

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 verbage 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!

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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 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

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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 that 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