branch.

The saints enjoyed the Lord's Supper. As it was served, a member had an experience with the message, "The power of God is with this priesthood forever and forever."

We of the Miami, Florida Branch thank God for all of His blessings throughout the conference weekend. This was our first conference in thirteen years. We enjoyed the spirit of love and unity among the saints of the region.

Announcement

Apostle V. J. Loyalvo's book, *Book of Mormon Reflections*, at a cost of \$19.50 plus postage, and Apostle Joseph Calabrese's autobiography, *Missionary Endeavors at Home and Abroad*, at a cost of \$9.95 plus postage, are available at the Print House. The proceeds from both books go to missionary work. Literature makes wonderful Christmas gifts. The Print House also has Gift Certificates available.



Our Women Today

Southeast Region Ladies' Uplift Circle Retreat

By Sister Kathleen Pastorelli

The Southeast Region Ladies' Uplift Circle held their retreat on May 5-7, 1995 in Boynton Beach, Florida. Sisters from around the Florida area and from as far away as Michigan joined together for a weekend of blessings. The theme was "The Joy In Us!" Over the course of the weekend, we explored the different aspects of joy in our lives. Our seminar topics were "Joy in the Lord" and "Capture the Joy in You and Me." Through these topics, we learned of the promises and the joy found in serving God and how, in our own lives, we can have joy under all circumstances. We recognized that everyone is different and that we all experience joy in different ways. Hebrews gives us good advice for learning to lean on the Lord and to get rid of some of the burdens that we needlessly carry.

Throughout this weekend, we also learned of the treasure that can be found in friendship and how we can offer positive reinforcement to one another. Following our seminars, some of the sisters were asked to share their experiences in which the Lord had brought them through adversity and how this brought them joy. We concluded that we are not living for current circumstances but for the final outcome, and that we can be joyful during these times.

We look to the example that Paul set before us when he was found in the worst of situations when there seemed little reason for hope or happiness. But even during his darkest hours in prison, he was found singing and praising God! We too can find joy in all things because of God's promises to us. We don't need to focus on the negative things of life but, joyfully look to the positive and see the rainbow after the storm. It is in our attitude and how we perceive any given situation.

Saturday evening began with a season of singing by the sisters which was highlighted by group and soloist selections. We then adjourned this meeting and turned the rest of the evening over to our fun night program. This year's program was entitled, "The Joy Award." The

program included awards presented in recognition of some of the more dubious accomplishments of this year. Such awards included the "Convenient Excuse Award" which was given to the sister who conveniently left her suitcase at home when going to conference and had to purchase all new clothes. After our evening of fun was over, the sisters seemed reluctant for the evening to end and we began to sing again. We then adjourned to the hospitality suite to socialize with one another and share some of the blessings we had felt this weekend.

Our Sunday meeting was opened by Brother Dennis Moraco who spoke words of encouragement to the sisters. He told them of the important role that women have played in the Church, in the past and today. When Brother Dennis turned the meeting over to testimony, the sisters were quick to rise and tell how the Lord had worked in their lives and the joy that they had found in serving Him. We were sorry to see the weekend come to a close, but we left this year's retreat with a new spring in our step and joy in our hearts. For truly we can look up when we walk through the trials in our lives and know that we are not alone. God bless you.



Branch and Mission News

Experiences in Lorain, OH

By Sister Frances Rabold

On March 1, 1995, my husband, Ron Rabold, had a severe allergic reaction to a medication he had been taking off and on for years. Upon seeing him, I rushed him to the nearest emergency room, and within minutes he was gasping for breath. Medications were given to stop the allergic reaction, but they did not

work properly. Two EKG's were done and they showed Ron was not only in respiratory distress, but he was having a heart attack. I ran to the nearest phone and called my brother Sam, telling him to pick up my father, Brother Frank Altomare, to anoint Ron. I knew Ron would be all right once he was anointed with the blessed oil.

When my father arrived, Ron was still struggling to breath, his blood pressure was dangerously low and he was having chest pain. As soon as he was anointed, his breathing, blood pressure and EKG's returned to normal.

According to the two doctors who spoke to me, if I had been one minute later in getting Ron to the hospital, he would have died. They

also stated that they had never seen a severe case like this where the patient survived without any after affects. Ron also later had a special stress test because the cardiologist was sure he had blockage of his coronary arteries. Once again, thank God, the doctors were wrong. He had not even had a heart attack!

Twice following this, the Lord revealed that He was the one who came to my husband's rescue. When my father was praying and mentioned the incident, the Spirit of the Lord spoke through him saying, "I raised him, I raised him, my servant!" Another time while gathered with my family, I mentioned how Ron almost died. The Lord spoke again through my dad and said, "No, I was there! Remember Me and I'll remember

you, saith the Lord."

How wonderful our Lord and Saviour is for not only performing this miracle on my husband but also for sparing my life two years ago when I had major surgery. I was very apprehensive before the surgery until a sister told me of a dream she had that I would come home to my husband and son, that I would be well. Unfortunately, there were many complications following my surgery. But I never forgot what the Lord revealed in that dream or in another experience when the Lord spoke through my father saying, "I have my eyes upon your daughter, and she shall be all right, and she shall come home to her family. I will have mercy even on your daughter, saith the Lord." This was also confirmed in two other experiences.

Afterwards, I looked at my medical records (I was a nurse in the hospital where I had surgery), and I realized how much the Lord had helped me. I am truly grateful He spared my life and my husband's life. I can never repay Him for the kindness and mercy He has bestowed upon my family.

The Lord's Goodness in Cape Coral, FL

By Sister Colleena Eutsey

On the evening of June 3, 1995, we were visiting a brother and sister. Our son, Dewayne Eutsey, Jr., and his cousin, Milford Eutsey III were playing outside. They had been in and out several times for drinks of water. Just before we were to leave to go home, Dewayne Jr. came running into the house for one last drink and when he swung the front door closed behind him, the door caught his right middle finger. The pain was so severe that it brought him to his knees.

We looked at his finger and knew it was broken because it quickly turned black and blue and it swelled to two times the normal size. Dewayne Jr. said he wanted an elder

to anoint him and put oil on his finger. After he was anointed, the brother and sister gave us ice for the finger and we said goodbye and went home. We kept ice on it for an hour and gave him Tylenol for the pain. We looked at it one last time before going to bed and it was very dark in color and was still very swollen. The finger was pointed outward to the right.

When Brother Dewayne Sr. and I looked at it first thing the next morning, we could not even tell which hand it was or which finger had been broken. There were no signs of the break at all. We asked Dewayne Jr. which finger it was and he told us. This day was Sunday so we went to Sunday School. In the adult class, the topic of healings came up and so we told of Dewayne Jr.'s healing. When it was time for the morning meeting to begin, Brother Ken Staley was prompted to pray for a young man who has been going through some very trying times and the priesthood laid hands on him for God's help and strength in the matter.

Brother Milford Eutsey Sr., then felt to pray for a sister who has not attended meetings in a long time and though she is not near us and we don't know her address, we all went before the Lord in prayer on her behalf. During the prayer, the elders prayed for all the ones who have fallen away and for the ones who have not the knowledge of our Lord. Many were anointed this day and during testimony, Dewayne Eutsey Jr., told of how the Lord had healed him the night before. When the meeting was drawing to a close, Brother Milford Eutsey Jr. told of when the elders laid hands on the young man for strength, he saw a bright light encircle this young man. He saw this bright light before when an elder anointed our Brother Joseph Constantine. Brother Joe had been so sick from the radiation treatments he was taking for cancer but after his anointing, he was no longer sick from the treatments.

Brother Milford Jr., because of having the prior experience, knew that this young man would also have

the Lord's help in his life. The Lord is the same yesterday, today and forever and He will continue to help us. We felt such a beautiful spirit in this meeting. May we always be there for the Lord as He is for us. We send our love and prayers.

Baptism in Hollywood, FL

By Sister Barbara DiNardo

Sunday, July 9, 1995, began with the anticipation of our day being filled with a beautiful spirit. The week prior, Kristie Kirschenpfad asked to be baptized. Today, we were going to the waters to witness her baptism, a most sacred event. As we arrived at our Church building, the Holy Spirit was felt by all of us who were present.

We went to the waters edge for the blessed event. Brother George Kovacic opened with prayer. Brother Joseph Catone, Sr., Kristie's grandfather, asked Kristie if she would serve God for the remaining days of her life and if she repented of her sins. Kristie answered yes and Brother Joe Catone, Sr., took her into the waters and baptized her. After the baptism, Brother Paul DiNardo closed our baptismal service with prayer.

We returned to our branch and sang hymns. We sang *First Love* while our sister set the communion table. Sister Kristie then came forward to have the gift of the Holy Ghost bestowed upon her. Brother Paul DiNardo confirmed our new sister.

Brother George Kovacic opened our meeting and spoke about how God worked with man from the time of Adam and Eve and continues to work with man today. He stated, "Let's all be quick to pray, forgive and love one another." Brother Paul DiNardo followed and spoke on being called into The Church of Jesus Christ. He spoke on how the Lord speaks through the ministry and that God has called each and every one of us. We had a wonderful day. We praise God for such a blessed day.

Deaconess Ordained in Vanderbilt, PA

By Sister Peggy Stroko

On July 30, 1995, seventy-six saints and visitors gathered at the Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania Branch in anticipation of Sister Robin Burn's ordination into the office of deaconess. After singing several hymns, we opened the meeting with singing, *Jesus, My Wonderful Friend*. Prayer was offered by Brother Lawrence King in which he asked God to fill our cups and He surely did. Sister Tammy Morle, Robin's sister, sang a special selection, *Make Me a Blessing*.

Brother Alan Metzler, Robin's brother-in-law, who has recently returned from living in Utah for twenty years to reside in Ohio, introduced the service. He read from Matthew, chapter 25, verses 1-13, the story of the ten virgins and how only five were fully prepared. He reminded us that one never knows when one might be called on so you should always be prepared.

Brother Robert Nicklow, Jr., continued the service by saying we should be building our spiritual foundations and we start by holding on to the basics of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Other speakers followed including Brothers Alma Nolfi, Jesse Carr, and Richard Lowther. We then enjoyed Sister Bertha Bilsky's selection, *Others*. Brother Robert Nicklow, Sr., Robin's father, spoke reflecting on Robin's young life, telling us how she was concerned about life. His words to her then were, "Get as close to God as you can and stay there." She was baptized at the age of eleven by Brother Alma Nolfi. He then told us of the experiences that had been given to two of our sisters.

Sister Donna Fleming through her prayer felt that Sister Robin would be an asset to our branch. This was confirmed to her when Brother Jim King mentioned to her that Robin would be good to be considered as a deaconess.

Sister Loretta Lowther had

petitioned the Lord to show her a sister who would be an asset in His calling as a deaconess. Twice, Sister Robin appeared to her, but Robin was not a member of our branch. Soon after these experiences, Robin transferred to Vanderbilt.

Our hearts were filled when the attending deaconesses sang, *Jesus Use Me*. Brother Lawrence King then read the duties of a deaconess. Our sister was then called forward to occupy her seat for the ordination. The deaconesses had met and prayed before the service for God to direct someone to wash Sister Robin's feet. Sister Bonnie Metzler, Robin's sister, overcome with the Spirit of God, humbly washed her feet. The elders gathered around our sister in prayer that the Lord would touch someone of the priesthood to ordain our sister. The lot fell upon Apostle Joseph Bittinger.

Sister Robin was embraced by the deaconesses present. We had anointings for the sick and served sacrament. Several family members bore their testimonies. Sister Kellie Speck closed our meeting by playing the auto harp and singing. Brother Jim King offered the closing prayer. May God bless our sister, that she might be an inspiration to others in her service to God.

Baptism in Freehold, NJ

By Brother Carl Huttenberger, Jr.

On July 30, 1995, we were privileged again to gather at the lake to witness another soul surrender to God. Chenita Hunt was baptized this day by Brother Jim Crudup. As Brother Jim held his arm in the air and proclaimed Chenita's name to the Lord, a sister had a vision of a beam of light come out of heaven right into Brother Jim's hand. As we gathered back at the shore, we held hands in a circle and prayed.

During the prayer another vision was had. A sister saw a light all around a sister who had been undutiful for years but for the last few months, has been attending

Church at every meeting even though she is confined to a wheelchair. The sister who had the vision did not relate her experience.

Back at Church, as we wheeled in Florine Drummer, she was crying as the Spirit overcame her. She then asked to be reinstated into the Church. It was beautiful. It was then that the sister who had the vision at the baptism related her experience. It turned out that God's wonderful spirit of repentance was in our midst, and we all recommitted ourselves to serving God with a full purpose of heart.

Sister Chenita was confirmed by Brother Joseph Perri. Sister Florine Drummer was reinstated. Several other experiences were brought forth regarding this day, confirming that it was in the plan of God.

Pray for us as we strive to be a missionary branch by going out to our neighborhood, helping with the work in the Avondale, Pennsylvania Mission, and remembering to be an example of holiness at all times and in all places. May God bless you all.

Five Baptisms in Youngstown, OH

By Sister Betty Gennaro

August 20, 1995 will be a day long remembered by the saints of the Youngstown, Ohio Branch. On the previous Sunday, August 13, at the Ohio District Conference, Bill Getsy came forth requesting his baptism. As the week progressed, phone calls revealed four more requested baptisms; namely, Bob Moore, David Keener, Eve Berardino and Sherry Creighton.

Joy filled the air as we gathered at the lake the following Sunday morning, August 20. Following the beautiful hymn, *Shall We Gather at the River*, each candidate was taken into the water, immersed as our Lord taught, then came forth as our new brothers and sisters in Christ. Our souls were filled by the Holy Spirit as we greeted each one with His love.

Returning to the Church for our service, we were greeted by two brothers, Apostles Paul Palmieri and Joseph Calabrese, as well as visitors from Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan. Brother Paul Palmieri opened the service stating, "These five names are written down in glory, never to be removed. God wipes the slate clean for us. He says, let me solve your problems. I'll make your burdens light." Reading from John 3:14-15, *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."*

DIRECTORY UPDATE

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Announcement

For December, 1995, the CD rates for the General Church Building Fund are as follows:

1 year	5.25%
2 years	5.35%
3 years	5.45%
4 years	5.55%
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 814/227-2421.

CHRISTMAS continued . . .

today. He set up His Church, which has been restored as The Church of Jesus Christ in this era of time. People now have a way to be part of the family of God and to have their souls saved in His kingdom. This is the meaning of Christmas as it pertains to those who love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, take advantage of the Christmas season as a time to remember the birth of Christ and what it means to us. Enjoy the many bonuses that come along with it: special time with your family, a general atmosphere of cheerfulness among your friends and relatives, programs and music played in public regarding the birth of Jesus and, of course, a sermon relating to the story of His birth in church on the Sunday before Christmas. Of course, you don't have to wait until December 24 to go to church. Here's an advertisement you won't see on television: *Avoid the Christmas rush—Go to Church this Sunday!*

Enjoy the season but praise the Lord all year round!

GREETINGS continued . . .

cheer; I have overcome the world." I could not find more comforting words than these.

Jesus is the spark of life that lights our minds and souls. He warms every vein within us. He is the fiber that makes us whole. Jesus is the eternal pulse that beats and keeps us in control.

My abiding best wishes to you the readers. God bless the reader.

MESSAGE continued . . .

Apostles, seventy Evangelists, Elders, Teachers, Deacons and Deaconesses. He said that this is the Church that believes in miracles and gifts and signs, and continued to call the Church to unity. There was a strong outpouring of the Spirit of

God; and as he continued to exhort the saints, Brother Matthew Picciuto of Modesto, California stood up and spoke in tongues. His body was shaking as he spoke, as if he was filled with electricity. When he sat down, Sister Gloria Rivas, of Tijuana, immediately arose with the following interpretation: **"The Lord said, I did not come here today to bring people of different races together, I came today to unite the people of Israel."**

It was understood that God looks upon the entire Church as Israel, that there are no Mexicans, no Guatemalans, and no Americans—only Israel. The message was that the Church should have no distinctions between cultures or races and that we should unite as Israel, and put aside the differences that separate us.

Afterwards, while Brother Tony Picciuto of Lindsay, California was speaking, thanking all of the brothers and sisters for contributing to the success of the Conference, Brother Paul Ciotti, of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, stood up and spoke in tongues for several minutes. No interpretation was given immediately. However, a while later, Brother Sal Azzinaro, of Yucaipa, California, realized he had been given the interpretation. This was the first time he ever experienced this gift and was overcome with emotion. The interpretation was as follows: **"If we serve Him with all of our hearts and soul, He will shower His people with all His abundance."** The service continued until approximately 6:30 PM, during which time there were many powerful manifestations of God's spirit in prayer, testimony, preaching and singing.

The Mexico Missions Operating Committee believes that the Lord spoke to us at the Conference and that the message applies to the entire Church. During the Conference, it was reiterated that the primary emphasis of the Church is to work with the Seed of Joseph. Many felt that the message of unity was timely and strengthening for the Church and all departed with renewed commitment for the work.

Children Blessed

Ridge Andrew LaPlant, son of James and Karen LaPlant, was blessed on June 30, 1995, in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch.

Sydney Alexis Tembath, daughter of Trisha and Bruce Tembath, was blessed in the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch on July 23, 1995.

Susan Maria LaRosa, daughter of Bill and Susan Larosa, was blessed on August 20, 1995 at the Gastonia, North Carolina Mission.

Brittany Bongiovanni, daughter of Sister Gina Bongiovanni, was blessed in the Monongahela, Pennsylvania Branch on October 1, 1995.

Fiftieth Plus Anniversaries

We wish to extend our congratulations to those celebrating these significant natural and spiritual milestones in their lives.

Sister Sally Romano, a member of Branch #3, Sterling Heights, Michigan, recently celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Sister Sally is an ordained deaconess and has served in this office for thirty-three years.

Sister Filomena DeLuca, a member of the Aliquippa, Pennsylvania Branch, celebrated seventy years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on July 31, 1995. Her motto is "do good-do good-do good!"

Sister Marion Batalucco, a member of the Saline, Michigan Branch, celebrated sixty years as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ on June 30, 1995.

Brother John and Sister Betty Azzinaro, members of the Simi Valley, California Branch, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on August 25, 1995.

Brother Nick and Sister Pauline Ritz, members of the Miami, Florida Branch, celebrated their sixty-ninth wedding anniversary on June 25, 1995.

Reinstatement

Sister Karen Brown was reinstated as a member of The Church of Jesus Christ, on April 9, 1995 in the Warren, Ohio Branch.

EDITORIAL continued . . .

them with His finger so they would provide light and shine in the darkness. What did the Lord do to overcome this problem of darkness? How did He answer this request? By touching those stones with His finger! Because of the Lord's touch, the stones emitted light. The light never went out, it never failed, it never went dim and it did not flicker. It was the light of Jesus Christ in those ships. There is no other light that is as bright and everlasting like the light of Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ can light up the world. He can light up cities. We read in Revelation 21:23, "And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."

The Lord has a profound effect on people who truly love and serve Him. When Christ was in the womb of Mary, her voice caused the babe that was in Elisabeth's womb, John the Baptist, to leap and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost. When Nephi was at one of his lowest points in life, when he was extremely concerned about his people, the Lord spoke to him from the womb of Mary! What did the Lord say to Nephi? In III Nephi 1:13 the Lord said, "Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world."

Would you like the Lord to affect your life? Become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Would you like to overcome the darkness of this world? Become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Would you like to know where you are going in life? Become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Would you like to experience the light of Jesus Christ in your life? Become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ. Would you like to experience that great event in your life? Become a member of The Church of Jesus Christ.

Address Change

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